

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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 (Ex.)
P. Sharpe
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES:

Councilmember Gottschall added New Business #3 - Discussion Regarding the GFL Contract.

MINUTES:

CM-09-121-22: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Behrmann to approve the Special City Council meeting minutes of August 23, 2022.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CM-09-122-22: Moved and seconded by Councilmember Sharpe and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of August 23, 2022.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

1.) Michigan Air Line Trail HAWK Update

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

William Day, Chairman of the Planning Commission, said he wanted to speak about New Business #2 regarding the contract for the Planning Consultant. He expressed his disappointment in the recommendation. He said he had nothing against Carlisle Wortman. If Council decides to go through with the recommendation, he thought they would do a fine job and he would be able to work with them. However, an interview was conducted at the Planning Commission and it was the unanimous opinion of the Commission that CIB should be retained as our Planning Consultants. He felt that CIB was much more enthusiastic about our City, much more interested in the future, and he didn't hear any of that enthusiasm or any new ideas from Carlisle Wortman. He also liked the fact that CIB has everybody at their firm involved with Wixom in some way. He knew City Administration felt that they were spreading it too thin, but he thought it was good that everybody there had familiarity with the City, its issues and its personnel. Carlisle Wortman does have different departments that CIB doesn't have, but CIB has affiliations that they have been able to use to cover various issues that they don't have in-house. He said he worried in a way that CIB was being punished because Carmine Avantini

acknowledged that he might be retiring in the future. Mr. Day admired him for bringing that out up front. We have seen less of Mr. Avantini, but he has been very pleased with Kelly McIntyre. He thought they were well-positioned for the future. It sounded like there would be one individual who would deal with Wixom from Carlisle Wortman and who knows what happens when that individual retires or moves on to something else. He didn't think the numbers showed a tremendous cost-savings with Carlisle Wortman. We are in a period of tremendous change and growth in the City of Wixom and he didn't think this was the time to switch horses. He said he didn't know what the Council would do but he would have been remiss if he hadn't expressed his great disappointment in the recommendation made.

Cheryl Tacy, Planning Commissioner, said she was also here regarding New Business #2. She stated that the presentations from both CIB and Carlisle Wortman were the same in that both look at a City's Master Plan as an engaging document that is implementation-focused. CIB offers varying levels of experience, works with other firms for specialized expertise, and looks to their own younger partners for input on the future so that they can bring the most innovative ideas to their customers, helping them not only retain but also gain residents and businesses. In their presentation, they spoke with passion about working with our City, of all the positive things we have going for us (like the bike trail, the VCA, the Ford PUD, etc.). They have shown that they know their job is to help us get results. It is about growth potential and quality of life. They are acutely aware of the generation gap in terms of the differences in life styles that younger people want, how they differ from the current middle-aged population, and the needs of the aging population who want to stay in the area but need to be able to affordably downsize and have access to transportation. They guide us with concerns like these in mind. She said that Carlisle Wortman throughout their interview kept restating that we should hire them because this is what they do. They spoke about how City planning is their bread and butter. They stated that we should make developers bend to our Master Plan which seemed to her to be an old school approach rather than working together to develop properties for the good of all. They stated that they were the largest firm in the State with a full bench of experienced players and that we should hire them because Wixom's needs are in their wheelhouse. Not once did they indicate anything about our City that excited them to come and work with us or introduce any new ideas that they thought they could bring to us. Both she and Mr. Day were on the Planning Commission when the City hired LSL. We saw them being the correct partner to help us move forward with the VCA. We then retained Mr. Avantini as he formed his own company, CIB, because we valued and trusted his guidance. CIB has continued to bring new ideas for our growth, innovative problem-solving for rewarding and restructuring ordinances and to help us avoid becoming a stagnate city. CIB has already addressed the changes in personnel that they see on the horizon and reassured us that they are poised to continue to move forward in the future when Mr. Avantini is no longer in the picture. We know that the financial component also needs to be considered. When she reviewed the numbers presented in the packet that had been prepped for us by each firm, she noted that the primary staff of CIB that handles our business bills out a comparable rate of staff being presented by CW. She also noted that when comparing the rate structure between the two firms for things like single family plat reviews or rezoning applications, CIB was usually \$50 to \$170 less. They know us and our processes, what it takes to get the job done because they have been doing it. CW

can only offer a guesstimate. Her concern was that for the perceived lower price, we will end up with either less experienced service or less service overall. The Planning Commission, both individually and collectively, told Mr. Benson that they were not impressed with a firm that seemed to just want to add us to their headcount. Carlisle Wortman's presentation was about why we should hire them rather than what they can do for us. For her, what set CIB apart from CW was their shared vision to ours and the energy as to where we wish to take our City. They understand the desire that we have to recreate the downtown buildings that we should have to match the City's spirit that we have always had. She thanked the Council for their consideration and added that she would work with whatever firm the Council decides to go with in the future. She wanted them to think of these things.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

