

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023**

Mayor Beagle called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present:

Mayor: P. Beagle
Deputy Mayor: T. Rzeznik
Councilmembers: P. Behrmann
K. Gottschall
T. Gronlund-Fox
P. Sharpe
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES: (None)

MINUTES:

CM-08-113-23: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Sharpe and Gronlund-Fox to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of July 25, 2023.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1.) Notice of Hearing for the Electric & Gas Customers of DTE Energy Case No. U-21313
- 2.) Notice of Hearing for the Electric & Gas Customers of DTE Energy Case No. U-21322
- 3.) Notice of Hearing for the Electric Customers of DTE Electric Case No. U-21353
- 4.) Notice of Hearing for the Electric Customers of DTE Electric Case No. U-21403
- 5.) Notification from IT Service Provider of Merger with Sister Company, Skynet Innovations

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no public comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1.) Fire Monthly Report – June 2023

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox questioned why the hazardous conditions increased. Chief Geistler said they had a strong wind storm that resulted in 15 storm-related calls in one afternoon. Similarly, they've experienced some false fire alarm calls that have been addressed with the providers.

2.) Police Monthly Report – June 2023

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox noticed that the fraud, forgery and embezzlement increased. She asked if they've ever held classes to teach residents how to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft. Chief Langmeyer said they held classes mainly within the Senior Center but planned on expanding that to all members of the community. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked about the juvenile offenses. Chief Langmeyer explained how they've lowered the age on juvenile offenses allowing them to move individuals over to probate court which has been beneficial. He realized last year was quite a bit lower however, this number was more in line with the way it's always been.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-08-114-23: 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 – June 26, 2023

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Approve Traffic Control Order #107 to Prohibit Parking Along the Residential Side of Fletcher and Theodore Streets Surrounding Lewis Norton Park and Erect and Maintain No Parking Signs**

CM-08-115-23: Moved and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to approve Traffic Control Order #107 to prohibit parking along the residential side of Fletcher and Theodore Streets surrounding Lewis Norton Park and erect and maintain No Parking signs.

Chief Langmeyer said residents of the Tribute Subdivision expressed that they were having difficulties getting through when cars were parked on both sides of streets during events happening inside Lewis Norton Park. A traffic study by the Traffic Improvement Association (TIA) was conducted at that location. As a result of that study, the TIA recommended they prohibit parking on the residential side of Theodore and Fletcher Streets surrounding Lewis Norton Park. They noticed that when cars were parked on both sides of the street, residents had difficulties getting in and out of their driveways. The TIA figured implementing this traffic control order would allow people to park near the park but make it safer.

Councilmember Gottschall understood the need for no parking on the street as he witnessed the lineup of cars himself during events. He questioned if this traffic control order would pose a blind spot if cars were still able to park directly next to

the park. He asked if a corner setback could be implemented to possibly avoid a blind spot. Chief Langmeyer said the law already designated no parking within 30 feet from a corner or stop sign. Councilmember Gottschall thought if they were already putting signs up that it may behoove them to add "No Parking" signs near the corners.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if this specific plan was shared with the residents to determine if the residents approved parking on the park side rather than in front of their house. Chief Langmeyer said the TIA felt parking on the non-residential side of the street made it safer for people going to the park, plus allowed residents to get in and out of their driveways. Councilmember Behrmann thought they should have followed up with the residents prior to bringing it to Council just to verify the plan was what they wanted.

Mayor Beagle mentioned that the traffic study was conducted at the direction of the residents because they didn't want parking on both sides of the street. They performed the study and this was the result. He felt they asked for a solution and they got one.

Councilmember Sharpe established that there would be no parking on the north side of Theodore along the residential houses. Chief Langmeyer confirmed. Councilmember Sharpe noticed another safety concern as trees were blocking many of the stop signs within that subdivision. Chief Langmeyer said they would get those trees cleaned up.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said parking on one side of the street was being enforced on other streets within that neighborhood so the residents were already used to that.

