

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024**

Mayor Beagle called the meeting to order at 7:01 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
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES:

Mayor Beagle added Presentation #2 – The Walled Lake School’s Millage Presentation

PRESENTATION:

1.) Wixom Police Department Accreditation by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP)

Bob Stevenson, Executive Director with the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and previous Police Chief of Livonia, said he was representing the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission for the awarding of the Certificate of Accreditation to the Wixom Police Department. The Wixom Police Department is now a better police agency having gone through accreditation. The last few years have been very difficult for law enforcement. There have been a lot of calls for police reform. The Council and citizens should take a lot of pride knowing that every single one of the calls for police reform, our Department already has a policy in place to address that. More importantly, they voluntarily did that before these calls for reform came about. In the State of Michigan, there are about 689 police agencies. Of those police agencies, 83 are county police agencies, just shy of 400 are municipal agencies and the rest consist of hospitals, colleges, tribal police and such. Of the 600 police agencies in the State of Michigan, the Wixom Police Department is the 70th Police Department to attain accreditation. That means 80% of other police departments in the State have not attained accreditation. It is a significant professional achievement. He said he was proud of the Department and Chief Langmeyer’s leading of the Department to get through all the work they had to do. The accreditation is earned, not given.

Ron Wiles, current Accreditation Manager and Deputy Director, explained that accreditation law enforcement is progressive time proven way to improve the performance and service level of law enforcement agencies across the State. It is a significant professional accomplishment. The foundation of the program lies in the voluntary compliance of 108 best practice professional standards. No one is making agencies do this. They are doing this on their own to become better at what they do and to better serve their residents. He said that the first step is to make the decision to apply for accreditation. The second step is where all the work is done,

the self-analysis phase. Typically, they give agencies two years to go through self-analysis. During that period, they look at their current set of written directives and compare them to 108 professional standards. They have to comply with all of those standards and show that they comply. They may bring in mock assessors to give them some guidance during the process. The third step is the on-site assessment. When they feel that they are in compliance, they request the final on-site assessment. A team of assessors will then come in to review the standards, talk to staff, tour the agency, do ride-a-longs, etc. At the end of the assessment, they sit down with the Chief and the accreditation manager to debrief. That is when they know how they did in the process. In this case, Wixom did quite well because they became accredited. The fourth step is that the Chief, the Accreditation Manager and the Accreditation Team go before the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission for a hearing where they are asked a series of questions about accreditation, their agency, programs, etc. The Commissioners on that panel have the final say in whether they become accredited or not. In this case, it was unanimous to approve the Wixom Police Department for full accreditation. The fifth step is the reaccreditation process. In three years, another team of assessors will come back to do the whole process again. We will have to be compliant for all three of those years. Now there are 128 standards. He said he couldn't be prouder of the Department and what they've done for the agency and for the residents.

Chief Kyle Knight, current President of the Michigan Association Chiefs of Police, offered kudos to the Council for allowing the Wixom Police Department to become accredited. It is a financial and timely burden. He read the Accreditation Award and presented it to Chief Langmeyer.

Chief Langmeyer said that this was a big deal to the Department. Accreditation was one of the first goals for the Wixom Police Department. Chief Moore got us started down this path, but with manpower consideration, we had to put this on hold. We took a two-year process and completed it in one year. This was done by Lieutenant Mark Bradley and the men and women of the Department who came together as a team. He was very proud of them for this huge accomplishment.

Mayor Beagle congratulated the entire Wixom Police Department for this achievement.

The Council took a short recess for cake.

2. The Walled Lake School's Millage Presentation

Bill Chatfield, Operations Director for the Walled Lake School District, gave an overview of the bond election that will be held on May 7th. He said that they have the opportunity to make a significant improvement to their schools and infrastructure at no additional cost to the taxpayers. They would invest \$250 million into their buildings with a reduction of .08 mills. They are ranked 24th out of 28 school districts in terms of the lowest school millage rate in the County. This bond program would include several major initiatives. They would close and repurpose one yet to be determined middle school due to declining enrollment. They would relocate the Adult Transition Program (special needs students who have graduated from the traditional K-12 Program) into a space that would accommodate their

current and future needs. They would close and relocate the Administration Building. They would close the Twin Sun Center on Loon Lake Road and move those programs into an existing elementary school. They would build a new Wixom Elementary School on Maple Road just west of Wixom Road. This would help with the traffic issues. They would add and update the existing security systems and video surveillance systems, as well as replacing the deteriorating fiber optic network throughout the district. He explained that the current school millage is 4.13 mills. If this bond were to pass, that would drop to 4.05 mills. That means that the owner of a \$200,000 valued home with an SEV of \$100,000 would pay \$405 per year in Walled Lake School taxes. The bond monies cannot be used for general operations such as salaries, benefits, supplies. All of the bond funds have to go into the renovation or construction of the schools and buildings. This represents an opportunity to continue to provide 21st century learning environments for all of the citizens of the School District. He encouraged everyone to vote on May 7th.

