

**CITY OF WIXOM  
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 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)

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**1.) Proclamation for Retiring Planning Commissioner Phillip Carter**

Mayor Beagle invited Commissioner Carter to the podium and explained that Commissioner Carter has been a volunteer on the Planning Commission for 20 years. He read a proclamation honoring Commissioner Carter and presented it to him.

Commissioner Carter thanked the Mayor and Council. He said it was a fast 20 years and he enjoyed his time on the Planning Commission.

**2.) Reaffirmation of Oaths for Officer Rileigh Terechenok, Officer Jacob Bloink and Sergeant Cory King**

Chief Langmeyer introduced Officer Rileigh Terechenok and provided some background information on her.

Officer Terechenok reaffirmed her Oath with Mayor Beagle and her father pinned on her badge.

Chief Langmeyer introduced Officer Jacob Bloink and provided some background information on him.

Officer Bloink reaffirmed his Oath with Mayor Beagle and his father pinned on his badge.

Chief Langmeyer called Sergeant Cory King to the podium. He reviewed Sergeant King's history with the Wixom Police Department beginning in 2012 and explained that he finished first in the promotion process.

Sergeant King reaffirmed his Oath with Mayor Beagle.

The Council recessed at 7:12 p.m. and reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

**MINUTES:**

**CM-06-89-23:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Behrmann and Gronlund-Fox to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of May 23, 2023.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1.) Notice of Hearing for the Customers of DTE Electric Company Case No. U-21307

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no public comments at this time.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

**1.) Fire Monthly Report – April 2023**

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

**2.) Police Monthly Report – April 2023**

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik noticed the largest jump in Group A crimes was the Fraud, Forgery and Embezzlement. He wondered if it was regarding tax returns. Chief Langmeyer explained that it was the basic fraud that we see across the board. Some are at the stores involving credit cards, some are online scams. It is the second largest area of crimes and that is not unusual. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if we were still encouraging residents to call in even if it is an email scam. Chief Langmeyer replied yes. We will take a report from any of our residents, even if it didn't occur here. He indicated that the Police have conducted classes at the Senior Center and have spoken at Homeowner Association meetings to prevent this from happening.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**CM-06-90-23:** Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Council-member Smiley to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
  - a.) Cemetery Board Minutes of June 1, 2022
  - b.) Library Board Minutes of April 24, 2023
  - c.) Downtown Development Authority Minutes of April 25, 2023
  - e.) Planning Commission Minutes of May 15, 2023
- 2.) Recommendation to Approve the Local Road Improvement Matching Fund Program Cost Participation Agreement with the Road Commission for Oakland County in the Amount of \$38,471 with a Local Share Not to Exceed \$52,929 from Pavement Preservation Account #203-554-976.393 and Authorize DPW Director Tim Sikma to Sign the Agreement

Vote:

Motion Carried

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** (None)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.) Recommendation to Confirm the Mayor's Reappointments of Pamala Young to the Cemetery Board with a Term to Expire June 30, 2028; Kent Burzynski, and Arvid Petersen to the Construction Board of Appeals with Terms to Expire June 30, 2025; Vanessa Willett to the Downtown Development Authority with a Term to Expire June 30, 2027; Mary Ann Chupa, Alicia Churilla, Lisa Ferrari and Tom Menzies to the Parks & Recreation Commission with Terms to Expire June 30, 2026; Sandro Grossi and Mark Lada to the Planning Commission with Terms to Expire June 30, 2026; George Carty and Anna Contreras to the Senior Citizen Commission with Terms to Expire June 30, 2026; Steven Winters to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a Term to Expire June 30, 2026; and Appoint Tom Marcucci to the Construction Board of Appeals with a Term to Expire June 30, 2025; Steven Hartman to the Downtown Development Authority with a Term to Expire June 30, 2026; Shondra Okimura to the Parks & Recreation Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2024; Mark Helsom to the Planning Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2026**

**CM-06-91-23:** Moved and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to confirm the Mayor's reappointments of Pamala Young to the Cemetery Board with a term to expire June 30, 2028; Kent Burzynski, and Arvid Petersen to the Construction Board of Appeals with terms to expire June 30, 2025; Vanessa Willett to the Downtown Development Authority with a term to expire June 30, 2027; Mary Ann Chupa, Alicia Churilla, Lisa Ferrari and Tom Menzies to the Parks & Recreation Commission with terms to expire June 30, 2026; Sandro Grossi and Mark Lada to the Planning Commission with terms to expire June 30, 2026; George Carty and Anna Contreras to the Senior Citizen Commission with terms to expire June 30, 2026; Steven Winters to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire June 30, 2026; and appoint Tom Marcucci to the Construction Board of Appeals with a term to expire June 30, 2025; Steven Hartman to the Downtown Development Authority with a term to expire June 30, 2026; Shondra Okimura to the Parks & Recreation Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2024; Mark Helsom to the Planning Commission with a term to expire June 30, 2026.