1.) Fire Monthly Report – July 2022

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

2.) Police Monthly Report – July 2022

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-09-123-22: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Behrmann to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
 - a.) Library Board Minutes – June 27, 2022
 - b.) Planning Commission Minutes – August 3, 2022

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) Recommendation to Award a Three-Year Contract for Municipal Complex Janitorial Services to DetailXPerts of Detroit, Michigan in the Amount of \$123,228 for Year One and a Two-Percent Increase Annually for the Second and Third Years and Approve the Associated Budget Amendment**

CM-09-124-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Smiley and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to award a three-year contract for Municipal Complex Janitorial Services to DetailXPerts of Detroit, Michigan in the amount of \$123,228 for year one and a two-percent increase annually for the second and third years and approve the associated budget amendment.

Mr. Sikma expressed his recommendation to approve a contract with DetailXPerts for janitorial services. He said they would provide cleaning services to City Hall,

Library, Community Center, Police Department seven days a week, along with two days a week at the DPW, Fire Department. He believed that DetailXPerts would provide better services than what they currently had.

Councilmember Gottschall asked what were some of the issues they were experiencing with the current vendor. Mr. Sikma said they've noticed the cleaning was not good quality. For example, they do not appear to be vacuuming as often, window frames had cobwebs and the bathrooms did not often appear cleaned. He said in July the current vendor increased their rates over 25% but not their quality of service. Councilmember Gottschall asked what reason did the vendor give to not adjusted their service. Mr. Sikma explained that over time, they've had discussions with the management, had staff supervise the cleaning crew and had every department write down their concerns with the cleanliness of their offices, but there were little to no changes from all those efforts. Councilmember Gottschall wondered if their lack of quality work prevented the City from hosting an event or performing work duties. Mr. Sikma said that has not been the case; however, they've had employees perform work that was expected of the cleaning crew. Councilmember Gottschall expressed that the current company still bid almost \$40,000 lower than the other companies. He hesitated paying the higher amount because it felt like the City would be paying a lot for a little bit more cleaning. It was hard for him to justify the added cost of the recommended company when the building did not appear to be unsightly. He would feel comfortable staying with the current company and continue to try and work out the issues. Perhaps they could deduct the hours spent by staff cleaning from their payment. Mr. Sikma said they've tried to give them the benefit of the doubt, but after countless conversations, there still wasn't any change.

Mr. Brown said the issue was there were requirements that the company was not meeting. After bringing the concerns to them multiple times, any performance changes were temporary before falling back again. He stated it was in his opinion that they may be cheaper but they were not getting what they were paying for. He figured the average person wouldn't notice the dirty areas in the common areas of the City Complexes; however, it had been noticed in the public restrooms. He recognized it was a large cost difference and that was the reason they wrestled with making this decision. They've determined after countless attempts the company cannot bring the level of service they required.

Councilmember Gottschall did not know that the City was paying for other people to come in to perform the work so the public wouldn't notice in the public areas. He was hard pressed because the amount of the contract for DetailXPerts was almost in the category of hiring a few part-time personnel to perform the work. Mr. Brown noted that they've had that discussion internally and thought this may become an interim step to evaluating whether they hire part-time staff for these services. Councilmember Gottschall understood the current provider was on a month to month contract and given that we've tolerated them this long, he favored not making a rush decision in paying an outside company additional funds, but hiring a few part-time people to perform the work.

Councilmember Smiley believed that administration wasn't complaining about a cobweb or two, but it was something more substantial. He understood that \$40,000 more was a lot more money, but they were not getting what they paid for.

Mayor Beagle would like to give the recommended company a try given they had a sixty-day opt out in the contract. He was concerned that if they tried to hire part-time personnel, they would have difficulty getting applicants.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik knew first hand that the cleaning industry was tough as his daughter and son-in-law owned a cleaning business. He was surprised to see the services currently rendered were only costing the City \$86,000. He knew the turnover rate was high within this industry but hoped that DetailXPerts was not experiencing that.

Councilmember Sharpe questioned if there was any technology that DetailXPerts had within the cleaning industry that allowed them to charge \$40,000 more. He questioned how administration knew that DetailXPerts would be better than the current provider, outside of hope. Mr. Sikma said the only explanation they had for the added cost was the people they were going to provide.

Mr. Brown mentioned the existing provider did not have enough money in the contract to do the work they were promising; however, DetailXPerts does.

