

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 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
P. Sharpe
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES:

Mr. Brown added New Business #4- Recommendation to Adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Assignment of the Residential Waste Collection Services Agreement with GFL Environmental USA Inc. to Priority Waste LLC and Any Action Required of the City Manager to Finalize the Assignment Subject to the Requirements of the Resolution.

MINUTES:

CM-06-71-24: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Sharpe to approve the Special City Council meeting minutes of May 28, 2024.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CM-06-72-24: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gottschall and Gronlund-Fox to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of May 28, 2024.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE: (None)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: (None)

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

- 1.) Fire Monthly Report – April 2024**
- 2.) Police Monthly Report – April 2024**

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik was aware that the non-criminal complaints doubled from 2023. He wondered if they were re-categorized. Chief Langmeyer said nothing had been re-categorized; however, the police officers had been eager and more vigilant; therefore, issuing more tickets.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-06-73-24: Motion by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Sharpe to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
 - a.) Planning Commission Meeting – May 8, 2024
- 2.) Recommendation to Approve the Local Road Improvement Matching Fund Cost Participation Agreement with the Road Commission for Oakland County in the Amount of \$38,431 with a Local Share Not to Exceed \$46,569 from Pavement Preservation Account #203-554-976.393 and Authorize DPW Director Tim Sikma to Sign the Agreement

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Confirm the Mayor's Reappointments of Laure Dorchak to the Cemetery Board with a Term to Expire June 30, 2029; Mark Garmo and Russell Meredith to the Downtown Development Authority with Terms to Expire June 30, 2028; Shondra Okimura and Dan Williams to the Parks & Recreation Commission with Terms to Expire June 30, 2027; Ray Cousineau, William Day and Cheryl Tacy to the Planning Commission with Terms to Expire June 30, 2027; Judith Celinske and Jean Korleski to the Senior Citizen Commission with Terms to Expire June 30, 2027; Jeffrey Caplan, Ray Cousineau, James Hutchens and Michael Schira to the Zoning Board of Appeals with Terms to Expire on June 30, 2027; and Appoint Darby Hoppenstedt to the Downtown Development Authority with a Term to Expire June 30, 2027**

CM-06-74-24: Motion and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to Confirm the Mayor's Reappointments of Laure Dorchak to the Cemetery Board with a Term to Expire June 30, 2029; Mark Garmo and Russell Meredith to the Downtown Development Authority with Terms to Expire June 30, 2028; Shondra Okimura and Dan Williams to the Parks & Recreation Commission with Terms to Expire June 30, 2027; Ray Cousineau, William Day and Cheryl Tacy to the Planning Commission with Terms to Expire June 30, 2027; Judith Celinske and Jean Korleski to the Senior Citizen Commission with Terms to Expire June 30, 2027; Jeffrey Caplan, Ray Cousineau, James Hutchens and Michael Schira to the Zoning Board of Appeals with Terms to Expire on June 30, 2027; and Appoint Darby Hoppenstedt to the Downtown Development Authority with a Term to Expire June 30, 2027.

Mayor Beagle explained this was routine as they offered the volunteers the chance to extend their terms once they were expired. He expressed his appreciation for these volunteers as they graciously accepted to serve another term on their Board or

Commission. He indicated that two members of the Downtown Development Authority were in the audience tonight; Russ Meredith and Darby Hoppenstedt.

Ms. Hoppenstedt said she was an eight-year resident of Wixom, wife and mother of two. She worked in public education and deeply valued community service. She felt grateful and excited to be appointed and given the opportunity to serve Wixom.

Mr. Meredith appreciated being re-appointed to the DDA. He was fortunate to witness some of the projects that he'd been working on come to fruition.

Vote:

Motion Carried

2.) Recommendation to Authorize Participation in the 2024 Tri-Party Program for Preliminary Engineering of 12 Mile Road from Beck Road to Novi Road, Approve the Associated Budget Amendment and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Agreement

CM-06-75-24: Motion and seconded by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Sharpe to Authorize Participation in the 2024 Tri-Party Program for Preliminary Engineering of 12 Mile Road from Beck Road to Novi Road, Approve the Associated Budget Amendment and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Agreement.

Mr. Brown indicated they wished to participate in the Tri-Party Program that would widely take place in the City of Novi with the exception of a small section in the City of Wixom. The desire was to widen 12 Mile Road from Beck Road to Novi Road. He mentioned Wixom's portion of the design engineering cost was \$114,376. This was originally going to happen in later years, but it's been moved up in priority, and because of that they needed a budget amendment.

Councilmember Behrmann asked what would happen if they decided not to participate. Mr. Brown assumed it would create a problem with the Tri-Party Program in terms of completing the project. Mr. Brown asked them to keep in mind that this motion was for the engineering cost as the construction costs would come later. Councilmember Behrmann asked if they had known what the construction would cost would be. Mr. Brown didn't know but heard there may not be a funding issue on that point, but nothing had been confirmed.

