

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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

AGENDA CHANGES: (None)

MINUTES:

CM-10-138-22: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Sharpe and Behrmann to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of October 11, 2022.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE: (None)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Russ Meredith, 378 Fletcher, said he was the newly elected Chair of the DDA, and he was here to support the Mayor's appointment of Leslie Payment to the DDA Board. She will be replacing Melanie Cheney who resigned recently after many, many years of great service to the City. Ms. Payment came to this morning's DDA meeting to meet everyone and he was excited to welcome her to the Board.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

1.) Departmental Reports – September 2022

Councilmember Sharpe commented on the September 12, 2022 Joint Meeting between the Parks & Recreation, DDA and Library. He thanked Ms. Magee, Ms. Dixon, Ms. Cloutier and Parks & Recreation Chairman Menzie for getting together. It looked like the meeting was pretty productive and he knew there was a lot of work to do, especially with the playground. It was the right step forward to have all of those organizations all working closely together.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if there were any updates on the Tribar spill. Mr. John said that they were continuing to monitor the situation. They pull samples every day from the plant and the numbers are in the low and non-detect areas. As discussed before, all of the chrome has been trapped in the solids and they have been slowly getting them out of the plant. They are under constant scrutiny and they were doing well with it.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-10-139-22: 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.) Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes – July 11, 2022
 - b.) Joint Parks & Recreation Commission, DDA and Library Board Minutes – September 12, 2022
 - c.) Planning Commission Minutes – September 26, 2022
- 2.) Approval of 2023 Council Meeting Schedule

Vote:

Motion Carried

DISCUSSION:**1.) Charter Amendment Process**

Mr. Brown said potential Charter Amendments were brought forth by the Charter Review Committee to discuss. There were some pressing items and some housekeeping items.

Councilmember Gottschall hoped everybody read the Committee's notes and the Charter. Under Section 4.11E, which discussed the terms of appointed Council members, the committee would like to amend the Charter and eliminate the vacancy gap by allowing the appointee to sit on the dais between November to January.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik agreed with the proposed change because the current language in the Charter was confusing.

Councilmember Behrmann did not see where it's been an issue but understood the current language could become a concern. He wondered if changing this was worth the cost and trouble.

Councilmember Gottschall stated these items would be on a regular ballot during a regular election. They would not host a Special Election for any Charter Amendments.

Councilmember Smiley said the expense was minimal. Frankly all of the potential amendments were not an emergency or detrimental to City operations; however, there were items within the Charter that could be cleaned up. He did not believe the expense of these amendments should become a road block. He figured most communities held their swearing in immediately after the election and didn't wait until January.

Councilmember Sharpe would like the change to be made but not if it was the only item that would be on the ballot.

Councilmember Behrmann understood that many other communities immediately took office right after the election and was curious if that was ever given any thought. It was odd that you get elected but waited two months to take office.

Councilmember Gottschall appreciated the few months intro-period for those members that were newly elected. It gave them the opportunity to attend meetings and get the lay of the land. Additionally, often times business was being conducted in the months of November and December that a newly elected official may not have the knowledge of. He did not have a problem with everybody's term continuing to January 1st just to wrap up any loose ends rather than a wholesale change.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought the onboard time was very valuable because that awarded them the opportunity to attend meetings and find out how business was conducted.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she would like to take this change to the voters as it's been talked about at length by the Committee.

Councilmember Smiley clarified that this amendment only applied to members who were appointed to fill a vacant seat on Council.

There was a unanimous consensus of the Council to make the amendments presented by the Charter Review Committee regarding 4.11E to the voters.

Councilmember Gottschall said Section 6.11B related to compensation. In the Charter it says that no officers shall be paid on a fee basis; however, the City no longer had official roles in this capacity as they were speaking of in-house attorneys, assessors, etc. This concern was more of a conflict of how they were currently handling business by not following with the current Charter language when they paid the attorney or assessor. The committee thought it was best that the attorney draft language to address the fee basis that doesn't conflict with how the City currently conducted business.

There was a unanimous consensus of the Council to make the amendments presented by the Charter Review Committee regarding 6.11B to the voters.

