

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023**

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
P. Sharpe
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES: (None)

MINUTES:

CM-01-01-23: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of December 20, 2022.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1.) Thank You Note from the Smiley Family
- 2.) Fire Department Update

Mayor Beagle thanked the Interim Fire Chief for his update.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments made at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

1.) Fire Monthly Report - December 2022

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox noticed that the false alarm calls were considerably higher than November of last year. She knew that we billed the businesses but she wondered if they received a certain number of false alarms before we started billing them. Interim Chief Geistler replied that they get three false alarms a quarter before they are billed. During November, we had a drop in water pressure and many fire alarms went off, which happens once or twice a year.

2.) Police Monthly Report – December 2022

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox noticed that the larceny numbers were higher. She asked if they were in specific areas of the City or if they were spread out. Chief Langmeyer stated that those larcenies were mostly catalytic converter thefts. We have seen a huge increase in these and we are increasing patrols in certain areas, but it bounces all over the City.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-01-02-23: Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Behrmann and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Recommendation to Accept the Permanent Sidewalk Easements Along North Wixom Road Granted by Property Owners Located at 1636, 1716 and 1750 North Wixom Road

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Confirm the Mayor's Reappointment of Joe Bell, Eric Jarvis and Eddie Osman to the Tax Abatement Review Committee with Terms to Expire December 31, 2025**

CM-01-03-23: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Joe Bell, Eric Jarvis and Eddie Osman to the Tax Abatement Review Committee with Terms to Expire December 31, 2025.

Mayor Beagle said that these individuals currently serve on this Committee. The rules allow them to serve and he was pleased they have agreed to be reappointed.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik commented that initially Joe Bell was appointed because he was the principal at Walled Lake Western, which serves Wixom. He has since moved to Central High School where he is the assistant principal. He asked if Ali Hamka (current principal at Western High School) had been approached and if it would make sense to have someone closer to the neighborhood. Mayor Beagle said that Joe Bell was contacted and his supervisors were okay with his reappointment. He is a representative from the Walled Lake Schools.

Councilmember Gottschall requested that the Council vote on these separately because he still didn't agree with the reappointment of one of the people.

CM-01-04-23: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Gottschall and Sharpe to vote individually on the reappointments to the Tax Abatement Review Committee.

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

Motion Carried

The reappointment of Joe Bell to the Tax Abatement Review Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2025

Councilmember Sharpe asked what Joe Bell's interest was in the City since that was one of the requirements. Mayor Beagle said that he was the representative from the Walled Lake Schools. Councilmember Gottschall explained that if the City agrees to an abatement, it doesn't just affect the City; it affects the Schools as well. He would be representing their interest in whether or not that should be allowed.

Vote:**Motion Carried****The reappointment of Eric Jarvis to the Tax Abatement Review Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2025**

Councilmember Sharpe asked his interest in the City. Mayor Beagle replied that Mr. Jarvis was a resident and a business owner.

Vote:**Motion Carried****The reappointment of Eddie Osman to the Tax Abatement Review Committee with a term to expire December 31, 2025**

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked Mr. Osman's interest in the City and Mayor Beagle stated that he was a business owner.

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

Motion Carried**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** (None)**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Brown commented that the City of Wixom will be hosting the Oakland County Veterans Resource Fair on Thursday, January 26th from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon in the Community Center.

Mr. Benson said that the City has been working with a small committee for economic development in marketing and branding initiatives. He was excited to say that the plan was for that to be presented to City Council at the next meeting. Kudos to Councilmembers Smiley and Gottschall who participated in that process. He said that the Planning Commission approved the updated language for the Village Center Area ordinance and zoning map. This has been an extensive process and it will be coming to the Council soon. Finally, he indicated it was exciting to see the reappointments to the Tax Abatement Review Committee. City Management does intend to hold a meeting in the next month or so.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Gottschall had no comments.

Councilmember Behrmann was excited to see that we were moving forward with some of the easement acquisitions for our sidewalk, as well as the positive note on the movement of our Fire Department. He thanked the people who continued to volunteer for our Boards and Commissions.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox passed on her condolences to the family of Gloria Leskinen. She thanked Fire Administration and the City Manager's Office for the staffing and recruitment update. She was happy that the shifts and recruitment strategies were working. She also thanked those who stepped up to sit on the Tax Abatement Review Committee.

Councilmember Sharpe wished everyone a happy New Year. He thanked the three volunteers for serving on the Tax Abatement Review Committee. Prior to this meeting, he mentioned to Chief Langmeyer that he had seen a lot of police cars out today. He asked if something special was going on and Chief Langmeyer told him he was just encouraging officers to have a presence in the City. Councilmember Sharpe appreciated the show of personnel that we have. We all support the Police Department and it was really good to see them out there.

Councilmember Smiley echoed many of the things that have been covered. He said that Gloria Leskinen served on the Senior Commission from 2002 to 2014. He said he appreciated the City Clerk letting the Council know when people known to the City pass away.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thanked the volunteers for serving on our Boards and Commissions. He offered his condolences to the Leskinen family. In regards to the easements, he confirmed that we still had a number of them to obtain. Mr. Benson indicated that there were seven more to obtain. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik wondered if there was any update from the legislative appointment from DTE on the event that happened on December 31st at 3:00 with the Hidden Creek and Wexford Mews subdivisions. Mr. Brown replied that he was not able to get any response from them other than it might take time for them to pull the information. He said he would keep him up to date regarding that power outage. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said that there was an extreme surge that destroyed power strips, as well as appliances within those two subdivisions. Lastly, he said to those vandals who maliciously destructed holiday displays in the neighborhoods, remember one day you will have children and you will be helping them decorate houses. He hoped they would remember that moment when they are a parent themselves of how malicious that was. There were a lot of broken hearts in the neighborhoods.

Mayor Beagle offered his condolences to the Leskinen family on the loss of Mrs. Leskinen. He thanked the volunteers who stepped up for the Tax Abatement Review Committee and he wished everybody a happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved
1-24-2023