

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL (ZOOM) MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021**

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

(All were present remotely in Wixom, Oakland County, Michigan.)

AGENDA CHANGES: (None)

MINUTES:

CM-03-30-21: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Sharpe to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of March 9, 2021.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox,
Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley**
(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE: (None)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

The City was utilizing the video and audio of Zoom. Once connected to the meeting, members of the public wishing to participate in the virtual public comment must alert us that they wish to speak by pressing *9 on their telephone keypad. Pressing *9 will activate the “raise hand” feature signaling to us that you wish to comment. Participants will be called one at a time, as would happen during an in-person meeting. When you are unmuted, please introduce yourself by stating your name and address for the record. You will then have (5) minutes to share your comments with the City Council. At the conclusion of your comments or your (5) minutes, you will be muted and removed from the public comment queue.

Jodi Gallo, Representative from the Lakes Area Youth Assistance (LAYA), explained that she had served as the City of Wixom’s LAYA representative for the last 20 years in various positions and was currently the chairperson. According to the LAYA Bylaws, they were required to present the current board member list for the Council’s approval. She expressed her appreciation for their continued support of the program. She indicated that LAYA helped strengthen the relationship between the youth and their families, reduce child abuse and neglect. Mayor Beagle thanked Ms. Gallo for her 20 years of dedication to LAYA.

Jeff Brough, Lakes Area Youth Assistance Case Worker, indicated that he had worked full time with LAYA since October 2019. He mentioned that over this past year, the LAYA program served 78 kids in various ways. During the pandemic, they worked with children virtually and continued to provide programming. He said some of the programs they offered included yoga and art therapy for elementary aged children, *Shop with a Hero* during the holiday season, drug education and prevention, skill building and camp building scholarship assistance. He appreciated the City's support.

Councilmember Smiley thanked all the Lakes Area Youth Assistance board members, including Wixom's own Jodi and Darlene. He believed this organization performed wonderful work as they helped families within our community.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thanked those individuals involved with this program. She was aware the case workers were working virtually but wondered when they would be back to working with the youth in-person. Mr. Brough was not sure but hoped it was soon. He said they receive their direction from the Oakland County administration, so they would go back to in-person when they decided it was safe.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

1.) Departmental Reports – February 2021

Councilmember Sharpe noticed five Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests last month within the Construction and Development Services report. He wondered what was the nature of those requests. Mr. Brown said they receive various FOIA requests within that Department as people often request information regarding property within the City. He knew some requestors asked about current projects or developments fishing for business opportunities. Councilmember Sharpe said that he would like to see these FOIA requests because if an individual had to go to that extent to obtain information, he wanted to know what they were asking for. He hoped the future reports would indicate what the FOIA's were regarding. He would not mind if they sent the information directly to him and refrained from including it within their report, but he desired to know if the City was under attack by someone. Ms. Buck indicated that anybody could obtain information from the City including what the FOIA requests were about. She said that she could provide that information to the Council if they desire. Councilmember Sharpe said he was unaware the City received these requests until he read this report. He figured if the topic was important enough to be included within their monthly report, he would like them to produce more detail. Mr. Brown noted that the only reason it was part of their report was to make Council aware of the volume of that activity. He said they would go back the last three months and generate a report with the nature of those requests, but noted that most requests were pretty mundane and routine. Councilmember Sharpe looked forward to viewing that report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-03-31-21: 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.) Downtown Development Authority Minutes of January 28, 2021
- 2) Recommendation to Authorize a Resolution to Approve the Lakes Area Youth Assistance Board Membership

Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox, Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Approve a Transfer of Ownership and Location of a Michigan Liquor Control Commission Class C Resort Liquor License, an SDM Off-Premise Retail License, a Sunday AM Sales Permit and a Sunday PM Sales Permit from Off the Map Hospitality, LLC of Traverse City, Michigan to Rare Hospitality International, Inc. of Orlando, Florida**

CM-03-32-21: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Sharpe to approve a transfer of ownership and location of a Michigan Liquor Control Commission Class C resort liquor license, an SDM off-premise retail license, a Sunday AM sales permit and a Sunday PM sales permit from Off the Map Hospitality, LLC of Traverse City, Michigan to Rare Hospitality International, Inc. of Orlando, Florida.

Patrick Howe, Michigan Attorney for Rare Hospitality, said his client owned many restaurants throughout the nation and the world. He knew this development was of new ground within Wixom as they would serve lunch and dinner. He stated that his client had a great track record with the State and throughout the United States. He presumed it would be a nice addition to the City.

Mayor Beagle noted the report reflected no reason for this license to be denied.

Councilmember Sharpe questioned if Longhorn Steakhouse was really interested because last time they closed down shop within one week of building. He said this project would have been completed had they not done that. Mr. Howe stated they closed the file and reopened it and they planned on pushing forward with the project.

