

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Beagle at 6:03 p.m.

PRESENT:

City Council: Patrick Beagle (Mayor), Thomas Rzeknik (Deputy Mayor), Peter Behrmann, Keenan Gottschall, Tia Gronlund-Fox, Peter Sharpe, and Robert Smiley

City Staff: Drew Benson, Jason Breitmeyer, Steve Brown, Cathy Buck, Phil Langmeyer, Deanna Magee, Ken Pike, Tim Sikma, Marilyn Stamper

Determination of Quorum:

A quorum was present for this meeting.

Changes or Additions to the Agenda:

No changes were made to the agenda.

Call to the Public:

There were no comments from the public.

Goal Setting Discussion:

Mayor Beagle said that the staffing would be discussed first and then we will go back to the goal summaries. He indicated that everybody would have between 10 and 15 minutes to talk about their goals.

Mr. Brown said that historically, we have kept a pretty tight line on staffing. We haven't expanded the staffing to anything near prior high numbers that we have had in the past. We do feel that the time is now to evaluate some of these potential opportunities for additional staffing that he thought would make a difference and would help us do a better job. Many projects are taking longer than anyone would like to see forward to completion. He said they were looking at adding a staff member to work with Mr. Sikma who would be responsible for coordinating projects and moving them along in a more efficient manner. Mr. Sikma has so much going on that it is difficult for him to manager all of the projects. He thought the position would provide an opportunity to see improvements in areas where we all would like to see improvements.

Mr. Benson stated that from the City's standpoint, we are getting back to where we were financially 15 years ago. That didn't take into account our other taxable values that we don't collect, like the DDA. They have grown far more quickly than the City has. He indicated that even the Brownfield at the Wixom Assembly Park was not reflected in the general fund. Those would put us well above where we used to be. The City's highest number of full-time employees was 65 in fiscal year 2003/2004 and down to a low of 47. We are now back up to 56 full time employees. He wanted to point out that there hasn't been an aggressive effort to add more employees, but with the increase of population, the workload is increasing. He stated that of the five positions that are being requested, there are different circumstances for each one.

The first position that was requested was the Heavy Equipment Operator in the DPW Department. The DDA would like to see a higher level of maintenance service in the downtown area. Right now, there is only so much that can get done with the eight Heavy Equipment Operators that we have. The DDA has been amenable to the idea of contributing the cost of one more full-time Public Works employee in exchange for certain levels of service above what the downtown area currently receives.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if the employee losses were mainly DPW during the 2004/2005 timeframe. Mr. Benson said he didn't know specifically what departments they came from. He knew there were losses in the Building Department, as well as in the Assessing Department. At one point there were five full-time employees in the Finance Department and now there are three.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if the DDA would pay for the total cost (including benefits and wages) and Mr. Benson replied yes.

Councilmember Behrmann commented that out of all of the requested positions, he felt another DPW employee was the most important.

Mr. Benson explained that the second on the list was the addition of a Floating Secretary. This would be a union position for City Hall. The design would be a cross between the Building Department and Finance, but to also add capacity when any Department was in their busy season. We have two full-time secretaries in the Building Department and three full-time employees in the Finance Department. It creates a little bit of an issue when there is a vacation. Most of the union secretary positions are nearing retirement age. He said that of all of the positions listed, this might be the lowest priority, but it would offer an opportunity to get someone in to train for that turnover. In the interim, we would add extra capacity to evaluate how that position works. It will allow us to get to things that we can't always get to right now, like scanning.

Mr. Brown said that as part of the succession planning, if things were to change financially and it gets to the point where this position were to be a bit of a hardship, we would have that flexibility to have that person slide into the position vacated by a retirement.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if this position would be funded solely by increasing the cost of the scanning fees that we charge. He noted that it said there was zero contribution from the general fund. Mr. Benson replied that it was zero from things outside of the general fund. This would be 100% from the general fund funded. We would not propose to increase any funds to offset this. He was trying to show what the impact to the general fund specifically would be.

Councilmember Smiley indicated that he was spooked by more hires, commitments and expenses. The idea that we have the flexibility of retirements and contributions from other areas than the general fund made him feel better about hiring more people.

Mr. Benson added that based on the longevity of the current people in the union secretary positions, they also have more vacation time that needs to be covered.