Councilmember Behrmann asked how many hours the cleaning company needed and how many part-time personnel would they want if they were to hire part-time employees. Mr. Sikma said the cleaning company roughly worked four hours at City Hall, four hours at the Library and four hours at the Police Department, but intermittently within the departments. He figured two or three part-time employees could perform the work.

**Roll Call Vote: (5) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley
(1) NAYS – Gottschall
(1) ABSENT – Gronlund-Fox**

Motion Carried

2.) Recommendation to Award a Five-Year Agreement to Carlisle Wortman Associates Inc. of Ann Arbor, Michigan to Provide Planning and Zoning Services for the City of Wixom and Authorize the City Manager to Sign the Agreement

CM-09-125-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Smiley and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to award a five-year agreement to Carlisle Wortman Associates Inc. of Ann Arbor, Michigan to provide Planning and Zoning Services for the City of Wixom and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement.

Mr. Benson explained under the direction of City Council, administration evaluated and advertised a Request for Proposal for Planning and Zoning services for the City. He said the City received two bids. One bid was from Carlisle Wortman Associates, Inc. and the other bid came from CIB Planning Services. A review team held interviews/meetings with City administration and the Planning Commission to

discuss what planning and zoning services entailed and/or meant for them. He noted there were retainer fees for the planner to host office hours (2 half days per week), planner review fees and hourly charges for specific services. They reviewed both firms thoroughly and discovered the two firms were very different. The City's current provider, CIB Planning, was a smaller firm, had generally done a good job and been the planner for the City for a long time. The other bidder, Carlisle Wortman Associates, was a larger firm with wider services, but didn't have experience with the City. Administration compared retainer costs of both companies and Carlisle Wortman Associates had a lower base amount for the retainer. What they would pay Carlisle Wortman Associates would be entirely dependent on how many projects would come before them for review (paid by the applicant), hourly services and specific projects generated by the City. He said depending on what was asked of them, their cost may end up being similar but having a lower based retainer was an attractive aspect of Carlisle Wortman's proposal. In situations where the City slowed, the cost they would pay for the retained aspects would reflect that. He said another perspective they looked at was ongoing services. Given that the City had grown 27% since 2010 and the volume and complexity of projects, Carlisle Wortman had more to offer. They were a larger firm and they had their own landscape architect, environmental wetland experts and GIS specialist that may augment the City's own third-party services. He explained that it turned out to be a difficult decision because both firms had pros and cons, but when they reviewed the workload trajectory for the City, it was the opinion of administration that Carlisle Wortman Associates, Inc. was the best option. He recognized that CIB had done an excellent job for the City over the years. He introduced Mr. Doug Lewan and Ben Carlisle from Carlisle Wortman.

Mayor Beagle explained that the Mayor and Council were given a letter late yesterday indicating that CIB was withdrawing their proposal. He wondered how they would proceed should the Council oppose Carlisle Wortman Associates, Inc. services.

Mr. Benson thought that was a good question. He said it was an unfortunate situation that CIB had elected to withdraw their bid. He was of the opinion that they were no longer interested in continuing services with the City. He said staff hadn't had the opportunity to talk to CIB since the letter was given to them.

Doug Lewan, Executive Vice President of Carlisle Wortman Associates, Inc. explained that he'd been a planner with the firm since 1993. He said the team serving the City would include himself, Laura Kreps and Ben Carlisle. He indicated their associates had a pretty deep span of specialties. They were excited to be part of this community because of certain characteristics of the City. One of those characteristics was the substantial industrial district and economic development within the downtown. One of the most important things about Carlisle Wortman Associates was they did not chase projects but preferred long-term relationships with their clients. He mentioned that this was one of the first RFP's that they've entertained in a while because Wixom was the kind of the community they wanted to work for.

Mr. Benjamin Carlisle said the firm served a number of clients in southeast Michigan and only served the public sector. They believed in long term commitments and planned to be in this for the long haul.

Councilmember Gottschall asked what the plan was so the City wouldn't experience any transfer issues with moving from one firm to another. Mr. Benson understood it was harder to transition than not so they've accumulated a comprehensive list of projects, planned to host an introductory meeting with the Planning Commission, would generate conversations with staff and so forth. He stated that they've really given a lot of thought about how they'd bring everyone together throughout the transition. Additionally, CIB mentioned they would work with the City through the end of the month to ensure the transition was as smooth as possible. Councilmember Gottschall asked if Carlisle Wortman had experience with One Stop Ready. Mr. Carlisle said one of the associates within their firm helped develop the One Stop Ready program.

Mr. Benson said there were specific projects through the technical assistance grant that required their continued work with CIB Planning. He welcomed the added capacity that Carlisle Wortman offered to help them draw upon resources in order to complete some of the items that had been hanging in the wings. He described how they performed reference checks with both firms and those communities that used Carlisle Wortman had excellent reviews.

