

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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.) Affirmation of Oath for Sergeant Aaron Breneman

Chief Langmeyer said he was proud to introduce our newest Sergeant, Aaron Breneman. He provided a short background on Sergeant Breneman and his Oath of Office was affirmed with Mayor Beagle.

The Council recessed at 7:04 p.m. and reconvened at 7:22 p.m.

MINUTES:

CM-09-139-23: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Smiley to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of September 12, 2023.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE: (None)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no public comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1.) Departmental Reports – August 2023

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik noticed in the Water Report that there were no fats, oil and grease violations. He asked if that meant that the traps were being installed in these facilities. Mr. John said that was correct, or they were getting them cleaned on schedule. This was the first time this has happened.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if there was any news regarding the CVS at the corner of Charms Road and Wixom Road. Mr. Benson said he has been having conversations with the new property owner of the complex. They have an idea for a new use there and it might involve some changes to the site. They have not formally applied for anything yet. He felt the uses they were looking at would require Planning Commission approval.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-09-140-23: Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeknik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
 - a.) Senior Citizen Commission Minutes – June 12, 2023
 - b.) Planning Commission Minutes – August 7, 2023
 - c.) Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes – August 14, 2023
 - d.) Planning Commission Minutes – September 6, 2023
- 2.) Recommendation to Accept the Water and Sewer Main Easement Granted by Wixom Logistics Park II, LLC Located at 29413 South Wixom Road for One Dollar Each

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Approve the Early Voting Site Agreement for Election Services Between Oakland County and the Charter Township of Commerce, the City of Walled Lake and the City of Wixom and Authorize City Clerk Catherine Buck to Sign the Agreement**

CM-09-141-23: Moved and seconded made by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Behrmann to approve the Early Voting Site Agreement for Election Services between Oakland County and the Charter Township of Commerce, the City of Walled Lake and the City of Wixom and authorize City Clerk Catherine Buck to sign the Agreement.

Councilmember Gottschall confirmed that the County would be picking up the majority of the cost and that we would be accountable for overtime. Ms. Buck said that was correct, as well as a third of the election workers' salaries beginning in August 2024. Councilmember Gottschall wondered if we were worried about a community withdrawing from this Agreement. Ms. Buck said that they could withdraw with a 30-day notice, but she didn't think that they would. Councilmember Gottschall asked if there were any additional funding sources to help cover costs of salaries and wages since this was a new program. Ms. Buck replied no.

Vote:

Motion Carried

2.) Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution to Accept the New Streets of Monument Lane, Valor Way, Union Street and Chambers E., within the Encore Development and the Placement of 0.347 Miles of such Streets into the City Street System

CM-09-142-23: Moved and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to adopt the following resolution to accept the new streets of Monument Lane, Valor Way, Union Street and Chambers E., within the Encore Development and the placement of 0.347 miles of such streets into the City Street System:

**CITY OF WIXOM RESOLUTION #2023-49
RESOLUTION FOR STREET ADDITION
TO THE PUBLIC ACT 1951, ACT 51 MAP**

WHEREAS, the City of Wixom did on or about July 1, 2023, open to the public and commence maintenance of Valor Way, Monument Lane and Union Street; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to furnish certain information to the State of Michigan to place the street within the City of Wixom Street System for the purpose of obtaining funds under Act 51, P.A. 1951 as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the general description of said streets as described as:
 - Monument Lane
Starting at Valor Way Right-Of-Way then north and then northeast 791 ft.
 - Valor Way
Starting at Monument Way Right-Of-Way then east and then north 701 ft.
 - Union Street
Starting at Valor Way Right-Of-Way then south 201 ft.
 - Chambers E. Road
Starting at Monument Lane Right-Of-Way then west 167 ft.
2. That said streets are located in the City of Wixom rights-of-way and are under the control of the City of Wixom.
3. That said streets are public streets and are for public street purposes.
4. That said streets are being accepted into the City of Wixom Local Street System on or before December 31, 2023

Mr. Sikma stated that this was one of the last projects that the Robertson Brothers have completed in the downtown area. They have met the qualifications of the roads according to our Engineering Design Standards and we are prepared to accept them at this time. Part of the acceptance will be to add them onto our Act 51 numbers. He indicated that this would be roughly \$4,900 a year for additional funding from the State for Act 51 monies.