Mayor Beagle indicated that all of these individuals have agreed to remain on the Boards or Commissions, or they have agreed to be appointed to them due to retirements or vacancies.

Councilmember Smiley asked if any of them were present. Mayor Beagle invited those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Steve Hartman, owner of Green Goat Gifts, said he was being appointed to the Downtown Development Authority.

Shondra Okimura moved to Wixom in 2020 and said she was excited to participate in the community more. She was being appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mark Helsom appreciated the nomination to the Planning Commission. He has enjoyed living in the City and has seen many positive changes here. Mayor Beagle explained that he was now a former member of the ZBA.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**2.) Recommendation from the Tax Abatement Review Committee to Adopt a Revised Policy for Consideration of P.A. 198 Industrial Facilities Tax Abatements Dated June 13, 2023**

**CM-06-92-23:** Moved and seconded made by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Smiley to adopt a revised policy for consideration of P.A. 198 Industrial Facilities Tax Abatements dated June 13, 2023.

Mr. Benson said the City has a history of considering the issuance of P.A. 198 Industrial Facilities tax abatements. This is an incentive tool to attract and retain industrial-related businesses. The current policy was updated in 2010. Given the amount of time that has passed since 2010, as well as a recommendation through the RROC Redevelopment Ready Communities process, staff began reviewing this. Conversations were held with the Tax Abatement Review Committee to consider updates to that policy. He mentioned that other communities around us were becoming more restrictive with P.A. 198 tax abatements. He thought as build out of the area increases, there was less of a need to attract certain kinds of projects. We identified a couple of areas, such as how remote positions are treated and reviewed as part of P.A. 198 abatement requests. We recommended increasing the minimum threshold from \$1 million to \$5 million of investments with a minimum of 20 jobs. He said they also did clean-up work in terms of clarifying the timing between site plan approval from Planning Commission and tax abatement approval by City Council. The City Attorney recommended striking the specific language that tax abatements will not be considered under any circumstances if the applicant has a pending litigation against the City. She considered that to be a first amendment violation and there were lawsuits in other communities in higher courts dealing with that issue right now. He stated that the Tax Abatement Review Committee reviewed this in May and recommended approval by Council.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik liked the competitive information from the surrounding communities. He confirmed that we didn't have a percentage of abatement specified in the new policy and wondered if that was left up to the Tax Abatement Review Committee. Mr. Benson said it was really not about the percentage. You really govern the length of the abatement itself. It is a 50% abatement and you pick the number of years (one to twelve).

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thanked Mr. Benson for doing this. She thought it was long overdue and it was a much better policy.

Councilmember Sharpe had a little trouble moving from the summary to the new document without a redlined version. He said that the Council talked about a recent tax abatement request and one of the comments was that we weren't creating any new jobs but shuffling them around from community to community. He asked if there was anything in the policy that addressed that. He recalled that language was already in the Public Act about creating new jobs but there was flexibility. Mr. Benson said that we did not add any hard and fast language like that. This policy was most important for the City management to be able to say yes or no based on the policy. Ultimately, these decisions are always at the City Council's discretion, guided by the policy, but not restrictive.

Councilmember Gottschall liked the scoring rubric that was provided for Lyon Township. One common refrain that comes up with the Tax Abatement Review Committee was trying to use Walled Lake students or graduates and engaging with Oakland Technical School. He didn't notice a rubric in our package and asked if there would be anything that would be tied into that specifically. Mr. Benson said that this proposed policy does not make any specific changes to that. It was still addressed in part by the policy that there was a benefit if the applicant expressed the willingness to do that. The agreement that the Council approves for abatements also specifies that. Councilmember Gottschall said we have been told by some who have received abatements that they will be big players and helpful. He didn't think we have seen that from them so he was hoping there would be some sort of authority on our part to hold them to a promise like that.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**3.) Recommendation from the Tax Abatement Review Committee to Adopt the Policy for Consideration of P.A. 210 & P.A. 255 Commercial Tax Abatements Dated June 13, 2023**

**CM-06-93-23:** Moved and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeknik and Councilmember Sharpe to adopt the policy for consideration of P.A. 210 & P.A. 255 Commercial Tax Abatements dated June 13, 2023.

