

**CITY OF WIXOM  
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 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  
P. Sharpe  
R. Smiley (Ex.)

**AGENDA CHANGES:**

Mayor Beagle added Correspondence #3 – Letter of Thanks from the Cutright Family.

**MINUTES:**

**CM-09-126-22:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Sharpe and Gronlund-Fox to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of September 13, 2022.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1.) Note of Thanks from the Beagle Family**
- 2.) Chief of Police Memo Regarding the Body Worn Camera Project**
- 3.) Letter of Thanks from Cutright Family** (Since this was an addition to the Agenda, the Mayor read the following into the record.)

Mayor Pat Beagle and Members of the Wixom City Council:

The Cutright family would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Wixom Police Department for their handling of our emergency situation on Wednesday, September 21, 2022. Their quick response not only put us at ease immediately, but Sergeant Brian Stowinsky's constant communication as to the status of the situation was so appreciated. The professional interaction between Wixom Police Officers and the Michigan State Police not only secured our safety, but also assisted in the apprehension of the felon at-large.

We would like to thank the following officers for their prompt response and professionalism: Chief Phil Langmeyer, Lt. Mark Bradley, Sgt. Brian Stowinsky, Sgt. Dean Caldwell, Det. Eric Pulaski, Det. Mike Byberg, Ofc. Aaron Breneman, Ofc. Mike Pistolesi.

Your dedication and service during this stressful situation truly meant so much and is deeply appreciated. Again, our heartfelt thanks!

Sincerely,  
Jim Cutright, Kerry Cutright, Meghan Cutright Ellis

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments made at this time.

**CITY MANAGER REPORTS:****1.) Departmental Report – August 2022**

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked for an update on the timing of the HAWK light. Mr. Sikma said it was on order and would be shipped this week. He hoped the installation would take place within the next two weeks. Oakland County was still researching the timing for the light. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked for an update from GFL. Mr. Sikma said they met last week and were now aware of the issues.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**CM-09-127-22:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
  - a.) Downtown Development Authority Minutes – May 24, 2022
  - b.) Downtown Development Authority Minutes – June 28, 2022

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** (None)

**NEW BUSINESS:****1.) Recommendation to Confirm the Mayor's Appointments of Mary Grant to the Senior Citizen Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2025 and Alicia Churilla to the Parks & Recreation Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2023**

**CM-09-128-22:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Behrmann and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to confirm the Mayor's Appointments of Mary Grant to the Senior Citizens Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2025 and Alicia Churilla to the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2023.

Mayor Beagle introduced both of the applicants and invited them to say a few words.

Ms. Grant said she's lived in Wixom since 1988 and raised her children here. She thought she would give back to the City because she had been active in the City's senior programming.

Ms. Churilla said she's lived in Wixom since she was four years old. She was a recent graduate of Michigan State University and worked for an energy efficiency company. She applied to be on the Parks and Recreation Commission to become more involved in the community.

Mayor Beagle thanked them both for volunteering.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**2.) Recommendation to Authorize the Purchase of a Hustler Super Z Zero-Turn Mower from Munn Tractor & Lawn, Inc. of Auburn Hills, MI, at a Cost of \$14,053 from Account Number 411-441-983.392 DPW Capital Account – Mowing Equipment**

**CM-09-129-22:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Sharpe and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to authorize the purchase of a Hustler Super Z Zero-Turn Mower from Munn Tractor & Lawn, Inc. of Auburn Hills, MI, at a cost of \$14,053 from Account Number 411-441-983.392 DPW Capital Account – Mowing Equipment.

Mr. Sikma said every couple of years they purchased a new zero-turn lawnmower to add to the fleet. They mowed approximately 270 acres within the City each week during the summer months. By purchasing mowers every two years, they could keep them for ten years before selling them at auction. This year's lowest bid was received from a company in Ohio. After doing a little math on what would happen if the mower needed service, they felt the best value would be to purchase the mower from Munn Tractor & Lawn, Inc. in Auburn Hills. He mentioned that they worked with Munn for over ten years and haven't had any problems.