Councilmember Gottschall asked how the reduced office hours would impact City operations. Mr. Benson explained that CIB Planning's proposal had flat hourly rates for items, whereas Carlisle Wortman's bid was based on a set amount for each half day. Most of the nitty gritty work happened back at their headquarters and indicated that the Planning Commission meetings were outside of the regular office hours.

Mr. Carlisle said they had a set office hourly rate with an unlimited retainer. He said just because they were not physically in the office, did not mean they were not working for Wixom. There were members on staff working in Ann Arbor that were part of the retainer but not holding any office hours.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if administration addressed CIB Planning with any issues or concerns they had. Mr. Benson said they've held discussions with members of CIB Planning regarding project statuses and timelines, but their response was understandably their lack of capacity. Mr. Brown thought the staff size with CIB Planning could be the issue as it may have become challenging with the day-to-day projects and workflow.

Councilmember Gottschall asked what Carlisle Wortman specifically looked for with a development with respect to design esthetics. Mr. Lewan addressed the relationship with a client as a partnership and collaborated with the City's expectations. Councilmember Gottschall asked if McKenna offered a reason why they were not interested in submitting a bid. Mr. Benson said they did not.

Councilmember Gottschall knew the Planning Commission was asked for their input. Since he'd been elected, many times Council followed the recommendation of the Board or Commission; however, that did not seem to be the case in this instance. He wasn't sure why they'd ask for the Planning Commission's input if administration was going to go along with a predetermined outcome. He didn't believe that this

was handled the best and with CIB withdrawing their bid, their hands were tied. He questioned what would happen if this wasn't passed tonight. He wondered if they would be eligible to go back to CIB for services or if that bridge was burned. He felt the way this was handled took away his ability as a voting member of Council. He didn't appreciate being put in this position when there were no other avenues.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik stated administration bid this service out upon the request of Council. He recalled about six years ago being told they were 60% complete with the Redevelopment Ready Community process and recently learned there wasn't any movement until Mr. Benson started working for the City. He recalled a number of instances where preliminary site reviews were held. Council recommendations were ignored and/or not implemented at all. They had a wonderful working experience with Mr. Avantini over the last twenty years, but noticed he wasn't performing much of the work himself and some items had started to lapse. He thought there was an added benefit with Carlisle Wortman's staff having experience and certain specialties, such as a landscape architect. While he agreed there wasn't another option today, he was in support of this contract.

Councilmember Behrmann recalled that Council asked administration to bid out services. He said the catalyst that paved the way for him to run for City Council was a project that went through the Planning Commission and CIB Planning. He noticed that items kept coming to light where the developer was sort of being pushed by the City planner and/or staff. He hoped moving forward that Carlisle Wortman would really take the time to acknowledge what the residents of Wixom wanted. He said over the years, CIB implemented a new process of conceptual review meetings where nothing was being decided but they would bring a potential project to the Planning Commission to discuss it. He wondered if Carlisle Wortman also did these conceptual meetings. Mr. Carlisle said that some communities held these meetings but other communities did not. Those communities that had these meetings found it beneficial for the developer because they could get feedback from the Planning Commission without having to put a significant amount of time or investment into the project. One of the issues with this philosophy was that the project came before only the Planning Commission without being a good public review. Councilmember Behrmann explained that as an attorney he believed this process could potentially set themselves up for a lawsuit. He hoped that Carlisle Wortman wouldn't use that process. He said the cost savings alone was enough for his support to change planners.

Mr. Carlisle understood that CIB worked many years with the City and, as a planner himself, he would hope his Planning Commission members would come out to support him. He applauded the Planning Commissioners that spoke at tonight's meeting on behalf of CIB Planning. He understood that it was an unusual step for the Planning Commission and the City to break the ties with someone after twenty years; however, in the consultant business they were used to transition. He admitted there would be a learning curve but the transition wasn't a major concern for them. He did not see any reason why they wouldn't be able to work alongside CIB Planning so they could achieve the most graceful transition everybody needed and wanted.

Councilmember Sharpe wanted to give kudos to the Planning Commissioners for their hard work. He knew there were a lot of smart, inquisitive and independent members on the Commission. He figured there were three stakeholders (administration, Planning Commission and City Council) involved in this situation, but they did not understand what each other had to go through individually. While he respected the opinion of the Planning Commission, he felt there was some staleness going on with CIB Planning. He appreciated the administrative staff bidding out for this service as recommended by City Council. He supported the change not only because of the cost.

Councilmember Smiley said that he trusted administration's judgement and supported their recommendation. He appreciated the assurance from Carlisle Wortman with the transition apprehensions. He treasured the work Mr. Avantini and CIB Planning did for the City and explained that they needed to set aside personal relationships in order to make the best decision for the City.