Mr. Benson stated that this one was a little different than the P.A. 198 abatement policy. Council approved the creation of a P.A. 210 Commercial Rehabilitation Act District in 2015 as a tool for the downtown properties. He could not find a policy that was adopted alongside of that. As we started to look at P.A. 255, which was another commercial tax abatement program, we thought it would make sense to put together a policy to govern both of these programs seeing they are similar. P.A. 210 and P.A. 255 function similarly in that they require the creation of a district and approval of the issuance of a certificate. He believed P.A. 210 was one to ten years, while P.A. 255 was one to twelve years. There are also specific restrictions with each one. P.A. 255 can be used within the DDA districts only and P.A. 210 can be

used for qualifying commercial facilities anywhere. This has a lower capital investment threshold since commercial projects tend to be smaller. There is also a little less focus on the job creation because downtown businesses tend not to be a base employer. This policy would apply to both programs but we are not recommending creating a P.A. 255 district as was done for P.A. 210. The main reason was it was more work to maintain and doesn't make a functional difference in the speed at which you can review and consider potential abatements and projects. He indicated that we may look to dissolve the current P.A. 110 district because some of the parcels that work in the district no longer exist. The Tax Abatement Review Committee reviewed this in May and recommended approval.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik confirmed that P.A. 255 would include any of the downtown areas within the district, like the Renton redevelopment and the vacant Poota properties. He also noticed that there was a lot west of Total Sports adjoining Wixom Road that has the hash marks in the sketch. He asked if that was included in the P.A. 255. Mr. Benson said that would be eligible for P.A. 210 but not P.A. 255 because it was not in the DDA district.

Councilmember Gottschall said we have a district for the VCA. He wondered if there was a way to offer an even lower threshold for abatements within the VCA for existing buildings and everything else at \$250,000. That way, we would be incentivizing maintaining a vibrant downtown area. Mr. Benson said that would be a good thing to consider as part of the policy, but at this point, he didn't think there would be a lot of circumstances where someone would seek a tax abatement for a project that was less than that threshold. He said there was a reason we haven't brought a P.A. 210 to the Council before. They are complicated and for the smaller maintenance projects, it doesn't make sense to do the legwork. Councilmember Gottschall said his concern was if it became too exclusionary. Our downtown was made up mostly of mom and pop or family-owned businesses and this excludes them from receiving any help if they want to remodel. However, a large corporation that might be moving from Novi to Wixom could obtain a ten-year tax abatement. It seemed we were incentivizing bigger businesses, which is fine because we want those employees, but he didn't want to exclude potentially helping a family-run business. He hoped we could figure out a way to help out smaller businesses in the VCA rather than setting the number at an exclusionary point where it is now. Mr. Benson understood his concerns. He said that for the types of situations he was talking about, there are other tools that are probably more applicable than a tax abatement. The goal is to provide incentives for projects that provide a net revenue improvement for the City and/or the DDA. There was not a significant impact on those renovation projects. There are better tools for those types of improvements. Mr. Benson did not see that to be a confounding factor here. These are guardrails for us and applicants, but the Council still has the flexibility to review projects as they make sense. There are still circumstances where a specific project, through our own discretion, would be brought before Council for consideration. Councilmember Gottschall said that the wording indicates "the proposed project must feature a total investment." He asked if there was any way to change the "must" to "should" or "recommended". Mr. Benson said that he would make that minor adjustment to the policy to soften it.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox liked where Councilmember Gottschall was going, but said there are tools to assist businesses through the County and the State. She asked if we name those organizations in the policy or if staff recommended them as resources. Mr. Benson didn't recommend putting that in the policy because programs change. It was part of the normal conversation he has on a regular basis. There are also links on the website.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**4.) Recommendation to Authorize the Execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Laura Cloutier to Provide Services to the Wixom Downtown Development Authority as Executive Director in the Amount of \$55,000 Annually with a Term to Expire June 30, 2027, Approve the Associated Budget Amendment and Authorize the Mayor and City Manager to Sign the Agreement**

**CM-06-94-23:** Moved and seconded made by Councilmember Smiley and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to authorize the execution of a Professional Services Agreement with Laura Cloutier to provide services to the Wixom Downtown Development Authority as Executive Director in the amount of \$55,000 annually with a term to expire June 30, 2027, approve the associated budget amendment and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign the agreement.