Councilmember Gottschall thought this would be an appropriate time to have a discussion amongst Council to determine how they felt about Section 9.2 of the Charter, Taxation Procedure and Limit. He was aware that members of Council both past and present, thought the cap within the Charter should be addressed.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik felt they were limited by this language within the Charter and the language was drafted in 1987. They went around it by creating the special millage but the Charter cap should be changed.

Councilmember Sharpe liked the idea but thought it might be difficult to convince the public that the Charter cap would increase but their taxes would not. It would require a big educational effort on the City's part.

Mayor Beagle understood the effort to educate the voters but was hopeful with an early start and proper wording, they could get their message across.

Councilmember Gottschall preferred they addressed this when the special millage came to an end as it would be easier for people to understand. Another bonus to waiting a few years was having a better idea to what the new number should be.

Councilmember Behrmann thought the language needed to be addressed but did not like the idea of waiting until the current special millage expired as they could find themselves at a crossroads if the amendment failed. He was more comfortable addressing this next year along with the other items, and if it failed they still had a year to educate the public on the special millage.

Councilmember Smiley thought there was an attempt to raise the cap before and it failed so he agreed they needed efficient timing and education.

Councilmember Gottschall suggested they write the language to take effect within a certain tax year to coincide with the sunset of the next millage.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik clarified that this was not a millage increase, but a Charter cap increase as it would give authority to the City Council to use "up to" that point.

Councilmember Smiley explained that every four years when they went to the public asking for a special millage, they put the City services at risk. The whole idea behind raising the cap was to safe guard what was necessary.

Mayor Beagle suggested this be talked about again during a Special Meeting so they could ask the Finance Director questions and develop a game plan in moving forward. Mr. Brown asked for time before a meeting date was set to collect data and perform research.

Councilmember Gottschall said Section 4.12 spoke to independent boards and commissions. He recalled previous instances where one person was appointed to numerous boards. He thought by doing that we've limited ourselves by not allowing more participants to become involved. He would not mind seeing a policy where a person was only allowed to serve on one board or commission.

Councilmember Behrmann said while he served on the ZBA, he found it beneficial to have one member serve on the Planning Commission and ZBA as they were able to give them insight on what or how the Planning Commission felt. He did not have an issue with people serving on multiple boards if they were the best candidate for the position.

Councilmember Smiley agreed with Councilmember Behrmann. He added that vacancies were already difficult to fill.

Mr. Brown said the potential issue of having one person serving many different roles and having a little bit more authority than you'd consider ideal could be concerning. He understood the apprehension because availability was a key determination as they were not blessed with an overabundance of people interested

in serving. He was not aware of Wixom having this type of issue where the same person served in many different capacities.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik recalled the Planning Consultant suggesting the same individual be appointed to both the Planning Commission and ZBA to act as a liaison between the two.

Mayor Beagle said many applicants offer to be part of multiple boards but he tried to refrain from that. He liked the idea of one person acting as a liaison between the ZBA and Planning Commission.

Councilmember Gottschall said the next matter of discussion related to Section 4.12D. The current policy was all of Council received appointee applications and that was ideal, but that hadn't always been the case.

Mayor Beagle said he tried having the applicants present at the meetings so they could introduce themselves. He did not see any concern with the way the process was currently handled and would prefer no changes be made.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik was fine with the current procedures.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox was aware that several communities had the interested person come before Council and each member could ask them a question or engage with them to become more acquainted.

Councilmember Behrmann said the current language within the Charter says anybody being appointed by the Mayor had to be approved by a majority vote of the Council. Should a future Mayor withhold information, Council could table the appointment.

Mayor Beagle said the consensus of Council desired to leave the language for 4.12D as it stood without making any changes.

Councilmember Gottschall referenced the Charter language in Section 4.12E commenting that an appointee to a Board or Commission must be a registered voter and Wixom resident of one year unless an exemption was made. He felt like the language could be interpreted different ways, and questioned what qualified for an exemption. He understood exemptions made to DDA Board members because they were often downtown business owners. He was aware of non-residents on the Tax Abatement Committee reviewing abatement applications when it did not truly affect them.

