

**CITY OF WIXOM  
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 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  
**Councilmembers:** P. Behrmann  
K. Gottschall  
T. Gronlund-Fox  
P. Sharpe  
R. Smiley

**AGENDA CHANGES:** (None)

**PRESENTATION:**

- 1.) Oath of Office for Firefighter EMT Logan Swiney
- 2.) Oath of Office for Firefighter EMT Maggie Lambart

Chief Geistler introduced two of their newest full-time firefighters; Logan Swiney and Maggie Lambart. He indicated that they both had been Auxiliary Firefighters in the Department, and over the last year they've really proved themselves. Family members for both Logan and Maggie were present in the audience.

At this time the City Clerk recited the Oath to Firefighters Swiney and Lambart.

The Council took a brief recess from 7:03 p.m. to 7:17 p.m.

**MINUTES:**

**CM-07-86-24:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Behrmann to approve the Special City Council meeting minutes of June 25, 2024.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CM-07-87-24:** Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Sharpe to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of June 25, 2024.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1.) Adopt-A-Road Program Resolution of Recognition for Niterra North America, Inc.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments at this time.

**CITY MANAGER REPORTS:**

- 1.) **Fire Monthly Report – May 2024**

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

2.) **Police Monthly Report – May 2024**

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

3.) **Water/Wastewater Month Report – May 2024**

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**CM-07-88-24:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
  - a.) Senior Citizen Commission – March 18, 2024
  - b.) Downtown Development Authority Minutes – May 28, 2024
- 2.) Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution Opting Out of the Cost-Sharing Model Under the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act (PA 152)

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** (None)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.) **Recommendation to Confirm the Mayor’s Appointments of Vanessa Willett to the Planning Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2025; J. Michael Dornan to the Planning Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2026; and Arvid Petersen to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a Term to Expire June 30, 2025**

**CM-07-89-24:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Smiley and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to confirm the Mayor’s Appointments of Vanessa Willett to the Planning Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2025; J. Michael Dornan to the Planning Commission with a Term to Expire June 30, 2026; and Arvid Petersen to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a Term to Expire June 30, 2025.

Ms. Willett of 1455 Cranberry Court explained that her background was in environmental construction and demolition services. She currently served on the DDA Board. She looked forward to being part of the Planning Commission and hoped she could offer support and guidance. She thanked Councilmember Gottschall for reaching out and speaking to her before the meeting.

Mr. Dornan of 2192 Hedigham Blvd. said he was passionate about fulfilling the goals of the City, Planning Commission and residents of Wixom. He had many years of municipal experience and thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity.

Mr. Petersen of 2855 W. Maple Road thanked the Mayor and Council for their consideration. He had served on the ZBA before and currently served on the

Construction Board of Appeals. He indicated that he'd owned his home in Wixom since 1973, and although he'd lived all over the world, he always came back to Wixom. He stated that he'd been a builder for 50 years and looked forward to being part of the ZBA.

Mayor Smiley thought it was a great testament to Wixom knowing that Mr. Petersen lived all over the world but always came back to Wixom.

Mayor Beagle thanked Ms. Willett, Mr. Dornan and Mr. Petersen for volunteering and believed they would be successful.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**2.) Recommendation to Enter into a Real Estate Listing Agreement with Savills Inc. of Birmingham, Michigan for the Renton Redevelopment Properties located at 117, 119, 121, 125 and 127 N. Wixom Road and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Agreement**

**CM-07-90-24:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Sharpe to approve the recommendation to enter into a Real Estate Listing Agreement with Savills Inc. of Birmingham, Michigan for the Renton Redevelopment Properties located at 117, 119, 121, 125 and 127 N. Wixom Road and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Agreement.

Mr. Benson indicated this agreement included all of the properties the City owned and considered the Renton properties. The addresses within the agreement included 119, 121, 131, 201, 221, 205 North Wixom along with 3343 and 3360 Renton. He realized the motion didn't include all the addresses that fell within the agreement.

He explained that administration opted to seek proposals from reputable commercial real estate brokers as opposed to going out for a standard Request for Proposals as they were much more concerned about the outcome instead of selling it to anybody for the right price. They received four proposals and believed Savills Inc. really understood what the City was trying to achieve. He stated the key perspective of this agreement was that it was only one year and they agreed to the 6% commission of the sales price or a minimum of \$60,000.

Dan Jacob of Savills Inc. said he'd been in the business for 32 years and developed over 20 million feet of property. He reached out to a few developers and learned this task would be difficult because construction costs and interest rates were high, but the rent in Wixom was low. Even though it would be a challenge, he believed they could execute the spirit of the City. He mentioned that they had a great team with all kinds of expertise including retail, and Savills was an international firm that could reach out all over the world.

Mayor Beagle suggested the motion be amended to include all of the property addresses that fell under the agreement.

