

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022**

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:

Mr. Brown indicated that New Business #2 had been revised.

MINUTES:

CM-01-01-22: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Sharpe and Gronlund-Fox to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of December 14, 2021.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE: (None)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

1.) Fire Monthly Report – December 2021

Councilmember Gottschall inquired about the status of firefighter recruitment. Chief Roberts said they received an application today and the applicant was being processed. Councilmember Gottschall recalled hearing about financial assistance for local governments that suffered from EMS staffing shortages. He asked if they noticed any staffing shortages with the third-party EMS provider they utilized. Chief Roberts said the last report he read indicated the State of Michigan had a shortage of approximately a thousand EMT/Paramedics. He knew that Huron Valley Ambulance experienced a staffing reduction and in some instances their response time was the result. Councilmember Gottschall asked if they could foresee a situation where Wixom would need to increase EMS transports and apply for grant funding. Chief Roberts thought it was a possibility. He explained that local governments had been offered \$100,000 from the CARES Act funding for recruitment, retention and advanced training of its membership. He stated that City Administration had this on their radar and were looking at possibilities.

Councilmember Behrmann questioned if the two transports indicated on the December Monthly report were results of Huron Valley Ambulance not being able to transport. Chief Roberts said there are times when Wixom Fire transported non-life-

threatening patients in order to keep the Advanced Life Support (ALS) units available.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if it was their intent to use the CARES Act funding for recruitment. Chief Roberts wasn't sure as he wasn't familiar with all the guidelines and requirements. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox knew the deadline for submittal was fast approaching, and hoped the City would take advantage of the funding.

2.) Police Monthly Report – December 2021

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-01-02-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Gottschall and Sharpe to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
 - a.) Planning Commission Minutes – November 22, 2021
 - b.) Planning Commission Minutes – December 6, 2021

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

1.) Appointment of the Deputy Mayor in Accordance with the Wixom City Charter, Chapter 4, Section 4.7

CM-01-03-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to appoint a Deputy Mayor in Accordance with the Wixom City Charter, Chapter 4, Section 4.7.

Vote:

Motion Carried

Mayor Beagle asked for Council's support in the appointment of Tom Rzeznik as Deputy Mayor. He said Councilmember Rzeznik was the previous Deputy Mayor and did a great job. Additionally, he believed his appointment would benefit the dais as Councilmember Rzeznik was a senior member of Council.

CM-01-04-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Behrmann to appoint Tom Rzeznik as Deputy Mayor to City Council in Accordance with the Wixom City Charter, Chapter 4, Section 4.7.

Vote:

Motion Carried

- 2.) **Recommendation to Confirm the Mayor’s Reappointments of Julie Andrews to the Board of Review with a Term to Expire December 31, 2024 and Michael Dornan to the Tax Abatement Review Board with a Term to Expire December 31, 2024, and the Appointments of Mark Garmo and Kaitie Guzowski to the Downtown Development Authority with Terms to Expire June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 Respectively**

CM-01-05-22: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to reappoint Julie Andrews to the Board of Review with a term to expire December 31, 2024 and Michael Dornan to the Tax Abatement Review Board with a term to expire December 31, 2024, and the appointments of Mark Garmo and Kaitie Guzowski to the Downtown Development Authority with terms to expire June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 respectively.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik knew of one vacancy within the DDA Board. He asked if there was a recent resignation. Mayor Beagle said some members were considering stepping down and believed appointing Ms. Guzowski tonight was ideal. The Bylaws allowed up to thirteen appointees.

Ms. Guzowski was in the audience. Ms. Guzowski explained that she and her husband have been Wixom residents since 2015. She’s helped out with Parks and Recreation events and most recently the DDA Board. She was grateful for the opportunity and looked forward to helping the City.

Vote:

Motion Carried

- 3.) **Wage and Salary Committee Recommendation to Increase the City Manager’s Annual Salary to \$120,000 Immediately, and Increase the City Clerk’s Annual Salary to \$81,000 Retroactive to July 1, 2021**

CM-01-06-22: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Smiley to increase the City Manager’s annual salary to \$120,000 immediately, and increase the City Clerk’s annual salary to \$81,000 retroactive to July 1, 2021.

Mayor Beagle said the Wage and Salary Committee met on December 7, 2021 to discuss the salary of the City Clerk and City Manager. The committee studied their job performance and employee reviews. It was determined they should increase their salaries to be in-line with the employees that hold their positions in the surrounding communities.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown said Crystal Opalko recently attended the Master Municipal Clerk Academy in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. He thanked her for improving her qualifications and certifications. He offered his encouragement as she continued her dedication in achieving her Master Municipal Clerk designation.

Mr. Brown said they hoped to meet either February 8th or 22nd for a Goal Study Session. A template for goals and objectives would be emailed to them. He asked they submit their goals no later than January 25, 2022.

Mayor Beagle asked Council to look at their schedule so they can determine some available dates for the Budget Study Sessions.

Mr. Benson said that 11/11 Burger & Fries made plans to occupy the former 7/11 space. Also, they had conversations with Workhorse Group Inc., an electric car manufacturer, about bringing a tech center to Wixom. He added that they recently issued building permits to YUKEN America, Inc. for a space they're occupying on Alpha Drive.

Mr. Brown mentioned the electric car business would likely see a lot of growth in the future. The City started to build a segment in that regard with companies like XLFleet and Workhorse Group, Inc. He hoped they could continue to build on that momentum and become a key component in the automotive industry.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Behrmann hoped everyone had a good holiday and New Year. He thanked the DPW for maintaining safe streets during this time of year. He noted the barricade by the railroad tracks at Maple Road was hit and needed to be fixed. He looked forward to the rest of 2022 meetings being this quick.

Councilmember Gottschall thanked the volunteers that serve on the City's Boards and Commissions for their time and effort. He felt it was nice to have people take an interest in the City. He also thanked Ms. Opalko for continuing to be a great asset as Deputy Clerk to Wixom and its residents by continuing her education.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox had no comments.

Councilmember Sharpe congratulated Mark Garmo and Kaitie Guzowski on their appointment to the DDA. On behalf of City Council, he thanked Ms. Guzowski for being in the audience and appreciated her volunteering. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and a great 2022.

Councilmember Smiley thanked all the appointees on tonight's agenda. He thought it was nice to see new faces on the City's Boards and Commissions. He congratulated Tom Rzeznik on his reappointment as Deputy Mayor.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thanked Council for their support and confidence in his appointment as Deputy Mayor. He looked forward to serving the next few years in that compacity. He thanked all the volunteers and welcomed Ms. Guzowski. He noted there were still vacancies on Parks and Recreation and Senior Commission. If you have an interest, please apply as they would love to have you. He knew there had been concerns with Clerks over the last few years throughout the Country and State. He believed that Wixom could be proud of their City Clerk's Office for they've done a wonderful job. He was happy that Crystal was following Cathy's footsteps in

pursuing her Master Municipal Clerk certification. He was also thrilled to hear about the City's recent economic development.

Mayor Beagle welcomed the volunteers to the Wixom family. Without their help, the City and its events would not be the same. He thanked Crystal Opalko for continuing her education and commitment.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 1-25-2022