Mayor Beagle stated that we've had a good working relationship with Mr. Avantini and CIB for twenty years. He knew Council asked administration to review contracts in order to verify they were getting the most value. In doing his own homework, he heard nothing but great things regarding Carlisle Wortman. He was in support of the recommendation even though CIB Planning withdrew their bid.

**Roll Call Vote: (5) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley
(1) NAYS – Gottschall
(1) ABSENT – Gronlund-Fox**

Motion Carried

3.) Discussion Regarding the GFL Contract

Councilmember Gottschall said he wanted to bring this up after hearing complaints from a number of residents and having discussions with a few other members of the Council. We have brought issues to the City Manager after they were brought to our attention. Recently, residents have asked him what the financial difference would have been per household. They were surprised we were going through all this for that amount of money per year. To them, they would be willing to pay more to have a good quality service than continuing to deal with the headache we've been getting with GFL. Their service is slow and extremely delayed. It was brought to his attention by Councilmember Behrmann that they were throwing recycling into the same truck as the trash last week. They have been blocking main roads for up to five minutes, trash has been left on the roads, and waste bins were not being put back in people's driveways or yards. When they came in, they said they have people on staff who know what they are doing. It generally seems that they found the cheapest paid, most incompetent people that they could. Someone told them to put the stuff from the recycling bin into the same truck as the trash. Ultimately, he didn't know where we were in trying to address things with them, but he would appreciate a letter being sent to them putting them on notice. We should start reviewing their contract very quickly because residents were not pleased with the service we have been getting. If they are ever caught putting recycling into the trash trucks again, that should be an immediate "we are done with you" and we are moving on to Old Republic or back to Waste Management. He thought if we were

willing to take a poll, people would be willing to pay the extra \$15 savings per year per household to get better service. He thought we needed to put into no uncertain terms to GFL that we are done.

Mayor Beagle said that we are not pleased with the progress of GFL right now. He attended a homeowners' meeting on Sunday and a couple of residents said they were displeased with them. We have to remember that this was a new company and we have growing pains. Maybe we do bring staff from GFL back in with a meeting to tell him our concerns. We are this far along in the contract and we shouldn't be seeing this. We need immediate improvement. Last night he attended another homeowners' meeting and they were pleased with the progress that GFL has made. They noticed that the recycling guy picked up things that fell out of the bins. He thought residents were seeing some change, but it wasn't happening as fast as we want it to. He thought it was way too young in the contract to be saying we need to get rid of them and find someone else.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he must live in the high rent district. He has had the opposite experience for the first time in many years. On rainy days, their lids were actually closed and the bins were put orderly on the driveway. He had one neighbor ask why we changed and he told them there was a savings. The only complaint in his neighborhood was the timing. They used to be first on the pass and now they are toward the end. The quality of service has been fine.

Councilmember Smiley said he has talked to a few residents about it and he hasn't heard any strong complaints. He noticed that his block has been picked up later in the day. He thought we tracked complaints and he asked if the number of complaints had gone up a lot since we made the switch.

Mr. Sikma commented that he does track the complaints and they continue each Wednesday with a list that they take back to the management of the crews. We used to average five or six different residential issues and we are seeing 13 or 14 now. Early on it was much more, but it was coming down. He said they do see that there are other reasons for it. They had difficulty ramping up with the number of employees initially and purchasing new trucks has been an issue. We may notice rental garbage trucks right now. There are growing pains but we are seeing responses to every item that we call on. If it is missed on Wednesday, they do come back on Thursday. We are trying to get that timing down so they are completed by 5:00 p.m. Councilmember Smiley asked that he keep that tracking on his radar. Mr. Sikma said he could track that for actual numbers. Councilmember Smiley wanted to give them a little time to smooth out the bumps, but suggested Mr. Sikma come back in a couple meetings with an update on the number of complaints he receives.

Councilmember Behrmann noted that a lot of the garbage trucks say "Big Truck Rental" on the side of them. It was a very unique situation. He stated that the first week we started with them, he thought it was extremely unique that they picked up his trash a little after 6:00 at night since he used to have to get up early to put his trash out. He thought it was just them learning the route. He was curious if they even started our community until the afternoon because it didn't appear that they were even in the City in the morning. Mr. Sikma said that three weeks ago, he sent