Mayor Beagle felt excited and welcomed Longhorn Steakhouse to the City of Wixom.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox,
Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley**

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

2.) Recommendation to Waive the Bid Process and Authorize the Purchase of Kofax Scanning Software for the Finance Department from ImageSoft of Southfield, Michigan, a Sole Source Provider, at a Price of \$5,016.00 with Funding from Document Imaging Maintenance and Support Account #101-283-959.320

CM-03-33-21: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Smiley to waive the bid process and authorize the purchase of Kofax scanning software for the Finance Department from ImageSoft of Southfield, Michigan, a sole source provider, at a price of \$5,016.00 with funding from Document Imaging Maintenance & Support Account #101-283-959.320.

Mr. Blackburn explained that the Kofax Software was used to scan paper documents into the document management system. He said the current computer that housed the software was at the end of its life. Additionally, the version of the Kofax software used was no longer supported. He believed they received a long life from this software and hardware. He stated that it was time to upgrade and install the software on a new computer within the Finance Department.

Councilmember Gottschall noticed that part of the report referenced waiving the bid process but in the actual recommendation itself it did not have that language. He asked what it should be. Mr. Blackburn said it was logical to purchase the upgrade from the company that supported the document management system. Mr. Brown said he and Ms. Stamper went back and forth if this was waiving the bid or a sole source provider situation. Unfortunately, that back and forth was indicated within the inconsistency of the report. Mr. Brown thought it was safe to say the bid process was being waived. He said they should add "waive the bid process" and "sole source provider" to the recommendation.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if the maintenance portion included upgrades. Mr. Blackburn said it only covered incremental service upgrades such as bug fixes. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if he had an idea on the life span of this software. Mr. Blackburn said the software would last as long as the computer; when it was time to replace the computer, it was time to replace the software.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox,
Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley**

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

3.) Recommendation to Authorize Participation in the Michigan Inter-governmental Trade Network (MITN) to Sell Surplus City Vehicles, Equipment and Miscellaneous Tools and Designate Tim Sikma as Authorized Agent for the Sale of this Property

CM-03-34-21: Moved and seconded by Councilmember Behrmann and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to authorize participation in the Michigan Inter-governmental Trade Network (MITN) to sell surplus City vehicles, equipment and miscellaneous tools and designate Tim Sikma as Authorized Agent for the sale of this property.

Mayor Beagle questioned if the City would benefit more if we added spare parts to the vehicle purchase as opposed to selling them separate. Mr. Sikma believed they would earn more if they sold those parts individually. In the past they had done well by selling the Crown Victoria on its own.

Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox, Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

4.) Recommendation to Approve the Purchase of Roadway Deicing Salt from Detroit Salt of Detroit, Michigan through the Michigan Inter-governmental Trade Network (MITN) for the 2021-2022 Winter Season for \$58.88 Per Ton and an Estimated Total Cost of \$70,656 Split Equally between Local Roads Account #203-441-963.090 and Major Roads Account #202-441-963.090

CM-03-35-21: Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to approve the purchase of roadway deicing salt from Detroit Salt of Detroit, Michigan through the Michigan Inter-governmental Trade Network (MITN) for the 2021-2022 Winter Season for \$58.88 per ton and an estimated total cost of \$70,656.00 split equally between Local Roads Account #203-441-963.090 and Major Roads Account #202-441-963.090.

Mr. Sikma stated that this was the third year of the contract that we worked out with a number of other communities in the area. They had an escalator of 3% each year and we were able to estimate how many tons we will be utilizing. If needed, we can purchase 30% more salt if it is a bad winter next year. If it is a mild winter, we can purchase 30% less and not be penalized. He felt this was one of the better contracts that we have found and they want to continue it for one more year.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik wondered about the utilization this year compared to the prior year. Mr. Sikma replied that last year we purchased 1,000 tons and it worked out well. We were able to utilize some storage from the previous year and we just bought 300 tons in the middle of January. We currently have approximately 900 to 1,100 tons in storage. This winter we didn't use much salt. He explained that we go through a lot of salt with the rainy, icy conditions, more so than the snow that we got this year. We were able to plow and salt just once.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked the cost difference between the brine and the salt. Mr. Sikma explained that we usually have about 10,000 gallons of brine on site at any time and we utilize the salt for making that brine. We add a starch derivative which is usually corn-based. We purchase that separately. It is actually cheaper to run straight brine if we can.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox,
Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley**

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

**5.) Recommendation to Adopt a New Resolution Declaring a Local State of
Emergency in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and an Associated
Addendum to the Council Rules of Procedure**

CM-03-36-21: Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Council-member Gronlund-Fox to adopt a new Resolution declaring a Local State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and an associated Addendum to the Council Rules of Procedure.

