

**CITY OF WIXOM  
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2024**

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 (Exc)  
**Councilmembers:** P. Behrmann  
K. Gottschall  
T. Gronlund-Fox (Exc)  
P. Sharpe  
R. Smiley (Exc)

**AGENDA CHANGES:** (None)

**MINUTES:**

**CM-03-41-24:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Sharpe and Behrmann to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of March 12, 2024.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** (None)

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments made at this time.

**CITY MANAGER REPORTS:**

**1.) Departmental Reports – February 2024**

There were no questions or comments regarding these reports.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** (None)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** (None)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1.) Recommendation to Approve a Police and Fire Dispatch Service Agreement Between Oakland County and the City of Wixom and Authorize Mayor Patrick Beagle to Sign the Agreement**

**CM-03-42-24:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Behrmann and Gottschall to approve a Police and Fire Dispatch Service Agreement between Oakland County and the City of Wixom and authorize Mayor Patrick Beagle to sign the agreement.

Chief Langmeyer explained that this was the Dispatch Agreement with Oakland County that covered the period from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2027. The

first year shows a substantial increase, which was due to the normal 3% increase annually and a new service fee (7.3%) they are now charging to anybody having a contract with the County. Also, the Police fee was based on the number of full-time officers and we added a new officer this year. The Fire fee was based on the calls for service and there was a 27% increase over the number of calls from the previous three years. The next two years of the contract was back to their normal 3% increase.

Mayor Beagle said that it bothered him we would be penalized for having a 20% increase in fire calls while in future calls we were not. Chief Langmeyer said that they were basing all three years on the 20% increase. They were anticipating those calls to stay steady or increase. They based this on an average over the three years. Mayor Beagle thought this was still cheaper than having our own dispatch system, but it was unfair as we have no control over that. Chief Langmeyer indicated that he had no idea there would be a new service fee. Everybody around us who uses Oakland County for dispatch was angry about not being told about it.

Councilmember Behrmann asked what other communities use for dispatch if they don't use the County. Chief Langmeyer said the only other dispatch center that contracts out to other agencies was Novi. They only dispatch for the City of South Lyon and he didn't know if they would have the capacity to take on Wixom. He stated that the bonus for us with Oakland County was that we are also on the same radio channel as Walled Lake and Wolverine Lake, which keeps us on the same page. Councilmember Behrmann wondered if it would make sense in the future to possibly look at grouping together with some of the communities to do our own versus contracting with Oakland County. Chief Langmeyer said he was very happy with Oakland County's dispatch. They do a great job for us. He wasn't sure if we could fund a west Oakland dispatch center with local agencies that would be less expensive because of the equipment, the building, the technology and finding people. Councilmember Behrmann understood and said he was fine with this.

Councilmember Gottschall thought over the next few years we should have discussions with Novi to see if they would be interested in increasing their services or what it would look like if we partnered together with other communities. It might be cheaper, especially with the administrative costs they are adding. This gives us an opportunity to look at it over the next few years. If it was something everyone was interested in and the numbers work, it would not be a last-minute decision. We would have three years to put it together and it would be a flawless transition.

Councilmember Sharpe pointed out the 19% increase was permanent. It was 19%, plus 3%, plus 3% over these three years. He felt this was taxation without representation. He asked if there was anything he knew of that was causing Oakland County to have higher costs or if they were redistributing the existing costs differently and charging more for the same service. He wondered if there was new service or new technology that would cause that increase. Chief Langmeyer thought they had their normal contractual increases. The way it was explained to them was that this was a fee they have always had but never charged anybody in Public Safety. Anybody else that wants to use County services on a contractual basis has the 7% administrative fee. This year, they decided they would apply that across the board. Councilmember Sharpe asked if there were any jurisdictions that were being

charged less. Chief Langmeyer replied that it was the same percentage fee for all. It would be lower for smaller communities with less officers or less calls, like Wolverine Lake and Walled Lake. Likewise, it would be more for larger communities with more officers and more calls, like Commerce Township. Councilmember Sharpe said it sounded like Oakland County was making more profit than last year just because they are charging more for the same thing for all users. He liked the idea of looking around and suggested a letter be sent to our County Commissioner.

