



CITY OF AUBURN HILLS

City Council Workshop

Minutes

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor McDaniel at 5:33 PM

LOCATION: Admin Conference Room, City Hall, 1827 N. Squirrel Rd, Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Present: Mayor McDaniel, Council Members Carrier, Cionka, Hawkins, Knight, Marzolf, and Verbeke

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Tanghe, Assistant City Manager Skopek, City Attorney Beckerleg, City Clerk Pierce, Police Chief Gagnon, Fire Chief Massingill, Community Development Director Cohen, Ordinance Enforcement Officer Lang, Management Assistant Hagge,

0 Guest

The workshop was held to discuss the policy on naming public buildings, structures, and roads.

Mr. Tanghe explained that there have been recent conversations about naming buildings and private roads. He noted that there are ways to provide recognition subtly, such as a sign or plaque.

Council discussed whether the current named structures should remain as long as the person is in good standing, should there be a sunset to remove the names, and what should be the policy moving forward. Suggestions were made to automatically remove the name twenty years after the person is deceased, to remove all names and recognize the person with a plaque, and to keep the existing named facilities which are named after the founding fathers of the City.

The discussion focused on naming private roads. Mr. Beckerleg confirmed that City Council approves the name of every road in the City. He noted that the ordinance does not differentiate between public and private roads. It was noted that changing the name of the road has a large financial impact on a business such as new stationary and updating the website. It was explained that the City does not allow streets to have similar names, no names using a person's full name and names are limited to 13 letters. It was noted that there is a separate ordinance about renaming a road and it is up to the Council's discretion.

Discussion was held regarding recognizing individuals with a plaque on a structure. Council was in agreement that moving forward, buildings would not be named. Discussion was then held to sunset the existing names on buildings. Several Council members expressed concern about taking something away for no reason, that having the name on a building is an opportunity to learn about that person, and that these individuals were part of the City's history. Several Council members were in support of replacing the name of the building with a plaque containing information about the individual. Council agreed to transition to plaques and discuss park names at another meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM.

Kevin R. McDaniel, Mayor

Laura M. Pierce, City Clerk