Councilmember Smiley clarified that when no one was on vacation we would still have something for this person to do. Mr. Benson replied absolutely.

Mr. Benson commented that the third requested position was the idea of a Capital Project Manager. The City used to have a Public Services Director with a full-time secretary. This position functioned as the City engineer liaison. This wouldn't be the same, but it would be a position to add more capacity for specifically overseeing special projects like easement acquisitions, working with sidewalk vendors and the Beck Road Widening Project. Right now, Mr. Sikma, Mr. Brown and Mr. Benson split these. He indicated that some of these things are very time-consuming and it is difficult to make the progress on all of these things at the same time at the rate we would like.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if that position would be tasked with looking after grants. Mr. Benson said that would be the intention, as well as the reporting requirements.

Mr. Benson said that this person would be focusing on capital projects and there are a variety of ways outside of the general fund to pay for that. He said the salary could be divided between the general fund, water, wastewater, what remains of the LDFA, safety path, major and local roads. The other piece of this is the succession planning piece. If Mr. Sikma were to retire, the main option for his replacement would be to look outside of the organization. To have someone to be groomed to take over that role would be important.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked what the two levels were of this position. Mr. Benson explained that those were different grade scenarios. We would propose that to be a non-union position so it would have to fit into the non-union pay scale. We would have to figure out where to place them on the scale. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox confirmed that he was not looking for an engineer and Mr. Benson replied said not necessary. He thought it would be difficult to expect someone with a PE certification and 20 years of experience to want to work at that rate.

Councilmember Sharpe asked how we would pay for that. He wondered if we would pay this person rather than HRC. Mr. Benson said that we would still be paying HRC, but he would like to believe we would be able to decrease our specific cost for some of the administration work. That would be the expectation. Councilmember Sharpe asked if we would see a reduction for HRC when we are doing the budget or if it would be a soft savings. Mr. Benson didn't think that we would look at this as a savings. HRC's expenses are tied into the capital projects that they are working on. Mr. Brown added that it was not so much about generating cost but increasing our effectiveness with these projects and moving them along more quickly. If it is a reduction in the HRC billing, it will be a minor one.

Ms. Stamper indicated that 10-15% would come from the general fund and the remainder would come from Safety Path, Water, Wastewater, Major and Local Roads.

Councilmember Gottschall felt that most of this would be paid from the general fund. He knew we wanted to save LDFA funds for things like buying rights-of-ways for Beck Road. The LDFA fund will run out eventually and he wondered how we would pay that person once that money was gone. For planning purposes, he was betting that at some point, this whole amount will be straight general fund.

Mr. Sikma commented that there were six different cost shares that we use for all of the DPW employees. We've divided it up because of how we do our work. Those accounts include Solid Waste, Water, Wastewater, and all of those are enterprise funds where there are admin fees that are associated with it. There is also the Act 51, Major and Local Road, piece. As long as we continue to get Act 51 money, we will have funds for that person. We are charged only by the hour back to it. There are other sources of revenue.

Councilmember Gottschall said that we have to prove that the employee is actually working on those projects that certain amount of time. If 10% of their salary is paid for by Roads, it needs to be an equivalent to 10% of the amount of time. He knew a few cities have gotten into trouble with over-charging in the Building Department. He knew the LDFA fund would run out at some point and he didn't want to start committing too much money from things that we actually need. Those funds should primarily be going toward buying the rights-of-ways, or paying other Beck Road expenses. The Sidewalk funds need to go to sidewalks, not to a person talking about sidewalks. His fear was that we were starting to take money away or eat into money that will have ended, like the LDFA funds. He was leery about additions for a few reasons. He didn't like the idea of if the tides change and we are bringing in less revenue that we are cutting people. He would prefer to be the kind of City where if someone gets a job here, they can be here until they want to retire. This strikes him as the wrong way and a few of these positions hit on that mark.

Mr. Benson didn't think staff would bring any of these with the expectation that these positions were created and someone was hired to fill them that that person was only expecting to be here for five years. For example, if we add another union secretary to make four at City Hall and one of them retires, we would look at it at that time to see if we still need that position. That was different than saying we can't afford that position any more. That was not what he was proposing. It was more that our work force is aging. It is either you fill them after they are gone and you are further behind than when you started, or you have more staff and you are back down to where you started.

