

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 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(Exc)
P. Sharpe
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES:

Councilmember Gottschall added New Business #4: Discussion of the Future of the Barn

MINUTES:

CM-12-165-22: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gottschall and Sharpe to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of December 13, 2022.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

1.) Six Month Report from Chief Langmeyer

Mayor Beagle thanked Chief Langmeyer as he appreciated this report being presented to City Council.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments made at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

1.) Departmental Monthly Report - November 2022

Councilmember Behrmann liked that the Planning Consultant's report included items that have not changed from the previous month as it makes it much easier to read.

Councilmember Sharpe agreed with Councilmember Behrmann. He asked how the unsanitary situations ended up being reported by the Building Department. Mr. Benson said in some cases the Building Department worked in partnership with Oakland County.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if the City has heard any response from residents regarding the sidewalk easements for North Wixom Road. Mr. Sikma said they've had two responses out of the eight and both were favorable.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-12-166-22: 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. DDA Minutes – August 9, 2022
 - b. DDA Minutes - September 27, 2022
 - c. Special DDA Minutes – October 19, 2022
 - d. DDA Minutes – October 25, 2022
 - e. Senior Citizen Commission Minutes – October 10, 2022

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Confirm the Mayor's Reappointment of Bruce Faber to the Board of Review with a Term to Expire December 31, 2025 and the Appointment of Linda Halseth to the Senior Citizen Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2025**

CM-12-167-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Behrmann to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Bruce Faber to the Board of Review with a term to expire December 31, 2025 and the appointment of Linda Halseth to the Senior Citizen Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2025.

Mayor Beagle said that everybody already knew Mr. Faber as he'd been a member of the Board of Review for quite a while. He thought it was nice to see Ms. Halseth volunteer as the daughter of Bob Thompson who served for many years in Wixom.

Vote:

Motion Carried

- 2.) **Recommendation to Authorize the Repairs by Michigan Cat of Novi, MI to the Department of Public Works Caterpillar 420D Backhoe for a Total Cost Not to Exceed \$57,708.82 from Loader Backhoe Account #411-441-983.394 and Approve the Necessary Budget Amendment**

CM-12-168-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Sharpe and Smiley to authorize the repairs by Michigan Cat of Novi, MI to the Department of Public Works Caterpillar 420D Backhoe for a total cost not to exceed \$57,708.82 from Loader Backhoe Account #411-441-983.394 and approve the necessary budget amendment.

Mr. Sikma said the budget was previously set to refurbish the DPW backhoe. Recently, the backhoe was taken to Michigan Cat to determine what was needed for the repair/refurbish. Although, it's anticipated it would cost a lot less, Mr. Sikma asked that Council approve the full \$57,708.82 in order to make the necessary repairs. He indicated that with the repairs, they expect to get another ten to fifteen years of life out of the equipment. A new machine would cost \$124,000 to

\$133,000 at the base model price and the backhoe would sell used for around \$15,000.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if certain parts could not be made or available in the next ten to fifteen years on this particular age/type of backhoe model. Mr. Sikma said they brought that concern to Michigan Cat when they inspected the equipment. Michigan Cat took the ten to fifteen years into consideration when they suggested the repairs.

Councilmember Gottschall asked how often the backhoe was used. Mr. Sikma said it all depended on what jobs came up. They used the backhoe for drain repairs, digging, ditching, etc. Councilmember Gottschall figured given the light use of the equipment, getting it repaired seemed more logical than buying new. He wondered if there were any of the suggested repairs that could be handled by the staff. Mr. Sikma said if there was, they would cut a few corners and perform the repairs in-house.

Councilmember Sharpe spoke with Mr. Sikma prior to the meeting and learned this equipment was used lightly but was required when they needed it. He favored the City repairing this equipment because it was not used very often. He was aware the backhoe would be old by the time the repairs expired; however, equipment such as this was built to sustain time. Councilmember Sharpe also noted that even though they were over budget on this particular line item, the DPW Capital budget as a whole had a balance.

Vote:

Motion Carried

3.) Request for Approval of the 2023 Calendar Year Proposed Operating Budget for the Commerce, Walled Lake and Wixom Trailway Management Council

CM-12-169-22: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to approve the 2023 calendar year proposed Operating Budget for the Commerce, Walled Lake and Wixom Trailway Management Council.

