

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022**

Mayor Beagle called the meeting to order at 7:01 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
P. Sharpe
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES:

Mayor Beagle requested adding the confirmation of the reappointment of Joan Roberts to the Senior Citizens Commission under New Business #1.

MINUTES:

CM-06-83-22: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Sharpe and Behrmann to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of June 14, 2022.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE: (None)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Chad Zamler, representing Century Industrial Park, said he wanted to thank the Council for earmarking money for the Century Industrial Park road repairs.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

1.) Departmental Reports – May 2022

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked for an update on the Michigan Air Line Trail. She thought it went like gangbusters at first and then it slowed way down. She also wondered about the left turn at Wixom and Pontiac Trail. Mr. Benson stated that they expect substantial construction done by the end of summer and the complete construction done by November. However, it changes as we go. Mr. Sikma added that we are concentrating on the downtown area to make it look good. This week they are doing all of the electrical light poles. There were some changes to the electrical conduits that go to those poles so there was some cutting that folks had noticed. There was also irrigation that will be replaced and utilized again in the future for the trees that we plan to grow. Plastic barriers for the trees will be installed so the roots of the trees grow downward instead of up and floating the concrete. He said they had an issue with the water main last week. They moved a fire hydrant out of the work zone so we could utilize it later. They are planning to do more of the asphalt work next week from our western boundary to Old Plank Road.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked for an update of the Economic Development Marketing and Branding initiative. Mr. Benson said that there was an initial meeting with the volunteers to go over the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the City of Wixom from an economic development prospective. CIB Planning's marketing team will come up with concepts that they will bring back to the Committee for discussion. They will meet again in August and the final presentation to City Council will be shortly after that.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik asked about the meeting with DTE to determine the rough cost for burying all of the electrical lines downtown. He wondered about that dollar figure. Mr. Benson replied that if we wanted to bury all of the power lines, it would cost an estimated \$8 million. We asked them to phase it out into sections that we thought was a priority. The small area in front of the PNC Bank was hundreds of thousands of dollars. The thicker lines and bigger poles were more expensive. Mr. Brown added that the businesses in the area would have to change the connection from the exterior, top of the building to underground. This would be a substantial expense for the businesses.

Also, Deputy Mayor Rzeknik commented that it was great to see we have a tenant signed up for Building A (742,000 square feet) at the Wixom Assembly Park. Mr. Benson said that was a single tenant. On the DPW report, Deputy Mayor Rzeknik knew there was a lot of summer grass cutting right now. Last week, he was approached by residents regarding the weeds on Phase 1 of the Michigan Air Line Trail. He wasn't sure if the equipment broke down because we bought a special piece for that purpose. He asked if that was in the DPW plan. Mr. Sikma said his crew did get out their today but he hadn't had a chance to look at it. They used the sickle between Wixom Road and Beck Road. Doing it more than once a year may pose additional issues with staffing that we currently have. Deputy Mayor Rzeknik thought we might have to consider contracting it out next year.

On the Planning Commission report, Deputy Mayor Rzeknik noticed that the site plans for 2970 Wixom Road, the used car dealership, were still being revised. He thought the property was starting to look pretty run down. Mr. Benson said he was not the only one that noticed that. He said he would doublecheck to see if there was an outstanding code enforcement there. If not, there should be. They do need to maintain that property.

Mayor Beagle asked how many seasonal employees we normally had. Mr. Sikma replied that we have four this year and we typically have six. Mayor Beagle said that we may need to contract that out next year. Mr. Sikma said that we are down one full time employee and we have one out on medical leave now.

Councilmember Gottschall confirmed that the estimate for burying the electrical wires didn't include in front of the townhouses on Wixom Road. Mr. Benson said that was correct. Councilmember Gottschall said that was an area that he had previously talked to Mr. Brown about. He thought it would be interesting to see the breakdown of everything and a plan. That was definitely something that didn't look great. One of the other things he mentioned a while ago was what people referred to as the gateway to our City, at Wixom Road and I-96. The powerlines clutter everything up. If we can make the investment, it would probably help. Regarding

the Water Report, he had asked for the call logs previously. He was looking for people calling about water quality or a hazard of some kind. It seemed the vast majority was regarding their bills and he wasn't interested in that. Mr. John said that he would make that change to future reports.

Councilmember Sharpe commented that when he was a new Councilmember, everyone asked about the Fats, Oils and Greases. Now there was no data mentioned. He said he wouldn't mind seeing good data regarding businesses following the rules. Mr. John replied that there was data, but it didn't arrive from the lab before this report was finished. It will be included on the June report. Councilmember Sharpe then asked about the plan for the back nine holes for the disc golf at Gilbert Willis Park. Ms. Magee said that this was on the task list for the DPW. They have determined the five holes to start. There aren't many trees that need to be removed; it was mainly brush. We have the equipment and are all ready to go once it is finished.

