

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

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

Present:

Mayor: R. Ziegler
Deputy Mayor: P. Beagle
Councilmembers: K. Gottschall
N. Kennedy
B. Leder (Excused)
T. Rzeznik
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES: (None)

MINUTES:

CM-09-148-18: Moved and seconded by Councilmember Gottschall and Deputy Mayor Beagle to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of September 11, 2018.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE: (None)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

1.) Departmental Monthly Reports - August 2018

Deputy Mayor Beagle asked how many Adopt-A-Boxes were issued last year and this year. Mr. Sikma replied that there was an average of two or three a weekend. During the fall months, there are requests for them during the week. Deputy Mayor Beagle asked if we should get another box and Mr. Sikma thought that would be a good idea. He will obtain the information and report back to Council.

2.) Monthly Budget Report – May 2018

There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-09-149-18: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Kennedy and Rzeznik to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
 - a. Senior Commission Minutes of July 10, 2018

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

1.) Consideration of the Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Implementation of Recommendations Necessary to Receive a Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

CM-09-150-18: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Rzeznik and Smiley to adopt the following resolution authorizing the implementation of recommendations necessary to receive Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation:

**CITY OF WIXOM
RESOLUTION NO. 2018-45**

**CITY ADOPTED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE
REDEVELOPMENT READY COMMUNITIES CERTIFICATION FROM THE
MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MEDC)**

WHEREAS, the City of Wixom has engaged in the MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities Program, including entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the MEDC and undergoing an evaluation of the City's redevelopment practices as reported in the Redevelopment Ready Communities Baseline Report dated July, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the MEDC has developed a program for certifying Redevelopment Ready Communities and the City of Wixom desires to achieve that certification by implementing best practices and recommended strategies for redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wixom is currently updating its Master Plan and will utilize recommendations and technical assistance to ensure that development readiness is appropriately addressed in that document; and

WHEREAS, the program includes evaluating the strong partnerships with city boards and commissions related to development including the City Council, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Downtown Development Authority; and

WHEREAS, after review of the Redevelopment Ready Baseline Report, the City of Wixom is willing to complete the tasks as outlined, which will involve interaction with the aforementioned City boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, certain recommendations have and will be made by the MEDC that are required in order for the City to attain Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Wixom, through its City Council authorizes the implementation of recommendations made by MEDC and that are necessary to receive Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification from MEDC.

Elizabeth King, Redevelopment Ready Communities Planner, and Dominic Romano, Community Assistance Team Specialist for the area, were present to provide an overview of the RRC Program. Ms. King stated that the Redevelopment Ready Communities Program is housed in the Community Development Division, which is one of the three main divisions at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). The second is Marketing and Promotion, which everyone is familiar with

the Pure Michigan campaign. And the third is Business Development. The Business Development division is primarily focused on attracting large employers and businesses from across the Country to the communities. Community Development focuses on creating a sense of place with the knowledge that is also what is needed to attract businesses and talent from around the Country.

Ms. King said that the RRC Program offers communities technical assistance. They empower the community with the tools that are needed to improve plans, streamline processes and update policies so they are consistent with the RRC best practices and conducive to creating places where people want to live. She explained that talent wants place, place needs business and business needs talent. Now more than ever, people are choosing where they want to live first and finding jobs second. They are moving to places that offer them a high quality of life.

The RRC Program is a self-help program. They are not going to complete the tasks for us, but they will empower the community with the skills and tools necessary to attract investment. They believe in transparencies so that when processes are clear, efficient and consistent, developers and community members will know how to get through the process with no surprises. They also believe in the importance of partnership and they look at this baseline report as the beginning of a strong working relationship for years to come.

Step One of the certification process is engagement. Wixom became engaged in December 2017. Step Two is evaluation. To complete this step, they would like the Council to pass a resolution to continue with the program. Step Three is certification. They ask that our community work on completing the missing best practices until they are finished.

Ms. King indicated that they are working with over 250 communities across the State of Michigan and she thought they currently had about 26 or 27 certified communities.

The RRC Program is made up of six best practices. The first one focuses on the essential planning documents like the Master Plan, Downtown Plan, Capital Improvement Plan and Public Participation Plan, all the way to best practice six, which looks at the community's marketing and economic development strategies.

Next, she reviewed Wixom's evaluation snapshot. The six best practices are made up of 41 objectives and measurable criteria. Right now, Wixom has completed 50% of the RRC criteria and is in the process of completing the next 50%. She indicated that this was an excellent score.

The City is already meeting the best practice for the Capital Improvement Plan. The Plan ranges from 2017 to 2027 and focuses on improvements mentioned in the other planning documents. We have a really strong zoning ordinance that allows for a variety of housing options, non-motorized transportation standards, flexible parking standards, green infrastructures and we have nice form-base standards and images that can help developers get the picture of what we are looking for. We also have a good site plan review process. Everything is clearly defined in our ordinance. We have qualified intake professionals and the Departments are doing a

good job with joint site plan reviews. The internal review standards are clear and the projects are tracked from submission to completion.