Mayor Beagle shared that the District was holding many Townhall meetings for more information. Mr. Chatfield added that more information would also be available on their website.

Councilmember Smiley noted that the millage was actually dropping, so that must mean that something was ending. Mr. Chatfield stated that due to good fiscal management, they have bonds from the 2000 bond program that are being dropped off this year so the millage will drop more. They have the opportunity to extend the millage. They are asking the community to extend the current tax rate so they can continue to invest in the school infrastructure.

Councilmember Behrmann liked the idea conceptually of a new elementary school for Wixom on Maple Road. He asked if the School District had any thought on the traffic plan that will need to be improved at Wixom Road and Maple Road. Mr. Chatfield indicated that they have had preliminary discussions. There was a special allotment for consideration of what it was going to take to provide proper traffic design and controls. They haven't gotten to the conceptual stage because they can't do that until they know if the bond will pass. When that happens, he assured him that they will be working with the City and Planning Commission to figure out the best solution. He envisioned a road access and utility improvements that would be required to accommodate that. Councilmember Behrmann asked why the School District chose to do a special election. He knew that the District would have to pay for a special election versus a normal election cycle that wouldn't cost the District anything. Mr. Chatfield replied that the 2000 bond tax rate will fall off this summer. This was the last opportunity to have an election that wouldn't require an increase. If we get to July 1st, the tax rate will automatically drop. Any election after that would be called a tax increase. They are able to call this a tax extension. He said that had the study been done sooner, they could have put this on the February ballot.

Councilmember Gottschall noted that one of the projects listed was to put electronic signs at all schools. He wondered if there would be consideration of not doing that. He didn't think this was a specific way to communicate with their families. At the previous Goal Session, comments were made to reduce sign pollution within the City. The electronic signs would be adding sign and light pollution because it was

not a direct communication method. Mr. Chatfield indicated that they had not considered that. They have found that the school signs were extremely affective in communicating information with the school community, as well as the non-school community. They envision having a system they could access from the Central Office where they could put a uniform message during emergencies or other types of situations. He thought it was a worthy situation for them to review. Councilmember Gottschall said he would appreciate that being considered. He would prefer no electronic signs, but if it were to happen, he would like for there to be a way to turn them off during non-school hours. He felt the overnight signs in front of the high school was wasteful.

MINUTES:

CM-04-45-24: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Sharpe and Behrmann to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of March 26, 2024.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE: (None)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments made at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:**1.) Fire Monthly Report – February 2024**

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

2.) Police Monthly Report – February 2024

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-04-46-24: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Sharpe to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
 - a.) Senior Citizen Commission Meeting – December 11, 2023
 - b.) Planning Commission Meeting – February 5, 2024
 - c.) Downtown Development Authority Minutes – February 20, 2024
 - d.) Library Board Minutes – February 26, 2024
 - e.) Planning Commission Minutes – March 18, 2024
- 2.) Recommendation to Adopt the West Nile Virus Reimbursement Resolution Designating DPW Foreman Andy Allen as "Agent" for the City of Wixom to Seek Reimbursement of Eligible Expenses Incurred Under the Oakland County West Nile Fund Program
- 3.) Recommendation to Rescind Resolution 2024-06 and Adopt a New Resolution Authorizing the Placement of a Ballot Proposal on the August 6, 2024 Special Election to Be Held in Conjunction with the Primary Election Ballot to Consider Authorization of the Renewal of an Additional Operating

Millage of Up to 3.5 Mills (Equal to \$3.50 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value) for an Additional Four (4) Years, Commencing July 1, 2025, and Effective Through and Including July 1, 2028, to Provide Funds for Municipal Operating Purposes Including Police and Fire, Public Works and Parks and Recreation

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

1.) Submittal of the City Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget and Setting May 28, 2024 as the Date of the Public Hearing Regarding the Budget Recommendation

CM-04-47-24: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Behrmann and Sharpe to receive the City Manager's Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget and set May 28, 2024 as the date of the Public Hearing regarding the Budget.

