

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 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(Exc.)
P. Sharpe
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES: (None)

MINUTES:

CM-10-133-22: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Behrmann and Smiley to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of September 27, 2022.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1.) **Notice of Hearing for the Electric Customers of DTE Electric Company, Case. No. U-21172**
- 2.) **Fire Department Update**

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments made at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

1.) Fire Monthly Report – August 2022

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said it sounded like there was some good news during the last couple of weeks regarding firefighter applicants. It was mentioned that there were three applicants as of October 5th who could not be hired because of background checks. He was curious if the general reason could be given. He has been reading in his own business about “second chance hiring” and some of the new practices that HR managers are starting to look at now for people who might have had a felony charge many years ago. Interim Fire Chief Geisler replied that he forwarded everything to the Police Chief and took his recommendation. He agreed that there was good news and positive momentum.

2.) Police Monthly Report – August 2022

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-10-134-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Sharpe and Smiley to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
 - a.) Library Board Minutes – August 22, 2022

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Authorize the Purchase and Installation of a Backup Server for City Hall from Dell Corporation through BPI Information Systems of Farmington Hills, MI at a Cost of \$11,820.04 from City Network Account #411-283-971.322**

CM-10-135-22: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeknik and Councilmember Smiley to authorize the purchase and installation of a backup server for City Hall from Dell Corporation through BPI Information Systems of Farmington Hills, MI at a cost of \$11,820.04 from City Network Account #411-283-971.322.

Mr. Brown explained that this was for a backup server for City Hall that needed to be replaced. Data can be both an asset and a liability for the City and that was the purpose of these kinds of backup servers. We need to keep ourselves safe and free from data loss. This is a Dell server and a custom configuration requirement for the City that requires us to have some work done differently than the standard out-of-the-box solution from Dell. This precludes some of the typical suppliers from providing it. Other parts of the service that comes with it include licenses through Veeam and the installation which will be provided by BPI. Mr. Brown stated that James Blackburn retired recently from BPI and he introduced his replacement, Zachary Palmer.

Mr. Palmer indicated he has been working with the City for three months now. He explained the backup server, which was personalized for the City.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik wondered how quick we would be up and running if we had a complete failure. Mr. Palmer answered as soon as the power was back up. The backup will preserve everything and be in the Cloud. No valuable information should be lost. He believed there was a one-hour system on the backup once the power was back.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if the motion should be worded that we were waiving the bid since we are treating this as a sole-source provider. Mr. Brown said that we could add that language.

CM-10-135-22: Amendment to the motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeknik and Councilmember Smiley to waive the bid process and proceed with the purchase of a backup server for City Hall from Dell Corporation as a sole source

provider and installation through BPI Information Systems of Farmington Hills, MI at a cost of \$11,820.04 from City Network Account #411-283-971.322.

Councilmember Smiley asked if Mr. Palmer would characterize this as an upgrade rather than a replacement. He was trying to gauge how critical of a change this was. Mr. Palmer replied that this was absolutely an upgrade that needed to happen. As we move forward, different security issues pop up and we have to be ready to tackle those. The current server is out of date. If there is an outage, nothing will be lost in the process as the City's information will be stored in the Cloud. This was the reason the server was customized. Councilmember Smiley asked how often an upgrade like this was necessary and Mr. Palmer replied that the average life was typically about five years.

Mayor Beagle welcomed Mr. Palmer.

Vote:

Motion Carried

2.) Request for Authorization to Participate with the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network to Sell a Surplus City Vehicle and Miscellaneous Equipment by Auction and Designate Russ Pierson as Authorized Agent for the Sale of This Property

CM-10-136-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Behrmann and Smiley to authorize the participation with the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network to sell a surplus City vehicle and miscellaneous equipment by auction and designate Russ Pierson as authorized agent for the sale of this property.

Mayor Beagle explained that this was a routine process. He confirmed that we would not be auctioning the vehicle until we had the new truck and Mr. Sikma said that was correct. He anticipated that we would receive the new truck next month.

Vote:

Motion Carried

3.) Recommendation and Request to Convene a Closed Session of the City Council, in Accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, for the Purpose of Discussing Potential Real Estate Acquisition Pursuant to, and Authorized by, MCL 15.268(d)

CM-10-137-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Gottschall and Smiley to convene a Closed Session of the City Council, in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of discussion potential real estate acquisition pursuant to, and authorized by, MCL 15.268(d).

Roll Call Vote: (6) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley

(0) NAYES

(1) ABSENT – Gronlund-Fox

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments made at this time.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown said that due to the Election and holidays, the November Council meetings will be held on the third (November 15th) and fifth (November 29th) Tuesdays. The December Council meetings will be held on the second (December 13th) and third (December 20th) Tuesdays. Also, Sean Preece has obtained his National EMS Certification as an EMS professional. He congratulated and thanked him for volunteering to acquire this certification.

