



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MINUTES

May 4, 2026

CALL TO ORDER & Mayor Hawkins at 5:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

LOCATION: Admin Conference Room, City Hall, 1827 N. Squirrel Rd, Auburn Hills, MI 48326
Present: Council Members Ferguson, Fletcher, Hawkins, Knight, Moniz, Verbeke and Marzolf (arrived at 6:35PM.)

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Asst City Manager Skopek, City Attorney Ellis, Deputy Clerk Klassen, Director of Department of Public Works Baldante, Lt. Hesse, Mgr of Utilities Deman, Mgr of Roads & Fleet Hefner, Asst to the Manager Hagge, OHM Engineer Juidici, Director of Finance/Treasury Schulz

3 Guests

Workshop Topic: Stormwater Management / Stormwater Utility

Director Baldante explored the stormwater management / stormwater utility topic that has been discussed in previous workshops. The workshop conversation focused on the basics of the stormwater system, the budget realities and the environmental concerns. It was shared that stormwater concerns are being watched closely by EGLE. Many cities are trying to figure out how to deal with the concerns as many stormwater systems nationwide are not maintained and are starting to fail.

Mr. Baldante explained that the stormwater infrastructure collects and safely conveys stormwater throughout the city and has a limited lifetime span of 50-80 years. It was shared that many of the current systems in Auburn Hills are reaching their lifetime limit. He provided details on how the systems work.

Mr. Baldante shared the environmental concerns which included pollutants that are entering the rivers, corrosion of the current infrastructure and the erosion that is taking place. He commented that the city cleans out 1/3 of the catch basins yearly and maintains the river but are finding debris builds up. They are finding that regular maintenance is necessary and that all the stormwater systems are in need of support.

Mr. Baldante pointed out that because funding for the stormwater system is supported by the general fund, the budget does not support the necessary demand to keep the system from deteriorating. The proposed solution would be to have preventative maintenance as well as finances for stormwater issues/concerns.

Ms. Valerie Novaes from OHM commented that the current trends and best practices when considering a stormwater utility are to create an ordinance, develop a stormwater management plan, and decide if the funding is fee based or a tax.

Mr. Baldante shared that the current average system is 35 years old and some systems are at the end of their life span and will continue to degrade if not invested in properly. He commented that some of the bulk of material in the ground is 60 years old. DPW is reacting on an emergency basis and that something

needs to be done to support the infrastructure.

Council members supported the idea that something should be done to support the failing stormwater infrastructure but discussed that they are not sure what is the best option at this time. This will be reviewed again in the fourth quarter.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Eugene Hawkins III, Mayor

Kristine Klassen, Deputy Clerk