Mr. Benson commented that the DDA has recommended a new contract for Ms. Cloutier to serve as the DDA Executive Director. This would be a four-year term functioning as an at-will agreement where both parties have the option to terminate with no additional financial burdens. There was an increase in compensation and hours. This also provides for an allowance for the contractor to expend up to \$1,500 a month without prior DDA Board authorization.

DDA Chairman Meredith explained that the Executive Committee had two meetings to review this. They decided Ms. Cloutier showed growth in the position over the last couple of years. They were recommending to extend this contract over four years and to make it open-ended, as it will align with the DDA sunseting in 2027. Should the City decide to extend the DDA longer, it will give the City and Board a chance to take a look at the incumbent's skillset to see if it marries with what the City has envisioned for the new DDA.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said it was a 10% increase and asked if that was for the entire length of the contract. Mr. Benson stated that her compensation for future years will be reviewed and recommended by the DDA as part of the budget process. The salary would be reviewed annually and this was just a one time 10% increase. DDA Chairman Meredith added that there was also a 20% increase in hours.

Councilmember Behrmann questioned giving Ms. Cloutier an increase of 20% more hours and a compensation increase of 10%. He wondered if there was something

more that went into that factor. Mr. Benson explained that part of that decision-making process with the Executive Committee was related to Ms. Cloutier receiving a compensation increase with her last renewal extension last year but there was no change to the number of hours. We recognized there was additional work that the Board would like to see her do, but factored in that raise from last year. All parties felt comfortable with these numbers.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik clarified that the annual increases in years two, three and four will be tied to the KPIs and the performance reviews. DDA Chairman Meredith confirmed that was correct.

Councilmember Sharpe asked who the Executive Director worked for on a day-to-day basis. Mr. Benson said that functionally, she reports to the City Manager, although he works very closely with her. She also provides her biweekly reports to the DDA Chair and Vice Chair.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**5.) Recommendation to Renew a Two-Year Professional Services Agreement for Information Technology Support Services with BPI Information Systems of Southfield, Michigan with Funding Allocated from Account #101-228-801.282 IT Support, Approve the Associated Budget Amendment and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Agreement**

**CM-06-95-23:** Moved and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to renew a two-year Professional Services Agreement for Information Technology Support Services with BPI Information Systems of Southfield, Michigan with funding allocated from Account #101-228-801.282 IT Support, approve the associated budget amendment and authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement.

Mr. Benson said that the City has worked with BPI Information Systems since they were selected in the bidding process in 2017. The initial three-year term expired and we have been on a year-to-year extension since then. With all of the work we have been doing related to the City's information systems over the last year, we have been looking at the future of the system. That involves the future of our relationship with BPI Information Systems as our IT provider. As a whole, City management has been very satisfied with the services that BPI has provided for us over the years. He felt their work with the Cyber Security Assessment was invaluable. We still feel that the price is fair and competitive. This particular agreement calls for a 4% increase this year and an additional 4% next year. He noted that we under-budgeted our expected increase slightly by \$1,002 and he requested the associated budget amendment for this coming fiscal year.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked about their regular business hours. Mr. Palmer commented that Will was not on-site full time. Will and Ethan like to be on-site but if they are not, they can work remotely. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik felt that their team has been very responsive.



## Vote:

## Motion Carried

**6.) Recommendation to Authorize the Purchase of Professional Services to Perform an Information Technology System Network & Domain Redesign from BPI Information Systems, Inc. of Southfield, MI for a Total Cost Not to Exceed \$149,776.32 with Funding Allocated from City Network Capital Account #411-283-971.322, and Authorize the City Manager to Sign the Agreement**

**CM-06-96-23:** Moved and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to authorize the purchase of Professional Services to perform an Information Technology System Network & Domain Redesign from BPI Information Systems, Inc. of Southfield, MI for a total cost not to exceed \$149,776.32 with funding allocated from City Network Capital Account #411-283.971.322, and authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement.