Mr. Benson said the transition to Carlisle Wortman and Associates for planning services has been going well. He noted that the Planning Commission will hold a special meeting on October 17th to bring back the Village Center Area Ordinance discussions. The intention was for Carlisle Wortman to fully understand the intention and desires of the Planning Commission. This ordinance would then come back to the City Council for consideration. He said that last year, the Council approved an engagement with UHY Consulting for penetration testing and cyber security assessment. That has been a year-long engagement that will come to an end in November. We are currently working on the final round of the penetration testing to check the remediation that has happened. A report containing the next steps would be coming to Council in November. Lastly, he stated that we were approved for the grant funding through MMRMA for that program. Once the final invoice is paid, we will receive \$10,000 back for that. Our out of pocket cost will be just shy of \$15,000.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Behrmann wanted to bring up the comments that were made by a resident at the last Council meeting regarding his sidewalks. Mr. Thompson said that he had his sidewalks mudjacked and lifted. He had the opportunity to look at Mr. Thompson's concrete and the sidewalk looked brand new. The cost was substantially cheaper than the removing and replacing option that we are doing currently. He thought the City may want to look at this moving forward for our sidewalks that are unlevel. Also, his children had the opportunity to attend the Fire Open House this past weekend and they really enjoyed it. He appreciated them holding that event.

Councilmember Gottschall congratulated and thanked Sean Preece of the DPW for obtaining his EMS certification. It was nice to have someone step up to help make the environment safer for his colleagues and the public. He wondered if there would be any reduction or benefit from our insurance carrier if more employees were trained in CPR or defibrillators. Mr. Brown said he would inquire with the representative from MMRMA. We do have defibrillators on site. Councilmember Gottschall also commented on the email from Mr. Thompson regarding the sidewalks. He thought the Council was hopeful that we would split the cost with him, but the emails looked like we weren't going to do that. His expectation was that we could reimburse him. He thought when Mr. Thompson spoke, he indicated it would be a few years before we had a sidewalk program, which wasn't the case. He thought we should address that and split the cost with him. He knew the worry of how many more were out there. If someone replaces a pad of concrete, he thought

that would be something they should be pulling a permit for. With a little research we could determine who pulled permits this year before the program was put into place. If anybody comes out of the woodwork and says they did it and they didn't pull a permit, we could have that discussion with them. He wasn't sure if his feeling was shared by the other Councilmembers but he thought we should split the cost with him. Lastly, he wanted to thank all of the Fire staff, Parks & Recreation staff, DPW staff and volunteers who put in time for the Fire Department Open House and Panther Hunt. Those were both successful events and always one of his favorite days in the City. There were a lot of people learning about fire safety, checking out the equipment, walking through the park and enjoying the nice weather. He said that his sister and fiancé were in town and he is a firefighter and dispatcher in the Kalamazoo area. They stopped by the Fire Department Open House. He kept taking pictures of all of our nice equipment and sending them to his colleagues. They told him to steal things. It was nice that other Fire Departments recognized the amount of money that we put into our Department. With the recent contract negotiations that were worked out, we have already seen a little bump in applications and we are pointed in the right direction. He hoped we could keep the momentum up and felt we would be in a much better place a year from now.

Councilmember Sharpe thanked Interim Fire Chief Geistler for his letter regarding the Fire Department update. He appreciated the tone, the content, the timeliness and how easy it was to read. It sounds like we are off on a good foot to fill our vacancies and continue to improve the Fire Department. His other thanks was to City Manager Brown and Clerk Buck for getting our City Council packets posted to the website. This has been a pet project of his and he encouraged the people who read these minutes to look at the packets. He noted that the Councilmembers are reading 150 to 250 pages of information every meeting and he didn't think people appreciated the work that the Council and staff does. It is a ton of time. He hoped it would lead to more people attending the meetings, voicing their concerns and giving the Council more eyes of what our constituents are saying and thinking. He hoped it would make the Council stronger.

Councilmember Smiley stated that years ago we were working unsuccessfully to get the Council packets on line. He was glad Councilmember Sharpe brought it back to life and made it happen. He also liked seeing the firefighter applications coming in. Hopefully we will have the wonderful problem of too many. Back to the sidewalk issue, he asked Mr. Sikma if we would do the mudjacking technique where we could. Mr. Sikma said we have done mudjacking within the City on occasion. With this sidewalk program, we did not offer this solution because it was a different contractor. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. In regards to Mr. Thompson's request, he was concerned as to where we draw the line. Was it March, last January, etc. We may need further assistance with financial opportunities if we need to go back and repair and replace.

Councilmember Behrmann added that after his conversation with Mr. Thompson, he thought he understood. Timeline-wise, he reached out to the City in March and it wasn't until our budget meetings in May that we started having the conversation about doing the program. Mr. Thompson got his work done in May. What he paid to do 18 pieces of sidewalk would have been astronomically more had he done the remove and replace option that we are doing now. He got a better deal doing

mudjacking than had he worked with the City. Once he understood that, Councilmember Behrmann wasn't sure he was seeking reimbursement.

Councilmember Gottschall knew that it first came up at the Goal Setting Session in February. He didn't know if we had to go back that far from where we first voted to put the program into effect, which was before the Budget Session. If more people come up, he wanted to see it addressed in a manner that we intended to do it because now we are doing it.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik stated that his grandchildren enjoyed the Fire Open House.

Mayor Beagle thanked the Fire staff for a great day on Saturday with the Fire Open House. There was a very good crowd at the Panther Hunt later that night and it was great to see everyone out enjoying themselves. He indicated that he never received the email from Mr. Thompson, but he wasn't sure if we could go back and reimburse him because we don't know if the sidewalk repairs fit the criteria of the program. He thought we should follow the procedure when we started this program. If residents did everything the right way, they would be reimbursed.

The Council recessed at 7:32 p.m. They entered Closed Session at 7:38 p.m. and adjourned the Closed Session at 8:54 p.m. The Council then reconvened at 8:58 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 10-25-2022