Mr. Benson thought if they were to decline participation, the likely outcome would result in stopping the project at the border of Wixom.

Mr. Brown stated that participating would avoid the problem like they currently had with the Oakland County Road Commission not paving Loon Lake Road. By accepting this agreement, there would be consistency all the way through 12 Mile Road.

Councilmember Gottschall was curious if they knew who was doing the engineering for \$2.5 million dollars. He understood the project was extensive but believed that was a

lot of money for engineering. He couldn't imagine how he'd feel once he saw the cost of the construction.

Mr. Benson reminded them that they would only be contributing funds to the section of the road that was in the City limits.

Councilmember Gottschall understood that the City portion was smaller; however, approving the \$114,376 was only the first step. He preferred they get the opportunity to see the scope of the entire project. He would like this to be tabled so administration could gather more information for the Council before they made the decision.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik did not believe that \$2.5 million dollars was a lot for the engineering because the project was substantial as that section of roadway held railroad tracks and headwater of the Rouge River. He'd traveled this section of the road many times and knew how important it was to the City of Wixom as it was the east/west egress to M-5 and shopping/doctor appointments. He said this project had been talked about for decades and was thrilled to see it coming to fruition. He explained that the Tri-Party Program was part of a method to get these projects completed quicker because each community could share in the cost. He was in favor of this and hoped it could be moved forward tonight.

Councilmember Behrmann wanted to know if they agreed to the engineering agreement, would they be obligated to contribute more funding later on. Mr. Brown said they would not.

Roll Call Vote: (6) AYES: Beagle, Behrmann, Gronlund-Fox, Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley
(1) NAY: Gottschall

Motion Carried

3.) Recommendation to Award a Bid to Milford Salvage Iron & Metal Co., Inc. of Milford, MI, for the Building Demolition, Removal and Site Restoration of the Renton Redevelopment Area Properties Located at 117, 119, 121, 125 and 127 N. Wixom Road for an Amount Not to Exceed \$69,660 and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Agreement

CM-06-76-24: Motion and seconded by Councilmembers Behrmann and Sharpe to Award a Bid to Milford Salvage Iron & Metal Co., Inc. of Milford, MI, for the Building Demolition, Removal and Site Restoration of the Renton Redevelopment Area Properties Located at 117,119,121,125 and 127 N. Wixom Road for an Amount Not to Exceed \$69,660 and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Agreement.

Mr. Benson said this was the next step in starting the process of redevelopment to that area, and the Renton project. He noted that they received eight bids for the demolition

of the existing structures with Milford Salvage Iron & Metal Co., Inc. being the lowest bidder. He indicated that the City had worked with them before so he felt comfortable moving forward with their services.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if the water and sewer would be capped for future potential use at some point. Mr. Benson said the water and sewer would be capped but knew that any new development would require the installation of larger lines before they tied into those services.

Councilmember Sharpe asked if they knew of a time frame when this would be completed as he would like to see traffic impacted as little as possible. Mr. Benson said Milford Salvage thought it would take about two weeks to get the buildings down. He felt confident this project would be completed this summer.

Councilmember Gottschall believed this project would cause a lot of dust in the air. He wanted to know if Milford Salvage would spray the structures with water during demolition in order to minimize the dust. Mr. Benson said it was our expectation they would do that.

Vote:

Motion Carried

4.) Recommendation to Adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Assignment of the Residential Waste Collection Services Agreement with GFL Environmental USA Inc. to Priority Waste, LLC and Any Action Required of the City Manager to Finalize the Assignment Subject to the Requirements of the Resolution

CM-06-77-24: Motion and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Assignment of the Residential Waste Collection Services Agreement with GFL Environmental USA Inc. to Priority Waste, LLC and Any Action Required of the City Manager to Finalize the Assignment Subject to the Requirements of the Resolution.

Mr. Brown received a letter from GFL indicating that they planned to offload their residential waste collection services to Priority Waste. The City attorney drafted a resolution outlining what was expected from the Council, GFL and Priority Waste. The initial resolution given by the attorney indicated the Mayor and Clerk would sign the agreement; however, considering the City Manager was the responsible party for everything else in this matter, he felt it would be cleaner to name himself as the signer. He specified that a meeting had been set up with Priority Waste this week where he anticipated to get further details about the contract and services.

Mayor Beagle stated that he did not want the residents to be required to purchase new waste receptacles and hoped they could get stickers for the bins they already had.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik wondered when the current GFL contract ended. Mr. Benson said it expired in 2027 as they approved a five-year contract in 2022. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik would like to see a representative from Priority Waste come before Council to answer any questions about their services.

