

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023**

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)

PRESENTATION:

1.) Reaffirmation of Oath of Office for Captain Jason Breitmeyer, Lieutenant Michael Smith and Lieutenant David Stewart

Chief Geistler introduced Captain Jason Breitmeyer. He explained that Captain Breitmeyer joined the Wixom Fire Department in 2006 as a Paid on Call Firefighter. Throughout his tenure he's earned certifications in Firefighter I and II, Fire Officer I and II, Basic EMT, and Fire Inspector I. In 2017, he was certified by the NFPA as a plan inspector and became the full-time Fire Inspector. He identified Captain Breitmeyer as a leader on and off the fire ground, and was proud to have him as Wixom's Fire Marshal and Captain.

At this time, Captain Breitmeyer reaffirmed his Oath of Office with Mayor Beagle.

Chief Geistler introduced Michael Smith. He indicated that Lieutenant Smith joined the Fire Department in 2007 as a Paid on Call Firefighter. In 2013, he was promoted to the rank of Senior Firefighter. Throughout his time with the Department, he's earned certifications in Firefighter I and II, Fire Officer I and II, Basic EMT, and Fire Instructor. Lieutenant Smith had taken a special interest in vehicle extraction and currently taught extraction around the United States. He believed that Lieutenant Smith was an ambassador of Wixom and to the Country in the field of extraction.

At this time, Lieutenant Smith reaffirmed his Oath of Office with Mayor Beagle.

Chief Geistler introduced Dave Stewart. He said that Lieutenant Stewart joined the Department in 2008 then obtained his Firefighter I and II certification, Basic EMT and EMS Instructor certification. Since 2017, Lieutenant Stewart been the full-time EMS Instructor/Coordinator for the Department. He said that he continued to be a leader within the organization and was pleased to promote Dave to Lieutenant.

At this time, Lieutenant Stewart reaffirmed his Oath of Office with Mayor Beagle.

The Council recessed at 7:05 p.m. for a short recess. They reconvened at 7:22 p.m.

MINUTES:

CM-05-70-23: Moved and seconded by Councilmember Gronlund-Fox and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of April 25, 2023.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

1.) Notice of Hearing for the Customers of DTE Electric Company Case No. U-1051

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no public comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1.) Fire Monthly Report – March 2023

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked what hazardous situations were there. Chief Geistler said wires and trees down from the wind storm.

2.) Police Monthly Report – March 2023

There were no comments on this report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-05-71-23: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
 - a.) Library Board Minutes of March 27, 2023
 - b.) Planning Commission Minutes of April 3, 2023
 - c.) Planning Commission Minutes of April 17, 2023
- 2.) Resolution Designating DPW Foreman Andy Allen as "Agent" for the City of Wixom to Seek Reimbursement of Eligible Expenses Incurred Under the Oakland County West Nile Virus Fund Program
- 3.) Recommendation to Authorize a Resolution to Adopt the Updated Wixom Emergency Operations Support Plan

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Authorize the Purchase and Installation of a Replacement Host Server for City Hall from Dell Corporation through BPI Information Systems of Southfield, MI at a Cost of \$13,947.30 from City Network Account #411-283-971.322**

CM-05-72-23: Moved and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Behrmann to approve the purchase and installation of a replacement host server for City Hall from Dell Corporation through BPI Information Systems of Southfield, MI at a cost of \$13,947.30 from City Network Account #411-283-971.322

Mr. Palmer of BPI Information Systems said the server was the central nervous system within the organization because it pushed information wherever it needed to go. Due to the upcoming network redesign, they needed this server replaced because it was at the end of its life cycle.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if they had off-site backup for the data that's on the server. Mr. Palmer believed they backed up to the cloud, and indicated he would confirm that.

Vote:

Motion Carried

2.) Recommendation to Award a Change Order for the 2023 Road Maintenance Program for Potter Road Maintenance to Cadillac Asphalt, Inc. of Wixom, MI in the Amount of \$43,005.50 and Approve the Associated Budget Amendment

CM-05-73-23: Moved and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to Award a Change Order for the 2023 Road Maintenance Program for Potter Road Maintenance to Cadillac Asphalt, Inc. of Wixom, MI in the Amount of \$43,005.50 and Approve the Associated Budget Amendment

Mr. Sikma noticed that Potter Road was unraveling and needed maintenance before the scheduled rehab in 2027. They contacted the contractor and asked them to address the 8' wide patches where the asphalt deteriorated the most. They've estimated 12,000 yards of asphalt that they would need in order to perform the desired maintenance. He figured this maintenance would prolong the life of the road. In addition, this maintenance would help to increase the PASER (Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating) ratings of the road.

Mayor Beagle asked when this work would begin. Mr. Sikma said they would probably start within the next three or four weeks. Mayor Beagle mentioned that it would become an inconvenience as Maple Road and Potter would be going through construction at the same time. Mr. Sikma understood but noted the work on Potter Road would be finished within a week.

Councilmember Gottschall supposed the Potter Road maintenance wouldn't require lane closures because they were only milling. Mr. Sikma confirmed. Councilmember Gottschall asked if they would be attentive to the center lane pot holes. Mr. Sikma said at this time, they were mainly focused the areas that were shaded because they deteriorated faster from the climate changes. Councilmember Gottschall appreciated that they were giving attention to Potter Road.

