

**CITY OF WIXOM  
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016**

Mayor Hinkley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Present:**

**Mayor:** K. Hinkley  
**Deputy Mayor:** R. Ziegler  
**Councilmembers:** P. Beagle  
K. Gottschall  
N. Kennedy  
T. Rzeknik  
R. Smiley

Mayor Hinkley explained that this Council meeting was being recorded by the students of Walled Lake Western. He informed the audience that if they had an issue with being recorded, they should know that the Call to the Public would not be recorded.

**CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** (None)

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1.) Public Hearing for Tremec Corporation**

Ms. Barker explained that this Public Hearing was being held for Tremec Corporation. They recently signed a lease for property located on Ryan Court. It was brought to her attention that this is roughly a \$54 million investment to the State of Michigan. As a partnership with the MEDC, it was typical procedure for a community to offer some type of tax incentive. Tremec Corporation earned the MEDC incentive because they planned on creating 133 jobs here. Individuals from Tremec were present.

Mayor Hinkley read the Rules for Speaking at a Public Hearing. He opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m. Since there were no comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:04 p.m.

**PRESENTATION:**

**1.) Coal-Tar-Based Sealcoat Presentation by Rebecca Esselman of the Huron River Watershed Council**

Rebecca Esselman, from the Huron River Watershed Council (HRWC), explained that the HRWC represented governments throughout the Watershed including Wixom. She noted that the Coal-Tar pavement sealers have known impacts on aquatic organisms and human health. She explained that materials were delivered to the Council prior to the meeting that went into more detail but noted that essentially this was one type of product that was low traffic asphalt services. It was not roadways, but driveways and parking lots. Coal-Tar Pitch is the base of this product. It has high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and many are toxic and have known carcinogens. The product is applied in the area and everywhere

east of the Rocky Mountains. The recommendations are to reapply every two to three years because the sealcoat weathers entering the environment through a series of pathways, soil, waterways, detention ponds and storm water systems. There has been evidence of causing death in fish and aquatic insects and increased cancer rates in humans. HRWC is advocating banning the use of these products. This was a feasible option because sealcoating could still be done and at a reasonable cost. She hoped Wixom would take action. Ideally an ordinance could be adopted that would prohibit the use of this product within Wixom. There were six communities in the Watershed that had taken this action already. There were several States that had several bans. The Watershed Council could work with the City to draft the language for an ordinance. She hoped Wixom would do some outreach to their residents on how they could maintain their pavement. She also indicated that there was a House Bill that was introduced at the State level. Wixom could let their Representative know they supported a statewide ban on these products.

Councilmember Rzeznik noted that he found it interesting in researching this that Coal-Tar Pitch remained an ingredient in several creams approved by the FDA for skin disorders. He wondered why that was. Ms. Esselman explained that it was a far less concentration of the Coal-Tar Pitch. Councilmember Rzeznik asked if the big box stores offered the product. Ms. Esselman said that most big box hardware stores removed the Coal-Tar products from their shelves.

Councilmember Gottschall asked what other communities banned the Coal-Tar Pitch. Ms. Esselman replied that those communities were Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Van Buren Township, Dexter and Hamburg.

Councilmember Kennedy asked what the House Bill number was and where it stood. Ms. Esselman noted that it was HB 5174 and it was in the Natural Resource Committee now.

Mayor Hinkley asked how many applications have been applied for within five miles of Wixom. Ms. Esselman said she did not have those numbers. She explained there were three major suppliers – Gem Seal, Seal Master and B & E. Mayor Hinkley wondered if a permit needed to be pulled if a commercial business wanted to sealcoat their parking lot. Mr. Smith said that they would. Mayor Hinkley wondered why most of the cities that banned this were in Washtenaw County. Ms. Esselman explained that it was a matter of geography as the HRWC was located in Ann Arbor and they approached those communities first. She added that she presented in Milford last summer and they mailed a brochure to every resident with their summer tax bills.