Mayor Beagle hoped the food waste program that they've implemented would be continued. Mr. Brown would talk about that during the upcoming meeting he had with Priority Waste.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox would like to see Priority Waste offer a customer service representative to handle residential concerns. She wouldn't want that burden falling on the City staff.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments made at this time.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown said a recent settlement was made with Kroger in the National Opioid Settlement cases. He said that he'd continue to follow through with this and opt into the settlement on behalf of the City. He mentioned the first six settlements resulted in the City collecting \$12,866.15. They planned to use the funds from the settlement to partner with Families Against Narcotics and implement an outreach program to help people in our community that had been affected by opioid addiction. He mentioned that he was proud of the Wixom Police Department because they recently had a random audit by the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) and passed. They determined that all of the policies followed the law and were consistent with the MCOLES standard.

Mr. Benson mentioned that the City earned two awards from Mainstreet Oakland County. Drafting Table Brewing Co. of Wixom, MI won an award for Business Innovations and Entrepreneurship and DDA Director Laura Cloutier won the Mainstreet Leader Award for her service to Downtown Wixom.

Ms. Cloutier said Mainstreet Oakland County consisted of twenty-eight communities. This year eleven awards were given out and the City won two. She mentioned that fifteen representatives attended the event on behalf of the City.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Gottschall thanked everybody that helped plan the Employee/Volunteer Appreciation Picnic. He thought it was a nice event and a fun way to kick off the summer. He stated that he was concerned with pedestrians crossing Beck Road on the Air Line Trail. He recently witnessed three people nearly get hit by cars crossing Beck Road. The gentlemen that he saw riding his bike on the Air Line Trail

today didn't even look up, press the button or stop before he crossed Beck Road. He believed the crossings had become seriously dangerous. He thought they might want to consider taking the lights down so people were not mistaking what they mean or have more police officers at these crossings writing tickets to everybody that did not use the crossing correctly, both on the trail and in their car. He said whatever education the Trailway Council had been doing was inadequate. He wanted to act on this very quickly before something bad happened. He felt it was only a matter of time before someone was hit and killed.

Councilmember Behrmann noticed a lot of confusion from people using the Air Line Trail while crossing Wixom Road. He'd witnessed cars stopping for folks that wanted to cross before the red-light even blinked so when the red light started flashing there wasn't anybody there to cross. He stressed they needed to provide more education, a gate system, change the lights or find another solution because the current system was not working. He noticed that the crosswalks were no longer marked throughout the City. He would like to see them all be re-stripped soon. He'd noticed police officers pulling over the large trucks and was appreciative. He hoped they continued to pull over the large trucks as he did not want to see these large trucks ruin the nice new roadways around the City. He mentioned the flowers downtown looked really nice this year.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thanked the residents that were appointed to the Boards and Commissions tonight. She didn't think the City could do all these great things if they didn't have the assistance and guidance from the volunteers.

Councilmember Sharpe thanked those members of the Boards and Commissions that volunteered. They wanted the Boards and Commissions to be successful and so he appreciated their efforts very much. He thanked the DPW for installing two benches by the columbarium in the Wixom Cemetery. He asked that they order and install two more because they should have seating all the way around the columbarium. He commented that the flowers looked good and saw the company watering the flowers regularly.

Councilmember Smiley thought the picnic was nice and thanked the volunteers. He congratulated Ms. Cloutier and the Wixom DDA on their awards. He offered his condolences to Greg Evans and Andrea Dickson on their recent losses.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thanked the volunteers for their hard work in serving the various Boards and Commissions. He attended the Oakland County Mainstreet Award Event and congratulated the recipients of those awards. He stated that Wixom stood up against much larger and long-established downtowns such as Farmington and Ferndale. He thought it was great to see how far Wixom had come to being recognized as an up-and-coming downtown. He mentioned that he participated in an organized bike ride along the Michigan Air Line Trail on June 1, 2024. The ride went from Wixom to Sylvan Lake. He was disappointed when he saw the only stretch of overgrown grass and weeds was in Wixom. He was aware they budgeted for an extra resource and thought they

would get more than twice a year mowing along the Air Line Trail. He asked administration to look further into this and determine what the concern was. He said they needed to get into a regular mowing frequency from May through September. He mentioned that another accident happened where a vehicle crashed and was laying on the Air Line Trail. He wondered how many more of these events were going to happen before they could get the attention of RCOC to lower the speed limit on the stretch of Pontiac Trail just west of Old Wixom Road. He would like to see some action taken on this immediately. Recently, he taken an informal poll and noticed half the drivers he'd seen staring down at their phone instead of the road. He mentioned that school was out and more children and pedestrians were walking about. He asked drivers to be aware of this and put down their phones.

Mayor Beagle congratulated Laura Cloutier and Drafting Table Brewing Company on their awards. He thanked those volunteers that stepped up to be a member of a Board or Commission. He understood that it was a time commitment but believed these volunteers did an outstanding job. He felt they wouldn't have this nice of a community without all the volunteers. He enjoyed the picnic and looked forward to the summer concerts.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Crystal Opalko
City Clerk

Patrick Beagle, Mayor

Crystal Opalko, Clerk

Approved:
June 25,
2024