his guys out to check up on them in different areas and they were out at 8:00 a.m. They were tracked throughout the day. Councilmember Behrmann said he shouldn't have to do that. His trash pickup has been getting later and later. Usually, it doesn't get picked up until 7:00 p.m. or after. He was concerned what would happen when it started getting dark earlier. His cans were always put back where they were. It wasn't until three weeks ago when his subdivision was paved where he was severely agitated with GFL. Several hours after his street was paved, three trash trucks came through his subdivision and the brand-new asphalt is now rutted throughout the entire subdivision. The cul de sac is completely ruined; it is wavy. He brought that to administration's attention and it has been three weeks tomorrow and nothing has been done by GFL, by Allied (asphalt contractor), or by our engineering firm, who never should have allowed that to happen. They all know our trash day is on Wednesday. Why would they allow them to put the final coat of asphalt down on Wednesday? Why did the drivers of the garbage trucks not realize they were ruining the street after they hit the first house and continued to wave back and forth throughout the entire subdivision? He has been waiting for a response on what was going to be done to fix his street and he has received nothing back from Mr. Sikma or Mr. Brown because they don't have the answers. He thought that needed to be resolved. This last week was really what got him. He was walking with his kids and he saw the garbage truck coming through after 7:00 p.m. All of a sudden, he noticed they were throwing everything into the exact same truck – the recycling and the trash. He asked them why they were doing that and their response was "our supervisor told us to do this to get it done." He completely agreed with the idea that a letter needed to be sent that if they ever do that again, there was zero reason why we should keep them as our trash hauler. He was perfectly fine giving them an opportunity to fix things that are correctable. But the fact that the staff would think that was acceptable and the fact that a supervisor would tell them to do that was not acceptable. They need to understand that we, as a City, will never accept that as being an acceptable response. He'd like to see his street fixed. He really thought they held a part of making that mistake. He thought our contractor and engineering firm were also slightly responsible for that. He'd like to see the trash being picked up sooner and in a professional manner. Mixing trash and recycling together was not what we were paying them to do.

Councilmember Gottschall knew in years past when we had the RRRASOC Chairman here, Wixom has always been one of the highest recycling communities in the entire group. To find all that effort that residents take to recycle was ending up in the trash pile down in Northville Township was asinine. As was mentioned with the janitorial services contract, we want to set the standards early. That was why he thought we needed to be especially harsh with this. He wasn't saying we needed to change right away, but we need to put them on notice that there have not been significant or fast enough improvements. As a matter of fact, things just seem to be getting dumber and dumber as we move along, like mixing recycling with the trash. The City will not tolerate that moving forward. He felt that we literally got lied to when they talked about having all of the staff throughout the winter and now it sounded like they had to hire people. They said they had all the equipment, like the trucks, and now they are renting trucks. They said we would all get recycling bins and then we all got stickers instead. They said there would be a smooth transition because they learned their lesson in Novi, and we've had anything but a smooth transition. It seemed like every single thing that they said was not the truth and to

him, that was a deal breaker. That was why he thought we needed to put them on notice immediately to set the ground rules and the consequences.

Mr. Brown indicated that the mixing of the recycling with the trash was addressed immediately without any interaction from the City. That was not taken lightly by GFL. He also mentioned that it was not a \$15 differential; that was what the old cost under Waste Management was. The new cost under Waste Management would have been substantially beyond \$15 more. Mr. Sikma added that it was close to \$1 million over the five-year contract.

Councilmember Gottschall said that this was a service that residents use most, aside from water and sewer. It was the third most important service and it has become a difficulty for our residents. He didn't want that difficulty to continue. Mr. Brown said that garbage was an important service that people count on. He felt very confident that GFL knew the City did not find the transitioning experience satisfactory and that they needed to up their game. Things have improved in some circumstances. At that HOA meeting, he made a comment that while they have improved, they were still not acceptable and the company needed to fix it. He thought the expectations have been set and we will do some additional interactions with their management staff.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if we were stuck on Wednesday for pickup. He wondered if there would be a better day of the week where they would have better labor availability to service us better. Mr. Sikma said that we have looked into that a little bit. He was not quite sure the residents were receptive to that yet. Wixom may be large enough to go to a two-day service. Over the last couple weeks, the garbage that went out to the curb was twice as much as normal because of the power outage. Also, the compost facility had a large influx that came to the curb that same week. Now we expect it to be back to a normal cycle. It has been different the last three weeks.