Deputy Mayor Ziegler wondered if there were any known lawsuits that were filed against the communities that passed ordinances banning the use of this Coal-Tar Patch. Ms. Esselman answered no.

### **MINUTES:**

**CM-10-179-16:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Beagle and Kennedy to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of September 27, 2016.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**1.) Jon Gray's Letter of Resignation from the Downtown Development Authority**

Mayor Hinkley thanked Mr. Gray for volunteering his time to the City's Downtown Development Authority.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments from the public.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

**1.) Fire Monthly Report – August 2016**

Councilmember Rzeznik said that he ran into residents of the City for twenty years or more who had never been to the Fire Station. The residents all mentioned the City had nice equipment that was well-maintained. He thought the Fire Open House was a great opportunity for residents to see how their tax dollars were spent on some great equipment.

**2.) Police Monthly Report – August 2016**

Councilmember Gottschall said he noticed that in the Year-to-Date column for August the Part C crimes decreased and the arrests increased. He wondered what kind of Part C crimes contributed to the overall category going down other than arrests. Chief Yon replied traffic related offenses.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**CM-10-180-16:** Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Ziegler and Councilmember Beagle to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
  - a. Planning Commission Minutes of June 27, 2016
  - b. Planning Commission Minutes of July 6, 2016
  - c. Senior Citizen Commission Minutes of July 12, 2016
  - d. Wixom Library Board Minutes of August 22, 2016
  - e. Planning Commission Minutes of September 7, 2016
- 2.) Consideration of a Request to Set a Public Hearing for October 25, 2016 to Solicit Input Regarding the Utilization of 2017-2018 Community Development Block Grant Program Allocation in the amount of \$39,537

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** (None)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.) **Recommendation by the Tax Abatement Review Committee to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Seven (7) Year Industrial**

**Facilities Exemption Certificate for Real Property as Requested by OPS Solutions, LLC in Accordance with Public Act 198 of 1974, as Amended**

**CM-10-181-16:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Rzeznik and Beagle to adopt the following Resolution authorizing the issuance of an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to OPS Solutions, LLC for a build out at 48443 Alpha Drive, Wixom, Michigan for seven (7) years on real property, in accordance with Public Act 198 of 1974, as amended:

**RESOLUTION 2016-65 APPROVING  
INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE**

**WHEREAS,** the City Clerk has received an Application for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate from OPS Solutions, LLC dated July 7, 2016 (which application, for the purpose of Act No. 198, Public Acts of Michigan, 1974, as amended ("Act 198"), is deemed filed upon the establishment by the City Council of the District hereinafter defined, covering an existing Industrial Development District No. 2011-48 (the "District") within the City of Wixom; and

**WHEREAS,** the City has notified, in writing, the Assessor of the City of Wixom, as well as the legislative body of each taxing unit which levies ad valorem property taxes in the local government unit in which the proposed facility is to be located, i.e. the City of Wixom, and advised each of them that the said Application has been received; and

**WHEREAS,** the City Council has afforded OPS Solutions, LLC, the Assessor, and a representative of each of the affected taxing units an opportunity for a hearing on this Application and said hearing having, in fact, been conducted at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at the Wixom City Hall, 49045 Pontiac Trail, Wixom, Michigan; and