Mayor Beagle asked if Novi was on the same radio channel and Chief Langmeyer replied yes. He wouldn't want to see Wixom go to Novi and then us not knowing what was happening in Wolverine Lake and Walled Lake. He noted that we all function as a team.

**Vote:****Motion Carried**

Councilmember Sharpe asked if we had budgeted for this. Chief Langmeyer said that we did not budget for this increase from April through June of this year, but we have added it to next fiscal year's budget.

**2.) Recommendation to Award the 2024 Local Road Program – Loon Lake Road and Cliffs on Loon Lake Subdivision to Asphalt Specialists, LLC of Pontiac, MI for an Amount not to Exceed \$2,486,243.50 from Local Road – Construction Account #203-554-971.399**

**CM-03-43-24:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Behrmann and Sharpe to award the 2024 Local Road Program – Loon Lake Road and Cliffs on Loon Lake Subdivision to Asphalt Specialists, LLC of Pontiac, MI for an amount not to exceed \$2,486,243.50 from Local Road – Construction Account #203-554-971.399.

Mr. Sikma stated that he was looking forward to working with Asphalt Specialists to repair and repave Loon Lake Road and the Cliffs of Loon Lake subdivision. We had a few quotes that were close, but we believe this one was fair and justifiable.

Mayor Beagle confirmed this was about two miles and we were not tearing it down and going to the base. This was just mill work. Mr. Sikma said that it was primarily mill work. There were a few places that we may need to reconstruct. As a general rule, it will be a mill and overlay project. Mayor Beagle stated that the amount was \$2,486,243. He wanted the residents to think about this when we ask for millages.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if we got a project cost estimate from the engineers. Mr. Sikma replied yes. It was very similar to the costs that were projected. It was within a couple hundred thousand dollars. Councilmember Gottschall said that with the bid-rigging stuff that has been going on lately in the court system and this contractor having been a part of that, it made him a bit leery of spending our money on projects. We don't want to assume anything was happening that was nefarious but you never know after it diminishes that layer of trust. He asked if there was anything written into contracts to cover that if anything had occurred like this, we would be due a refund or penalties. Mr. Sikma said that this was a not-to-exceed number based on engineering figures of a certain amount of each quantity. They need to bill by quantity. The quantities are as projected. He

indicated that the City used the MITN-provided assessment and we opened all the bids as we normally do. He and the engineers had a similar discussion on that and it was his understanding that the president of that company was no longer there. He said he felt they were trying to get back into the business as a whole. Councilmember Gottschall mentioned that in looking at the comparison spreadsheet, they were charging practically nothing for mobilization and everyone else was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. As with everything, if someone breaks your trust, you have a tough time trusting them ever again. He hoped this would go smoothly. In the future, we should look at putting something into the contracts as a fallback to protect ourselves. We need to get roads done and he hoped we would be doing more road work now that we have discussed this as a Council. He wanted to make sure we were being very aware of this.

Mr. Sikma commented that Asphalt Specialists were already mobilized for the tennis courts at Gunnar Mettala. They also did the Gibson House. We have used them in the past and they have been good.

Mr. Benson stated that we could have a conversation with the City Attorney. The only qualifier he would add was that these contracts are dually signed so we have to come up with something that vendors would agree with as well. Councilmember Gottschall said it would be nice if we got some form of protection.

Councilmember Sharpe wanted to confirm that we would do our best to have improved communications from what we had on Maple Road last year. He asked if Mr. Sikma had a plan for communication. Mr. Sikma said that we plan to do similar construction for Loon Lake. They will keep eastbound traffic going throughout the project. It has been successful in the past. We will start with one-way traffic on the north side of the road. If there is a trial of trying to convince people to go on the left side of the road during construction, it will only happen for a little bit. Then the traffic will go eastbound for the rest of the project. He was hoping that would help. Oakland County has approved the traffic pattern plan and we will have that on our website. Also, we plan to have a community event in the next few weeks to show our plan to all of the residents that will be affected during this time. Councilmember Sharpe realized that there will still be people complaining no matter how much communication we do. He also asked if there was any charge for engineering since it was just mill work. Mr. Sikma said that charge has already been approved with the same company.