Mr. Brown said the purpose of this was to allow us the flexibility to continue to meet electronically if needed until an end point in time which was reflected in the Declaration of Emergency (currently August 31, 2021). The Addendum to the Council Rules of Procedure was necessary to reflect that same flexibility.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox,
Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley**

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

**6.) Recommendation to Approve the Resolution Expressing Support for
Funding Applications for Partial Funding of the Multi-Jurisdictional
Beck Road Business Corridor Improvement Project**

CM-03-37-21: Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Council-member Smiley to approve the resolution expressing support for funding applications for partial funding of the multi-jurisdictional Beck Road Business Corridor Improvement Project.

Mr. Brown said this was originally drafted for a specific funding source, the BUILD Grant application that we looked into submitting. There will be a notice of funding availability that should drop in April and it will be due in July. He stated that he changed the wording of the resolution to make it less specific to the BUILD Grant and to just express support of Council for various funding sources that we expect to be available. There are a lot of exciting developments that are happening that could positively impact our ability to get this Beck Road Widening Project accomplished. We consider this to be critical for Wixom, Novi and the surrounding region. There are a lot of reasons to speak to the need to widen Beck Road from two or three lanes to up to five lanes, like the excessive amount of traffic, issues with people leaving buildings at rush hour, and many accidents on that roadway. This resolution also speaks to the Council's commitment of making a local match available in support of those various funding applications.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox supported this completely and was excited about this project. She asked if Mr. Brown had an idea of what Wixom's local match might be. He replied that there was a total mix of local match between the City of Novi and

the City of Wixom when we were applying for the last BUILD Grant in 2020 that equated to 54% of the cost of the project. The BUILD Grant application was for \$25 million and our match was corresponding larger than that. Other funding sources at the federal level, like INFRA that was involved for the rail overpass, was a 40% and up match. We will have to see the ultimate decision as more information comes out on these various funding sources. One of the things that we did with the BUILD Grant application in the past was to have an expression from the City that we would be willing to seek authorization of a bonding process that would make up that local match if necessary. That will depend on our success in terms of how much funding we obtain and how much local match will be required. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox wished him luck. She knew those grants were a lot of work.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik added, with this being a multi-jurisdictional project, we will be getting resolutions from the surrounding communities (Novi, Northville, Northville Township and possibly even the County). This is very exciting because we have a lot of support and a very active Committee with members from those other communities. He said he was very much in support of this.

Mr. Brown said that we are getting an outstanding level of federal support. Our U.S. Representative, Haley Stevens, has been very active at the meetings and is very supportive. She has been a real asset to us. Also, Mr. Brown was contacted by State Representative Jim Runestad and he is very supportive of this project as well. He thought we might be able to take advantage of another funding source like that. A lot of things are lining up to make this project a reality.

Mayor Beagle thought this was an exciting project. We have proven how serious we are with the number of easements that we have purchased on Beck Road. It will be easier for us to get this project started once we get approved for the money.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox,
Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley**

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Evelyn Moses, 3324 Bennington, wanted to support Spurt. She knew Spurt got a lot of complaints because people feel it has a strong odor. She wanted the Council to know that Spurt was something she thought the residents should be excited about because not every community gets the chance to turn their yard waste into something free for the residents. She recently found out that Spurt takes food waste and that made her excited. Her children are excited about the environment and composting. It is such a great learning opportunity for them to see that food doesn't have to go to a landfill. It turns into a wonderful compost that we can put back into our garden. She knew people didn't often say how much they appreciated things; they mostly tell the Council how much they don't like them. She greatly appreciated the opportunity to have Spurt in our City providing the free mulch and composting.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown stated that there were seven employees celebrating their work

anniversaries during the month of April. They range from four years to 28 years of service with the City. He was celebrating his fourth year and he commented that it has been a pleasure to work with the Council. The opportunity to serve Wixom is something that he continues to enjoy a great deal. Deanna Magee was celebrating 23 years of service. He indicated that Ms. Magee reached out to Scott Akins of Discraft, Inc. regarding designing a course at a park and the cost to do so. This will be discussed in further detail during the budget work sessions. The Fire Department will host a promotion celebration for John Paronish at the first opportunity to do so. Staff has contacted the Oakland County Health and Human Services Department requesting that they host a vaccination clinic here in Wixom and we will continue to follow up on this request. Lastly, we are preparing now for the Summer Concert series. We are ordering the banners and look forward to providing those kinds of opportunities for people to get out and have fun.

Councilmember Sharpe asked how we would characterize the discussion with Scott Akins. Ms. Magee said he was very enthusiastic. Councilmember Sharpe thought he would be excited. He also asked about the date of the Block Party. Mayor Beagle confirmed that this event would be held on September 18th.