Councilmember Behrmann said there are checks and balances. If the majority of Council felt a business owner would be a good candidate then they should have the ability to appoint them. He did not like the idea of hamstringing future Councils from making the best recommendation.

Councilmember Smiley added that all tax abatements came before City Council for approval.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox was surprised to see that a non-resident could become a member of a Board and/or Commission. Mr. Brown speculated it came about because how difficult it was to find residents that would be interested. Part of the rationale by appointing a business owner was their knowledge of the business community. He was aware it was routine to have non-residents sitting on a DDA Board, but not sure about a Tax Abatement Board. He would find out if non-residents were part of Tax Abatement Boards in other communities.

Councilmember Gottschall said the language was not clear on how they handle vacancies on City Council. Should it be an application process with a Mayoral appointment, have the candidate meet with Council members, host public interviews, etc. Section 4.11E talked about Council vacancies so the Charter Review Committee agreed this should be discussed among all members.

Mayor Beagle said it was part of the duty as Mayor to appoint people but the Council had the right to agree or not agree with the recommendation. He wouldn't like to see any changes made to this.

Councilmember Sharpe was thinking in terms of transparency and thought that Council vacancies should be published the same as Public Hearings. He thought it was important for residents to know they could be on City Council.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox agreed with Councilmember Sharpe and a clear process would be ideal.

Councilmember Gottschall said appointing members of Council was not a Mayoral appointment; however, it's been treated that way in the past. He favored the public notice and application process.

Councilmember Behrmann was fine with the policy being changed but he did not think this needed to become a Charter amendment. The Council had the authority to require applicants' interview. In terms of abuse, the power still remained with the majority of the Council.

Mr. Brown said there were Rules and Procedures that Council established when the new Council took office. Items such as this could be inserted into that document.

Councilmember Sharpe said if there was a vacancy on Council there would only be six members and the majority power could be null and void if there was a tie. He recalled a tie a few years back and feeling really bad for the applicant. The process was flawed and only relying on the Policies and Procedures was not going to be sufficient.

Mayor Beagle would like the Charter Committee to come up with a policy and have it completed in time for the attorney to review and voted on the first meeting in January.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik said the Charter language was similar to the surrounding communities in stating an appointee to Council was approved by a majority of City Council.

Councilmember Gottschall did not recall ever voting on the Council Policy and Procedures. He was in favor of coming up with some procedure or Ordinance but he wanted to be sure that whatever they did, it was codified so it couldn't easily be changed.

Councilmember Gottschall explained that currently Wixom required candidates to acquire signatures when filing for Mayor or City Council. The Charter Committee thought they would entertain a discussion about adding a filing fee alternative to collecting signatures. The Committee had no preference but agreed the Council as a whole should be included in the discussion.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik found a lot of value in collecting petition signatures because it required the candidate to get out and talk to people.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox agreed but thought it would be nice to have the option. She figured any way they could to get more people involved was the direction she wanted to work toward.

Councilmember Smiley said there was a certain level of seriousness of wanting to do the job when you collected signatures. Additionally, he didn't like the thought of someone paying the fee just to have their name on the ballot.

Mayor Beagle wouldn't like to see it changed because an effort should be made from the candidate.

Councilmember Behrmann commented the applicant only had to collect 40-60 signatures and that didn't seem like a big undertaking. He didn't think this needed to be changed.

Councilmember Gottschall was more in favor of the leg work and grass roots in obtaining signatures. Besides, he feared that people may just pay the money to get on the ballot and cross the threshold resulting in the cost of a Primary Election.

Mayor Beagle said the consensus of Council was to leave the language for 3.1A as it stood without making any changes. He said they'd wrap up the discussion regarding Charter amendments and revisit more items at the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) Recommendation to Confirm the Mayor's Appointments of Leslie Payment to the Downtown Development Authority with a Term to Expire June 30, 2026 and Dan Williams to the Parks & Recreation Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2024**

CM-10-140-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Sharpe to confirm the Mayor's appointments of Leslie Payment to the Downtown Development Authority with a term to expire June 30, 2026 and Dan

Williams to the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2024.