**WHEREAS,** the aggregate SEV of real property exempt from ad valorem taxes within the City of Wixom, after granting this certificate, will not exceed 5% of an amount equal to the sum of the SEV of the unit, plus the SEV of real property thus exempted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF WIXOM AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the City Council, on the basis of the information received from the applicant, OPS Solutions, LLC, finds and determines: (a) the granting of the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate, considered together with the aggregate amount of industrial facilities exemption certificates previously granted and currently in force, shall not have the effect of substantially impeding the operation of the City of Wixom or impairing the financial soundness of any taxing unit that levies an ad valorem property tax in the local government unit in which the facility is to be located; and (b) OPS Solutions, LLC has fully complied with the requirements of Section 9 and the other provisions of Act 198;
2. That the City Council hereby approves the Application for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate from OPS Solutions, LLC, covering new industrial facilities to be located within the District, for a period of seven (7) years for real property, effective as of December 31 following the date the Certificate is issued by the Michigan State Tax Commission, as the same may be supplemented by a new certificate issued in accordance with Section 16(a) of Act 198 and with the Letter of Agreement (hereinafter defined);
3. That in accordance with the requirements of Section 22 of Act 198, wherein a written agreement between OPS Solutions, LLC and the City is required in order to clarify the understanding and the commitment between OPS Solutions, LLC and the City as a condition of approval of an Industrial Facility Exemption Certificate, the Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the City Clerk to sign such Letter of Agreement as duly executed and delivered by OPS Solutions, LLC ("Letter of Agreement"), and such Letter of Agreement is hereby incorporated in this resolution in full by reference as part of the documentation required to complete the application for the Industrial Facility Exemption Certificate; and further that the City Clerk is authorized and directed to file a copy of the Letter of Agreement with the Michigan Department of Treasury in accordance with Public Act 198;

4. That the City Clerk shall forward a copy of the Application and this Resolution to the State Tax Commission for further consideration upon the payment by OPS Solutions, LLC, of the City's expenses incurred in connection with the consideration of OPS Solutions, LLC application;
5. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

Councilmember Beagle asked if there were any representatives from OPS Solutions, LLC in the audience.

William Summerville, of OPS Solutions, LLC located at 48443 Alpha Drive, explained that OPS Solutions was a software company that worked with automotive, medical and aerospace companies. They use overhead video that projects the correct information that a manufacturing plant would need in order to do their job.

Councilmember Gottschall wondered if the grant OPS Solutions had was being transferred from Novi to Wixom. Ms. Barker said that the grant they had in Novi was different than this grant. OPS Solutions, LLC moved to Wixom to obtain more space. Councilmember Gottschall said that at the recent Town Hall Meeting, Mr. Hieber explained that if condo-style industrial buildings are leased, the tax would not change because it is for the entire building. In this company's case, he wondered what the increase would be or if it would increase by \$430,000. Ms. Barker said it would be whatever the market value was for the company. Councilmember Gottschall asked when the Abatement was granted, would it be on the actual taxable increase or the full \$430,000. Ms. Barker said that it would be on the market value.

Mayor Hinkley thought the presentation from OPS Solutions, LLC that was given to the Tax Abatement Board was wonderful. He believed if most people were at the meeting that he attended, they would have been just as impressed to learn about the company and they would feel the excitement of its potential growth. It's really using state of the art technology and the City of Wixom was very lucky to have this company come to Wixom.

Councilmember Kennedy asked how long their company was in Novi. Mr. Summerville answered three years. Councilmember Kennedy asked if they received a Tax Abatement from the City of Novi. Mr. Summerville said they had not. Councilmember Kennedy requested the Tax Abatement meeting minutes be attached to the report for the future.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**2.) Consideration of a Recommendation by the Tax Abatement Review Committee to Authorize the Execution of a Tax Abatement Agreement with OPS Solutions, LLC**

**CM-10-182-16:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Beagle and Smiley to approve a Tax Abatement Agreement with OPS Solutions, LLC and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

Councilmember Rzeznik commented that part of the Agreement was that they would work with the Walled Lake Consolidated School District and OTC. He thought this would be an excellent opportunity for internships and for exposing the youth for real jobs of today. He was looking forward to seeing this company grow in the City of Wixom.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**3.) Consideration of a Recommendation by the Tax Abatement Review Committee to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Establishment of an Industrial Development District at 46643 Ryan Court in Accordance with Public Act 198 of 1974, as Amended, and as Requested by Tremec Corporation**

**CM-10-183-16:** Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Ziegler and Councilmember Rzeznik to adopt the following Resolution creating an Industrial Development District at 46643 Alpha Drive in accordance with Public Act 198 of 1974, as amended, and as requested by Tremec Corporation:

**RESOLUTION 2016-66 APPROVING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to Section 4 of Act No. 198 of the Public Acts of 1974, as amended ("Act 198"), this Council has the authority to establish industrial development districts within the boundaries of the City of Wixom (the "City"); and

**WHEREAS,** the City has adopted practices and procedures relating to the establishment, continuation and cancellation of such industrial development districts; and

**WHEREAS,** in accordance with Section 4 of Act 198, a proposal was made regarding the establishment of an industrial development district encompassing land situated in the City more particularly described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein, which is herein defined as the "City of Wixom Industrial Development District No. 2016-XX" (the "District"); and

**WHEREAS,** written notice has been given by certified mail to Tremec Corporation of the Council's pending action on this resolution and its right to a hearing on the establishment of the District as proposed; and

**WHEREAS,** notice has been given to all interested owners, residents and taxpayers in the City of a public hearing on the establishment of the District as proposed; and

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to the requirements of Section 4 of Act 198, on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 a public hearing was held on the establishment of the District as proposed, at which time Tremec Corporation, and other taxpayers and residents of the City had an opportunity to be heard (a copy of all statements both written and oral made at such hearing being on file with this City Council), and a representative of Tremec Corporation attended said hearing and acknowledged receipt of notice of such hearing on behalf of the said petitioner;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF WIXOM AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The District is hereby established as proposed, subject to the City's customary practices and procedures with respect to such districts referred to in the preambles of this resolution, such District to consist of the area described in Exhibit A attached hereto.
2. The District is hereby designated as the "CITY OF WIXOM INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT NO. 2016-XX".

3. Nothing herein shall be read to imply either the approval of or the making of any finding or determination in respect to an application by Tremec Corporation for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for property subsequently located or to be located within the District, the granting of any such Certificate being the subject of separate and independent proceedings, consideration and review standards by this Council pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 and the provisions of Act 198. This Council reserves the right under Act 198 to disapprove of any such application for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate in accordance with Section 9 and the other provisions of Act 198.
4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

Ms. Barker explained that this request is for the build-out only for the building at Ryan Court. It would be 100% of the taxes on the shell of the building, which was estimated at \$53,000 annually to the City.

Jeremy Holt, Vice President of Tremec Corporation, indicated that their business is currently located in Plymouth, Michigan. They plan to move to Ryan Court in Wixom in 2017. Tremec Corporation is a manufacturer of automotive and commercial vehicle transmissions, both manual and dual clutch, which are used in sports cars and Class A trucks. They plan on building a new technology transmission in the performance car market. This would be the first manufacturing venture in the United States. Manufacturing had only been conducted in Mexico and Europe.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**4.) Recommendation by the Tax Abatement Review Committee to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Ten (10) Year Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Real Property as Requested by Tremec Corporation in Accordance with Public Act 198 of 1974, as Amended**

**CM-10-184-16:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Rzeznik and Kennedy to adopt the following Resolution authorizing the issuance of an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to Tremec Corporation for their build out at 46643 Ryan Court, Wixom, Michigan facility for ten (10) years on real property in accordance with Public Act 198 of 1974, as amended:

**RESOLUTION 2016-67 APPROVING  
INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE**

**WHEREAS,** the City Clerk has received an Application for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate from Tremec Corporation dated August 15, 2016 (which application, for the purpose of Act No. 198, Public Acts of Michigan, 1974, as amended ("Act 198"), is deemed filed upon the establishment by the City Council of the District hereinafter defined, covering an existing Industrial Development District No. 2016-XX (the "District") within the City of Wixom; and

**WHEREAS,** the City has notified in writing the Assessor of the City of Wixom as well as the legislative body of each taxing unit which levies ad valorem property taxes in the local government unit in which the proposed facility is to be located, i.e. the City of Wixom, and advised each of them that the said Application has been received; and

**WHEREAS,** the City Council has afforded Tremec Corporation, the Assessor, and a representative of each of the affected taxing units an opportunity for a hearing on this Application

and said hearing having, in fact, been conducted at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at the Wixom City Hall, 49045 Pontiac Trail, Wixom, Michigan; and