Mr. Benson indicated that this item was a follow up to discussions held during the budget process. We recognized the need to update and redesign how the City's network operates. The original infrastructure that was put into place has become dated and has created some limitations. There have been performance implications, security implications and functionality implications. This is a long-term project and will take approximately six months to complete. There will be potential service interruptions when we are moving data from one system to another. We will also be upgrading different hardware pieces.

Mr. Palmer explained that he likes to refer to the central nervous system with this. It controls your entire body and where it is going. As we age, it gets older and things aren't going to react in time and we won't be able to upgrade and stay up to date. This will update the entire central nervous system of Wixom to allow new updates, new software, new firewalls. Overall it will improve productivity across Wixom and fix a lot of the problems we had when we went through the Cyber Security Assessment. He felt it was much needed.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said we have talked about the penetration testing, the Cyber Security Assessments and external threats. A lot of times it points to outdated or flaws in the overall network. Being that it was 20 years, it is a hodge-podge. He was very much in support of this. He asked if BPI would run concurrently old and new as they were migrating the data. Mr. Palmer said that it would be a process. They plan to do most of it outside of business hours to reduce any downtime. We will be able to do it in pieces and it will work simultaneously with what is there now.

Councilmember Sharpe asked how we got to \$150,000 budgeted in April and the estimate here is \$149,776. To come up to \$24 of a budgeted amount was surprising. Mr. Benson said that this was a conversation or project that we have been talking about for months. We were not putting those budgeted numbers together blindly. This will be built on a time and materials basis, so the \$149,776 was a very fine-tuned number.

Councilmember Smiley asked if this service fell under the no bids required. Mr. Brown confirmed that we do not have to request bids for professional services contracts.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**7.) Recommendation to Consider Adoption of a Revised Resolution to Place a Charter Amendment on the November 7, 2023 General Election Ballot to Amend Chapter 4.11E. to Change the Term of Office for Appointees to Council Positions to the Unexpired Term of the Position**

**CM-06-97-23:** Moved and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Behrmann to consider adoption of a revised resolution to place a Charter Amendment on the November 7, 2023 General Election Ballot to amend Chapter 4.11E. to change the term of office for appointees to Council positions to the unexpired term of the position.

Mr. Brown said that the Council voted at their April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting to have a resolution placed before the voters in relation to this Charter amendment that would address Section 4.11.E. This would change the term of office for appointee positions. We've had experiences in the past where an appointment was made to fill a vacancy and the Charter created a period of time where there was another vacancy from the appointee's term expired and the newly elected person takes office in January. There was one additional piece of feedback that came back from the Attorney General's Office that he wanted to have language added that referenced the specific chapter. There were a couple other slight changes made to clarify some things, like the election being in November. Since we were out in front from the beginning on the timing, we are still in good shape.

Councilmember Smiley asked if there was anything more we were trying to get on the ballot in November. Mr. Brown replied no. There will be a total of four Charter amendments.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said that the last time we talked, there was an issue with the male pronoun because it affected so many sections. Mr. Brown stated that has been resolved.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Russ Meredith, 378 Fletcher, commented on the great work the DPW did on cleaning up the Michigan Air Line Trail and the path out to the observation deck at the Habitat. They really look nice. These are excellent resources for our citizens and excellent selling points for our City. He also commended the Council for taking the effort to update the City's central nervous system, which takes care of the people.

**CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Brown said the Parks & Recreation Master Plan survey was released on Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and by Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, we had an outstanding return of approximately 200 submissions. We want to do additional public outreach to drive more participation which would help us produce a better Master Plan for Parks and Recreation. He thanked those who already participated.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik noticed that there was a posting in the brewery. Ms. Cloutier has distributed them to all of the downtown businesses.

Mr. Benson commented that we are looking at every opportunity to remind people to participate. We will likely have several in-person opportunities.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Councilmember Gronlund Fox** thanked Mr. Carter for his many years of volunteer service to the City of Wixom, as well as all of the residents that were appointed and reappointed. She congratulated new Police Officers Terechenok and Blook, as well as Sergeant King.