Ms. Stamper reviewed the budget highlights for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 with the Council. Taxable values were estimated to increase 7.94% The millage rate is proposed at 11.8860, reflecting an increase from Fiscal Year 2023-2024 of .0039 which was related to the Safety Path millage renewal. Of the 31 cities in Oakland County, we would be the 7th lowest. The proposed revenue increased by \$318,914 or 2.077% compared to the estimated actual Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and she explained the various types of revenues for the City. State Shared Revenue is estimated to increase \$1,250 when compared to the actual estimated amount to be received in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Next, she stated that the proposed expenditures increased by \$2,987,143 or 20.87% compared to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. This increase was comprised of operational costs of \$1,314,988 and capital projects contribution of \$1,672,155. This budget provides funding for the City's normal cost of Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) in the amount of \$85,424 and pension in the amount of \$168,372 along with a pension amortization payment of \$313,872. The General Fund reflects an estimated balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 of \$6,391,902 or 36.95%. The Budget Stabilization Fund reflects an estimated balance at the close of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 of \$1,313,165 or 7.59%.

Solid Waste collection and recycling fee will be set at \$172, an increase of \$5. Sewer utility rates, residential and industrial sewer only rates will remain the same. Water utility rates are proposed at \$42.45/mcf, along with meter maintenance and customer charge, represent an overall 3.5% increase.

Ms. Stamper reviewed the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan contribution in the amount of \$1,030,000 along with an additional contribution of \$1,970,000 to fund substantial expenses related to Parks & Recreation projects, marketing and branding related signage and a major security system update.

The Major Road Improvements of \$268,000 include Napier Road engineering and construction, road and drainage repairs and pavement management. Local Road Improvements of \$1,717,045 for pavement management and preservation, general repairs, completion of Loon Lake Road, Palmer, Grand Oaks Commerce Center. Safety Path Improvements of \$587,000 for Wixom Road Railroad Crossing, Renton, ADA safety ramps and various maintenance projects. Wastewater Improvements of \$733,653 for engineering of the UV Disinfection system, HVAC improvements, sewer/manhole repairs, roof repair/replacement, solids handling, collection systems modifications and various system upgrades. Water Improvements of \$650,000, for a watermain extension at Gunnar Mettala, water tower maintenance, meter replacements, hydrant retrofit and general maintenance and repairs as needed.

Ms. Stamper said that the Budget Study Session will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Vote:

Motion Carried

- 2.) Recommendation to Accept Proposals from Hubbell, Roth and Clark and Advantage Electric and Controls of Shelby Township, MI for Design Engineering and Installation of a Generator for the Police Station and City Hall with Engineering Not to Exceed \$26,000 and Installation Not to Exceed \$255,500 from Other Facility Improvements Account #401-283-974.322 and Approve the Associated Budget Amendments**

CM-04-48-24: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to accept proposals from Hubbell, Roth and Clark and Advantage Electric and Controls of Shelby Township, MI for Design Engineering and installation of a generator for the Police Station and City Hall with engineering not to exceed \$26,000 and installation not to exceed \$255,500 from Other Facility Improvements Account #401-283-974.322 and approve the associated budget amendments.

Mr. Sikma said we purchased the generator in 2023 and we expected it to be delivered within the next few weeks. This bid includes a wall that goes completely around the generator. He is working with the contractor to determine how much they can reduce this number because of the screening that is already there. He wanted to get the Council's approval ahead of time so they move forward with the installation as soon as possible. The installation also includes hooking up a temporary generator when they remove the old one.

Mayor Beagle asked if HRC had ever worked with Advantage Electric and Mr. Darga replied yes. Mr. Sikma added that they were confident they would be able to do the job accurately.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik mentioned that the bids were very close. Mr. Sikma commented that half of the cost was for concrete work and brick work that was there. It is a larger foot print and there is a demo process for removing the brick that is there now. There were some things that we had to add that we didn't anticipate. It is also very tough to get construction work documented and in place.

Councilmember Smiley wondered how disruptive any delays would be. Mr. Sikma said that they would work with the contractor to set up the timeframes. They will question Wolverine once this was approved. He anticipated the generator will be on site within one month. Soon after that, they will start working with the temporary generators. The goal was to have it done by the end of the summer. He would notify the Council if there were any delays and when it was in place.