Councilmember Gottschall said he liked not being left high and dry when someone retired. Then we have to find someone who may or may not have any experience. Going back to the DDA-funded DPW position, once that plan changes or ends, we would have to tell that person goodbye because we don't want to carry them. Mr. Benson said that if the DDA goes away, you get all of your money back. The City makes money when that happens. Councilmember Gottschall said that we are not talking about future planning right now and that was the difficulty. We are talking about adding fixed costs for positions. The \$208,000 new to the general fund is new money that we can't ask people to pay toward roads because we don't want to over tax them. He felt it was a very holistic view because we don't want to keep asking people to pay more because we want more positions.

Mr. Benson stated that these were conversations that we have been having for a while. This was a very big decision to make and it takes a lot of thought. On the flip side, what we see on a day-to-day basis is that the kind of projects we have require a lot of time and attention. HRC pays a lot of attention to us, but he didn't think anyone would say that they pay the same level of attention as Mr. Sikma, or any of our other full-time employees. There is enough work on capital projects that we want to do in the City. He didn't think we would be lost for projects.

Mr. Brown added that we were looking to provide an alternative to the current staffing. Mr. Sikma has a lot to do on a daily basis. The work on the various projects was not where we would like it to be. This is an alternative.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said that when 2006 through 2008 happened, we did cut back by combining some of the secretarial and part-time positions as there were attritions. We knew we would get taxable value versus full-time employees. If we added all of these requested employees, we would be back to 59 full-time employees, which would be back to the 2006/2007 low. Wixom has grown. He understood that staff has looked at other ways to fund these employees from other funds.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox saw this position as being the most flexible to the general fund because of the different ways we can charge that out. She asked if Mr. Sikma had to pick between the two positions he was asking for, which one was more important to him. Mr. Sikma replied that they were two very different positions with different caseloads. He thought it was a package to some extent. It would depend on which projects the Council wants the DPW to do. For example, if they want us to do tree trimmings and collecting emergency storm debris or hire it out. He said there was enough work that they need both people. He asked if the Council wanted them to continue the level of service where we are at or better. The DDA would like somebody picking up garbage a couple times a week and he didn't have the capacity to do that right now. For that percentage of the group that would like our downtown to be cleaner than it is right now, we would want that DPW operator. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if that person would be working on other projects as well. Mr. Sikma replied of course. When we do tree trimming on Maple Road, we have to have four people for safety (two dropping the tree and two directing traffic). If we are hiring for road maintenance or designing for Potter Road next and we need the RFP put together, then we want the assistant.

Mr. Benson said that one of the values was that it would make it easier for us to bid out more projects. He knew that has been a priority for City Council and we have started to do that more.

There is time and effort that goes into putting it together, reviewing the bids, reviewing the individual contractors and managing those contractors, as opposed to the established relationships that are a little simpler with HRC.

Mr. Benson continued with the Fire Secretary position. This would combine two part-time clerical staffers to have one full-time clerical union Secretary in the Fire Department. This would help take on more of the load that was being moved back to the Fire Department now that the records management was back.

Mr. Brown added that the Fire Chief was supportive of this move.

Mr. Benson stated that there was overlap of what the clerical union duties were. In the past, there were limits to what part-timers can do. Mr. Brown explained that entering purchase orders was specifically clerical bargaining unit work. If we hire someone on a part-time basis, they can't do that work. Even if we were to hire the two part-time people, there would still be a pretty big burden on the Police Department. He said that he felt confident that the full-time employee would be a good result for the Fire Department. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if the two part-time positions would go away and Mr. Brown replied yes. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if that position could go back and forth between Police and Fire. Mr. Brown replied no, it would be strictly Fire-focused because of the amount of work. There was a person handling the business licensing program before and that kept one person pretty busy. The Fire payroll is currently being done by the Police Secretary and that is also very time-consuming.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if we charged for fire inspections fees. Lieutenant Breitmeyer replied that the business license has a fee associated with it and that includes the inspection.

Councilmember Behrmann said that since he has been on Council, we have added one full-time employee every year. That seems like the trend we have been going on for the last couple of years. Looking at the population growth, we are up 25% over where we were when we had 60 full-time employees. He thought all of these positions could be justified. The question was if we could afford them all. Whether it comes from the general fund or another fund, he wondered if it were possible for us to afford all of these positions without cutting something else or increasing the amount that we are taxing our residents.

