

**CITY OF WIXOM  
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022**

Mayor Beagle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Present:**

**Mayor:** P. Beagle  
**Deputy Mayor:** T. Rzeznik  
**Councilmembers:** P. Behrmann  
K. Gottschall  
T. Gronlund-Fox(Exc.)  
P. Sharpe  
R. Smiley

**AGENDA CHANGES:**

Mr. Brown requested the addition of New Business #5 – Recommendation to Adopt Another Authorizing Resolution Reflecting the Addition of the Agreement Number as a Supplement to Council Action on September 28, 2021 in Relation to the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Phase 2: MI Air Line and Huron Valley Trail Project.

**PRESENTATION:**

**1.) Oath of Office for Firefighter EMT Gregory Baile-Jann**

Chief Roberts introduced Firefighter Greg Baile-Jann. He originally joined the Wixom Fire Department on September 14, 2016 as a recruit firefighter and was promoted to Firefighter/EMT on November 11, 2018. During that time, he completed his Firefighter 1 and 2 certificates and obtained his EMT-Basic License. On January 24, 2019, he enlisted in the United States Navy where he was assigned to the John C. Stennis as an Aviation Boatswains Mate until he was discharged as an E4 on February 15, 2022. Mr. Baile-Jann is filling the vacancy that opened in July 2021.

The City Clerk swore in Firefighter EMT Greg Baile-Jann.

Firefighter/EMT Baile-Jann thanked the Council for the opportunity. He said he was glad to be back at the Fire Department. He received more training in the Navy and hoped he could bring some of that back to the Department. He thanked the guys he works with every day.

The Council recessed at 7:04 p.m. and reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

**MINUTES:**

**CM-03-25-22:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gottschall and Sharpe to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of February 22, 2022.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** (None)

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments at this time.

**CITY MANAGER REPORTS:****1.) Fire Monthly Report – January 2022**

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

**2.) Police Monthly Report – January 2022**

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**CM-03-26-22:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Sharpe and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
  - a.) Library Board Minutes – January 24, 2022
  - b.) Downtown Development Authority Minutes – January 25, 2022
  - c.) Planning Commission Minutes – February 7, 2022

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** (None)**NEW BUSINESS:****1.) Recommendation to Authorize an Addendum to Extend the Expiration of the DDA Executive Director Professional Services Agreement to June 30, 2022**

**CM-03-27-22:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Smiley and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to authorize an Addendum to extend the expiration of the DDA Executive Director Professional Services Agreement to June 30, 2022.

Mr. Benson explained that this request was for authorization of a short-term extension of Executive Director Laura Cloutier's contract. The main reason for this request was to align her contract with the City's and the DDA's fiscal year. Currently, this contract expires on March 16, 2022 and the proposed addendum would change the length of the contract to expire on June 30, 2022. Her annual review would be completed and any extensions or modifications to the contract would be brought forward to the DDA Board and the City Council. He noted that this was being brought before the Council because the aggregate financial cost would be over the City Manager's spending limit of \$10,000, but it was accounted for in the budget.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**2.) Recommendation to Approve the Introduction of an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances for the City of Wixom, Title 1, General Provisions, Chapter 1.08, Voting Precincts, by Amending Section 1.08.030, Precinct 2, and Section 1.08.040, Precinct 3**

**CM-03-28-22:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to approve the Introduction of an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances for the City of Wixom, Title 1, General Provisions, Chapter 1.08, Voting Precincts, by amending Section 1.08.030, Precinct 2, and Section 1.08.040, Precinct 3.

Ms. Buck stated that Precinct 3 is getting close to the limit of registered voters and Precinct 2 is the smallest precinct. By extending Precinct 2 south to the City's border, we would be moving approximately 560 voters and all the registered voters on the west side of Wixom Road would then be in Precinct 2. This would make all four precincts more even. The Election Commission (attorney, assessor and clerk) met on February 28th and approved this change. Changing a precinct boundary requires amending the current City Ordinance, so this was the Introduction. If approved, the Enactment would come before Council at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Councilmember Gottschall knew that the southwest section of Wixom was in the South Lyon School District so their ballots sometimes looked a little different. He wondered if that would cause any impact on the Clerk's Office. Ms. Buck explained that currently, that section of the City is included in Precinct 3. When the South Lyon School District has something on the ballot, Precinct 3 has a split precinct, or two ballot styles. If this was approved, it would now be Precinct 2 with the split precinct. He also asked if we would see Precinct 3 getting to the limit of registered voters since that section of the City was already built out. Ms. Buck replied that Precinct 3 is at 2,946 registered voters. This section includes the large apartment complexes and their voter registration seems to fluctuate frequently. Because this was an election year, he hoped we would be able to send out more notification than what we were required.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought all of the voters affected by this change would be those living at Leisure Co-Op and the Meadowood Apartments. Ms. Buck said that there were a couple of houses on Pontiac Trail that would be affected as well.