Councilmember Sharpe understood delays, but this was 100% over budget. We paid \$104,000 for the generator; we paid about \$30,000 to HRC to engineer the layout of the generator; now we are adding another \$255,000. He thought the budget was \$180,000. He had two potential alternatives. He asked what if we didn't take the generator and say we just couldn't afford it anymore. Mr. Sikma stated that was Council's decision. The generator is 40+ years old and it has been rebuilt once already. The temporary generator we use is 20+ years old. Our longevity as we age doesn't improve over time. We expect this generator has gone beyond its useful life. It is time to get a new one. Councilmember Sharpe indicated that he still supported a new generator. We upsized the new one to power the whole City rather than just the Police Station. There were a number of changes. He asked what if we just took the existing generator, unplugged it, threw it away, put the new one in its place and plugged it back in. We would save something on installation. We wouldn't be recircuiting and that is expensive. He said he was having trouble with spending 100% over budget. Mr. Sikma stated that the estimates were not his best work. He didn't foresee the things that have happened over the last several years. His consultants all pointed to those general numbers and we were still off. Councilmember Sharpe asked if we could just unplug the old one and plug in the new one. Mr. Sikma said no. We are still looking at a 20-year-old switch gear. It was an extra hour of response time. City Hall is a warming station for our community. It was not advised and he felt this was a good purchase for future generations.

Mr. Brown added that the installation of the generator is \$130,000 and the site work is \$125,000. We will look at if the masonry style enclosure is really necessary. We will look at ways to cut the cost because we are also taken aback by the cost increase. He felt Mr. Sikma had done a lot of due diligence to try to get it right and it just hasn't worked out in the current environment. Factors have changed so much that we are looking at this being way beyond the budget experience.

Councilmember Sharpe asked which fund we would be taking this money from. Mr. Brown replied that we would be spending money out of the capital improvement fund earlier than planned. Councilmember Sharpe wondered if there were any other budget line items that we haven't used or don't foresee using in 2024 that we could fund the \$253,000. Mr. Brown said if we did that, we would be spending into fund balance.

Councilmember Behrmann said it was disappointing how expensive this is. It just didn't work out this time. He asked how many times we had to hook up a generator on the cement pad. Mr. Sikma replied four or five times. We use that pad for a walkway. Councilmember Behrmann asked what other generator projects we would have once this was done. Mr. Sikma said that the DPW generator was already listed in the next budget. He would also do one for the Community Center. The Fire

Department's generator has a few years left of useful life. Councilmember Behrmann said his only request in the future was that if another generator project comes up, we have all the numbers in the beginning. He knew there was a rush to get it ordered because of the lead time. We might have done something different had we known what this was going to cost us. It was bid out and this was the lowest qualified bidder.

Mr. Sikma reminded Council that in 2017, we received a \$694,000 grant from MDOT. We received the Green Infrastructure grant from SEMCOG for \$280,000 recently. In 2018, we received the Norton Creek Infrastructure Creek Improvements \$48,000 grant. From 2016-2023, we had eight years of local road repairs from Oakland County totally \$244,000. The Drinking Water grant we received in 2022 from EGLE resulted in a \$437,417 grant. In 2020, we needed to remove some of the biosolids from the Treatment Plant and that was a \$350,000 grant. We had ARPA funds for the \$6 million that we spent at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for upgrades. We received \$1.5 million and \$1.6 million from the Village of Milford for the same grants. Over the last six or seven years, we received \$6 million worth of grants in total. He said that the Council and the staff have been very frugal in what we have spent. This one was not a win and he was sorry for that.

Councilmember Behrmann stated that he did not think Mr. Sikma was doing a bad job at all. He thought Mr. Sikma was beating himself up worse than the Council was beating him up. He thought he was doing a fine job and he appreciated everything he was doing.

Mayor Beagle said that there was no finger pointing here. When he first heard about this, it was a little shocking but it happens. He didn't want him to beat himself up on this.

Vote:

Motion Carried

3.) Recommendation to Approve the Transfer of a Michigan Liquor Control Commission Class C On-Premise Retail Liquor License and an Existing Specially Designated Merchant Off-Premise Retail Liquor License and Authorize the Issuance of Sunday (A.M.) and Sunday (P.M.) Sales Permits to FGG Mexican, LLC at 2051 N. Wixom Road, Wixom, Michigan

CM-04-49-24: Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Smiley and Deputy Mayor Rzeknik to approve the transfer of a Michigan Liquor Control Commission Class C On-Premise Retail Liquor License and an existing Specially Designated Merchant Off-Premise Retail Liquor License and authorize the issuance of Sunday (AM) and Sunday (PM) Sales Permits to FGG Mexican, LLC at 2051 N. Wixom Road, Wixom, Michigan.

Mr. Benson stated that this was a request to transfer in a Class C and SDM liquor license from another jurisdiction in Oakland County to the City of Wixom on behalf of Mexican Fiesta IV. He noted that they have three other locations in Dearborn Heights, Canton and Hartland. This request would not have any impact on our

existing quotas. Background checks have been done and we have looked at the history relevant to the site. They are proposing to locate at 2051 N. Wixom Road which had previously been an Urban Gyro. They will be moving in a full-service restaurant. After completing all of those review, they found no reason to deny this request and actually recommend the Council approve this request. He thanked the applicants for being here for the entire meeting and invited them to speak if they would like.