Mayor Beagle commented that Leslie Payment had a previous engagement tonight so she wasn't able to be here. She will be replacing Melanie Cheney, who was a founding member of the DDA. He said that Ms. Payment was very excited about joining the DDA.

Mayor Beagle introduced Dan Williams. Mr. Williams said he applied for the opening on the Parks & Recreation Commission and now the Council can apply a face to the name. He said he was a longtime Wixom resident as he has been in this community for over 30 years. He looked forward to supporting the Parks & Recreation Commission and enhancing the success of the City of Wixom. He thanked them for the opportunity.

Mayor Beagle stated that Mr. Williams has already attended a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and he was excited to step into that role. He thanked him for applying.

Councilmember Gottschall noted that Ms. Payment's application indicated she is a resident and soon-to-be business owner in Wixom. He asked if we knew the business. Mayor Beagle replied that it was the Michigan Community Insurance in the Klebba Building. She works for the same business as Melanie Cheney.

Vote:

Motion Carried

2.) Recommendation to Participate in the MiDeal Competitive Bid Process and Accept the Bid Price from the LaFontaine Automotive Group of Lansing, Michigan and Authorize the Purchase of Two 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit Vehicles for \$80,500.00 from Capital Account #411-301-973.370 Vehicles – Police

CM-10-141-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to participate in the MiDeal Competitive Bid Process and accept the bid price from the LaFontaine Automotive Group of Lansing, Michigan and authorize the purchase of two 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit Vehicles for \$80,500.00 from Capital Account #411-301-973.370 Vehicles - Police.

Chief Langmeyer stated that we budgeted for two replacement Police vehicles this year. He said that they wanted to stay with the Dodge Durangos. We just took receipt of the ones we ordered last year and we haven't gotten them into service yet. We are waiting for our upfitters. These vehicles are the ones that our officers selected as best suiting their needs. This year we went to MiDeal website and they have changed things a little. This bid price is still from last year and is good until the end of November. When they come out with the new ones in December, they won't give a price but instruct us to call a dealer. He said he received bids from a couple other local dealers to be sure the LaFontaine price was the best we could get. They found the LaFontaine prices was almost \$300 less than the other two local dealers.

Mayor Beagle believed Wolverine Lake was already driving a Durango. He wondered how they like theirs. Chief Langmeyer said that they love it. They have nothing bad to say about those vehicles.

Councilmember Behrmann confirmed that this was not sent out for bids. We just asked other dealers for pricing. Chief Langmeyer said that they asked other dealers for the pricing and took the MiDeal bid, which was a competitive bid process through the State of Michigan. Councilmember Behrmann asked if the dealer we have been using in the past was able to match that price and if we were tied to the MiDeal bid. Chief Langmeyer replied no but it was the best. We called Snethkamp, who gave us the best price last year. He indicated that he went with the lowest bid he could find. Councilmember Behrmann wondered about buying the vehicles from a dealership in Lansing versus buying from a local dealer. If we need maintenance, he thought it might be easier to use a local dealer versus having the cars going to Lansing. Chief Langmeyer said he would agree, but he knew Walled Lake Police utilize the LaFontaine dealership in Walled Lake for their service on the cars they bought from Lansing. It was all part of the LaFontaine dealership group.

Mayor Beagle commented that LaFontaine's headquarters were in Lansing but they have dealerships all over the state. He thought they had about 46 dealerships.