2.) Quarterly Budget and Investment Report – March 2022

There were no questions or comments on this report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-06-84-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Behrmann to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Recommendation to Approve the Local Road Improvement Matching Fund Program Cost Participation Agreement with the Road Commission for Oakland County in the Amount of \$36,459 with a Local Share Not to Exceed \$46,491 from Pavement Preservation Account #203-554-976.393 and Authorize DPW Director Tim Sikma to Sign the Agreement

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Confirm the Mayor's Reappointments of Robin Meister to the Cemetery Board with a Term to Expire June 30, 2027; John O'Brien, Peggy VanSickle and Jeff Winters to the Parks & Recreation Commission with Terms to Expire June 30, 2025; Anthony Lawrence to the Planning Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2025; Joan Roberts to the Senior Citizens Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2025; Roy Thorsell to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a Term to Expire June 30, 2025; and Appoint Laure Dorchak to the Cemetery Board with a Term to Expire June 30, 2024; Jessica Buck to the Downtown Development Authority with a Term to Expire June 30, 2026; and Mark Helsom to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a Term to Expire June 30, 2025**

CM-06-85-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Sharpe and Gronlund-Fox to confirm the Mayor's reappointments of Robin Meister to the

Cemetery Board with a term to expire June 30, 2027; John O'Brien, Peggy VanSickle and Jeff Winters to the Parks & Recreation Commission with terms to expire June 30, 2025; Anthony Lawrence to the Planning Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2025; Joan Roberts to the Senior Citizens Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2025; Roy Thorsell to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire June 30, 2025; and Appoint Laure Dorchak to the Cemetery Board with a term to Expire June 30, 2024; Jessica Buck to the Downtown Development Authority with a term to expire June 30, 2026; and Mark Helsom to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire June 30, 2025

Mayor Beagle commented that as part of the City Charter, all members of the Boards and Commissions shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by a majority vote of the City Council. He asked that these individuals be confirmed.

Jessica Buck said she has been a resident of Wixom since April of 2019. She is very excited to be a member of the DDA. She has been helping with the Promotions Committee and the Derby Day. She said she wanted to continue to volunteer her time.

Mark Helsom, 3154 Johanna Ware West, thanked the Mayor for his nomination to the Zoning Board of Appeals. He looked forward to helping the community. He said they have lived in Wixom since 2018 and they really like living here.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik thanked them for volunteering. We still have nine vacancies on the various Boards and Commissions. Please encourage your neighbors to volunteer.

Vote:

Motion Carried

2.) Recommendation to Approve Year-End Budget Amendments and Requests for Commitments of Fund Balance to Comply with the Uniform Budget Act 621 and Governmental Accounting Standards Board Pronouncement 54 and More Accurately Reflect Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Revenues and Expenditures

CM-06-86-22: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeknik and Councilmember Smiley to approve year-end budget amendments and requests for commitments of Fund Balance to comply with the Uniform Budget Act 621 and Governmental Accounting Standards Board Pronouncement 54 and more accurately reflect fiscal year 2021/2022 revenues and expenditures.

Ms. Stamper stated that this was a customary report that we present at the close of every fiscal year to do final amendments to the existing budget. It was the last opportunity to do any amendments to this budget. It was to keep us in compliance with government standards, which basically means departments cannot go over budgets on any of their expenditures. If you do, you are in trouble with the State and have to do lots of reporting paperwork.

Vote:

Motion Carried

3.) Recommendation to Approve the Extension of a Concrete Replacement Bid from K. D. Cement, LLC of Commerce Township, MI for Concrete Sidewalk/Road Repair Projects in an Amount not to Exceed \$300,000 and Authorize the Associated Budget Amendment

CM-06-87-22: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Sharpe to approve the extension of a concrete replacement bid from K. D. Cement, LLC of Commerce Township, MI for concrete sidewalk/road repair projects in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 and authorize the associated budget amendment.

Mr. Sikma stated that there are a number of local roads that are made of concrete that need repair. We are looking at repairing some of them along Century Industrial Park and Oak Creek. We are trying to replace the sections of the worse roads. We have done a number of pothole patches in the past and we want to replace it now with concrete. We are doing these sections without the engineering work. The second part of this was to repair sidewalks. Earlier this year, we put out a bid for sidewalks and K. D. Cement was the low bid. They said they would be interested in progressing a little more throughout the next year to improve some of the sidewalks in our neighborhoods.