Councilmember Behrmann reminded Mr. Sikma to make sure that we make arrangements ahead of time if we are paving on trash day so we don't have the new pavement ruined by the trash haulers.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

- 3.) Recommendation to Accept the Bid from KD Cement of Commerce Township, Michigan for Sidewalk Replacement and Road Upgrades in an Amount Not to Exceed \$280,000 from Safety Path Construction Account #223-555-971.390 and Local Road Construction Account #203-554-971.399 and Approve the Associated Budget Amendment**

**CM-03-44-24:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Behrmann and Sharpe to accept the bid from KD Cement of Commerce Township, Michigan for sidewalk replacement and road upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$280,000 from Safety Path Construction Account #223-555-971.390 and Local Road Construction Account #203-554-971.399 and approve the associated budget amendment.

Mr. Sikma said we intend to continue the neighborhood concrete sidewalk project. We also plan to concentrate on some of our major roads, Maple Road, Potter Road and Charms Road. Those will not be a 50-50 split. It would be a direct charge for sidewalks. The next sidewalk repair will be in Tribute. If we have funding left, we may go back to other subdivisions that we may have missed. Also, the road program that we have and added funding was primarily for Napier Road. We have large potholes that we want to get repaired. During the Grand River construction, it seemed like the opportune time to get that full-depth repair in that area. These repairs will help extend the life of the road. When we pave later, it will be money well-spent.

Mayor Beagle indicated the report notes three bids were received, yet there were four companies listed. Mr. Sikma said that was a misprint. There were four bids received.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if the intersection work would be done at the same time the other work on Grand River would be done. Mr. Sikma said that he did not plan to keep the intersection closed any longer than was required with the work on Grand River. Councilmember Gottschall asked if people would still be able to use Twelve Mile behind Helfer. Mr. Sikma replied that it would primarily be the intersection that would be closed at Grand River and Napier. We will section off areas so we can do our work there. Twelve Mile Road will be open to through traffic and it was the detour during this construction. Councilmember Gottschall asked if the concrete roadway went all the way to St. Catherine's. Mr. Sikma said yes. The City's portion of that road is currently concrete. We plan to do full-depth repairs on the concrete and we will mill it in the future with asphalt. We've had good success with that. In fact, the Beck Road piece north of West Road is asphalt over concrete and that was on its eighth year and still looks good. Councilmember Gottschall suggested he keeps an eye on the brush work that they do. When they did his neighborhood last year, they moved at a faster pace and the quality suffered.

Councilmember Behrmann noticed the sidewalk work done lately along Maple Road and in the downtown area. He asked if that was from last year's contract. Mr. Sikma confirmed that it was. They honored the pricing from last year for the work that they did and we used money left over from this budget.

Councilmember Sharpe said it was good to hear we were continuing to do the sidewalk program. Residents are pleased. He asked if Napier Road was the Wixom property line. Mr. Sikma replied that the whole road was designated to Wixom according to Act 51.

Mr. Benson added that because it was a township that borders us compared to a city, they have less statutory responsibility for roads. In that scenario, we would also have to work with the Road Commission to address that piece.

**Vote:****Motion Carried****CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments made at this time.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Benson said that Crystal Opalko earned her Master Municipal Clerk designation recently. There are 1,603 clerks in the State of Michigan and only 55 have their MMCs (two of which work in Wixom). Also, there were eight employees celebrating their work anniversaries during the month of April. Their years of service range from one year to 31 years.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Councilmember Gottschall** congratulated Deputy Clerk Opalko on her MMC designation. He knew the hours were a big deal and he was glad to hear that was worked out.

**Councilmember Sharpe** congratulated everyone with work anniversaries.

**Councilmember Behrmann** thanked City Administration and Ken Pike for taking care of his concerns with Dan Excavating. He thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for another great Easter Egg event.

**Mayor Beagle** thanked the Parks and Recreation staff for the great Easter Egg Hunt. The little ones were excited to get their eggs and see the Easter Bunny. He congratulated Deputy Clerk Opalko on her MMC designation. He thanked and congratulated all those employees with work anniversaries.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39

Catherine Buck  
City Clerk

Approved 4-9-2024
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