Councilmember Behrmann commented that Precinct 2 was mostly the remainder of our residential developments. He asked if she thought that would get above the 2,999 limit. Ms. Buck stated that there would still be room for an additional 400 voters after this amendment.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**3.) Recommendation to Award a Bid to Northern Fence Company of Commerce Township, MI for the Ballfield Fence Replacement at Gilbert Willis Park in the Amount of \$44,875**

**CM-03-29-22:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Sharpe and Smiley to award a bid to Northern Fence Company of Commerce Township, Michigan for the Ballfield Fence Replacement at Gilbert Willis Park in the amount of \$44,875.

Ms. Magee stated that this was for the replacement fencing of the dugouts and the backstops at Gilbert Willis Park for both fields.

Mayor Beagle confirmed that if this was approved, they would be ready to get to work so it wouldn't interfere with any of the leagues this summer. Ms. Magee said that was correct.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if the current one was vinyl-coated. Ms. Magee replied no, it was painted. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought the vinyl coating had a longer lifespan and Ms. Magee said that was correct.

Councilmember Smiley asked if they would be doing the small field near the entrance to the park. Ms. Magee replied no, they will just be doing ballfields one and two.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**4.) Recommendation to Accept the Bid from KD Concrete of Commerce Township, Michigan for Sidewalk Replacement for an Amount not to Exceed \$100,000**

**CM-03-30-22:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Behrmann and Sharpe to accept the bid from KD Concrete of Commerce Township, Michigan for sidewalk replacement for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Mr. Sikma said there were several sidewalks and pathways that the City was responsible for and we are working on several gaps. We have recognized that there were a number of gaps along major roads that needed repair and we want to replace portions of those sidewalks. They started looking at our concrete roads which was part of our Capital Improvement Program. He indicated that this was sent out to bid and they asked by the square foot for those replacements. He said they have been talking with KD Concrete for last week or two looking at the specifics of this project and they felt their bid seemed solid.

Mayor Beagle thanked him for teaming with Milford and Howell to get a better price.

Councilmember Sharpe wondered if we were successful in getting some of the easements, would we be using these prices quoted. Mr. Sikma stated that we are not using any engineering on them because they are already in place. There won't be any storm drainage issues and some of the road replacements may need some pinning. Other than that, this was just for repair and replacement.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**5.) Recommendation to Adopt Another Authorizing Resolution Reflecting the Addition of the Agreement Number as a Supplement to Council Action on September 28, 2021 in Relation to the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Phase 2: MI Air Line and Huron Valley Trail Project**

**CM-03-31-22:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeknik and Councilmember Behrmann to adopt another authorizing resolution reflecting the addition of the Agreement Number as a supplement to Council action on September 28, 2021 in relation to the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Phase 2: MI Air Line and Huron Valley Trail Project.

Mr. Brown said that in September 2021, the Council authorized the Phase 2 project and certified the Transportation Alternatives Program grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation. There were three actions taken on September 28, 2021, the last of which was the authorizing resolution. Today it was brought to our attention that there were concerns about the resolution not having an agreement number. He indicated that they were trying to work with the Michigan Department of Transportation to address if it was really necessary, but by the end of the day, we did not hear back with an affirmative or negative. In an abundance of caution, we are proceeding with a resolution that includes that agreement number so we can proceed with the project. If we fail to do that, we could face an additional two-week delay.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Teresa Renaud, from Senator Jim Runestad's Office, said that the Senator supported everything the City was doing and thanked them.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Brown congratulated the local businesses that were named in the March 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Spinal Column's Best of West Oakland Reader's Choice Awards. There was a long listing of Wixom businesses included in this list. Also, Deputy Clerk Crystal Opalko satisfied the requirements prescribed by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks to advance to Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk Level Two and he congratulated her.