Councilmember Smiley confirmed this maintenance would get them through until 2027 when they were to perform a rehabilitation of Potter Road. Mr. Sikma said that it would.

Councilmember Sharpe thanked the DPW for doing such a good job filling the pot holes on Potter Road. He supported the maintenance on Potter Road but asked them to make sure that it's finished quickly because logistically with Maple Road being closed and the train schedule, the traffic in Wixom would be heavy.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik recalled learning that Potter Road would be addressed in 2027, but thanked them for scheduling maintenance on Potter Road before then.

Vote:

Motion Carried

3.) Recommendation to Authorize Participation in the Sourcewell Contract #092222-GNR and Purchase a 200KW Natural Gas Generator from Wolverine Power Systems of Wixom, Michigan for \$121,235 with Funding Through Other Facility Improvements Account #411-283-974.322

CM-05-74-23: Moved and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to Authorize Participation in the Sourcewell Contract #092222-GNR and Purchase a 200KW Natural Gas Generator from Wolverine Power Systems of Wixom, Michigan for \$121,235 with Funding Through Other Facility Improvements Account #411-283-974.322.

Mr. Sikma said throughout the last few years, they've identified aging concerns with the current generator that only supported the Police Department and 911 area. Due to their concerns, they thought it would be ideal to look into purchasing a natural gas generator that would support all of City Hall. He noted that once they ordered the generator, it would take quite a while for it to arrive; therefore, they would address the installation at a later time. He added that Sourcewell had competitively solicited contracts, and they've participated with them in the past. Wolverine Power Systems was a Wixom business that currently serviced the City's generators.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if this generator would require a new pad or be placed on the current generator pad. Mr. Sikma said that it would require a new pad but not a new location.

Councilmember Smiley said given the supply chain issue and length of time that it would take to obtain this new generator, did they feel comfortable that the old generators would last until the new generator was installed. Mr. Sikma said they would and noted they had portable generators available if they needed them.

Vote:

Motion Carried

4.) Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution to Revise the City of Wixom Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule, Effective May 10, 2023

CM-05-75-23: Moved and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to Adopt a Resolution to Revise the City of Wixom Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule, Effective May 10, 2023.

Vote:

Motion Carried

5.) Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution to Revise the City of Wixom Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule, Effective May 10, 2023

CM-05-75-23: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to Adopt a Resolution to Revise the City of Wixom Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule, Effective May 10, 2023.

Mr. Benson said they wanted to take a closer look at our Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule due to the RRC requirement and slight changes due to the new consultant rates. It was not their desire to increase or decrease the fees. They made some additions and focused on reaffirming the overarching goal of 25-30% of fees collected cover our cost to provide the service. The previous Fee Schedule did not have a fee for standalone neighbor requests or if someone had an approved site plan and then required a waiver letter. He said they wanted to add specific fees that Carlisle Wortman had as a part of their agreement.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if they compared the Fee Schedule to other Communities. Mr. Benson said they did not because it would not be an apple to apple comparison. There may be communities who charged \$100 for a variance because they had a full-time Building Official who didn't perform a written review. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked how often any of the Fee Schedules were reviewed. Mr. Benson believed that the last time the Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule was updated was in 2013. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox hoped when any fees were reviewed that they would try to stay consistent with other communities.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if a resident would be required to pay \$1,000 and potentially get \$500 back for a variance. Mr. Benson replied yes. Councilmember Behrmann asked what they were currently charged. Mr. Benson said a residential variance was currently \$230 plus \$500 in escrow (returned upon approved inspection). Commercial was \$650 plus \$1,500 in escrow. Councilmember Behrmann said he used to be a member of the ZBA and recalled that most of the cases were a result of situations where the setbacks wouldn't work out. He felt the increase in the fee was too high for a residential variance and didn't seem fair. Mr. Benson said the Fee Schedule was coinciding with Carlisle Wortman Associates for all variances. Councilmember Behrmann didn't understand that reasoning and wasn't comfortable approving the new fees when this specific cost increased 50%. He wanted to see comparisons of what the changes were down the entire line.

Councilmember Gottschall stated that the commercial variance requests decreased \$150 and residential increased \$270. He asked the percentage of variance filings between commercial and residential. Mr. Benson thought it would be 60% residential and 40% commercial. Councilmember Gottschall would be in favor of keeping commercial where it was to try to offset the cost for the residential. He didn't think they should have residents paying substantially more while businesses paid less. He asked about the free conceptual reviews with the Planning Commission. In the past couple of years, they had a lot of conceptual review meetings that led to absolutely nothing. He asked if they considered adjusting that to charge a fee for the first meeting. Mr. Benson said the goal was to address the people who come in three or four times without having a fully formed plan. He found it to be a useful tool and something that he wanted to continue to offer for free. Councilmember Gottschall agreed that conceptual reviews could be helpful but knew they had been abused in the past by a few people. He would prefer a smaller charge for the first meeting instead of offering it for free.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik said he supported the first meeting being free for conceptual reviews. If it was their goal to become a Redevelopment Ready Community (RRC), they wanted to be friendly to the businesses. He agreed that they wouldn't want them coming in for a second or third time for free but that's why there was a \$500 for every meeting thereafter. He agreed with Councilmembers Gottschall and Behrmann on raising the residential fee for the variances as it seemed a bit unfair. He supported keeping the current fee for residential variances.