Ms. Stamper said that the ultimate goal was to not raise the general operating taxes to do this. We could use the other funding mechanisms and different funds to cover these positions. We will see a very good increase on our property tax revenue this year because of the percentage increase for CPI. There are a lot of numbers to put together to finally see what this all looks like when we put the numbers into our main budget. She didn't think the intent was to raise taxes.

Councilmember Behrmann said that if the budget that comes to the Council next month can support hiring all five of these positions without us having to increase taxes, he could support all of them. He definitely thought that the Council was here to provide the best service as possible to our residents. If we are 25-30% larger than we were when we had 60 employees, it probably makes sense. He just wanted to make sure we weren't looking to increase the taxes.

Ms. Stamper indicated that the intent was to live within the means as far as millage.

Councilmember Sharpe reminded the Council that we overspent revenue by \$3 million this year. Councilmember Behrmann said that was on capital expenses, but Councilmember Sharpe said that it was all our money. It comes from the taxpayers. That was how it got into those pots.

Councilmember Smiley said that we are always trying to sharpen our pencils at this time of year to find more money to get our PASER rating up, as well as other things. He thought staff made a

great case for all of these needs. He thought Councilmember Behrmann's points were good but it does boil down to it being one big pot that needs to be divided carefully.

Mr. Benson commented that compared to the City, the DDA has seen much more significant growth in the revenues. He thought they will collect \$1.3 million next year, which was \$200,000 more than the year before. They collect 97% of the new transportation millage, which will be about \$57,000. The DDA has been very amenable to understanding how that goes into operations and capital projects. They have done more to contribute to all of these things. The general fund grows at a rate of about the 5-6% range, but there are other areas that we have on the fringes that offer opportunities for us to be creative and accomplish the mission of each of those kinds of things. He said we would not propose a budget where we wanted to add five people and we would have to raise the millage to cover it.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said that the DDA is extremely active and doing a lot more. He thought we could all agree that when you leave a concert on a Thursday night and try to put something in the garbage receptacle, they are full. He thought it was definitely warranted. Our downtown seems ten times more vibrant in the last eight years than it has been.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she could not imagine staff would come to the Council to add five positions and say we would only be able to afford that if we go back to the taxpayers. She asked if we would be dipping into the budget stabilization to pay for these positions. Mr. Benson said that the numbers have not been fully crunched. He said if there was a scenario where we were dipping into reserve funds to be able to do this, we would not be recommending this. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she couldn't support this if we did.

Councilmember Sharpe said that we did dip into the budget stabilization fund last year for \$3 million for everything. He thought the Council forgot that.

Mr. Brown said that he would advocate doing that again if we have a 60% fund balance at the end of this year. He added that the \$3 million was spent on the roads and they needed to be done.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik commented that the taxpayers expect us to spend the money and not have such a big fund balance. Mr. Brown said that was correct.

Mayor Beagle asked how many foremen there were in the DPW. Mr. Sikma replied that there were two.

Mr. Benson stated that during the last few fiscal years, we underspent what we budgeted. A lot of that is our ability to responsibly carry out the projects that we budgeted.

Councilmember Gottschall said that in most cases, underspending equals over-taxing. Mr. Benson said that if the expectation is that these projects are going to get done, the tax dollars are collected to do those things, but we lack the capacity to do them. He wasn't saying that was a universal scenario. There are two sides to the coin – capital and operating.

Councilmember Smiley said he was proud that we have not used the full 3.5 mills.

Mr. Benson said that the last position that is being requested was the addition of a Police Sergeant. Chief Langmeyer commented that after his first few months here, one of the biggest liabilities he saw was the fact that we don't have supervisors supervising all of our people. He has one shift on the day shift that has no one overseeing them on a day-to-day basis. Because of this, the one day shift Sergeant transfers between the two platoons and he covers it as much as he can. The problem that is coming in the future is our age. After the three eligible officers retire, our average

officer's time and grade here is 4.3 years. It scares him a little bit to not have someone supervising these young guys.

Mayor Beagle thought we had a good program when we send our cadets to the Academy, but we don't want to have a rookie staff either. We need veterans on the force.