Councilmember Gottschall said that he and Mr. Benson had a brief discussion about adding these streets and the Act 51 funds coming in at just under \$5,000 a year, which probably doesn't cover the cost to replace them. He clarified that we have a Winter Maintenance Agreement with that section now. Mr. Sikma stated that we had one. Councilmember Gottschall asked if the \$4,900 covered our expenses. Mr. Sikma replied it covers the expenses but it doesn't cover cost to replace them.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik assumed that from the width of these streets that they were similar to the Anthem streets. He asked if the streets were properly signed for parking only on one side of the street. Mr. Sikma believed so, but he would check. These particular streets are all part of the traffic studies for the subdivision. We would follow those recommendations. They were connected to separate Tribute and Anthem.

Vote:

Motion Carried

3.) Recommendation to Renew the Winter Maintenance Agreement with the Road Commission for Oakland County for \$12,929.19 for Pontiac Trail from the Western City Limits to Beck Road and Loon Lake Road from Benstein Road to the Eastern City Limits by Adopting the Authorizing Resolution and Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to Sign the Agreement

CM-09-143-23: Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to renew the Winter Maintenance Agreement with the Road Commission for Oakland County for \$12,929.19 for Pontiac Trail from the western City limits to Beck Road and Loon Lake Road from Benstein Road to the eastern City limits by adopting the following authorizing resolution and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Agreement:

**CITY OF WIXOM
RESOLUTION 2023-50
2023-2024 WINTER MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, since 2005, the City of Wixom has assumed snow and ice control on Pontiac Trail from the western City limits to Beck Road and Loon Lake Road from Benstein Road to the eastern City limits and has realized an increase in the level of service and community satisfaction; and,

WHEREAS, Pontiac Trail and Loon Lake Road from Benstein Road to the eastern City limits are under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission for Oakland County; and,

WHEREAS, the Road Commission for Oakland County has assigned snow and ice control responsibilities to the City in the past for these roads.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the City of Wixom hereby approve the 2023-2024 Winter Maintenance Agreement renewal with the Road Commission for Oakland County and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City of Wixom.

Mr. Sikma said that this was routine. It covers the salt and employee time for plowing Pontiac Trail and Loon Lake Road. We feel that we can get to these roads sooner than the Road Commission for Oakland County.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said that she supported this agreement. She asked if he had done a cost analysis. Mr. Sikma said that he did not do one this year, but he has in the past. Based on the average number of hours that it takes for us to do Pontiac Trail and Loon Lake Road, as well as the cost of salt per ton, we still cover our cost.

Vote:

Motion Carried

4.) Recommendation to Authorize Participation in the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network to Sell Surplus City Vehicles, Equipment and Miscellaneous Tools and Designate Russ Pierson as the Authorized Agent for the Sale of this Property

CM-09-144-23: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Sharpe to authorize participation in the Michigan Inter-Governmental Trade Network to sell surplus City vehicles, equipment and miscellaneous tools and designate Russ Pierson as the authorized agent for the sale of this property.

Mr. Sikma said we would auction off the old fire truck on the Gibson property and three vehicles we have already replaced with new police cruisers. This would also cover miscellaneous equipment that we auction off this time of year.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if he really thought we could get \$5,000 for the fire truck. Mr. Sikma said that they based that on the weight of the steel. Councilmember Behrmann asked if we were keeping the truck if someone didn't bid \$5,000. He was concerned that we wouldn't get \$5,000. Mr. Sikma said we could lower that without a problem. Councilmember Behrmann asked if the three police vehicles were the ones that were having issues with the water pumps. Mr. Sikma said that the 2019s were the better ones. He had several conversations with our maintenance staff regarding that. The ones that we bought at the last Council meeting will be replacing the 2020s.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if Mr. Sikma needed the Council to amend the motion to reduce the bid amount for the fire truck. Mr. Sikma said we would do that administratively if the Council was in agreement.