Mr. Benson thought a clean way to handle this would be to amend this resolution to be \$350 plus the \$500 escrow for a residential variance. Charging \$350 would still cover all the consultant costs, but without a percentage for the City on top.

Councilmember Smiley didn't like that the cost had gone up so much and didn't want it subsidized by other people. He would feel better about reducing the charge for residential variances.

Councilmember Behrmann was not a fan of the conceptual review. He remembered going to the conceptual review meetings for the Maple Road Development where the Planning Commission was all in favor of a high-density development, but when they saw the plans and the residents voiced their opinions, it was voted down. He said there wasn't a public notice for the conceptual review meetings so residents were not aware of the meeting. He would be fine with assessing a fee right from the start for conceptual review meetings. He knew there wasn't many residential variances so keeping the fee at \$230 or \$250 wouldn't be a big concern.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox appreciated all of the discussion as there were things that came up that she didn't realize. She supported Councilmember Behrmann's comment regarding the few variances they had per year. She would hate to gouge the residents when there weren't many of them.

CM-05-76-23: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Sharpe to table the Adoption of a Resolution to Revise the City of Wixom Planning and

Zoning Fee Schedule to get more information and to direct the Assistant City Manager to speak with Carlisle Wortman to negotiate the cost.

Vote:

Motion Carried

6.) Recommendation to Adopt the Proposed Public Participation Plan for the City of Wixom Dated May 2023.

CM-05-76-23: Moved and seconded made by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Sharpe to Adopt the Proposed Public Participation Plan for the City of Wixom Dated May 2023.

Mr. Benson said a Public Participation Plan was another step the City needed to take in order to become RRC. This Plan would guide public participation in terms of goals, avenues for collecting public participation, public initiated community projects, etc. The items within this Plan were already being utilized by the City because they hosted Public Hearings, surveys and focus groups; however, creating a formal document was a requirement.

Councilmember Gottschall suggested the Basic Announcement Methods on page 13 should include the digital marquee. Mr. Benson said he'd make that correction.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no public comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown said recently they solicited input from the public in the naming of the walking trail around the municipal complex. They received quite a few responses and the majority of the responses included "loop" in the name; therefore, they decided to make the name simple and name it "The Loop".

Mr. Benson recently attended the Oakland County Economic Outlook Event and learned of the "Oakland 80 Initiative". The "Oakland 80 Initiative" was an effort to have 80% of Oakland County residents receive some form of post-secondary education. Oakland County was currently at 69% overall, but our region which included Wixom, Commerce and Novi was above the average.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Behrmann had no comments.

Councilmember Gottschall congratulated those individuals that received promotions tonight. He appreciated their service over the years and sticking it out through thick and thin. He liked seeing the promotions come from within, and it was nice to see all the new faces with the firefighters attending tonight's meeting. Additionally, he recalled conversations about remodeling the play structure next to

the Wixom Library. He hoped the groups participating in the remodel consider inclusive playgrounds.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thanked Dave, Mike and Jason for their service and congratulated them on their promotion.

Councilmember Sharpe served with Phil Carter on the Planning Commission and found him to be very thorough, diligent and collegial. Mr. Carter always had the best interest of the City, and he would be missed.

Councilmember Smiley said that Jason, Dave and Mike of the Fire Department were really great guys and was happy to see them get promoted. He wished everybody a Happy Mother's Day.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik offered his congratulations on the three promotions. He said that it was quite a scene witnessing Mike Smith performing a vehicle extrication with the Jaws of Life. He thought the Derby Day event was really nice, and thanked the runners, volunteers, DPW and DDA. He suggested the barrier be installed on the pickle ball courts soon because the courts were busy. He learned of the comments made on Facebook regarding Wixom and Charms Road. He understood it was a shame to see trees being taken down but it was not the City taking down the trees, and according to the City Ordinance a new tree must be planted. He indicated that the City hosted many public meetings in 2014 regarding that property. As a result of those meetings, the original site plan was denied and a consent judgement was ordered that strictly reduced the types of uses for the property. He believed the effect on traffic would be minimal based on the restricted uses for the property. He mentioned there were opportunities for residents to give their input at the Planning, Zoning and City Council meetings. He encouraged all residents to participate in those meetings versus social media.

Mayor Beagle congratulated Captain Breitmeyer, Lieutenant Smith and Stewart. He liked seeing the smiles and comradery come back to the Fire Department. He figured the new atmosphere had a lot to do with the Fire Chief. He also thought it was important to address the commentary on social media regarding the property and Wixom and Charms. He felt it was easy to hide behind the keyboard and say negative remarks, but suggested they apply for a City Board or Commission so they could be part of the decision process.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Crystal Opalko
Deputy Clerk

Approved 5-23-2023