**CM-07-91-24:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Sharpe to approve the recommendation to enter into a Real Estate Listing Agreement with Savills Inc. of Birmingham, Michigan for the Renton Redevelopment Properties located at 119, 121, 131, 201, 205 and 221 N. Wixom Road, along with 3343 and 3360 Renton and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Agreement.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik noticed Savills had a lot of experience in large urban settings with established downtowns. He questioned if Savills had any experience listing in smaller suburban towns like Wixom. Mr. Jacob said he worked in Shelby and Downtown Birmingham.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if this agreement included the parcel in front of the school. Mr. Benson said it did not.

Councilmember Gottschall said this was a step in the right direction, and indicated that Council was open to all sorts of proposals for this property as long as it was a good fit for the City.

Councilmember Sharpe asked if they imagined this project could be successful. Mr. Jacob said they wouldn't take on a project that made them look bad or didn't bring in any money. He believed that this project would require a lot of elbow grease but knowing the City was willing to work with the developers made it exciting.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

### **3.) Recommendation to Adopt New Logo and Branding Guidelines for the City of Wixom and Downtown Development Authority Dated July 9, 2024 and Direct City Administration to Begin Implementation**

**CM-07-92-24:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Sharpe and Smiley to adopt new logo and branding guidelines for the City of Wixom and Downtown Development Authority dated July 9, 2024 and direct City Administration to begin implementation.

Mr. Benson said this was only a recommendation to adopt a new logo and branding guideline as the signage component wasn't complete yet. After the meeting on May 28, 2024 where the logo and branding guidelines were presented, he wanted to express that these logos included color variations. It was sufficed to say that having flexibility and creativity to use the logo was important. If Council were to approve, they could start the implementation right away.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thanked Assistant City Manager Benson and the steering committee for their time and effort on this as he knew it was a thankless job.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox questioned the consistency if you used too many color variations. Mr. Benson said when it came to signage they would have specific context and color variation. For example, the park signs may include a green "x" within the word Wixom whereas the downtown signs wouldn't.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked where the variations of color would be used outside of the signs. Mr. Benson said the majority of the documents would include the red and blue "x" within the word Wixom. He indicated that the design guidelines would assist them in creating business cards, banners, letterhead, etc.

Councilmember Smiley stated the guide made it pretty clear what designs could go where. He asked where they might see the new logo be implemented first. Mr. Benson said they had a full implementation plan as to what they could accomplish in a month, six months, a year, etc. He presumed they'd start with social media and the website.

Councilmember Sharpe knew implementing this would cost some money but he didn't want the City to stop with the easy stuff. They had to make sure the logo was implemented on signage even though it would be expensive they must remain consistent throughout the entire City.

Councilmember Gottschall did not care for the red and blue within the "x" of Wixom and thought a solid color "x" would be more appealing. He didn't think this logo warranted spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, therefore he did not support this.

Councilmember Behrmann really liked the implementation plan and spreading the new logo throughout the City. He recognized that signage in Wixom was a big concern as what they currently had lacked consistency, and some signs were very old. He understood the cost for signs would be substantial but was okay with that as long as they remained consistent. He appreciated all the hard work that everyone did to get to this point.

Mayor Beagle appreciated the work from the Assistant City Manager and steering committee put into this. He agreed with the dais in that they needed new and consistent signs within the City.

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

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**4.) Recommendation to Authorize the City Manager, as Recommended by the Wage and Salary Committee, to Implement Wage and Benefit Adjustments for Non-Union Employees, Including the City Manager and City Clerk, and Adopt a Revised Salary Grade Structure for Non-Union Employees for Fiscal Year 2024/2025, Effective July 1, 2024**

**CM-07-93-24:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to authorize the City Manager, as recommended by the Wage and Salary Committee, to implement wage and benefit adjustments for non-union employees, including the City Manager and City Clerk, and adopt a

Revised Salary Grade Structure for non-union Employees for Fiscal Year 2024/2025, effective July 1, 2024.

Mayor Beagle explained that the Wage and Salary Committee met and it was their recommendation to mirror what was given to the Collective Bargaining Units to the non-union employees.

Councilmember Sharpe thanked the Wage and Salary Committee for providing good data and transparency.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**5.) Recommendation to Set the Revenue Collection and Processing for the City-Owned Electric Vehicle Charging Stations to \$1.00 Per Hour and \$0.43 Per kWh to Remain Consistent with Other Public Charging Stations in the Area**

**CM-07-94-24:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Gottschall and Smiley to set the revenue collection and processing for the City-Owned Electric Vehicle Charging Stations to \$1.00 Per Hour and \$0.43 Per kWh to remain consistent with other public charging stations in the area.

Mr. Sikma explained that Blink was the company that managed the vehicle charging stations for the City. Blink recommended the City change the rate from \$1.00 per hour to \$0.43 per kWh.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought that rate was fair. He noticed that one of the charging stations off Wainstock wasn't functional at times. When situations arise like that who should they be contacting. Mr. Sikma said the customer may reach out to Blink or let the DPW know and they would contact Blink on the customers' behalf.