Chief Langmeyer said that he was making every effort to try to find them. He said they would be participating in the Job Fair that was coming to Wixom. They are also going to the Academy to try to find more officers, even though they are the same age as the cadets we send.

Mayor Beagle asked if we had anybody on staff who would be able to take the Sergeants' test. Chief Langmeyer said that we already have three officers who have started the promotional process for the rank of Sergeant. He would be comfortable with all three.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox clarified that there were two platoons and we don't have a supervisor at all on one of the platoons. Chief Langmeyer said that he does not have a sergeant assigned to one of the platoons. He explained that there are four platoons (two on midnights and two on days). The two midnight platoons have sergeants and there is only one sergeant covering both platoons on days. He goes between the two as needed. We have one lieutenant and the sergeants are out on the road.

Chief Langmeyer shared that the Police Department is going through accreditation right now. Part of that is supervision. As we discussed at the last Council meeting, we met with the MML and they talked about our rating being .99 and we want to be below 1.0. The MML said that when they established liability, there is a four-point tool - policies, training on the policies, supervision on the policies and accountability. We are missing the last two legs most of the time.

Mr. Brown added that if mistakes are made because there is not good supervision on a shift, that becomes a major problem for the community. When you have a lot of young officers, it is important to have solid supervision in place. Right now, we don't feel that we have that on the day shifts.

Councilmember Behrmann wondered how long this has been an issue. He assumed it hasn't been a problem because our Department has been more experienced. Chief Langmeyer thought it was always a problem when there is less supervision. Councilmember Behrmann asked if we ever had four Sergeants. Chief Langmeyer said when the Lieutenant position was created, the trade-off was not to replace that Sergeant.

Councilmember Gottschall asked what the responsibility difference was between a Lieutenant and a Sergeant. Chief Langmeyer said that the Lieutenant oversees all of our accreditation and both the Detective Bureau and the Patrol Division. The Sergeants report to the Lieutenant. The Lieutenant is more of an administrative position. Councilmember Gottschall said that when we had this discussion about the Police Service Aid going to the Academy, he raised the point of us being too young. It got here a lot quicker than anyone said it would. Chief Langmeyer said that the Academy does a phenomenal job getting these guys ready for the road. Councilmember Gottschall asked how many individuals were approved. Chief Langmeyer said that the State will pay for the two Service Aids we have in the Academy right now. They are reimbursing \$24,000 a person.

Councilmember Sharpe said he hasn't heard any calls to defund the Police in Wixom. While we shouldn't be defunding them, he would love to be able to tell people with the 5% increase in their tax revenue, we have hired a new patrol officer.

Mayor Beagle said he could support four of these positions, but not the Capital Projects Manager. We have two foremen in the DPW. Let's let them do the day-to-day operations and let Mr. Sikma

do the projects. We will see how it is in a year. If it is impossible for him to do it, then we have proven the worth of this position and we can put it in the budget next year.

Councilmember Smiley said that summed up how he felt, too.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox indicated that she would rather see the Capital Projects Manager than the Floating Secretary.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik agreed with Councilmember Gronlund-Fox. We don't have anyone out there looking for grants full-time. In the past, HRC used to find them for us. He did support the Capital Projects Manager position.

Mr. Benson commented that there was a question about prioritization from City Management. He said Administration does think that there was a value to the Floating Secretary position, but of the five requested, that was probably the lowest priority. Related to the Capital Projects Manager, being involved and working with Mr. Sikma, that was something Mr. Benson has tried to involve himself and add capacity there. He knew what Mr. Sikma goes through and he knew Ms. Magee did a lot of that work as well.

Mr. Sikma said that some of this work does get handled by the foremen. When we are not doing that, we are ending up like the Police Chief mentioned without supervisors. He said they spent a lot of time this year with the sidewalk program to the expense of the disc golf and other things that didn't happen because they weren't available for it. He said he tries to hear all of the different priorities and he tries to divide them up as much as he can. We are getting tasked with stormwater now. We finally got a permit in July that was renewed that has increased a lot of tasks administratively. There are inspections with 1,100 outfalls and 3,000 storm water catch basins that have to be inspected. We were going to go to the foremen for those types of projects. Mr. Sikma said that we can only spread people out so far. The DPW will have their own retirements coming in the next couple years. He said it was a decision and he appreciated the Council's input.