Councilmember Behrmann said he was fine with us spending \$100,000 on the roads and \$200,000 on the sidewalks, but he would not be fine with spending all \$300,000 on the roads and leaving the sidewalks. Mr. Sikma replied that these are two separate accounts and we wouldn't be able to spend more than \$100,000 on the roads and \$200,000 on the sidewalks. Councilmember Behrmann said he was fine with this.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if the crew would walk or bike to look for the sidewalks that need replacement. He said he hit a bad pothole going eastbound between the barn and the start of the Rose property. Mr. Sikma replied yes. There are a number of problem areas.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if we were talking about the sidewalks in the neighborhoods that the City or the homeowners would be responsible. Mr. Sikma said that during the budget sessions, we talked about a neighborhood program. We would recommend a 50-50 match. They are working out the details now. We would only repair the portions that need to be repaired. He said the intent of the policy was to go with the worst ones first. Until the policy was finished and approved by Council, we wouldn't be able to expend any funds. Councilmember Gottschall said the Council has not discussed the program and there was nothing in the report saying this was pending Council's approval. Mr. Brown indicated that we would not be spending the money until we got the program in place. Initially there was a reference to the policy with the intent to include the policy with this. He removed the policy reference because it was not ready for approval yet. He said we would not proceed with any sidewalk work on private property until the policy was approved by Council. Councilmember Gottschall said this language (pending future approval of the plan) was not in the motion. He thought that was a substantial discussion. If we are talking about the City now covering half of the cost that a

homeowner would typically pay, that eats into the safety path money that we would have for other stuff.

CM-06-88-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Gottschall and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to amend the motion to approve of the extension of a concrete replacement bid from K. D. Cement, LLC of Commerce Township, MI for concrete sidewalk/road repair projects in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 and authorize the associated budget amendment, with the neighborhood sidewalk work being subject to the development and approval of the associated policy.

Councilmember Behrmann said he didn't see the need for further clarification. He wasn't sure why we needed the amendment if Mr. Sikma just explained it was going to come from that budgeted line item. It can only be spent on our safety path right now and we don't spend money on the neighborhood sidewalks right now because we don't have a policy that allows that. He thought we were making a motion to limit something we already can't do. He said he was fine with the motion as proposed and didn't see the amendment as being necessary.

Councilmember Sharpe asked if the apron at the CVS on Wixom Road would be covered. He said that area was like a minefield because the concrete was so deteriorated. He wondered who was responsible for that concrete. Mr. Sikma replied that was the responsibility of the Road Commission for Oakland County. If it needed repair, the plaza could do that. He indicated that he has talked with them about those repairs.

**Roll Call Vote: AYES (6) – Beagle, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox, Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley
NAYS (1) – Behrmann**

Motion Carried

Vote on main motion with amendment.

Vote:

Motion Carried

4.) Recommendation to Authorize Participation in the Sourcewell Solicitation RFP #090320 and Accept the Three-Year Contract from Brightly Software Inc. of Cary, NC for a Work Order System, with Funding Derived from City Computer DPW Capital Account #411-441-975.390 (Fiscal Year 2022/23) and Computer Software Account #101-441-728.391 (Fiscal Year 2023/24 and Fiscal Year 2024/25) For a Three-Year Total Cost of \$59,065.61 and Authorize the Department of Public Works Director to Sign the Agreement

CM-06-88-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Sharpe and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to authorize participation in the Sourcewell Solicitation RFP #090320 and accept the three-year contract from Brightly Software Inc. of Cary, NC for a work order system, with funding derived from City Computer DPW Capital Account #411-441-975.390 (Fiscal Year 2022/23) and Computer Software Account #101-441-728.391 (Fiscal Year 2023/24 and Fiscal Year 2024/25) for a three-year total cost of \$59,065.61 and authorize the Department of Public Works Director to sign the agreement.

Mr. Sikma said over the last few years, we've had difficulty keeping track of the items on our task list. One way to make sure the tasks were in order and we respond accordingly was to manage that through a database system. We looked at several systems and we found this one from Brightly was simple to use and easy to manage. We have met with them a few times and we are comfortable trying this system over the next three years. One of the key things we had been using was the tree maintenance. The trees in between the sidewalks and the roads are street trees. When they get diseased, we trim them. Other times, we have to remove them. Part of the removal is to cut the tree down and then grind the stump. We then plant a new tree in the fall or spring. Keeping track of making sure this happens has been difficult. We are tracking that on spreadsheets now and this system would give us emails to help manage that system. There was another one that we can utilize for potholes and he thought folks would like to see that in our community.

Mayor Beagle asked if there would be a tutorial for the citizens so they would know that they could go online to do this. Mr. Sikma replied yes. There will be a link with an automatic response.

Councilmember Smiley confirmed that a resident could be on the phone and report exactly where the issue was located. Mr. Sikma said that was correct. There will be an app for our residents to use.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if it would tie into GIS. Mr. Sikma said that was our goal. We are going through interviews for GIS and that was one of the questions.