Councilmember Smiley thought this was more of a public safety issue because the fire trucks couldn't get through during an event. He supported this traffic order.

Councilmember Gottschall asked how many complaints were received. Chief Langmeyer said they had one. Councilmember Gottschall said that one resident complained and changes were being made to 14 residential homes. He suggested they mail all the homes affected by this a letter notifying them of the change. He preferred they communicate with the residents before the signs are in.

Vote:

Motion Carried

- 2.) Recommendation to Accept Permanent Road Easements Along Beck Road Granted by Property Owners at 28500 Beck Road, 29181 Beck Road and 29201 Beck Road for the Future Beck Road Construction for a Total Combined Cost of \$89,005 from LDFA Construction/ROW Account #250-551-971.000**

CM-08-116-23: Moved and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund Fox to accept permanent road easements along Beck Road granted by property owners at 28500 Beck Road, 29181 Beck Road and 29201 Beck Road for the future Beck Road construction for a total combined cost of \$89,005 from LDFA Construction/ROW Account #250-551-971.000.

Mr. Sikma explained that these properties fell between Twelve Mile and West Road off Beck. It was their goal to obtain all the easements within that area in order to have a 60' roadway. By obtaining these easements, it would become more appealing to receive future grants and allow them to become more prepared for the Beck Road widening project. He noted that one caveat to obtaining federal or state funding for this project was that the City needed be able to show a fair price was offered for these properties so they performed a title search and came up with fair purchase amounts for each easement.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik asked how many more easements on the south side were they still trying to acquire. Mr. Sikma said they still needed eight. Mr. Benson said they were at various stages with trying to acquire the easements as some property owners were more willing than others.

Councilmember Gottschall referred to the contract for 29201 Beck Road and asked how the asphalt and paving resulted in damage. Mr. Sikma said the damaged dollar amount was configured by the title company. Councilmember Gottschall did not understand the appraised damage value. He understood if ornamental trees or good pavement was being removed but considering the condition of the asphalt, the appraised value didn't measure up. He would prefer they separate the 29201 Beck Road easement from the others so they could obtain some more information on how the damage amount was configured. Mr. Benson figured the dollar amount for damages referenced the loss parking or loss of some of the value they've invested into their property. Councilmember Gottschall did not agree with the additional damage amount and thought \$4,300 was a conservable amount of money that they could use toward something else. Moving forward they needed to look at what was actually being damaged because if they were not actually damaging the property than the City should not be paying for it.

Councilmember Smiley asked what the process would be should this be declined. Mr. Benson indicated they would meet with HRC and the appraiser to get better clarification as to exactly what they were referencing, but then they would have to go back to the property owner with a revised offer.

Mr. Brown said there wasn't any rush with this so he had no problem delaying 29201 Beck Road until they obtained additional information that could potentially address any concerns.

Councilmember Sharpe said that no field work was performed so it didn't appear they even looked at the property. He would like to see more information before they approved the purchase of this particular easement.

Councilmember Gottschall said based on his professional experience, they should not refer to the appraisers as experts of value as the majority of the time they were an opinion of value.

CM-08-117-23: Moved and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to amend the original motion to exclude 29201 Beck Road.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CM-08-118-23: Moved and seconded made by Councilmember Smiley and Gronlund Fox to accept permanent road easements along Beck Road granted by property owners at 28500 Beck Road and 29181 Beck Road for the future Beck Road construction for a total combined cost of \$67,830 from LDFA Construction/ROW Account #250-551-971.000.