**WHEREAS,** the aggregate SEV of real property exempt from ad valorem taxes within the City of Wixom, after granting this certificate, will not exceed 5% of an amount equal to the sum of the SEV of the unit, plus the SEV of personal and real property thus exempted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF WIXOM AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the City Council, on the basis of the information received from the applicant, Tremec Corporation, finds and determines: (a) the granting of the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate, considered together with the aggregate amount of industrial facilities exemption certificates previously granted and currently in force, shall not have the effect of substantially impeding the operation of the City of Wixom or impairing the financial soundness of any taxing unit that levies an ad valorem property tax in the local government unit in which the facility is to be located; and (b) Tremec Corporation has fully complied with the requirements of Section 9 and the other provisions of Act 198.
2. That the City Council hereby approves the Application for Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate from Tremec Corporation covering new industrial facilities to be located within the District, for a period of ten (10) years for real property, effective as of December 31 following the date the Certificate is issued by the Michigan State Tax Commission, as the same may be supplemented by a new certificate issued in accordance with Section 16(a) of Act 198 and with the Letter of Agreement (hereinafter defined);
3. That in accordance with the requirements of Section 22 of Act 198, wherein a written agreement between Tremec Corporation and the City is required in order to clarify the understanding and the commitment between Tremec and the City as a condition of approval of an Industrial Facility Exemption Certificate, the Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the City Clerk to sign such Letter of Agreement as duly executed and delivered by Tremec Corporation ("Letter of Agreement"), and such Letter of Agreement is hereby incorporated in this resolution in full by reference, as part of the documentation required to complete the application for the Industrial Facility Exemption Certificate; and further that the City Clerk is authorized and directed to file a copy of the Letter of Agreement with the Michigan Department of Treasury in accordance with Public Act 198.
4. That the City Clerk shall forward a copy of the Application and this Resolution to the State Tax Commission for further consideration upon the payment by Tremec Corporation of the City's expenses incurred in connection with the consideration of Tremec Corporation application.
5. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**5.) Consideration of a Recommendation from the Tax Abatement Review Committee to Authorize the Execution of a Tax Abatement Agreement with Tremec Corporation**

**CM-10-185-16:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Beagle and Smiley to approve a Tax Abatement Agreement with Tremec Corporation and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**6.) Consideration of a Proposal from Verizon Wireless, Inc. to Obtain an Easement from the City of Wixom that would provide Roadway Access to a Proposed Cell Tower and Associated Structure that would be located near the Northwest Corner of 2307 Orland, a/k/a Hickory Hills Golf Club**

**CM-10-186-16:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gottschall and Rzeznik to approve the proposal from Verizon Wireless, Inc. to obtain an easement from the City providing roadway access to a proposed cell phone monopole tower and associated structure that would be located near the northwest corner of 2307 Orland, aka Hickory Hills Golf Club.

Councilmember Rzeznik was confused as to why the access road wouldn't be directly at Glengary Road across from the MDNR property. Mr. Goodlein was unsure; however, he guessed the expense of clearing the trees and/or receiving permission from the MDNR would probably be more difficult in that area than the other location because there were less trees. It was his understanding that Verizon always acquired two points of access to the property.

Councilmember Gottschall thought it seemed odd given the response to their initial proposal for putting the tower in the park. He knew there was a gate at the golf course to allow a vehicle down into the golf course if need be. To ask to come through the park again with a new road seemed odd. He appreciated the time that went into it with staff to visit the site and ultimately recommend this proposal's rejection.

Mayor Hinkley commented that this tower was going to be installed whether we liked it or not. He thought it would be an eyesore for our community.

**VOTE: (0) AYES**

**(7) NAYS – Beagle, Gottschall, Hinkley, Kennedy, Rzeznik,  
Smiley, Ziegler**

**Motion Failed**

**7.) Consideration of an Amended Professional Services Agreement with SAFEbuilt Michigan, Inc. so as to comply with Michigan Attorney General Opinion No. 7285 and MCL 125.1509(2)**

**CM-10-187-16:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Rzeznik and Beagle to approve the proposed professional services agreement with SAFEbuilt Michigan, Inc. and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign this Agreement on behalf of the City.