Councilmember Smiley wondered if it was safe to say we would be anticipating a lengthy delay with this order since there was a delay on getting the ones we ordered last year. Also, he asked if there was any concern with the delay. Chief Langmeyer replied that the delay in getting vehicles was common. We just took delivery of vehicles that we ordered last December. For this order, we were being told that if we didn't order by December, we probably would not have an order taken. The manufacturers are so far behind with the shortage on microchips. The manufacturers don't make a lot of money on these cars, so they are not going to make that many of them. He hoped nothing would happen with their current vehicles. We have two Police vehicles that will be rolled out of service; one was a 2015 with 88,000 miles and 12,854 hours of service while the other was a 2016 with 56,000 miles and 9,300 hours of service.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thanked him for the data on which two would come out of service. He asked if those would be given to the DPW or if they would go to auction. They will be replaced with a 2018 vehicle and a 2019 vehicle. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he knew we were waiting for Cruisers in Brighton to do the upfitting of the vehicles, but he wondered if the guys have been able to test them on the road. Chief Langmeyer said that they had. Everybody gets excited with a new car. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik was glad they were able to drive them because they may not like them. Chief Langmeyer said the officers keep asking him when we can get the new vehicles on the road. Much like the car manufacturers, the after-market suppliers are way behind schedule too. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik confirmed we felt comfortable with all the ads regarding how great they handle, their acceleration, cornering, radius, etc. Chief Langmeyer replied that every department he has talked to that has these vehicles have all raved about them. He said he was excited to get the equipment on them and see how they handle.

Councilmember Gottschall said that when we voted on the last Durango, we were told it wasn't cheaper than the Ford Explorer. Being that this was the same pricing, he asked if something was updated in the Ford Explorer. He questioned if the car itself was more expensive than the Durango now. Chief Langmeyer said he didn't know the exact number, but he did know that Ford went up in price about \$5,000. The Durango and the Explorer are now very similar in price. The Chevy Tahoe is about \$2,000 to \$3,000 more. Councilmember Gottschall said he would be more comfortable having the comparisons of cars to know that this was the better deal or even close to similar. It was disconcerting that we haven't had a bunch of time spent in the Durango using it for Police activities. He understood the need to get things ordered if we want them in a timely manner. He didn't know that the two cars we were rolling out were to the point where they were going to fall apart necessarily. For him, he said he would be a no on this primarily because we don't have a lot of experience with the Durango yet and the Council was not provided a comparison of vehicle types.

Councilmember Sharpe stated that the first paragraph in the Administration Summary said, "Council approved the transition to Dodge Durango pursuit vehicles for the Police Department." He didn't think that was true. The Council approved to buy two Dodge Durangos and there was a difference. Although now, if we get three or four vehicles, we were proceeding down that path to being a Dodge fleet. He stated that the warranty is provided by the Chrysler Corporation. Any authorized dealer can work on those vehicles for warranted items. Usually the upfitters are trained by Chrysler on how to do it so they don't damage the vehicle. He wasn't too worried about how well the Dodges hold up versus the Explorers. He wondered how the Police Officers preferred the Durangos since we don't have any yet. He knew we heard about them from other Police Departments. He asked about the budget line item, which has \$112,000 versus \$80,500 projected expense. He assumed the \$112,000 included the upfitting charge. He wondered if we stayed within the \$112,000 when we have the \$80,500 vehicle cost. Chief Langmeyer replied that their estimate showed that it will be enough. He confirmed it was for the upfitting cost. Councilmember Sharpe asked if we had gotten the bill from the upfitters yet and Chief Langmeyer replied no because we were still waiting to take the cars to them. We have used the same upfitters for years and they have the equipment for our cars. If this was approved and we get the cars ordered, we will have them give us the pricing on the equipment for these cars. There was a lag time for them to get the seats, lights, sirens, etc., just like everything else.

Mayor Beagle commented that we brought Durangos to the Police Department for them to try. He wondered how long we had them. Mr. Sikma knew that the Officers had driven the different Durangos but he wasn't sure how long they had them. He questioned the mechanic about the Durangos earlier this year. Between the two, the Explorer and the Durango, they felt the Durango was a better value at the time. Mayor Beagle confirmed they spent enough time in the Durangos to do the comparison between the Durango and the Explorer for comfort and pursuit. Mr. Sikma said that was correct. Acceleration and space were priorities for them.

Councilmember Smiley recalled Director Moore went through the pros and cons of what went into the decision to transition the fleet to Durangos. He was under the impression we weren't going to mix them up. From now going forward, we would

purchase Durangos. He didn't have the details, but it was his understanding that the Wixom Police fleet was transitioning to Durangos, so he thought that statement was correct in the Administrative Summary.