Goals from Mayor Beagle

Mayor Beagle said his goal was to have a dedicated school liaison officer in all five schools located within the City. He thought the school district may help support the payment of this officer's salary. He stressed the importance of a liaison officer considering the way the world was today.

Councilmember Behrmann assumed the high schools had dedicated police officers but asked if any of the elementary and/or middle schools had them. Additionally, he questioned if the elementary and/or middle schools wanted a dedicated officer. Mayor Beagle knew that an Oakland County Sheriff visits Glengary Elementary a few times a week.

Chief Langmeyer said we already have a program in place where the Wixom officers visit each school two times per day. While they are there, they interact with the students and teachers, learn the language and building layout, etc. He believed the schools would be interested in having a dedicated officer, especially the middle school. He was uncertain if the school district would help pay for the officer.

Mayor Beagle asked if the officers had an ID to access the schools. Chief Langmeyer said they did and expressed the importance of a school liaison officer. He would be thrilled to have an officer assigned to be a sole contact for Wixom schools. He envisioned that officer working Monday through Friday and becoming the primary contact for the school. He wasn't a hundred percent sure they had enough work for that officer so he thought that officer would become a community liaison officer where they worked not only in the school but offered service to the downtown business, crime prevention within the industrial communities, performed resident outreach, the social media officer, the officer for HOA meetings, etc.

Councilmember Gottschall asked how a school liaison would be different than what they already provided. Chief Langmeyer said a liaison officer doesn't just enforce the laws but they take on the approach of working with the parents, school and students to create the best outcome possible. A school liaison officer would give you the option to find the best solution for the child and not just enforce the law. Councilmember Gottschall wanted to see the private schools within the City contribute funds toward this position.

Mayor Beagle envisioned that the officer would spend a couple hours at one school then move to the next for a couple hours, then the next day a couple hours at another school, etc.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought it was important to note that one dedicated officer would develop a rapport with the students; in addition, he believed presence was deterrence.

Goals from Councilmember Behrmann

Councilmember Behrmann liked the idea of the City updating the branding and new entrance signs into the City and making them consistent. He was indifferent about changing the City logo but he was passionate about replacing the old, crooked and rusty entry signs.

Mr. Benson said they've been talking to the DDA about rebranding and they seem to be interested in partnering with the City when they perform a collective branding/signage study. He indicated they would need to budget for an in-depth study that provided sign mockups, location, inventory, branding, etc.

Councilmember Behrmann would also like to continue bidding out contracts that haven't been bid out already.

Goals from Councilmember Gottschall

Councilmember Gottschall would like to see the City pursue the implementation of a hotel tax. He learned they averaged 185 annual emergency responses to the City's hotels. If they were to change the statute to allow Wixom to obtain a hotel tax, the money earned from that taxation could offset the costs of those services. There was nothing the City could do at this point besides assist them in meeting with the local State Representative. He would also like the City to review the road funding needs. With the updated PASER ratings for the streets, they could move along in the action steps. He suggested the road capital plan be extended from ten to twenty years since the road life cycle was twenty years. Additionally, he would like to see ballot language drafted for a road millage before the expiration of the current millage.

The Millage Rate Expiration Dates and Renewal Timelines was distributed.

Councilmember Gottschall would like to review and possibly update the police vehicle use and purchase plan. He hoped to survey other departments to find out what mileage they were replacing their vehicles at and to explore idling use. Once they have gathered enough information, they could use that information during the budget process.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik knew you got more mileage from an engine that's been properly maintained. In addition, the terrain they had in Wixom wasn't rough so addressing the police purchasing program would be beneficial.

Chief Langmeyer agreed but asked they consider a car in repair was out of police service. He said they'd evaluate the program and survey other departments; however, he was sure they averaged 80,000 miles. In his old department, it was 80,000 and he left it up to the mechanics to tell him if the car could go longer. He would like to get the two normal replacements and then evaluate the fleet with the mechanic. He researched and found that a few departments in the State were

changing their entire fleet to electric but most were going to hybrids. He figured that they would look into that more next fiscal year as the Detective Bureau car lease was expiring.