Mr. Benson said the City will be partnering with the Lakes Area Chambers of Commerce and Oakland County Michigan Works to hold a job fair on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Community Center. We are in the process of getting businesses who are interested in participating involved and we will be doing a pretty wide distribution campaign to find individuals who may be looking for new job opportunities. He said that the other good news was that the Planning

Commission approved the plans for Flint Development Phase 2, Buildings C, D and E. Mayor Beagle asked if they added the egress lane. Mr. Benson replied no. The Road Commission for Oakland County did not require it based on the traffic volumes. The City did request that they put in that southbound lane, as well as the additional left turn lane; however, they did not feel that was warranted. He said that they were told the City would revisit the traffic study as additional tenants occupy those buildings. He said that one of the problems with that southbound lane was the presence of existing utilities and the Road Commission concurred with their decision to hold off.

Mr. Brown added that the Development Agreement does have language that spells that out. He said that he would try to persuade them as a good faith gesture to make the City comfortable with the Development. He will remind them that the City will defend their rights regarding this if the traffic thresholds are met.

Councilmember Behrmann asked when this would come before the Council again. Mr. Benson replied that it will not come back to Council because it meets the original plan that was approved by Council. Councilmember Behrman thought we might need to add the Development Agreement to a future Council meeting.

Knowing that this may not come back to Council, Deputy Mayor Rzeknik wanted to go on record by saying that he has been part of a lot of Oakland County traffic studies and they do them based on counts. They do not consider the aggravation factor. One only has to drive on Wixom Road during rush hour to know that a large semi-truck merging left during those times will be a huge aggravation factor. He wished we could go back and enforce what was talked about in Phase 1 when we said that lane would be completed all the way to westbound I-96. He knew Oakland County would base that on traffic counts, but that was not the point.

Mr. Brown said that he would be having additional conversations with the developer and he will let the Council know how that turns out.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Councilmember Smiley** asked Ms. Renaud to tell Senator Runestad that we said hello. He congratulated Firefighter/EMT Greg Baile-Jann. Next time we meet, it will be spring.

**Councilmember Behrmann** congratulated our new Firefighter/EMT Greg Baile-Jann. After listening to Mr. Benson's report, he suggested that Mr. Brown or Mr. Benson put together possible options, outcomes and costs for us to consider revisiting this Development Agreement. Clearly, this was not what the Council understood when they came before us the first time. That fact that this was approved and this wasn't addressed tells him they are not listening to what we are telling them. Maybe that wasn't expressed well enough by our staff, but he was not comfortable letting them build three more buildings and having three more buildings with semi-trucks coming out onto Wixom Road without those lanes being extended. If that meant this has to go to litigation, then that was where he thought it needed to go. Mr. Brown indicated that he started putting that documentation together today.

**Councilmember Gottschall** welcomed back our Firefighter and thanked him for his service to our Country, as well as the City of Wixom moving forward again. He also congratulated our Deputy Clerk for her continued career advancement.

**Councilmember Sharpe** congratulated Firefighter Greg Baile-Jann for joining the Fire/EMT force. He knew the Department desperately needed young, qualified go-getters. He thanked Chief Moore and the Traffic Safety Officer. He has seen truck after truck flying over the 30-mph limit going to businesses on Buno Road. The other day he watched our Traffic Safety Officer chase one down. He thought it was very worthwhile to have the Traffic Safety Officer. He has seen him in unique spaces, so watch your speed.

**Deputy Mayor Rzeznik** dittoed the comments regarding the southbound lanes on Wixom Road and the congratulations. Also, when he picked up his copy of the Spinal Column and was looking through the Best of the West, he thought Wixom businesses really cleaned up. We are so blessed as a community to have so many businesses. Many of them are local family-run businesses. He hoped that when we get the eastern retail built, we will attract more small businesses that make our community one of the Best of the West.

**Mayor Beagle** echoed Deputy Mayor Rzeznik's comments. He congratulated Deputy Clerk Opalko and welcome back Firefighter Greg Baile-Jann.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Catherine Buck  
City Clerk

Approved 3-22-2022
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