

**CITY OF WIXOM  
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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(Exc)  
P. Sharpe (Exc)  
R. Smiley

**AGENDA CHANGES:** (None)

**MINUTES:**

**CM-09-132-23:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Behrmann to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of August 22, 2023.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1.) Thank You Road Commission for Oakland County
- 2.) Thank You Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no public comments at this time.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

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

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

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

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**CM-09-133-23:** Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
  - a.) Library Board Minutes – July 24, 2023

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** (None)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.) Recommendation to Utilize the MiDeal Bid Price and Authorize the Purchase of Two 2023 Dodge Durango Pursuit Vehicles from the LaFontaine Automotive Group of Lansing, MI for \$85,090 from Vehicles – Police Account #411-301-973.370 and Waive the Bid Process and Authorize the Purchase of Necessary Equipment and Installation for the Vehicles from Cruisers of Brighton, MI for \$35,990 from Vehicles – Police Account #411-301-973.370 and Approve the Associated Budget Amendment**

**CM-09-134-23:** Moved and seconded made by Councilmember Smiley and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to utilize the MiDeal bid price and authorize the purchase of two 2023 Dodge Durango pursuit vehicles from the LaFontaine Automotive Group of Lansing, MI for \$85,090 from Vehicles – Police Account #411-301-973.370 and waive the bid process and authorize the purchase of necessary equipment and installation for the vehicles from Cruisers of Brighton, MI for \$35,990 from Vehicles – Police Account #411-301-973.370 and approve the associated budget amendment.

Chief Langmeyer said this request was to purchase two vehicles that we had budgeted for this year. He indicated that he wasn't asking to place an order for these vehicles but to purchase vehicles that LaFontaine had in stock. Last year, it took approximately 10-11 months to receive the cars. LaFontaine ordered extra cars knowing how long Police Departments were waiting for vehicles. He stated that we would not put these vehicles into service until next spring or early summer. They are 2023 vehicles at 2023 prices. They have told us that we can anticipate about a 10% increase for a 2024 vehicle. The second part of his request was to build them for police services, which included the lights, sirens, prisoner seats, partitions, etc. We want to get them outfitted during this budget year. Cruisers have been building our cars since 2004 and they have always done a very good job. They have a competitive bid for Livingston County and we are getting prices from those bids.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked about the warranty. Chief Langmeyer stated that the warranty will not start until we put them into service. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if two cars would come out of the fleet. Chief Langmeyer replied that the two 2020 Ford Explorers would go because those are the ones with the most issues. They are costing us the most money to keep running.

Councilmember Smiley confirmed that the two we just took delivery of were from last year and Chief Langmeyer replied yes, they were out of last year's budget. We rolled over the money from last year to pay for the vehicles; however, we did not roll over the money to outfit them. Councilmember Smiley asked if these two

vehicles would replace Explorers as well and Chief Langmeyer replied yes. This would leave one more Explorer.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if this would be our fifth and sixth Dodge and Chief Langmeyer said yes. Councilmember Behrmann asked what year were the first two that we ordered that are in service. Chief Langmeyer explained that those are two 2022s. The two that are going into service soon are 2023s and the two he wanted to purchase now are also 2023s. Councilmember Behrmann asked when he would want to order vehicles the next time. Chief Langmeyer thought he would want to order one vehicle next year but not get it until September of 2025. Councilmember Behrmann's only concern was if we had the Dodge vehicles long enough to know that we were not going to have the same issue. Chief Langmeyer said he couldn't say for sure whether or not we would have problems. Councilmember Behrmann confirmed that he wanted to purchase these two vehicles early and the following year he would purchase one vehicle. Chief Langmeyer said that was correct. His plan was to purchase one a year depending on what Mr. Sikma reports regarding the vehicles. If he was having extensive problems because of a specific vehicle and we need to roll it out, we will be able to do that at that time. He would like to drive them until their end of lifespan instead of giving it to another department.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**2.) Recommendation to Approve a Two-Year Contract with Oakland County Equalization Division for Assessing Services for the Period of July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2025 and Authorize Mayor Patrick Beagle and Clerk Catherine Buck to Sign the Contract**

**CM-09-135-23:** Moved and seconded made by Councilmembers Behrmann and Smiley to approve a two-year contract with Oakland County Equalization Division for Assessing Services for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025 and authorize Mayor Patrick Beagle and Clerk Catherine Buck to sign the contract.

Mr. Benson explained that this was a routine item. The City contracts with Oakland County to provide our Assessing and Equalization services. They provide a large volume of work for us, including appraising all new personal and real properties, helping with Board of Review and tax tribunal appeals. This was a two-year extension and our attorneys have reviewed it. Oakland County was looking for 4% increases over each of the next two years. They bill us for their service on a per parcel basis so it depends on the number of splits or combinations we may have, as well as the number of businesses with personal property. We have had high quality experience and success with that relationship.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**3.) Recommendation to Accept the Proposal for the Installation of Water Distribution Improvements to the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System at the Wixom Wastewater Treatment Plant from Motor City Electric Technologies of Detroit, MI for a Cost Not to Exceed \$98,799 from Capital Reserve Account #591-537-971.410**

**CM-09-136-23:** Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Behrmann accept the proposal for the installation of water distribution improvements to the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System at the Wixom Wastewater Treatment Plant from Motor City Electric Technologies of Detroit, MI for a cost not to exceed \$98,799 from Capital Reserve Account #591-537-971.410.