Mayor Beagle commented that Mr. Sikma had direction of what Council expects. He asked him to come back to Council in a couple of weeks with an email report.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

William Day, Chairman of the Planning Commission, congratulated Carlisle Wortman on their successful bid. He appreciated Councilmember Sharpe's comment about having different stakeholders and not everybody seeing the same issues or problems. He hoped in six months he would say he didn't know what he didn't know. We will move forward. He thought even though the Planning Commission wanted a different result, we have professional and mature people on the Commission and he thought they would be able to work well with Carlisle Wortman. He also wanted to address the GFL issue. He thought he must live in the low rent district because after the recycling truck went through the other day, he saw his neighbor put his recycling bin away while picking up a dozen pieces of trash off the street. The trucks block the streets and the trucks and equipment they are using seem to be antiquated equipment compared to what we were getting from Waste Management. The service is not nearly as good or as professional as we got from Waste Management. He hoped that changes but he hasn't seen it yet. He noted that the real reason he stuck around for the second Call to the Public was

something he read in the Council minutes one or two meetings ago where Councilmember Gottschall added to the agenda a discussion item regarding regional transit and the fact that the County Commission was considering putting regional transit on the ballot without an opt-out for communities. Numbers were given as to what this would cost in the way of taxes per household without documentation of where those numbers came from. It seemed to him that, with the exception of Councilmember Sharpe who thought any decision or vote should be deferred pending further investigation, there seemed to be kind of a knee-jerk reaction. This was more taxes; therefore, it was a bad thing and we are against it. He knew Councilmember Smiley had in his campaign literature to oppose this plan. It was good that he was taking a position. Also, tonight there was talk about what the public thought. We should get public input on things. Instead the Council decided to draft a letter to the County Commission against this proposal. Personally, he was in favor of the proposal. He knew that probably none of the Council would ever use this regional transit. He probably would never use it, but that didn't mean there were a lot of people with different demographics in this City who would use it. He thought we were doing a disservice by ignoring them. Paying taxes is part of the price of living in a civilized society where we jointly have things like roads, like a City Council Chambers, garbage pickup, etc. We pay taxes for these things. He thought paying taxes for a regional transit system which can reduce carbon emission and can serve lower income people who don't have the same access to personal transportation that all of us have is something that we should actually look favorably upon rather than making a knee-jerk reaction without any consultation with the community as to what they might want. It seemed to be premature to do that without further discussion. He thanked the Council for their time.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown stated that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk recently attended an education class for all Michigan Clerks. He noted that the absentee ballots are scheduled to be mailed by the first week in October. Due to the election impacts, the passport window will be temporarily closed from September 19th through November 14th. Also, GFL rebranded many recycling carts in the City last week. For those carts that were missed, stickers are available in the City Manager's Office (248-624-0894) or at the DPW (248-624-0141). He noted that the decision to utilize the existing carts as opposed to switching them out was at the City's request. It was not at GFL's request. One of the main sticking points in prior transitions was complications with changing out recycling carts.

Mr. Benson said the Wixom Library, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the DDA held a joint meeting last night regarding the Tot Lot behind the Library. There were a lot of different opinions but it was great to see everyone come prepared and to have that discussion to move that forward. He wanted to shout out the DDA related to the Block Party over the weekend. While it did rain, it was encouraging to see so many different events coming together downtown, as well as having people come out to take advantage of the revised setup. Also, the Lakes Area Chambers continue to be a great partner for the City; we were able to collaborate on some business retention visits last week. He wanted the Council to put the State of the Lakes event on their calendar for next week. His final comment was in regards to the Planning Consultant discussion. There were a lot of opinions and a lot of things that went into that decision. He wanted to thank CIB Planning for the services they

provided to the City. This was not an easy decision to recommend or approve. While we are very excited about the prospects of Carlisle Wortman, it would be unfair to not congratulate them and thank them for what they have provided to the City over all of these years.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Gottschall thought there was a misunderstanding where things were coming from in regards to Mr. Day's comments about the transit proposal from the County Commission. It wasn't in the sense that he was personally against the plan. He wished we had trains so we could go to Ann Arbor or downtown Detroit much more easily, something that is possible in the Chicago area with METRA. He didn't think buses necessarily captured that. Where that letter was coming from was the exclusion in the current plan of the opt-out clause. You are letting residents that might use the service more in a different part of the County force taxpayers in other parts of the County to pay for that, even though residents here might not use it. To him, that was more of a local government and small government issue. He knew we might disagree as to that and Mr. Day might favor the plan and want to pay for it. To him, it would be the same as us saying everybody in Wixom loves pickleball so let's have pickleball in every community while people in other communities might not use it. Our City government knows what our residents want better than the County government does. We haven't had anyone from the County government come here. It was one of those things where you are forcing people to pay for something they might not use. To him, that was more of the issue. He said that we have had a few meetings since the Charter Amendment Committee put out their memo to everyone. He wondered when we would start discussing those. Mr. Brown replied that there was no timing on that front. Mayor Beagle thought the second meeting in October might be a good time since we will have a couple members absent until that meeting. Councilmember Gottschall wanted to start peppering those in when we can so we can work our way through the ones that weren't already discussed. His final comment was regarding the HAWK signal memo and the misunderstanding of not being able to sync those properly or as we had anticipated. If we went ahead with the HAWK signal, it was going to create traffic issues because it won't be synced. We would have two lights 100 yards apart on a 25-mph road that already has traffic. Instead of using a HAWK signal, he asked if there was anything that would prevent us from putting a regular intersection light there so people would stop. We should be able to sync them and we would tell people they are only allowed to cross Wixom Road when the signal was red and traffic was stopped. He thought it would be chaos there with people pushing buttons to stop traffic when the main intersection had a green light. Mr. Brown couldn't imagine RCOC responding positively to that but he would take a look. We know we can add intervals to how often a HAWK signal can be activated, which would help to minimize the impact. He was inquiring with the Road Commission, the vendor and the Trailway Council about whether we can have those intervals changed at different points during the day. For example, during rush hour, can we make the interval even longer to minimize the chance of an interaction with a green light, but a red light on the HAWK. Depending on that answer, we can make a decision. We can say it doesn't happen more than every minute at a minimum and no more often than every two minutes in rush hour so it would minimize the impact on red lights and green lights at the Pontiac Trail and Wixom Road intersection. That was what he was looking into and we don't have that answer yet. Once we get