Councilmember Sharpe loved this idea. It could be opening a Pandora's Box by residents because they will want to know when you are going to act on all those things. He asked if Oakland County had one and Mr. Sikma replied yes.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if it would generate an email to the resident notifying them that the ticket was closed or the problem was solved. Mr. Sikma said he did not ask that question. When the guys go through to fill the potholes, it will recognize where they are as they are progressing. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thought that would be a nice feature and would save time for the staff.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Russ Meredith, 378 Fletcher, thanked Mr. Sikma and the DPW guys for the job that they did on the Air Line Trail between Wixom Road and Center Blvd. The weeds were knocked down and they couldn't do a nicer job. Yesterday he could barely get two bikes past some areas.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown said that there were several employees celebrating their work anniversaries. Their years of service range from three years to 26 years. He congratulated all of them.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Gottschall shared his condolences with Officer Scherbarth and his family for their recent loss, as well as the family of Kay Ash. We were just thanking her at the last meeting for her years of service.

Councilmember Smiley passed on his condolences. At the last meeting, we were just thanking Kay Ash. Now we have lost her. He wished everyone a safe and happy Independence Day.

Councilmember Behrmann offered his condolences to both families. He thanked all of the staff for the Lite the Night Fireworks and Concert. It seemed very well attended and nicely organized. He noticed at the concerts that there have not been enough trash cans around. At the end of the night, there was trash all around all the garbage cans downtown. It was nice we had a lot of temporary trash cans at the fireworks event, but perhaps one or two at the concerts would be helpful. Lastly, Deputy Mayor Rzeznik pointed out earlier some of the code enforcement that probably needs to happen along Wixom Road. He took note of the amount of landscaping in our site plans that were approved and have since died. The Culvers, the Spring Hill Suites, the Menards out lots and the new Assembly Logistics Park all have dead bushes. He thought maybe Mr. Pike needed to spend some time looking at these landscape plans. There were a lot of things that were put in nicely in the beginning but they are not being maintained. Mr. Benson said that was a conversation he could have.

Councilmember Sharpe thanked the volunteers for the City's Boards and Commissions, with a special shout-out to Mr. Helsom and Ms. Buck for actually coming to the meeting. He looked forward to working with them over the next few years.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox congratulated and thanked those employees celebrating work anniversaries. She passed along her condolences to the Scherbarth and Ash family. She thanked those residents who volunteered to sit on the various Boards and Commissions. Without the volunteers, we wouldn't be able to get most of what we do done. Lastly, after much introspection, she wanted to share her thoughts, deep disappointment, frustration, fear and anger in the recent Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade. While she was not saying she was pro-abortion, she was not, she was wholeheartedly opposed to stripping women's rights. This decision strips their rights and she does not believe that government at any level (federal, state, local) should be allowed to control a woman's reproductive rights. This was a slippery slope and one which the government has no business, in her opinion, to be on. Some say the government is too involved in people's individual and personal rights and freedom and this is an extreme and major setback. What is next? She said again that she did not believe the government should be making laws that only affect one segment of the population, in this case women, by the step here.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik offered his heartfelt condolences to families of Kay Ash and Officer Scherbarth. Regarding code enforcement, he had that on his list as well. He was listening to Councilmember Behrmann's list and Roma Court also put in beautiful landscaping without irrigation and 50% of it was dead today. It was quite

an eyesore as you are coming down Wixom Road. Since we have talked about this during the last five or six meetings, he wondered if that could be part of the Departmental reports to get a report back from Mr. Pike on the code enforcement activities that he has done. If the Council notices things just driving to and from work, there are issues there. He thought it would be good to add more details to the reports. Mr. Benson said that was something we could do; we have that data and it could easily be populated. The only concern he had about more detail was how we do that. If we put specific addresses in, that may not be ideal to have a public document of who code enforcements were issued against. We could look at specific streets and subtract out addresses. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik felt a number of Councilmembers have made comments that we are paying for that service and we don't feel that we are getting it from SafeBuilt. If it was generic, he was fine with that. Also, he felt Lite the Night was a great event. Ms. Magee, her team, Mr. Sikma and his team all did a great job. He received many positive comments from some of the new business owners. He told them this would be the most populated event downtown. He wondered if we could get an update on what was going on with Cambridge Estates. That development seems to be stalled and he was curious as to what was going on there. Mr. Benson said the developers are not always inclined to tell us what their financial situations might be or how they choose to go about building and selling homes. Some build them and sell them while others wait until someone buys the lot and they do a custom build. He said we could do a little more digging. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he didn't want us to get stuck with dug basements and then no fencing around it. Mr. Benson said we do have remediation steps. You cannot leave an unsafe space for an extended period of time. He said he could reach out to the developer to have that conversation.

Mayor Beagle shared his condolences with the Scherbarth family and the Ash family on their loss. He congratulated the Wixom employees who had work anniversaries. Lite the Night was a great event and well attended. Staff always does a great job. He wished everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 7-12-2022