Mr. Goodlein noted that the Attorney General looked at the nature of contractual building official services some time ago. Since that time, the City discussed the matter with the SAFEbuilt attorneys to find language they could incorporate into the current agreement to satisfy the Attorney General opinion. The option had to do with potential conflicts of interest which could be remedied by simple contractual language.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**8.) Consideration of Renewing a 2016-2017 Winter Maintenance Agreement with the Road Commission for Oakland County to Remove Snow and Control Ice on Pontiac Trail, Western City Limits to Beck Road, and Loon Lake Road, from Benstein to the City Limits, Along with the Adoption of an Authorizing Resolution and Authority for the Mayor and City Clerk to Sign the Agreement**

**CM-10-188-16:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Beagle and Kennedy to approve the 2016-2017 RCOC/Wixom Winter Maintenance Agreement, adopt the following authorizing Resolution that would demonstrate this approval and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City:

**RESOLUTION 2016-68  
2016-2017 WINTER MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS,** since 2005, the City of Wixom has assumed snow and ice control on Pontiac Trail from Beck Road to westerly City limits and Loon Lake Road from the City limit east to Benstein and has realized an increase in the level of service and community satisfaction; and,

**WHEREAS,** Pontiac Trail and Loon Lake Road from the City limit east to Benstein are under the jurisdiction of the Road Commission for Oakland County; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Road Commission for Oakland County has assigned snow and ice control responsibilities to the City in the past for these roads.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Mayor and Council of the City of Wixom hereby approve the 2016-2017 Winter Maintenance Agreement renewal with the Road Commission for Oakland County and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City of Wixom.

Mr. Sikma indicated that this Agreement was reviewed by the City Attorney. He reminded the Council that last year, we negotiated a 10% increase from years past. This year, with the smaller amount of snow that we received last year, we are looking at a 2% increase from last year. The amount of support we give to the City for clearing these roads is appropriate and to the benefit of the City. He thought we got a much better response from our own DPW in terms of making sure Pontiac Trail and Loon Lake are cleared appropriately. If we needed to have Oakland County do those roads, they would not be cleared as quickly. He stated that it is to the City's advantage to do this Maintenance Agreement.

Deputy Mayor Ziegler asked how long we have been doing this with Oakland County. Mr. Sikma replied that we have had this arrangement with them since 2005. It has been a good agreement.

Councilmember Rzeznik commented that the signed version of the contract should have Pontiac Trail and not Pontiac Lake. Mr. Sikma said that would be corrected.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments at this time.

**CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS:**

Mr. Goodlein said he had good news to report. This morning at the Oakland County Federal Aid Task Force for Roadways meeting, the City was successful with the Committee for moving the federal funding for construction of West Road from 2019 to 2018. We will be able to combine our engineering from some of our 2017 projects on Beck Road and some of the other roadways along West Road and South Wixom Road. He hoped it would send a message to the business community that we are committed to taking care of some of the roads in the south end of the City that are in a state of disrepair.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Smiley welcomed the videographers who are students from Walled Lake Western High School. He also was appreciative of the Coal-Tar Presentation provided by Ms. Esselman.

Councilmember Gottschall said he had a nice and long Saturday working at the Fire Station Open House and then passing out cider and donuts at the Panther Hunt. He congratulated everyone involved in both of those. They were very well-attended and very good events for our City. He read the article in the Spinal Column regarding the Scarlet Smile Inclusive Playground that the Clark family has been looking for a home for. He hoped they would bring a formal proposal to Wixom. He thought it would be a nice bright spot in our City. This would be an inclusive playground for children with and without disabilities. It is a great idea as there is nothing similar around here. The nearest one to their knowledge and his is in Minnesota. It is definitely something that would be an attraction to the City. It would be an awesome playground with an added benefit of being able to be inclusive of those in need. On a sadder note, he said he went to visit Gunnar Mettala Park yesterday and, as his fear was with the easement that the Council voted on and then clear-cutting instead of using another method of judgment, they did clear-cut a nice section. It was sad for him to see, especially as the Rails to Trails continued to move forward. He hoped they wouldn't be clear-cutting everything along the Trailway. He thought it would have a negative impact on the project. It has already upset some residents in the Indian Wells subdivision. He hoped ITC would be a little bit more thoughtful as they moved down the easement line.