**Councilmember Gottschall** thanked everyone who was appointed and reappointed to our Boards tonight. He thanked Mr. Carter for his many years of service. He remembered he and his Dad served on the Planning Commission together for many years. Mr. Carter has been a tremendous part of the City and takes with him a ton of knowledge and experience. He congratulated our newest Police Officers and our newest Sergeant. He said that since he wasn't able to make it to the Joint Meeting, he mentioned to the Assistant City Manager that he hoped we would look into the Renton building being more green sustainable. He thought that was the trend we needed to start looking at overall. He said he mentioned before and he was hoping it hasn't been written off, but he would like to discuss the road millage and if we need to put that on the ballot. He asked Mr. Sikma what our PASER rating would be once Maple was done and Potter was patched. Mr. Sikma replied that we have 50 miles of local roads and five miles of major roads. The roads are increasing by 20%. It is a slow process. Next year we are looking at Cliffs of Loon Lake. We are making a dent in that but he thought it would still be below five. Councilmember Gottschall thought the Council should at least discuss what our funding level is right now. If it warrants putting on the ballot, then that would be a result of the discussion. This was one we have been kicking down the road and it has been hitting potholes along the way.

**Councilmember Sharpe** thanked the volunteers on the Boards and Commissions who were reappointed tonight. He took the Parks and Recreation Survey and it was just the right length. It took about ten minutes and it made him think about what he wanted and what we have. We have a lot of good facilities here in Wixom. He was interested to see where the opportunities are going forward. It is always good to hear input from everyone else.

**Councilmember Behrmann** echoed the comments regarding all of our volunteers. We couldn't function as a City without our volunteers. It was nice to see we had an almost full slate for all of our Boards and Commissions. Also, it was really nice to

see our new Police Officers. It is amazing how we are moving them up from within and it is working. He was happy to see that. The Downtown concerts have been very well attended. He hoped moving forward we could take a look at what happened with our flowers. They don't appear to be the same size as they were previous years and we paid a lot more money for them this year than we did last year. Ms. Cloutier said that due to the fluctuation with the weather and the hard freezes that we saw in May, the temperatures were affected at the greenhouse. Our flowers got a slower start. They are fertilizing them once a week and watering them every day. They have grown significantly since they were installed. She spoke with the landscaping company today and they said they will be overflowing in another few weeks. Councilmember Behrmann said that according to the contract, they were supposed to be planted by May 15 and they went up the first of June. Ms. Cloutier said that because of the hard freezes, we did not want to put them out and risk them dying. Mr. Brown added that was a discretionary decision that we participated in to not do it at that point. Councilmember Behrmann commented that a lot of other communities seem to have flowers that were planted earlier and are blooming now. Ours do not. He thought we might need to look at another provider going forward because something doesn't seem to be right. Lastly, he asked if there was something wrong with the fountain. Mr. Sikma said that there were some electrical issues with the fountain. We had to rewire from the meter back into the vault. There is also a magnetic switch that isn't operating properly so we are waiting on that.

**Councilmember Smiley** thanked Mr. Carter for 20 plus years. It was very nice meeting the new Police Officers, Rileigh and Jacob, as well as our new Sergeant. Last week, Sergeant Bryan Stowinsky retired after 25 years. He wished him well and thanked him for his years of service here. He offered his condolences to Sergeant Paul Machala on the passing of his grandfather. He was glad to see Ms. Cloutier will be around for a little longer and he congratulated her. The kids got out of school today, even some adults got out of school today. He congratulated the Mayor on his retirement. Happy Father's Day .

**Deputy Mayor Rzeznik** thanked Mr. Carter for his 20 years of volunteerism. He has been a great asset to the City in that capacity. He congratulated all of the new appointees and reappointees. He congratulated our new Police Officers, Rileigh and Jacob, as well as Sergeant Cory King on his promotion. He thanked Ms. Magee and her staff for the picnic last week. It was very nice and well attended. It is always good to sit with some of the other Boards and Commissions and meet people who may be new to some of those Boards. It is encouraging to see the level of involvement with some of these young families. School is out so watch both ways at those bike paths because there will be a lot more bicycle and pedestrian traffic. He really enjoyed the last two concerts that we had. A couple of comments that he heard from the crowd last week was regarding the food trucks and ice cream trucks and their generators. He knew we had electrical underneath the benches and he wondered if there was any way we could have those food trucks strategically positioned so they could get electric. Mr. Sikma said he would look into that.

**Mayor Beagle** thanked Mr. Carter for his 20 years of volunteering. He congratulated and thanked all those who were appointed or reappointed to the various Boards and Commissions. He congratulated new Police Officers Terechenok and Bloink, as well as Sergeant King. He thanked the Clerk for her work on the Reappointment/Appointment Report for tonight's meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Buck  
City Clerk

Approved 6-27-2023
-----------------------