that answer and feel it isn't going to be workable, we will determine other options. Councilmember Gottschall wasn't sure if the Road Commission had even thought about it, but he thought there was probably a time limit on people's willingness to wait on their bikes. If we change it to five minutes because it is rush hour, they are going to cross the road on their own and then it becomes a safety issue. If we were allowed to put another intersection signal there and it was synced, he thought that would be a safer option.

Councilmember Smiley commented that the Block Party was nice. It did not rain while he was there. He felt it was a nice event and he was glad we do it.

Councilmember Behrmann thanked the Planning Commission members who came out tonight. He knew we didn't go the way that they hoped we would go. He appreciated them showing their acceptance and willingness to move forward and felt it showed a lot about their character. He really hoped the transition was smooth and worked well for them and our community. He also wanted to talk about the memo regarding the HAWK signal. He was really disappointed when he read that because we specifically asked if that crossing could be timed to the Wixom and Pontiac Trail signal before we started the process of approving all of it. The fact that the Trail is now built and we are just now being told "sorry" was not acceptable. It was not acceptable by any stretch that when traffic was backed up to the Fire Station, now it will be backed up to the end of the City because people are just stopping the traffic when it is open to flow out of the City. Somehow the crossing needs to be timed to when the signal at Wixom and Pontiac Trail is red. That just has to happen. Maybe putting a traffic light there that was timed to Wixom and Pontiac Trail was the solution, but if they can't find a solution for the HAWK to talk to the signal at Wixom and Pontiac Trail, the HAWK is not the solution. He thought we would be looking at worse of a traffic problem and potentially somebody getting hit by a car and killed. He hoped this was being taken seriously. He didn't feel from reading this memo that the Trail Council was taking this seriously because we were extremely clear to them when they were here that this needed to be addressed. He felt like they were very clear back then that it would be addressed. Now we are finding out that it wasn't and that was very disappointing. Lastly, his family had a good time at the Block Party. He was disappointed that the street wasn't closed between Old Wixom and New Wixom. He felt the vendors that were put back in the municipal parking lot were kind of forgotten about. The insurance agency said that last year they gave out 600 boxes of popcorn and this year they were only able to give out 200 boxes. That showed how their foot traffic was down by being put back in the parking lot. He did enter to win a TV and he won it.

Councilmember Sharpe thanked Mr. Lewan and Mr. Carlisle for coming out tonight. He looked forward to working with Mr. Lewan and having him wow us with his great ideas. He knew the Planning Commission was looking forward to that as well. He welcomed them to Wixom.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thanked Chairman Day and Commissioner Tacy for coming out today. We respect their position on it. It was a complex thing. He welcomed Mr. Lewan and Mr. Carlisle to Wixom. He hoped to build a long relationship with them as we had with LSL and CIB over those 21 years. He really appreciated working with Mr. Avantini over those 21 years on a lot of different projects from the time he

was on the Parks and Recreation Commission all the way through his time on Council. It is what it is and we will build a new relationship. He shouted out the DPW for the great job they did during the last storm. A lot of residents were very appreciative of the care and attention that was given immediately, including the night time hours.

Mayor Beagle echoed Deputy Mayor Rzeznik's comments. He thanked the Fire Department and the DPW for their efforts during the storm, keeping our residents safe and clearing the roads. He thanked Mr. Avantini and his staff for everything they have done for the City. It was a great run. He welcomed Carlisle Wortman to the City and thanked Chairman Day and Commissioner Tacy for their comments. He appreciated the fact that they both said they were willing to work with the new Planners. He felt that was why we had such a great Planning Commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 9-27-2022