Councilmember Sharpe realized that many charging stations were experiencing vandalism. He asked if the City experienced any vandalism. Mr. Sikma said they had not.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Rachel Merchant of 1755 Charms Road said she's lived in her residence for ten years and had always been concerned with the speed limit off Charms Road. She believed that 9 out of 10 cars went 40 mph and not the posted speed limit of 30 mph. Most recently her dog was killed by a gravel semi-truck on Charms Road. She understood that it was her fault that her dog got out; however, she believed that the semi-truck did not need to be on Charms Road. She's talked to her neighbors and many of them feel the same way. She spoke to the police about this topic and even offered her driveway for police to radar traffic. She mentioned that police cars patrol by driving up and down but that only stopped the cars in front of them from speeding. She would like to see something change. She said that she would

continue coming to meetings until something changed, and she would take videos as proof. She said that Charms Road had a sign that indicated local deliveries only so she questioned why all these semi-trucks were allowed on the road. Her goal was to enforce local delivery trucks only and make the semi-trucks use the dirt portion of the Charms Road, and have police radar Charms like they radar Potter.

Mayor Beagle thanked her for her comments. He indicated the Police Department tried to patrol all the east and west roads in Wixom because they were mostly 30mph. He stated they would be stepping up and doing a better job.

#### **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Benson congratulated Deputy Clerk Halley Hilton as she recently completed her third year of Clerks Institute through the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) and met the criteria to attain her Level One Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk (MiPMC) certification.

Mr. Benson said that Priority Waste started service in Wixom. Mr. Sikma added that they've had a few complaints but for the most part it's been a pretty seamless transition from GFL to Priority Waste.

Mr. Benson mentioned that the Household Hazardous Waste Event was this weekend at the Wixom DPW.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Councilmember Gottschall** congratulated the two newest full-time firefighters and was happy they promoted from within. He spoke to some of the firefighters and learned how happy they were to have a larger staff to ease some of the burden they've had on their shoulders. He congratulated Deputy Clerk Hilton and thanked Ms. Willett, Mr. Dornan and Mr. Petersen for volunteering on Planning Commission and ZBA. He thought their appointment would be a nice addition to these boards because they had extensive backgrounds and experience. He recalled in the past they've received traffic updates from the Police Department and wondered if they could start getting those again.

**Councilmember Behrmann** echoed the congratulatory comments for the newest firefighters. He thanked Ms. Willett, Mr. Dornan and Mr. Petersen for volunteering. He said that the gravel trucks on Maple Road had been excessive recently and Maple Road was marked for local deliveries only. He wondered if the police were to pull over every semi-truck driving on these roads, they'd get the hint and eventually stop. While he was happy to see one gravel hauler get pulled over recently, he had seen 12 since. His was concerned that the semi-trucks would ruin the new roadways that they've spent so much money to fix.

**Councilmember Sharpe** congratulated Firefighters Swiney and Lambart. He thanked Ms. Merchant for speaking to the Council as it reminds them it's about the residents and businesses in Wixom. He echoed the comments from Councilmembers Gottschall and Behrmann. He thanked Niterra North America, Inc. for being part of the City's Adopt-A-Road Program. He mentioned that Niterra made NGK sparkplugs and were home based in Wixom. He thanked Ms. Willett, Mr. Dornan and Mr. Petersen for being on the boards and/or commissions. He thanked

the Parks and Recreation Department, Police Department and Fire Department for a successful Lite the Night event. He thought the firework show was good and everything was well managed.

**Councilmember Smiley** echoed the dais. He appreciated Councilmember Sharpe returned early from his vacation to attend the meeting tonight.

**Councilmember Gronlund-Fox** thanked Ms. Willett, Mr. Petersen and Mr. Dornan for their commitment. She congratulated Halley Hilton on her certification and welcomed the two newest firefighters. She inquired if there had been any interested in the Code Enforcement Officer position. Mr. Benson said they had a few applicants but noted that applications were due later this month. He would like to see them hire somebody in August.

**Deputy Mayor Rzeznik** echoed everybody’s congratulations. He welcomed Mr. Dornan, Mr. Petersen and Ms. Willett. He’d noticed a lot of trucks on Charms that shouldn’t be there and they were going above the speed limit. He would like to see the Traffic Control Officer in operation again and suggested they place digital speed limit signs on Charms.

**Mayor Beagle** congratulated the two newest firefighters and welcomed them to the Wixom family. He gave kudos to Chief Geistler for the things he’d done to improve the Fire Department. He thanked Mr. Petersen, Mr. Dornan and Ms. Willett for volunteering. He stated that the City of Wixom could only be as good as the people that contributed so he really appreciated these experienced folks for getting involved. He congratulated Halley Hilton on her certification. He looked forward to getting the Traffic Control Officer position filled again and thanked Chief Langmeyer for all his hard work and commitment to the Police Department.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Crystal Opalko  
City Clerk

APPROVED: July 23, 2024
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