With the adoption of the resolution and the temporary Open Meeting Act (OMA) rules in place until the end of August now, Deputy Mayor Rzeznik knew the temporary OMA procedures allow for a hybrid. If we do come back in-person for meetings, there was still an allowance for a Councilmember(s) to attend electronically. In terms of prepping the Council Chambers for that eventuality, we should look into that. Mr. Brown said that was something we have talked about. He said he would revisit that subject and report back hopefully at the next meeting. He will work with Ken Milburn and our IT provider to see what we can do to make that a reality. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik knew that the American Rescue Plan Act provided monies for municipalities. He wondered if there were any restrictions on how those monies could be spent and when they might be funded. He hoped for an update at the next meeting. Mr. Brown said that we are still pursuing clarity on that. When he knows something more definitive, he will provide an update to Council.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Gottschall thanked the City Manager for checking with Oakland County regarding hosting a vaccination clinic in the City. He shared his thoughts and condolences with the family, friends and coworkers on the recent passing of Heather Sherwood. He hoped we could provide services or time-off for anyone who was impacted by that.

Councilmember Smiley offered his condolences to the family and friends of Heather Sherwood from F&V, adding it was very sad. He said he was amazed at the many years we see listed in the work anniversaries and he thanked those employees. It was a sure sign of spring when the yard waste pickup resumes (April 7th) and the Household Hazardous Waste Days resumes (April 10th). He wished everyone a Happy Passover and Happy Easter holiday.

Mayor Beagle noted that during the last Hazardous Waste Day, the traffic on Charms Road was pretty crazy. He suggested sending something to the

Homeowners' Associations of Hidden Creek and Wexford Mews to let them know what was going on. Police support might help as well to keep the traffic moving.

Councilmember Behrmann passed on his condolences to the family of Heather Sherwood. He felt she was way too young. His thoughts and prayers were with her, her family, friends and coworkers. He said he saw that our Fire Department had a busy week with Menards and a house fire. Good job to them for extinguishing both fires quickly. It was nice to know we have a Fire Department that is responsive to those issues. Lastly, the entrance to the gas station by Culvers is supposed to be an entrance only and everyone uses it to turn left into there. When he came home the other day, there were two cars blocking traffic trying to turn left across the median while the entire left turn lane was blocked with cars trying to turn into Menards. He felt we needed to work with the property owner to make sure they increase the signage that that is an entrance only. Anyone going to the Culvers, the gas station or the car wash should use Alpha Drive to exit. He wondered if the Police could do some enforcement there to try to stop these people who are going to be causing accidents especially with the new development at the former Ford property.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox expressed her sincere condolences to the family of Heather Sherwood. She congratulated and thanked all of the Wixom employees on their anniversaries of four years to 28 years.

Councilmember Sharpe offered his condolences to the immediate family, the F&V family and the City family of Heather Sherwood. He indicated that there have been some comments made from his neighbors regarding the water meters and Heather's name came up every time as being someone they had spoken to at the Water Department, a positive interaction. He thought Heather was a real bright face at the City, a real customer-centric, professional person and she will be missed by all of us. It is a sad occasion. The next item he wanted to discuss was in regard to Spurt. Ms. Moses spoke earlier regarding her support of Spurt and he said he supports Spurt as well. It is one of the hidden jewels of the City, if you don't mind a little odor now and again. He said he took a couple of barrels of yard waste there today and dumped them out, adding you want to go when it is dry. He asked Mr. Brown for a little help on what to tell people when they say the smell keeps blowing over to their yard and they are tired of it. It is suggested on social media that people call EGLE to complain about the odor. He asked what the City was doing with the operators of Spurt. Mr. Brown said we will follow up on that again. He and Mr. Sikma have spoken about that several times over the last few days and we will see what can be done to try to prevent that from becoming as much of an issue as people are experiencing. He knew that Spurt had been trying to time things just right regarding the weather. They are now operating compost material on site to decompose and they have new material coming in. He indicated that they will continue to interact with them and he hoped to have an update at the April 13th meeting.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik offered his condolences to the family of Heather Sherwood. He thanked the LAYA volunteers and he thanked them for attending this meeting. He had a chance to drive by the columbarium yesterday. He was one of the pre-sale takers. He recommended that we put this on the Friday Blast now that there was something to see. He also recommended that it go front and center on

the website. He thought it looked very nice. Warm weather is upon us so motorists, bikers and pedestrians have increased so watch out for them. Take it easy and stay safe.

Mayor Beagle shared his condolences with the family and friends of Heather Sherwood on her passing. It was very sad news. He thanked all the volunteers of LAYA and said that he appreciated all that they do for our City. He congratulated everybody from 28 years to City Manager Brown's four years of service with the City. Like he says all of the time, we have the best staff around and he will argue that. The number of years these employees have shows how devoted they are and how much they are appreciated around here.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 4-13-2021
