

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017**

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. Rzeznik
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES: (None)

PRESENTATION:

1.) Oaths of Office for Mayor Richard Ziegler, Council Member Patrick Beagle, Council Member Nicholas Kennedy, Council Member Thomas Rzeznik, Library Board Trustee Christie Currier, and Library Board Trustee Allison Wert

Judge Travis Reeds administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Richard Ziegler.

Judge Robert Bondy administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Patrick Beagle.

Judge David Law administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Nicholas Kennedy.

Judge Law administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Thomas Rzeznik.

Judge Bondy administered the Oath of Office to Library Board Trustee Christie Currier.

Judge Reeds administered the Oath of Office to Library Board Trustee Allison Wert.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Hinkley turned the Chair over to Mayor-Elect Richard Ziegler.

2.) Recognition of Mayor Kevin W. Hinkley for his service as Mayor and City Councilmember

Mayor-Elect Ziegler read letters from Governor Snyder and U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and presented them to Mayor Hinkley.

Mayor-Elect Ziegler introduced Senator Mike Kowall and Representative Klint Kesto.

Senator Kowall said that the Mayor and City Council were on the front lines of government. When people came into City Hall, it's because they wanted to talk about the garbage collection, roads, neighbor's dogs, etc. He understood what a

difficult job that was and thought that Mayor Hinkley performed these tasks with such style and grace.

Senator Kowall and Representative Kesto each read a portion of a tribute to Mayor Hinkley and presented it to him.

Representative Kesto said that it was great working with the Mayor. If you looked at the City of Wixom and how far it had come, you should then thank the staff, City Council and the Mayor. A lot of the economic development, new construction, and revitalization were because of the leadership of the Mayor. He thanked Mayor Hinkley for being part of Michigan's comeback and especially in the City of Wixom.

Mayor-Elect Ziegler introduced County Commissioner Phil Weipert.

County Commissioner Weipert said it was a pleasure to work with the Mayor. One of the best things about the Mayor was that he and his wife, Linda, were always welcoming and fun to be around. They were just great people. The Commissioner read and presented the Mayor with a proclamation on behalf of the Oakland County Commissioners.

Judge Reeds read a letter of congratulations from the three judges.

First Lady Linda Hinkley was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Mayor-Elect Ziegler read a proclamation and a plaque from the City of Wixom and presented both to Mayor Hinkley. Next he presented him with a brick to be placed near the pond.

Economic Development Director Debe Barker presented Mayor Hinkley with a hat on behalf of the Wixom Downtown Development Authority.

In recognition of the Mayor's contributions to the community and support of Public Safety, Fire Chief Jeff Roberts presented the Mayor with a fire helmet.

Mayor-Elect Ziegler asked for a Call to the Public in the event anybody in the audience wanted to say anything regarding Mayor Hinkley.

Linda Hinkley, 3250 Johanna Ware, thanked the Mayor for his years of service, dedication and devotion that helped make Wixom a wonderful place to live and great place to do business. She said that she was very proud of the Mayor's principles, integrity, and love for the senior citizens. With his hard work and partnership with the Council, they had guided the City through some tough years. She believed they had always maintained the services that were essential to the residents. She said if you looked around Wixom, you would notice the new construction, new families moving into the City, the new businesses, an established downtown area, a walkable community and the revitalization of the former Ford property. The Mayor and all the citizens of Wixom can be very proud of these accomplishments. The Mayor was leaving the City in very good hands. Just as he has said to others that have moved on or retired, "Happy Trails". She said that his family was looking forward to joining him on that "trail" and they love him.

Mayor Hinkley thanked everyone for attending. It's been an honor and privilege to serve for the last ten years on Council and as Mayor. He explained that being Mayor was not a one person job, for he couldn't have done it without this Council and the previous Councils. He thanked his wife, Linda, and family for the support and guidance they had provided for so many years. He thanked the employees that he had the privilege of working with over the years. He gave a special thank you to Cathy Buck, Wendy Brink and Stacey Banks for keeping him organized. He noted that Vilma Mazi had also helped him over the years. He thanked the City partners for their outstanding work. He mentioned Suez, HRC, SafeBuilt, Carmine Avantini and Attorney Carol Rosati. All these organizations have provided their expertise to help govern the City. He could not be more proud of the Police and Fire Departments. He was thankful for the many residents that volunteer on a Board or Commission. He said that he was leaving his post feeling confident that his priority was their priority by continuing to improve the City and serve the residents and businesses. He explained how difficult it was to take over as Mayor in 2007 when the economy was very low. He thought the City rebounded in an unbelievable way. He saw the dedication and the strength of the City and its people. He felt very humbled to be re-elected five times as Mayor. With a new Mayor, excellent Council and great City Manager, they would work continually to move the City forward. He thanked all those people that have come to tonight's meeting to recognize our accomplishments, especially those individuals from the State and County. When he was first elected Mayor, he said that they would leave no rock unturned and they would be rolling stones. He felt confident that happened. He was truly proud of what was accomplished as a City. He thanked everyone for giving him the privilege and opportunity to be Mayor of this City and enjoyed working with everyone.