Vote:

Motion Carried

3.) Recommendation to Authorize Participation in the State of Michigan Cooperative Purchasing Program (Contract #071B7700089) for the Purchase of a Case Front-End Loader from Southeastern Equipment Company of Novi, Michigan for an Amount Not to Exceed \$200,736.88 from Grader Replacement/Loader Account #411-441-973.393

CM-08-119-23: Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeknik and Councilmember Behrmann to Authorize Participation in the State of Michigan Cooperative Purchasing Program (Contract #071B7700089) for the Purchase of a Case Front-End Loader from Southeastern Equipment Company of Novi, Michigan for an Amount Not to Exceed \$200,736.88 from Grader Replacement/Loader Account #411-441-973.393

Mr. Sikma explained the DPW used two front-end loaders to remove snow and place salt in their trucks. They usually had one front-end loader stationed at City Hall during the winter months and the other loader in the salt barn. It was their desire to replace their 2008 front-end loader with this loader because it was the same style and it would serve the same purpose.

Councilmember Behrmann was curious how the adopted budget was the exact same as the bid dollar amount. Mr. Sikma said they originally budgeted \$200,000 so after reviewing all the front-end loaders within MITN, they acted on this because it was so close to the adopted budget amount.

Councilmember Smiley asked if they would auction off the old front-end loader. Mr. Sikma said they would, and hoped to get \$50,000 for it depending on the market.

Vote:**Motion Carried**

4.) Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution Approving the Interlocal Municipal Credit Agreement with Oakland County and Authorizing City Manager Steven Brown to Sign the Agreement and Terminate the Existing Transportation Agreement with People's Express

CM-08-120-23: Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Behrmann to adopt a Resolution approving the Interlocal Municipal Credit Agreement with Oakland County and authorizing City Manager Steven Brown to sign the Agreement and terminate the existing Transportation Agreement with People's Express.

Mr. Brown said Oakland County recently passed an Agreement with People's Express and were ready to move forward with the communities that had been involved with People's Express. He said that People's Express agreed to proceed with terminating the existing contracts between the individual communities and replace it with a new contract between Oakland County and People's Express. This would eliminate the need for the City to expend funds and then be reimbursed. In the past there were separate perimeters for each community but this new contract would eliminate each individual boundary and put in one big boundary in its place. Furthermore, additional hours will become available for the ridership and the rates will become more comparable with SMART. He said that Oakland County prepared an Interlocal Agreement where the individual communities involved with People's Express would agree to transfer their municipal credits from SMART to offset the cost of service that would be absorbed by the Oakland County Transpiration Millage.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik read that ridership increased since the millage passed. He questioned why that was. Mr. Brown believed it was due to increased awareness.

Councilmember Sharpe understood a double tax was collected because residents paid for our services and Oakland County services so he was thrilled to see that the City would be refunded. He asked what the City planned to do with that money. Mr. Brown said it would go back into the General Fund to cover expenses that ended up coming in over budget.

Vote:**Motion Carried**

5.) Recommendation to Convene a Closed Session of the City Council, in Accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, after "Council Comments" to Consider Material Exempt from Discussion or Disclosure by State or Federal Statute

CM-08-121-23: Moved and seconded made by Councilmember Gronlund-Fox and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to convene a Closed Session of the City Council, in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, after "Council Comments" to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by State or Federal Statute.

Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox, Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley
(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: (None)

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown said the Huron River Watershed Council was successful in receiving a grant to improve the wetlands within Wixom and Walled Lake. Recently, they've designed and planted some native wetland beds at Gunnar Mettala Park.

Mr. Benson said all members of Council were invited to attend the groundbreaking for Peoples Driven Technologies being held on August 17, 2023.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Behrmann did not have any comments.

Councilmember Gottschall did not have any comments.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thanked Mr. Sikma for removing the weeds/tall grass at the corner of Potter and Wixom Road.

Councilmember Sharpe did not have any comments.

Councilmember Smiley did not have any comments.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik congratulated Councilmember Sharpe on his daughter's wedding this past weekend.

Mayor Beagle asked to be excused from the next City Council meeting.

The Council recessed at 7:55 p.m.

They entered the Closed Session at 8:00 p.m.
And rose from the Closed Session at 8:57 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved
8-22-2023