Councilmember Sharpe said he missed the fire truck discussion at the last meeting and wondered what the fire truck was doing there for the last 50 years. He asked if there was anything else that could be done with it. Mr. Sikma said that he talked with the school on Beck Road to see if they were interested in restoring it, but they said no. There was a restoration group interested temporarily, but they declined. The DDA and the Historical Society were not interested either. He indicated that it

was a Ford truck with pumper applications on it. It wasn't built as a fire truck. If it were a Freightliner fire truck, it might cast a different shadow.

Councilmember Smiley thought \$5,000 for the fire truck might be ambitious.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Russ Meredith, 378 Fletcher and current Chair of the DDA, called the Council's attention to the outstanding support the DDA had this past weekend from the Police and Fire Department at the Block Party. People felt comfortable with the officers and firefighters there. He also commended the exceptional support that they got from the DPW. He said they could not do that event without them. They blocked off the roads with the trucks, they moved tents and tables, they picked up trash and they took it all down at the end. Pontiac Trail was open about 30-45 minutes after the event was finished. He felt that we had great employees at the City and they are part of the reason Wixom is such a great place to live.

Mayor Beagle invited four students from Lakeland High School to the podium to introduce themselves.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown mentioned that there were seven employees celebrating work anniversaries. Their years of service ranged from one year to 17 years. He congratulated and thanked them all. Also, Deputy Clerk Crystal Opalko attended the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks' Annual Conference held in June, which applies to her earning of her Master Municipal Clerk certificate.

Mr. Benson said that there was a very nice State of the Lakes event today, where Mayor Beagle sang the praises of Wixom. He also echoed some of the comments made by DDA Chair Meredith regarding the Block Party. It was a team effort, but he understood it was the most successful Block Party yet. Kudos to Director Cloutier, the Promotions Committee and the team that put that together, as well as all of the staff who helped to make that happen. It was a great success.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Smiley said we had a couple of deaths in the Wixom family recently. Frank Hamann and Tina Sirls both lost their mothers and he was sorry to hear that. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families. He congratulated Sergeant Breneman on his promotion and Deputy Clerk Opalko on her accomplishment.

Councilmember Gottschall congratulated Sergeant Breneman on his promotion and offered condolences to Tina Sirls and Frank Hamann on their recent losses. As we get into roads and elections, he wondered if the Clerk knew the deadlines for ballot language being approved. Ms. Buck said that if the Presidential Primary is on February 27th, the ballot language needs to be submitted to the County by December 5th and the proposed Charter amendments should have been submitted

by September 12th. If the Presidential Primary is on March 12th, the ballot language needs to be submitted to the County by December 19th and the proposed Charter amendments would have to have been submitted by today. Councilmember Gottschall thought we should probably have another road discussion in the next month or so.

Councilmember Behrmann echoed the condolences to the family members of our staff. His family really enjoyed the Block Party. The band was really good and it seemed very crowded. It was so much nicer to have it in the street this year versus a parking lot. He hoped to continue that. He heard several people ask why we didn't do that more often. Obviously, it doesn't make sense to do it every weekend. It was well attended and the weather was very nice.

Councilmember Sharpe had no comments.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox echoed the previous comments regarding condolences for the Hamann and Sirls families. She congratulated Sergeant Breneman. She thanked and congratulated those celebrating work anniversaries, as well as thanking Crystal Opalko for pursuing her MMC certification.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik congratulated Sergeant Breneman on his promotion and offered his condolences to the Sirls and Hamann family. The Block Party was excellent. It was very well attended and the weather cooperated. It gets better every year. Lastly, he asked about the cemetery pavers. Mr. Sikma said that they will be back onsite tomorrow to start the leveling process. They hope to start the block-laying by Thursday or Friday and be finished next week.

Mayor Beagle offered his condolences to the Sirls and Hamann families. He congratulated Sergeant Breneman and congratulated and thanked the seven employees celebrating work anniversaries. He also congratulated Deputy Clerk Opalko for attending the MAMC Conference for her certification.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 10-10-2023