Council recessed at 7:40 p.m. and reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

MINUTES:

(The Minutes of the December 12, 2017 City Council Meeting will be on the agenda for approval at the January 9, 2018 City Council Meeting.)

CORRESPONDENCE:

1.) Letter of Resignation from Jeff Keel from the Downtown Development Authority

Mayor Hinkley commented that Mr. Keel had served on the DDA for a number of years. He offered a lot of insight in developing the DDA to get it to where it was today. Mr. Keel will be missed but will still be around town.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

1.) Departmental Monthly Reports – November 2017

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-12-195-17: Motion and seconded by Deputy Mayor Ziegler and Councilmember Rzeznik to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
 - a. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes of November 13, 2017

Vote:

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Authorize the Purchase of Office Furniture for the Construction & Development Services Department from KI of Green Bay, Wisconsin at a cost of \$30,920.50 and the Associated Budget Amendment**

CM-12-196-17: Motion and seconded by Councilmembers Beagle and Kennedy to authorize the purchase of office furniture for the Construction & Development Services Department from KI of Green Bay, Wisconsin at a cost of \$30,920.50 and the associated budget amendment.

Councilmember Beagle thanked Leonardo Marble and Granite of Wixom who generously offered to provide the countertop and installation at a cost of \$1.00.

Vote:

Motion Carried

- 2.) **Consideration of the Introduction of an Amendatory Ordinance to Rezone the Property Located at 29180 and 29290 Wixom Road, Approximately 7.33 Acres, from M-1, Light Industrial to B-3, General Commercial, Tax Parcel Numbers 22-08-100-061 and 22-08-100-062, as Requested by the Property Owners, Jerry L. and Ruth Ann Helmer**

CM-12-197-17: Motion and seconded by Councilmembers Kennedy and Gottschall to approve the introduction of an amendatory ordinance to rezone the property located at 29180 and 29290 Wixom Road, approximately 7.33 acres, from M-1, Light Industrial to B-3, General Commercial, tax parcel numbers 22-08-100-061 and 22-08-100-062, as requested by the property owners, Jerry L. and Ruth Ann Helmer.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown stated that the Police participated in the No-Shave November fundraiser with a goal of raising \$2,500. They were a little short, so they extended it to Do-It-Again December. He was happy to report that they achieved their goal and raised \$2,588. Congratulations to them on raising those funds to combat cancer. He said that the children from Wixom Christian School presented posters in appreciation for the services provided by our employees. Also, one of our employees, Vilma Mazi, recently lost her mother and he extended his condolences to her. Lastly, he reported that the City offices would be closed December 25 and 26, as well as January 1 and 2.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Smiley thanked the Mayor for his dedication, hard work and care

for the City of Wixom. He has helped guide Wixom for 16 years and it is a testament to his knowledge in business that this town was a great place to live. His years of service to this wonderful City were greatly appreciated. On a personal note, he thanked the Mayor for his wisdom and guidance during his first two years on Council. He learned a great deal watching and listening to Mayor Hinkley. He wished him good luck and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Gottschall shared his condolences for Vilma Mazi on her loss. He hoped she found comfort and support from all of her fellow City staff. He knew there was a very tight-knit group working for the City. He wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a great start to the New Year. He wished Mayor Hinkley the best as he took little baby steps back from his engagements within the City to spend more time with his family and travel a bit more. He knew they would see him around the City and he would still be on some boards. He enjoyed the time learning while sitting next to the Mayor during the last two years. He wished him the best.