Councilmember Gottschall said his goal was to express that this process needed to be reviewed as he didn't feel like anybody had ever looked specifically at the purchase program. Chief Langmeyer said this was the officer's workspace and it wasn't safe for them to be on patrol with an unsafe vehicle. He was okay with not replacing a car every year but he would like to leave it up to the mechanic to make the determination.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik reminded staff that the budget packet includes a full inventory of the City vehicle fleet with the highlights of which cars would be coming out of service.

Goals from Councilmember Gronlund-Fox

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox would like the City to continue with the sidewalk improvement projects. She also supported the design and installation of new entry signs into the City. Mr. Brown noted that entry signs were expensive. Mr. Benson suggested they give the opportunity for community input when they consider sign design.

Goals from Deputy Mayor Rzeznik

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik would like the City to continue to pursue and expand the economic development within the downtown. Another goal he had was to create a world-class trailhead incorporating the Airline Trail. Mr. Brown mentioned Representative Stevens was excited about the park project in the west-end commons area and hoped to obtain some federal funding. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik would like to continue the pursuit of obtaining easements along Beck Road so expanding the road could come to fruition.

Goals from Councilmember Sharpe

Councilmember Sharpe would like to see development plans and projects on city-owned property. He was excited about some of the property purchases and potential plans for some of the properties. Additionally, he would like to see progress continue on the safety paths and bidding out City service contracts.

Goals from Councilmember Smiley

Councilmember Smiley would like to see a plan for a train derailment readiness program. Mr. Brown said Chief Geistler was in the preliminary stages of creating a training exercise for Wixom and multi-communities related to the train.

The Council recessed at 8:27 pm and reconvened at 8:40 pm.

Goals from City Staff

Mr. Benson said one of their goals was to redesign the City network as a result of the cyber security penetration testing they had last year; however, in order to do this, they believed it cost upwards of \$100,000. Another goal was related to redundant internet and remote facilities. Ever since AT&T started to phase out copper lines, the City has experienced internet and phone connectivity issues. The DPW and Fire Department have been having phone and internet issues. They've started looking into solutions along with BPI and All-Tronics. It's been a continued goal to work with the owner of the 70-80 acres at the corner of I-96 and Beck Road to preplan/prep that site for attractive development.

Chief Langmeyer would like to implement new software that would streamline the scheduling and payroll. Also, he would like to look into purchasing license plate reader cameras at the intersections that would help address high crime areas. The neighboring communities were looking into this creating a perfect opportunity for us to join. He was more than happy to take anybody through the Police Department to see the kitchen they wished to renovate.

Ms. Stamper said they were modifying their accounts to become compliant with the State Chart of Accounts. In addition, they planned to review the water and sewer administration fees since they haven't been reviewed since 2015.

Ms. Buck said the cemetery sexton contract expires in December 2023. They want to investigate the current provider to determine if they still would like to be the sexton and/or if they are the only provider.

Mr. Benson said they had a desire to renovate the Building Department and performed extensive research to find out it cost more than they estimated at \$75,000. They thought it made sense to put it into the next fiscal year given they had more capital projects.

Ms. Magee said they planned to improve Gunner Mettala Park by replacing the comfort station, pavilion and adding a smaller head for the Airline Trail. In addition, she wanted to convert the roller hockey and tennis court to pickle ball courts.

Call to the Public:

Russ Meredith of the DDA thanked Councilmember Sharpe for acknowledging the West End Common drawing he provided; however, the credit goes to Ms. Cloutier and the Design Committee. He said the DDA was excited to work with Mr. Sikma in acquiring a new DPW employee to help keep downtown Wixom pretty. As a resident, he asked that the Council support the staff's request. In his youth, he wore a shield and knew that within the Police Department it was the Sergeant that ensure the shifts work. He already conveyed to the Council what he and his wife thought when they needed the rescue of the Fire Department. He said there were roads in Wixom that you didn't want to live on and the DPW was going to be the Department that would fix that but they needed staff in order to make that happen.

City Manager's Comments:

Mr. Brown thanked all the staff and Council for coming to this meeting.

Mr. Benson had no comment.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Gottschall asked to get the millage file and PASER rating file sent to them electronically.

Mayor Beagle appreciated everybody for being at tonight's meeting. He wished everybody a good night and weekend.

ADJOURNMENT:

This Goal Setting meeting of City Council was motioned and adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 4-11-2023