Councilmember Behrmann said he was comfortable moving forward with whatever vehicle our Police Department want. They are the ones who have to drive them. His question earlier was more about the process at the dealership than it was the actual vehicle. He thought it looked better if all of the Police vehicles were the same. One of the reasons we talked about switching to the Durango last year was because the Ford Explorer was changing. If we were to go back to the Explorer now, we would have some of the older Explorers, the Durangos and some of the newer Explorers. He thought consistency would make us look cleaner and nicer. He was fine with this as proposed and he would be voting yes.

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

Motion Carried

3.) Recommendation to Award a Change Order for Water Taps, Water and Sewer System Repairs, Water Valve Repairs and Water and Sewer Main Installations as Approved in Oakland County Procurement Process Contract #006093/601010 to D'Angelo Brothers, Inc. of Farmington Hills, Michigan for a Term of the Contract through June 30, 2023

CM-10-142-22: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Behrmann to award a change order for water taps, water and sewer system repairs, water valve repairs and water and sewer main installations as approved in Oakland County Procurement Process Contract #006093/601010 to D'Angelo Brothers, Inc. of Farmington Hills, Michigan for a term of the Contract through June 30, 2023.

Mr. Sikma said this change order was for pricing. The primary reason for this was the cost of metals. The water taps that D'Angelo has been doing cost more now than what they used to and what was predicted three years ago when the Contract began. This was an Oakland County bid process that we were utilizing for this contract. He indicated that we have utilized D'Angelo for a number of years and we have found them to be a value to the City. There are many different accounts that we use for this, such as capital, maintenance and replacement parts for permits that are added in for new construction.

Vote:

Motion Carried

4.) Recommendation to Approve the Contract with People's Express, Inc. to Provide Transportation Services for the City of Wixom and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Contract

CM-10-143-22: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to approve the Contract with People's Express, Inc. to

provide transportation services for the City of Wixom and authorize the Mayor to sign the Contract.

Ms. Magee said since 2013, the City has utilized People's Express for our senior transportation program. They have approached all of the communities for a revised contract. The first change was that this contract would renew automatically with the agreement of both parties. The second change was that the fee would increase from \$25 to \$28 per trip. The last change was that the transportation fares for the riders would increase from \$4 to \$6, with seniors and disabled from \$2 to \$3. She was recommending that the Council approve this contract.

Mayor Beagle asked if she would inform the Council if the contract was renewed automatically and she replied yes. Mayor Beagle commented that we utilized \$13,262 from SMART. If the transit proposal passed, he asked if we would get more money for our donation of \$840,000 to that fund. Ms. Magee said she wasn't sure how that would work.

Mr. Brown stated that for a while we were determining what would happen with the transit millage. We decided to move forward with the contract because whether the transit millage passes or fails, there will be a period of time before it starts. There was not a real plan for how services would be increased in the communities that are not currently served by SMART, like Wixom. The transit millage was put forward by the County Commissioners as a different approach to the millage. With the SMART millage, it was subject to a state law that allowed for communities to opt out. The City of Wixom has been an opt out community over the years. He stated that this millage is an Oakland County millage and there is no opt out option because it is not subject to that state law. If that passes, it will be about \$840,000 coming from the City budget as opposed to the expenditure we have with People's Express (\$41,888). We will see what will happens with the millage question on November 8th. There is an information piece on the City's website and our YouTube channel if people want to learn more about the transit millage.

Councilmember Behrmann said if the millage does pass, \$840,000 would be taxed to our residents. He wondered if this was a service SMART would be providing themselves so we wouldn't need this service. Mr. Brown said he wouldn't say that was correct or incorrect. Councilmember Behrmann said we would be paying \$840,000 to possibly get this service versus paying \$40,000 to get the service. Mr. Brown said that was correct. There will be some decisions that will need to be made. He didn't know if SMART would choose to purchase additional equipment and provide the service on their own or if they would contract with third-party providers like People's Express. There were a lot of questions that we won't know the answer until after that occurs, if it does pass. Councilmember Behrmann confirmed that if it does pass, we would have the ability to get out of this contract with reasonable notice. Mr. Brown said yes. We negotiated that down to 90 days.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought it was remarkable that it was only a 12% increase per trip since 2013. Ms. Magee said that was not correct. They increased their rates two years ago. There will be a review each year.