Mr. Sikma stated that this proposal was for the SCADA system that we have currently at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This was an electronic version of analyzing and tracking all of the different parts in the system. It records flows, times and mechanical failures. It is equipped to warn our operators of problems. He indicated that the upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant have been working very well and he would like to expand this project to the water system so we can have better control over our water distribution. It would include monitoring and tracking the booster station as well as the levels in the water tower. We get our water from GLWA and that has been in place for over 20 years now. Some of those control parts are becoming antiquated. We would like to bring that all into one system so our operators know how to use it.

Councilmember Smiley asked if the water distribution we had in place was a SCADA system. Mr. Sikma said that it was not the same SCADA system. It was a different package. We are upgrading both systems.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if he had replaced the old lights on the wall. Mr. Sikma replied yes. It is a screen that doesn't take up the entire wall.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik confirmed that we fill the water tower when the total costs are at their lowest point. He asked if we did that manually now and if this would help in automating that process. Mr. Sikma said that during our last contract with GLWA, they had asked us to maintain a certain flow volume continuously and we have been doing that manually. We are hoping this would change that. We also have to monitor it very strictly in the summertime because of the electronics. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if we could monitor it remotely and Mr. Sikma replied yes.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**4.) Recommendation to Accept Hubbell, Roth & Clark's Proposal for Construction Engineering Services for Gunnar Mettala Pickleball Courts and Gibson House Parking Lot & Safety Path Paving for a Total not to Exceed \$39,210**

**CM-09-137-23:** Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeknik and Councilmember Smiley to accept Hubbell, Roth & Clark's proposal for construction engineering services for Gunnar Mettala Pickleball Courts and Gibson House Parking Lot & Safety Path paving for a total not to exceed \$39,210.

Ms. Magee stated that the pavement of the existing tennis courts and roller hockey will be removed and replaced. They will install existing aggregate base at Gunnar Mettala. The courts would then be stripped and the nets would be put in. The fencing would be the existing fencing that would be removed and replaced. At the end, there will be eight new pickleball courts. At the Gibson property, three inches of existing gravel of the parking lot in the rear of the Gibson House would be removed and new asphalt pavement will be installed up to the existing concrete curbs. The existing gravel safety path between the Gibson House and the parking lot will have a new pavement surface installed on the existing aggregate base. This would complete our improvements to the Gibson Park.

Mayor Beagle asked how much it cost per pickleball court. Ms. Magee said she wasn't sure. We bid it in a lump sum. Mayor Beagle heard the pickleball courts were about \$35,000 each. Ms. Magee said that we have to remove the existing asphalt and put in new asphalt. Mayor Beagle said his concern was if there was enough money to do everything. Ms. Magee said that there was enough money.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if there would only be pickleball courts in the City now. Ms. Magee replied no. We have a tennis court and basketball court at Gilbert Willis. We converted the roller hockey rink into the pickleball courts. When this is finished, we will have 12 pickleball courts. Councilmember Behrmann asked if we were concerned that we were over-building pickleball courts. He knew it was popular, but he wondered if the popularity would diminish. Ms. Magee said that our courts are packed now. There was a demand all around for pickleball. People aren't really playing tennis any more. Pickleball requires less athletic ability so more people can play.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if we had considered any pickleball noise barriers. He was at Hickory Hills Golf Course and he could hear the balls being hit on the pickleball courts from there. Ms. Magee said it hasn't been a concern and she hasn't had any complaints. Councilmember Gottschall thought it was something to think about, especially with eight courts. He asked if the parking lot at Gibson Park was south of the property and Ms. Magee said that was correct. He wondered how often that was in use. Ms. Magee said it was used for events and many people park there during the lunch hour. Part of the Gibson Master Plan was to complete that. We

used CDBG money several years ago to create a base and this would be the completion of the project. Councilmember Gottschall asked if the safety path was part of the driveway and Ms. Magee said it was the round circle. He said he has not been a fan of pouring money into the Gibson House. Because of the cost, he wondered why we couldn't build up more CDBG reserves to do that. It didn't sound like this was an immediate thing. Ms. Magee said it was in the Capital Plan and it was presented in the budget for this fiscal year. People are using that parking lot to get to the Michigan Airline Trail because it was very convenient. We are tied up with CDBG money for the next year for the playground project. It would have to be reevaluated if that was approved. Most importantly, the reason these projects are wrapped together was because they are both small projects and it is hard to get a contractor to do small projects. If we were to just get a price for the conversion of the pickleball courts, the price would be much higher. Councilmember Gottschall asked when we repaved the Gunnar Mettala courts last. Ms. Magee said that we fixed the cracks in 2021 and we found more cracks in 2022. When we reevaluated them, we discovered that those courts needed to be pulled out and redone. Councilmember Gottschall said he was not in favor of the Gibson project. It wasn't an immediate thing and he felt we should use grant money, not City tax money. He didn't think this was benefitting very many residents.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik commented that he had a large event at the Gibson House and it would have been nice to have that paved area for leveling the trailer-based porta-potties he brought in for the event. That would be a welcomed addition. He has noticed a lot of people using it as a Trailhead and the Community Garden people park there as well. It was part of the Master Plan and he thought we should get it done. Regarding the pickleball courts, a lot of feedback was given to him by players about dividers. He asked if the engineering would include something in the pavement to be able to erect dividers. Ms. Magee replied yes. She said she was having a fence contractor put in a permanent fence during the next three weeks.