Councilmember Rzeznik offered his condolences to Vilma Mazi and her family on the passing of her mother. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He said that his family was used to him writing a poem or a limerick for special occasions. He started off his comments with a limerick for the Mayor. He stated, *"There once was a salesman from Jackson, who was known as a person of action. He served without fear, for sixteen tough years, and helped our great City gain traction."* He continued by saying that they have served together for many years now starting with the time he was the Parks and Recreation Chair, then as they started the Community Foundation, and finally, the last eight years as Councilmember Rzeznik was elected to Council with him as the Mayor. He remembered well their first interaction with him being the newly elected Mayor, sitting for an hour as he coached the Mayor on reciting greetings and wedding vows in the German language for his first wedding performance for a local German couple. He recently instructed him on the traditional tapping of the first keg at Oktoberfest, which falls to the burgermeister of the City. The City has had tense times and good times as Mayor Hinkley lead us through some of Wixom's most tumultuous times in its history; from the prosperity of the 1990's and early 2000's, to the closing of the Ford Plant, the long recession, downsizing in the City, the energy park which never materialized, to the recent redevelopment of the Assembly Park and economic growth. Mayor Hinkley and Councilmember Rzeznik have had their differences over the years on topics such as wing plows, policies, staffing and taxes but all the while Mayor Hinkley was patient enough to hear and understand his side. Whether or not they found compromise or stood their individual grounds, Mayor Hinkley always showed respect and they were able to move on. Councilmember Rzeznik said that he knew Mayor Hinkley would find something to do in retirement that would continue his devotion to God, his country and his family. He also knew that their friendship would outlast any elected terms. He hoped God would bless him and keep him through many long years of hunting, fishing, skiing and grandchildren.

Councilmember Beagle congratulated Mayor Hinkley on his 16 years of devoted service to our City. It is impossible to measure what Mayor Hinkley has meant to the City of Wixom. We see him at all of the City functions; from the countdown to the fireworks to leading Christmas carols in the annual arrival of Santa. But that was really only half the story. His strong leadership and dedication to the City, as well as

on Council, has been the key to the progress and the position that the City has enjoyed and will continue to enjoy. Mayor Hinkley has always been available to answer questions about a current or upcoming issue, or just offer some advice or ideas. Councilmember Beagle indicated that has meant a lot to him personally. He was happy to see that Mayor Hinkley will be able to kick back with his wife and enjoy his family, especially his grandchildren. He thanked the Mayor for all he has accomplished and wished him the best. Lastly, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and safe travels wherever you go.

Councilmember Kennedy thanked Mayor Hinkley for his service to our community. Even though they had differences of opinion, he has taken the time to give his life and his blood to this community. He appreciated it and knew it was tough. He has sacrificed family-time, wife-time and personal time for our City. The City has grown and been better because of Mayor Hinkley. It was an accomplishment that he should be very proud. Councilmember Kennedy appreciated the time the Mayor took to help him when they had to discuss certain things. He thanked him and hoped he would find happiness in his next step.

Deputy Mayor Ziegler thought he should sit down and write something to formulate his opinions, but he didn't want to be in a position where he would be tearing up by reading something. He said he would miss Mayor Hinkley. He has meant a lot to him. They have done a lot together. His leadership has meant a lot to him and to this Council. He thought the Mayor professionalized the position of Mayor of this Council. His salesmanship ability has shown through in the various States of the City speeches. Mayor Hinkley pushed those millages through with his personality and his way of explaining what the situation was. He was a true leader and he has done a lot for the City. Deputy Mayor Ziegler appreciated it and congratulated him. We will be seeing the Mayor around a lot. It is not good bye. It is see you later.

Mayor Hinkley thanked his fellow Councilmembers. It has been wonderful tonight, having everyone come and having the recognition. As he said before, it was not him. It was the Council, the employees, the City Manager, the Police and Fire, everybody that has been part of the team to do what we get done for the residents and business owners of this community. That was what makes the wheel turn. It was not any one person. Someone has to lead the orchestra but everybody has to play the instrument. That is what we do. We all play the instrument. That was what has made this a unique community. This has been a learning opportunity for him. Somebody asked him what perplexed him to get into public service or to become a politician. His reply was that he was not a politician. He serves the public. That is what we do. We serve the public and he hoped no one would lose sight of that. The true part of it is that anybody can be a taker, but he hoped we would all be givers. Be givers and life will pay you back ten times. Lastly, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 1-9-2018