Councilmember Rzeznik said he was looking at the PASER study today and the West Road section was the only Classification 1 that we had in the City. He asked if there would be a way to take the results of that study and tie them into our GIS system so a color-coded map could accompany it. He thought it would be great to see a GIS map that would have the PASER rating color-coded to it. You could take a look at the conditions of the roads on a City-wide basis on a single map. Mr. Goodlein said he would check with our GIS technician to see if that was possible. He remembered Councilmember Gottschall had requested something like that be done to give us a better understanding of the state of the roads in the south end of the City. He was correct in saying that section of West Road was the only road in the City with the Classification 1 and it is in a terrible state of disrepair.

Councilmember Rzeznik added that he also attended all the crazy events of Saturday. He was up from 6:00 a.m. until about 2:00 a.m. The Fire Station Open

House was greatly attended. It was great to see Chief Roberts and the entire crew out there working. The children of the community are in awe when they come in there and it is great to see the faces of those kids. In regard to the Panther Hunt, Ms. Magee and her team had another great event with a great turnout. We ran out of cider too quickly. There were thousands of people out in our community on Saturday and it was a nice thing to see.

Councilmember Beagle thanked OPS Solutions and Tremec Corporation for choosing Wixom. He welcomed them both and hoped it would be a good marriage with them sponsoring some of our events. He thanked Chief Roberts and the rest of the Fire group. He had the privilege of burning a lot of hot dogs and hamburgers on Saturday. The event was nicely attended. He wished he would have been able to attend the Panther Hunt but his daughter was home from college so he was visiting with her.

Councilmember Kennedy asked what was happening with the radar signs. He hasn't seen them. Chief Yon replied that we have a sergeant that is in Staff Command School right now. She graduates at the end of the month. Once she is done, that is on her task list to get all the bugs worked out so we can record the data on our computer. Councilmember Kennedy said he thought it would happen sooner but he understood. He welcomed OPS Solutions and Tremec Corporation. It was cool to see them here. He welcomed Walled Lake TV and thanked them for being at the meeting. He appreciated the offer to flip and burn burgers with Councilmember Beagle at the Fire Open House and the offer to serve cider and donuts at the Panther Hunt. He was sorry he couldn't make it. He had the distinct honor of getting to work on Military Academy nominations and the young people who will be going to Annapolis. He had a chance to rate and choose who would go there for the next military leadership. He also was able to go to the Scarlet Smile Fundraiser where they talked about the playground (which is approximately 16,000 square feet). Steven Clark from Channel 7 News and his organization were looking to raise \$1 million to help put that in. It wouldn't be something that would be costing the City as he understood it. Mr. Goodlein said they were looking at cost-sharing on some items but not on the actual facility itself. They would need assistance with things related to grounds maintenance, water and sewer, and engineering. The \$1 million figure includes some sort of splash park. There would probably be some City costs involved and he thought they would be less than 10% of the entire project. Councilmember Kennedy hoped that the Wixom Community Foundation would also be able to help. He thought it would be a great thing for the City to have. It would be an attraction, a jewel for our City. He hoped we could help make that happen.

Deputy Mayor Ziegler stated that at the last meeting, there was a communication from a property owner talking about the water. In our update, we have some good news about our water. He thought those questions were answered sufficiently, but he wondered if someone wanted to talk about this good news regarding our water system.