Mayor Beagle noted the warranty was better with Munn Tractor than the Ohio based company. Mr. Sikma said that was correct.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if the expensive price tag was because it was a commercial piece of equipment, and Mr. Sikma said yes. He said this was a rear-discharge mower that ran around 16 miles per hour.

Councilmember Sharpe asked for more information regarding the warranty. Mr. Sikma explained their mowers had 100 to 300 hours per mower. He was confident that the hours fit within their plan and the warranty with the five-year extended for the 1200 hours would be adequate.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if they planned to replace a mower. Mr. Sikma said a ten-year old mower would come out of service, unless there was enough staffing next summer to keep it.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**3.) Recommendation to Waive the Bid Process and Approve the Purchase of a Clock for Mack Park from the Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, as a Sole Source Provider, in the Amount of \$30,934 from Account 411-751-986.544**

**CM-09-130-22:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Sharpe and Gronlund-Fox to waive the bid process and approve the purchase of a clock for Mack Park from the Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, as a sole source provider, in the amount of \$30,934 from Account 411-751-986.544.

Ms. Magee stated that the current clock at Mack Park was broken. Given that park was being renovated, they hoped to replace the clock. After looking at the high cost to restore the clock, they thought it best to purchase instead of repair.

Councilmember Behrmann asked about the location of the new clock. Ms. Magee said they were still finalizing the location of the clock but know there was plenty of space. The clock would take 210 days to receive so they had time to decide exactly where it would go.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox loved the clock and was amazed that they bought it for \$28,000 in 1990 and \$30,000 in 2022. She hoped that we would get the same longevity from this new one.

\*Councilmember Gottschall arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Councilmember Sharpe said that there were two options listed but wondered if they were part of the proposal. Ms. Magee said no, they were not.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**4.) Recommendation to Accept the Proposal for Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades and Secondary Clarifier Construction from Grand River Construction of Hudsonville, MI for a Total Cost of \$6,002,279 and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Construction Agreements Along with Approval of the Required Budget Amendments**

**CM-09-131-22:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to accept the proposal for Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades and secondary clarifier construction from Grand River Construction of Hudsonville, MI for a total cost of \$6,002,279 and authorize the Mayor to sign the construction agreements along with approval of the required budget amendments.

Mr. Sikma said over the last few years they looked into wastewater plant upgrades. There was a concern with flow capacity based on the increase they expected from Milford Township and the development at the former Ford property. They recommended moving forward with a portion of the ten-year capital that was a few years out yet. When the project cost was originally estimated, they utilized the prices from 2019 but with an estimated increase of 15% to 20%; however, the bids came back higher than expected. Milford Township agreed to pay approximately 28% of the cost of this upgrade. Four different companies bid on the project and Grand River Construction of Hudsonville, Michigan was the lowest. He indicated that they were qualified to do the work. Additionally, they would need assistance from the capital fund to cover the over budgeted amount.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if the upgrades would address any of the phosphorous issues. Mr. Sikma said a portion of the upgrades they were currently working on dealt with the oxidation ditch aerations, and that took care of most of the phosphorous concerns. The other issue was the discovery of reactive (versus non-reactive) phosphorous coming into the industrial pretreat portion of the plant. They

cannot treat the non-reactive phosphorous so they've been working with businesses to resolve the issue. He believed the upgrades to the clarifiers would result in the solids being treated more effectively, also the added clarifier would improve the flow capacity. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked how far west the sewer system went that Milford Township used. Mr. Sikma replied that the majority of the lines were east of Old Plank Road but they had a main coming in from Kensington Metro Park. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik considered the new senior living development at Milford Road and Pontiac Trail. He asked if that would be tapping into our sanitary sewer. Mr. Sikma said they would and figured around 1,000 residents from that property. They could potentially get \$1 million gallons a day, which would be one-quarter of the flow.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox understood the high price tag as being necessary. She asked if the agreement with Milford Township took that into consideration. Mr. Sikma replied yes. Their price structures were all associated as they had a flow meter checked twice a year to confirm the flows were proper. He added that they were being billed on a gallon basis, so they were one and a half times of the City of Wixom's cost for treatment. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if residents would see any effect on their bill because of this project. Mr. Sikma said he didn't think they would notice any changes to their bill from this project.