Councilmember Smiley confirmed that this would complete all of the things we wanted to do at the Gibson House. Ms. Magee said yes, at the present time. Councilmember Smiley has thought it needed a little work for a while now and he was in favor of this.

Councilmember Behrmann said he walked through the Gibson Park and he saw the concrete. He felt it made sense to finish it. He asked what the plan was with the fire truck. He knew it was historical but it was starting to look pretty bad. Ms. Magee agreed with him. It added to Founders Day many years ago, but it doesn't run right now. She said she would meet with Mr. Sikma to discuss this.

**Roll Call Vote: (4) AYES - Beagle, Behrmann, Smiley, Rzeznik**

**(1) NAY – Gottschall**

**(2) ABSENT – Gronlund-Fox, Sharpe**

**Motion Carried**

- 5.) **Recommendation to Accept the Low Qualified Bid from Asphalt Specialists, LLC of Pontiac, MI for the Gibson Parking Lot and Gunnar Mettala Court Conversion for an Amount Not to Exceed \$369,832 with \$172,855 from Parks & Recreation Capital Plan, Gibson Park Account #411-751-979.540 and \$196,977 from Parks & Recreation Capital Plan, Gunnar Mettala Park Account #411-751-974.543**

**CM-09-138-23:** Moved and seconded made by Councilmember Behrmann and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to accept the low qualified bid from Asphalt Specialists, LLC of Pontiac, MI for the Gibson parking lot and Gunnar Mettala court conversion for an amount not to exceed \$369,832 with \$172,855 from Parks & Recreation Capital Plan, Gibson Park Account #411-751-979.540 and \$196,977 from Parks & Recreation Capital Plan, Gunnar Mettala Park Account #411-751-974.543.

Ms. Magee said this was a duplicate explanation of the last agenda item. We bid this out and she was looking for authorization to move forward.

**Roll Call Vote: (4) AYES - Beagle, Behrmann, Smiley, Rzeznik  
(1) NAY – Gottschall  
(2) ABSENT – Gronlund-Fox, Sharpe**

**Motion Carried**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Russ Meredith, 378 Fletcher, thanked the DPW, Police Department and Fire Department for their quick action on the sink hole. He thought they did a great job and appreciated the speed in which they handled it.

**CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Brown offered kudos to Sheryl Lucas who develops and distributes our weekly E-Notifications as it was cited as a strong example of public communication worthy of emulation in a Public Notice Weekly article. Also, he congratulated Drew Benson for completing his MCAT Assessor/Appraiser Continuing Education of a variety of topics. He mentioned that State Representative Ann Bollin will be holding a Coffee Hour on September 18<sup>th</sup> in Council Room B from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Benson highlighted a variety of community events that were coming up including Barking in the Park on September 17<sup>th</sup> and the Downtown Block Party on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Councilmember Smiley** said well-done to Drew Benson and Sheryl Lucas on their accomplishments. He echoed what Mr. Meredith said about how well the City took care of the sink hole and thanked Oakland County for their part in it as well. He offered his condolences to Vance McCormick on the passing of his wife, Jan, and his

condolences to John O'Brien from the Parks & Recreation Commission on the passing of his father.

**Councilmember Gottschall** shared his thoughts and condolences with Vance McCormick and John O'Brien on their recent losses.

**Councilmember Behrmann** echoed the same condolences. He questioned the five houses that were built at Theodore and Madison two to three years ago that have been empty. He asked if there was anything the City could do to convince them to move forward with marketing and selling those homes. Mr. Benson replied no. They built them and own them and we cannot require them to occupy or sell them as long as they are maintaining them. There are a variety of lots that haven't been built at all in that subdivision. That was a conversation we have been having with the developer. He thought there was some underlying story. He wasn't aware of anything in our ordinances about a house being vacant but he will look into it.

**Deputy Mayor Rzeznik** expressed his condolences to the McCormick family and the John J. O'Brien family. He said he read with amusement all of the press on the enhanced transit in Oakland County and the SMART extensions for Route 305 down Grand River. He found it funny that the whole idea of expanding this service and taking all these taxpayer dollars was to serve residents and only about 2% of our population live in the Leisure Co-op area. He hoped Mr. Brown hears as he goes to these meetings that they extend it up Beck Road to Pontiac Trail where it would actually serve the residents of the City of Wixom.

**Mayor Beagle** extended his condolences to the McCormick and O'Brien families on their losses and kudos to Mr. Benson and Ms. Lucas on their accomplishments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Buck  
City Clerk

Approved 9-26-2023
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