Gloria Jabrocki said that in May of 1962, her father always wanted to have a restaurant so he bought a small diner on Ford Road and Telegraph. Never did he think that he was going to have this big restaurant. It went from a 40-person diner to almost 300 people. Their family grew. Her father started Mexican Fiesta II in Canton when he saw that area was growing. The family grew again with grandkids and the grandkids went out to Hartland. Her daughters wanted to branch out so they selected Wixom because they thought this was an area that would grow. She said they wanted to bring their family business here to Wixom.

Mayor Beagle thanked them for choosing Wixom. He said that he has been to the Hartland location a few times and he has enjoyed his meals. He was looking forward to this.

Councilmember Sharpe commented that he worked for Ford in Dearborn for many years and spent many Fridays at Mexican Fiesta on Ford Road. He asked if they would be bringing all of the same recipes. Ms. Jabrocki replied yes. Councilmember Sharpe was excited and happy that they were considering Wixom.

Councilmember Smiley said he grew up in Dearborn and had many family dinners at Mexican Fiesta. He was very excited they would now be in his own backyard.

Vote:

Motion Carried

- 4.) Recommendation and Request to Convene a Closed Session of the City Council in Accordance with the Open Meetings Act for the Purpose of Discussing Collective Bargaining Agreement Negotiations, Considering the Purchase of Real Property and the Periodic Personnel Evaluation of the City Manager Pursuant to, and as Authorized by, MCL 15.268(c), (d) and (a)**

CM-04-50-24: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to convene a Closed Session of the City Council in accordance with the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussion collective bargaining agreement negotiations, considering the purchase of real property and the periodic personnel evaluation of the City Manager pursuant to, and as authorized by, MCL 15.268(c), (d) and (a).

Roll Call Vote: (6) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley

(0) NAYS

(1) ABSENT – Gronlund-Fox

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments made at this time.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown invited everyone to the Earth Day celebration at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and DPW on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. Students from Sarah Banks Middle School attend from 9-11 am. Employees and the general public are welcome from 11 am – 1 pm. Lunch and tours are available. This will be an opportunity to spread the word about the City's collaboration with GFL, RRRASOC and SPURT on our new curbside food scrap recycling program.

Mr. Benson stated that if anyone was interested in Boards or Commission positions in the City of Wixom, specifically with the Zoning Board of Appeals, we have openings. Don't hesitate to reach out. There is information available on our website.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Behrmann had no comments.

Councilmember Gottschall said that in regards to the food waste program, he wondered how we would be making this available to residents that don't have yard waste collection. Mr. Brown replied that those residents could take their food waste directly to Spurt. We are working on a grant to obtain containers for that purpose. Councilmember Gottschall thought it would be nice if they would drive their food waste to Spurt, but he didn't think that would happen. Mr. Sikma indicated that the drop off was quick and easy. In future, he knew Spurt might be able to pick it up at various locations. This was something we were interested in. Councilmember Gottschall was happy to hear that.

Councilmember Sharpe clarified that his intent on the generator topic was not to challenge or be critical of the DPW in any way. He felt we were lucky to have Mr. Sikma. The DPW does a fine job and has a lot put on their plate. He appreciated him taking a personal wish he could have done something different, but his intent was if there were any alternatives. He welcomed Mexican Fiesta IV and said he was really excited. They know their business.

Councilmember Smiley indicated that when he came in to tonight's meeting, He didn't have any idea how big of a deal the Police's Accreditation Award was. He didn't have an appreciation for what it took and how much work had gone into it. He was really impressed and excited that they got this done. He couldn't help but think of former Chief Moore a few times since he got it started. He congratulated the Department and said he was very proud of Wixom's Police Department. He noted that the Budget Session was not listed on the Dates to Remember document. Lastly, he offered his condolences to Russ Pierson and his family regarding the passing of his mother.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik congratulated the Police Department on the Accreditation Award. He thanked Ms. Stamper and Mr. Brown for their work on the budget. He said he was looking forward to the Budget Session next week.

Mayor Beagle congratulated Chief Langmeyer and Lt. Bradley and the Police Department for their MACP Accreditation. He thanked Ms. Stamper for her hard work on the budget. He reminded everyone about Hazardous Waste Day this Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm.

The Council went into Closed Session at 8:37 p.m. and rose from Closed Session at 10:19 p.m.

CM-04-451-24: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Sharpe to authorize the City Manager to move forward as discussed in the Closed Session held April 9, 2024.

Vote:

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved
4-23-2024