Mr. Brown explained if it was the desire of Council to pay back the surplus fund balance, the \$697,000 could be included in the Utility Financial Services analysis for determining the rate structure. They could put the access into the rate structure and spread it out over a period of time to pay it back.

Councilmember Gottschall wondered about the other three bids were. Mr. Sikma explained that all four bids were listed on the last page of the report. They ran from \$6,002,279 (Grand River Construction, Inc.) to \$8,332,229.

Mr. Benson explained another benefit to the residents was the use of ARPA funds for this was a situation where none of that would need to be rolled into the general fund or sewer fund.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik noted that the ARPA funding wasn't called out as a line item on the chart. He asked if that was because it would go into the general fund first. Mr. Sikma said it was initially included as a grant in the capital plan.

In terms of the fund balance, Mr. Brown added that prior to the use of the extra surplus fund balance that happened at the end of fiscal year 2022, they were projecting the 2022-2023 fund balance to finish at 36.6%. Even with the usage they were projecting here, they still had an additional surplus that was being allowed to roll into the fund balance. The fund balance would increase by another 3% up to 36.60%.

Councilmember Sharpe said there was a note about Milford Township approving \$1.69 million for construction. He assumed they were already on board for the design engineering and the construction engineering costs. Mr. Sikma replied yes. Councilmember Sharpe said that he appreciated the budget transfer rather than just taking it out of capital reserves.

Vote:

Motion Carried

**5.) Recommendation to Direct the City's Commerce, Walled Lake and Wixom Trailway Management Council Representative to Vote to Approve the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Agreement Approving Partial Transfer and Conveyance of Certain Real Estate Subject to Land Acquisition Project Agreement TF-11-123 and Permit the Withdrawal of Walled Lake from the Trailway Council**

**CM-09-132-22:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeknik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to direct the City's Commerce, Walled Lake and Wixom Trailway Management Council representative to vote to approve the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Agreement approving partial transfer and conveyance of certain real estate subject to Land Acquisition Project Agreement TF-11-123 and permit the withdrawal of Walled Lake from the Trailway Council.

Mr. Brown said this was to recognize some decisions that needed to be made at the Trailway Council. Walled Lake had withdrawn from the Trailway Council but it was not formally recognized. With the recognition and acceptance of the withdrawal of Walled Lake from the Trailway Council, they had to address the issue of what would happen with their miles of the Trail. This Conveyance of Certain Real Estate Agreement was the result of that long process. He asked for approval to allow the City Manager, as the Trailway Council representative, to approve that Agreement and the withdrawal of Walled Lake from the Trailway Council. There would be issues that needed to be brought up in terms of the operating agreement among the remaining communities. He indicated that Walled Lake would be given control of the Trail within their City limits, but they would be required to maintain it and continue to use it as a recreational property.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik said the three conditions called out in the memo in terms of obligations, did not mention the future maintenance and/or upkeep.

Councilmember Sharpe could not figure out why Walled Lake wanted out but assumed it was money related. He expected Wixom would pay a larger portion for the Trailway Authority, but the value was enough to keep going.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox stated that she supported this; however, she was concerned about the maintenance aspect. She wanted to confirm that Walled Lake would still be responsible for the maintenance costs. Mr. Brown assured her that this had been discussed at the Trailway Council meetings.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if there were standards of what was expected that Walled Lake may be able to circumvent by not being part of the Trailway Council any longer. For example, if the portion of the Trail that fell within Walled Lake were to come into such disrepair that they decided to make it a dirt path, was there a standard or expectation that the Trail had to be asphalt. Additionally, was there a way to approve this and know that generally they would agree but the City wanted more answers before they voted on it. Mr. Brown said he would make sure they received clarification without any kind of language. He planned to bring this up at

the Trailway Council meeting, and if that wasn't answered satisfactorily, he would bring this back to Council.