Mr. Sikma commented that the Great Lakes Water Authority has gotten an A rating for bonds. He said 50% of the cost of getting water here now is based on the bonding and the funding that they get. This is a major deal for Great Lakes Water

Authority. They are anticipating a much better rate on the money that they are funding for future projects and they are looking at using some of that bond rating to supplement some of the old ones as well. It is good news for all of the communities as part of the DWSD Great Lakes Water Authority.

Deputy Mayor Ziegler said he also went to the events of the past weekend. It was a good time and he really enjoyed it. It was fun to see the kids especially. We have a millage request for the continuation of the millage on the ballot coming up. He knew that some of the ballots had already gone out for the absentees, but he wanted to take a few minutes to indicate to the public in a public statement that he does support the passing of the continuation of the millage. He then read the following:

*"When I was first elected to Council in 1999, our City was in great financial shape and continued to be for several years. We were able to afford to run the City within the limits of the 8 mils set forth in the City Charter. Several things have occurred in recent years to change all of that and to create what I believe to be a financial problem that threatens the future of our City.*

*I first realized the problem several years ago when Ford announced it was moving out of Wixom. We then had the economic downturn and subsequent property devaluation of 2008. From 2008 to 2012, the City, like all other cities here in Michigan, made many of the cutbacks suggested and demanded by the public. We froze wages for multiple years. We cut our staff, albeit through attrition, from 65 full time positions to 47 full time positions. We required employee participation in paying for health care and pension benefits. We initiated defined contribution pension plans to replace defined benefit plans. We privatized some City services, etc. Unfortunately, those cuts and changes were not enough to solve the revenue problems we faced.*

*My solution to the problem was to amend the Charter to raise it to what I believe to be the unrealistically low cap set forth in the Charter itself. The cap was put into place at a time when those creating and those passing the Charter never could have imagined Ford leaving, losing the ability to tax personal property owned by businesses, extreme cuts in revenue sharing cuts, reduced property values, unfunded state and federal mandates to provide services, the build out of the City and evolvment of big City problems, and so on...*

*My solution to raise that cap was presented to the voters in August of 2012 and was rejected. The public indicated that it wanted only a temporary millage and wanted us to solve the economic problems down the road. The millage passed and the Administration and Council have worked toward that end.*

*During the past year, it has been apparent to most of us on Council that, despite our efforts to rein in costs, we still have a severe cash flow problem. We really need to have a change in our funding ability to continue to provide the current level of services to our citizens. I believe that we operate on a rather tight budget and that we provide basic and needed services only. Early this year we, the Council, discussed whether to go back to the public to extend the millage. Once again, my*

*preference was to amend the Charter cap. My suggestion was rejected by the majority of Council and we zeroed in on the idea of an extension.*

*After discussing the City's needs and revenue projections, Councilmember Gottschall motioned what the ballot proposal would be. Mr. Rzeznik seconded the proposal and the placing of the request was unanimously approved by Council.*

*As to those who point to the budget stabilization fund as a reason to not support the renewal of the millage, I would plead guilty to having a healthy savings account; one that will be used, if the renewal passes, to invest in capital improvements that we have put off for the last several years. All one has to do is compare our revenues to our expenses and review our budget to see that a continuation of the millage is necessary.*

*I do not enjoy paying property taxes any more than anyone else. I wish there were another way to go about running the City. Wishing, sadly, is irrelevant. If we are to survive as a City, we must address the revenue inadequacies that exist. He encouraged everyone to vote to extend and continue the millage."*

Mayor Hinkley welcomed OPS Solutions and Tremec. He looked forward to seeing them throughout our community and to see the progress of their organizations. Lastly, he echoed everything that the Deputy Mayor has indicated in his comments regarding our upcoming millage. He had no problem dittoing exactly what he said. He plans to support the millage. He looked forward to Election Day. Not only with our millage here, but he thought Election Day is going to be a big day in the history of our Country. He hoped everyone would have the opportunity to either vote absentee or come down on Election Day to vote.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Catherine Buck  
City Clerk

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| Approved<br>10-25-2016 |
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