Mr. Brown noted the budget was adopted annually by the Trailway Management Council and voted on by the membership communities. He mentioned the budget was straight forward but they included contributions of \$10,000 from each community to maintain a good healthy surplus. He said in order for the Trailway Management Council to operate under the 2023 budget, they needed approval from the Wixom and Commerce Township governing boards.

Mayor Beagle wondered when the City of Walled Lake would be removed as they had withdrawn from the Trailway Council. Mr. Brown expected that to be taken care of within the first quarter of 2023.

Councilmember Gottschall was curious as to why the Trailway Council needed to keep a healthy surplus within their budget. Mr. Brown assumed it was more for maintenance items, dealing with the invasive species that could become

problematic and just the general practice of having the money rather than coming up with it on an as-needed basis.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought the billboard revenue was a welcomed benefit to the Trailway. He hoped some of the additional money could be used for additional HAWK lighting at the dangerous intersection of Pontiac Trail.

Vote:

Motion Carried

4. Discussion of the Future of the Barn

Councilmember Gottschall noted that the Assistant City Manager's Monthly Report mentioned the DDA would put together an RFP for a feasibility study on the barn. He wanted to get an idea from the dais as to what they thought when it came to the barn in order to gauge if a study was worthwhile.

Mr. Benson said the barn feasibility study was a concept the DDA had been working on. Understanding the past efforts with the barn hadn't been cohesive or well received, they figured it was best to get a third-party consultant that specialized in that kind of project to provide an idea of what could be done. Given there would be a significant expense to putting together the study and if there was a pre-conceived decision from City Council, it could change the process going forward. He indicated that it was the City's barn as the DDA did not own it.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he'd been involved over the years with Main Street Oakland County and one of those ideals was historic preservation. Even though he'd always been torn on the status of what to do with the barn versus financing, he thought it was definitely worth a feasibility study.

Councilmember Smiley felt the same as Deputy Mayor Rzeznik. Because this was a potential asset to the City, he thought it was worth while to find out what the barn's possibility was; therefore, he didn't mind the expense.

Councilmember Sharpe asked if this study was part of the DDA's strategic planning. Mr. Benson said that it was, and it's already been budgeted.

Mr. Brown said basically this feasibility study would determine if there was any use for the barn. Additionally, there had been recent funding sources that had come to light that could address this type of project.

Councilmember Behrmann was fine with a feasibility study but would like to see it happen soon. If the DDA was serious about doing something with the barn than he would encourage them to act.

Mayor Beagle was in favor of a feasibility study because he was interested to see what types of uses the barn could be used for.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if the RFP request also included a full rehab expenditure budget. Mr. Benson said that it did and it requested detailed drawings. Councilmember Gottschall appreciated everybody's input because he did not want

to see the DDA spend \$50,000 if the reception on the dais was to tear the barn down.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Russ Meredith, 370 Fletcher, thanked the Council for supporting the effort to move forward with the feasibility study of the barn. A few weeks ago, he suffered a vertigo attack when he woke up at 5:00 a.m. He said his wife was so relieved to see the cavalry show up after she called 911. He wanted to thank the Wixom Fire Department publicly because they acted in such a professional manner.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown appreciated the employees that were celebrating work anniversaries within the City. He indicated that Lt. Mark Bradley was celebrating 21 years at the Wixom Police Department.

Mr. Benson said that Total Soccer recently sold to a company out of California called TOCA Football Training and Soccer. They were not aware of all the details but thought it was exciting nonetheless. He said it's been exciting to see the interest in vacant land development even in this higher interest rate climate.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Sharpe wished everybody Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Gottschall wished everyone Happy Holidays and hoped everyone would be safe this weekend with the predicted snow fall.

Councilmember Behrmann thanked the City Manager for providing lunch last week and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Smiley thanked the City Manager for lunch. He said last Friday he drove during the ice storm and the driving was awful until they reached Wixom where the roads had been salted. He thanked the DPW for their effort in making the community safe. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year. After today's Mayoral appointments, there were only two vacancies on all the City's Boards and Commissions so that was great news.

Mayor Beagle thanked the City Manager for providing lunch for everyone. He thought it was nice to sit and chat with everyone in a different setting other than at their desk. He thanked the employees celebrating work anniversaries. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 1-10-2023