Mayor Beagle didn't know why Walled Lake would pull out of the Trailway Council. He was curious if they could still advertise that they had the Air Line Trail. Mr. Brown said he'd check into that further but didn't see any realistic way to prevent that from happening.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Jay Thompson, 1881 Grasmere Lane, wanted to speak about the sidewalk leveling in his subdivision. He called the City last March to ask when the sidewalks would be leveled. At that time, he was told it would happen in three to five years. He decided to do it himself on May 6, 2022. He asked for potential reimbursement because he hired that out himself. Mayor Beagle told him to contact Assistant City Manager Drew Benson after the meeting to discuss this.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Brown commented that there were seven employees who were celebrating work anniversaries during the month of October. Their years of service range from one year to 25 years. He thanked and congratulated all of them.

Mr. Benson had no further comments.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Councilmember Behrmann** thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing his son, Cayden, to sit at the dais tonight. Today was his seventh birthday and they usually went out for dinner. Since they had a Council meeting, he asked to come to the meeting. Cayden said that he went to Wixom Elementary and participated in ninja warrior at Allstar Ninja Academy. Councilmember Behrmann thanked him for being quiet and sitting through the Council meeting. He also expressed his appreciation to Mary Grant and Alicia Churilla for volunteering on the Senior Commission and the Parks & Recreation Commission. He appreciated any resident that wanted to get involved. He noted that there were several vacancies on the Boards and Commissions and encouraged anyone interested to pick up an application at the Clerk's Office.

**Councilmember Sharpe** thanked Ms. Grant and Ms. Churilla for volunteering. He thanked Mr. Sikma for the work that had been done on the Air Line Trail. He thought the concrete along Pontiac Trail was very good with smooth transitions on the drives. This was a great addition to our City and he was very happy. In regard to the sidewalk project, he had seen a lot of roped off areas and a lot of new concrete panels. He thought that was really good to see.

**Councilmember Gottschall** wished a happy birthday to Honorary Councilmember, Cayden Behrmann. He welcomed the newest board members and thanked them for dedicating their time to help shape the City. He commended the Police Department for beginning to use body cams. This had been in the works for quite some time and he was glad they finally saw it through. He thought this was a good thing for

our police officers, the justice system and the public. One of his favorite days in the City was coming up, the Fire Department Open House and the Panther Hunt on October 8<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged people to come out as both events were very well put together.

**Councilmember Gronlund-Fox** thanked Ms. Grant and Ms. Churilla for volunteering. She also thanked and congratulated all those employees celebrating their work anniversaries.

**Deputy Mayor Rzeznik** thanked the volunteers for stepping forward and dedicating their time. He also thanked the Police Department for making good use of our forfeiture funds by installing a few more permanently mounted speed limit signs. He noted a remarkable improvement with the westbound traffic on Charms since the installation of the sign. He was looking forward to fall and thought that Mr. Sikma and the DPW Department did a wonderful job with the leaf pickup. He hoped all the residents would go online to see when their subdivision would be picked up.

**Mayor Beagle** wished a happy birthday to our Honorary Councilmember Cayden. He thanked Ms. Grant and Ms. Churilla for volunteering. He also thanked and congratulated everybody who was celebrating their work anniversaries. He was looking forward to the Fire Department Open House and the Panther Hunt this year because he usually was out of town. He hoped to see everybody there.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Crystal Opalko  
Deputy Clerk

Approved 10-11-2022
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