Councilmember Smiley said he was very much against that millage. If that does pass, he wondered what the harm would be in waiting. Mr. Brown stated that if it passes, we will need the status quo; if it doesn't pass, there will be at least a multi-month period of time. It will be a long period of time even if it does pass. He thought it was appropriate to bring it forward. Councilmember Smiley thought that was wise.

Councilmember Sharpe confirmed that Section 14 of the contract does say 90 days for no reason other than convenience. He imagined the County would start taking our money right away, but it will be awhile before the services are provided.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments made at this time.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown said that there were ten employees celebrating their work anniversaries during the month of November. Their years of service ranged from three to twelve years. Also, the Fire Department has received nine applications for either Paid-On-Call or Auxiliary Firefighter opportunities over the past few weeks. Initial background screenings have been passed on all but one case. The ultimate hiring outcomes are yet to be determined but this certainly represents encouraging news.

Mr. Benson said he and the Mayor missed each other at the most recent Ribbon Cutting for California Closet in their new 30,000 square foot facility. They should have over 50 new employees in Wixom and they are a great addition to the community.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Smiley thought it was great news about the interest in the Fire Department. He thanked the appointees, Mr. Williams and Ms. Payment. It was always gratifying to see folks in Wixom give their time and talent. He wished everyone a safe and happy Halloween. Watch out for kids when driving around. Two weeks from tonight we have a big night for our clerks, Cathy and Crystal. He hoped the night goes smoothly and without incident.

Councilmember Gottschall thanked the newest committee members. He also congratulated Jodi Gallo for graduating from the Michigan Public Safety Institute Program.

Councilmember Sharpe thanked Mr. Williams for sticking with us for almost two hours. He thanked him and Ms. Payment for their service to the City. He wanted to thank Mr. Sikma for the Hawk sign. He has been out of town, so he has only seen it at night and not a single person has gone by yet. He hasn't gotten to judge the timing of the lights on the Hawk sign. Also, the concrete pour in Wexford has been a high-quality event. We have had some graffiti artists in the wet concrete, but Mr. Sikma and the concrete team have fixed it. He appreciated them.

Councilmember Behrmann read in the minutes for the Parks & Recreation and the DDA about the planning for the new playscape behind the Library. As a father of a bunch of children that really love playscapes, he thought that would be a very nice addition downtown. He was glad to see we were moving forward with that. It was very positive news from the Fire Department and he was happy to see that. He thanked Ms. Payment and Mr. Williams for getting more involved in the community. He appreciated that. Lastly, he wished a happy birthday to Chief Langmeyer.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thanked Mr. Williams and Ms. Payment for volunteering to be on those Boards and Commissions. She thanked all of those employees who were celebrating work anniversaries. She thought it was great news regarding the recruitment for the Fire Department. She was glad to hear that. She was looking at some recruitment flyers that were sent to her by some employees. The flyer said "no psychological required" yet Mr. Brown mentioned that they were still going through psychological testing. She asked him to look into that. Mr. Brown didn't recall seeing that on the brochure. He will look into that.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thanked Ms. Payment and Mr. Williams for stepping up to volunteer. If they have friends, there are still vacancies on various Boards and Commissions. He thanked Russ Meredith who was now Chair of the DDA. Be careful on Halloween. Some of our newer subdivisions are flush with small children running around. He hoped we would have good weather this year. Also, get out and vote.

Mayor Beagle thanked Mr. Williams and Ms. Payment for volunteering. He really appreciated that. He indicated that we have four vacancies left on the various Boards and Commissions. We still need help so he encouraged residents to go on line to fill out an application. He also thought it was great news regarding the Fire Department and he congratulated the ten employees who were celebrating work anniversaries. Please get out and vote on November 8th. There are many interesting candidates and interesting proposals. It is your right to vote. Lastly, Go Blue!

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 11-15-2022
