

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Beagle at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

City Council: Patrick Beagle (Mayor), Thomas Rzeknik (Deputy Mayor), Peter Behrmann, Keenan Gottschall, Tia Gronlund-Fox (Excused), Peter Sharpe, and Robert Smiley

City Staff: Drew Benson, Steve Brown, Cathy Buck, Brad Geistler, Phil Langmeyer, Deanna Magee, Tim Sikma, Marilyn Stamper

Determination of Quorum:

A quorum was present for this meeting.

Changes or Additions to the Agenda:

No changes were made to the agenda.

Call to the Public:

There were no comments from the public.

Goal Setting Discussion:

Mayor Beagle explained that goal setting meetings were held once a year. He instructed Council to come up with one to three goals they would like to see achieved within the next couple years.

Mayor Beagle said his goal was to start discussions about a new fire station at the south end of the City. He's learned that the majority of the calls were on the south end of the City, and considering the current fire station was on the northern end of the City, the response times were longer than they would like. In addition, they had experienced issues where the train blocked the road and couldn't get to the call. He asked how big of a station would the Fire Department like to have. Chief Geistler would like 3-4 bays with a bunk house and office quarters.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik asked how many calls have been hindered by the train. Chief Geistler would have to do more research and get back to them.

Councilmember Smiley asked how big of a project did they anticipate this being. Would they need to get a duplicate of every piece of equipment or would they be able to split the equipment between the two stations. Chief Geistler thought they would need to increase personnel or operate the south end of the City from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with the current personnel.

Councilmember Behrmann asked where would they envision a second station. Chief Geistler thought somewhere around Wixom Road and West Road or further south so they could access the freeway. Councilmember Behrmann thought they should start detailing the response time to the south end of the City so and if they were delayed by the train. Chief Geistler knew that on a clear day without any traffic, the response time to Grand River and Napier Road was 8 minutes from the Fire Station going lights and sirens.

Councilmember Sharpe would like to perform a study and see some data before anything was budgeted.

Councilmember Behrmann had three goals. One of his goals was to continue the development of Renton. He would like to see the buildings come down and the property on the market. Mr. Benson said the proposals for demolition were due at the end of the month. In addition, they've started to talk to different firms and companies that have experience with marketing a property/project similar to this.

Councilmember Behrmann said his second goal was to address the esthetics of the water tower. He would be okay with approaching the current contractor about repainting the tower. Once the City designed its new logo, he would like to see it on the water tower. Additionally, the lighting on the water tower no longer worked so that needed to be fixed. His last goal was to evaluate code enforcement within the City. He questioned if it made sense to take a proactive approach rather than reactive. Considering they were getting larger in size, it may benefit the City to have code enforcement hours each week to make sure people were complying. Councilmember Sharpe agreed.

Councilmember Gottschall would like the Renton Development be a top priority. He would like the administration to speak with developers that didn't bid on the RFP to determine what turned them off from the project. He wondered if they could look into a real estate brokerage firm. The main takeaway would be to have a partner picked out by the end of the year. His second goal would be to address the water tower. He would like to continue the sponsorship program but not with the current sponsor. He would like to find another company or two to sponsor the tower and still have room for the City logo. His last goal was to reduce the road sign pollution throughout the City. He thought that could be an ongoing project so they could look at what signs needed to go up or come down. He wasn't asking the staff to go out right now and start surveying the signs but as they worked on roads they can perform inventory.

Mayor Beagle indicated that Councilmember Gronlund-Fox wasn't present at the meeting but submitted three goals. He said one of her goals was to continue the sidewalk repair program and consider removing the trees that were causing the problem. She would like to plant new trees that would not cause the sidewalk to move. Another goal of hers was to remove the "me too" clause out of the Collective Bargaining Agreements and reduce the Fire Department response times.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said one of his goals was the redevelopment of the Renton property. Additionally, he would like to establish a world class Michigan Air Line Trailway stop at Mack Park by including a hydration station, bike repair stations and a public restroom facility. His last goal was to explore traffic preemption and prioritization technologies as it related to signaling. During certain times of the day, there was near gridlock traffic conditions.

Councilmember Sharpe said his first goal was to have an all out push to find a developer for the Renton property. He hoped that would happen by the end of 2024. He suggested they offer land at below-market price and become more flexible in the development requirements. His second goal was to fully finish the Parks and Receptions list of projects. He realized there was a lot of the work being placed on the DPW staff. He would like administration to think about an alternative solution so these projects could get finished. The last goal was to implement the branding and signage plan in Fiscal Year 2025.

Councilmember Behrmann didn't realize that the DPW was responsible for so many projects. He thought we should consider a contractor to assist them with the pavilion and clock tower at Mack Park because that project was taking way too long to complete.

Councilmember Smiley he would like to restart the hotel tax efforts. His second goal was to look into the east-retail project. He understood they had little control of the east-retail property but he would like to see anything they could do to help encourage the property owners to develop the property. He figured more than anything else, his constituents asked him about that property. He

would like to starting seeing a monthly and/or quarterly status list of every project the City was working on. He hoped the City would continue to educate the public on the hazards of flushable wipes to our wastewater treatment facility. Additionally, he would like the option to pay for City business with credit cards.

Call to the Public: (None)

City Manager’s Comments:

Mr. Brown thanked all the staff and Council for coming to this meeting.

Mr. Benson had no comment.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Behrmann recalled the Department Heads submitting their goals in the past. Mr. Brown said the Department Head’s goals would come out during the Budget Study Session.

Mayor Beagle thanked the Council and staff for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

This Goal Setting meeting of City Council was motioned and adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 4-23-2024