Ms. King stated that the new Master Plan is already in progress. The DDA Plan needs to be looked at to see what is viable and what projects can still be completed. We have a draft of a Public Participation Plan in the works, so that needs to be refined and approved. There needs to be some updates to the already good Development, Review Policies and Procedures and Guides. She was looking for the City to advertise the pre-application meetings so out-of-towners who are interested in Wixom know that we are open to meeting with them. They are interested in continuous improvements, so creating a development-focused customer feedback mechanism and using that mechanism to meet and adjust the site plan review process accordingly. What is really valuable about this program is that it is a third party review. She noticed some inconsistencies between the excellent development review manual and the ordinance and the flowcharts. She suggested that we make everything consistent and have timelines so people know what to expect.

Other areas where the City is making good progress is on recruitment, education training, redevelopment ready sites and the economic development strategies. There are just a couple more things that need to be done. We need to update Board descriptions to include a desired skill set. That could be as easy as saying, "If you have building skills, we are interested in having you on this Board." She said that we should also be creating mechanisms to track training and attendance and we should be developing a forum to share the information gathered at training. They also require communities to have Redevelopment Ready sites and to have a vision for those sites that is publicly supported. We should create a whole property information package with that vision and market it on the website. The last piece is an update to the economic development strategy, which would include creating an implementation matrix for some outstanding items and making it available on line.

As far as the next steps, Ms. King indicated that we have already done the Resolution, so we are ahead of the game. Next, the staff and partners will work on completing the Best Practice Criteria at their own pace. She said they were not rushing us to do this. She will send out quarterly progress reports to ask for updates from the staff. Once all the missing Best Practice Criteria are completed, we will be Redevelopment Ready certified.

The third party review really helps catch any inconsistencies. The RRC certification is a signal that our community is open for business. They offer technical assistance matching funds to help our community complete the missing best practices. They also offer continued technical assistance once we are certified. We are eligible for community development funding consideration and they always have our ear. Ms. King ended by saying that if we are interested in learning more about the program, resources can be found at myplace.org.

Councilmember Rzeznik asked what the general timeframe would be for certification. Ms. King replied that it all depends on the community. It could be as fast as four months, but it could take as long as we want it to take. Oak Park just completed it in under a year. Ms. King felt that Wixom was at a really good

position with 50% completed and a year was realistic. Other than having the certification shown on our website, Councilmember Rzeznik asked what some of the other things that the State does in conjunction with the Redevelopment Ready Communities. Ms. King said they are really focused on marketing the Redevelopment Ready sites. They do development matchmaking events, they bring people to our town, they push out our sites to the great developer world, and the City would be eligible for community assistance funds.

Mayor Ziegler asked what some of the other area communities were that have the certification already. Ms. King replied that some of those communities include Oak Park, Ferndale, Lathrup Village, Lansing, Roseville, Dearborn and Eastpointe, with more on the way. Mayor Ziegler felt that this presentation reminds him a lot of this morning's meeting with the DDA. There were a lot of interactions that could take place. He thought it would be helpful for members of the DDA to be included in a meeting like this. He didn't hear any of them talk about this kind of certification. Mayor Ziegler thanked Ms. King for the presentation.

Mr. Brown was pleased to see Ms. King recognized that Wixom does have a pretty good progress toward a lot of these areas. He was pleased we were on our way toward achieving this certification and he looked forward to working with the MEDC to finish the process.

Mayor Ziegler commented that we get these types of reports all the time when we enter into something. He thought our staff was among the best in the State and her report confirmed that for us. Mayor Ziegler appreciated all the effort of the staff to get us where we are at on this. He looked forward to continuing it.

Vote:

Motion Carried

2.) Adoption of a Resolution Designating Steven Brown and Tim Sikma as Agents of the City of Wixom and Granting Them Authorization to Sign Michigan Department of Transportation Permit Applications

CM-09-151-18: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Kennedy and Smiley to adopt the Michigan Department of Transportation Performance Resolution for Governmental Bodies naming Steven Brown and Tim Sikma as authorized signatories for Michigan Department of Transportation permit applications.

Mr. Sikma explained that this was a simple resolution for working within the road right-of-way of I-96. We do anticipate some work this year with the crossing of the water main that we are planning. This will be a separate event but it is similar to the types of work that we may be doing over the next year there. It behooves us to get the application in so he and Mr. Brown are part of the accepted folks to apply for those right-of-way permits electronically.

Councilmember Rzeznik asked if the permit needed to be renewed annually. Mr. Sikma replied yes, it is an annual permit. We forego it most years because we don't anticipate a lot of work. We could have done that this year too because the I-96 crossing for the water main is a separate permit which takes more than an electronic application. Councilmember Rzeznik asked if we would have to do a

separate resolution in January and Mr. Sikma replied that we would if we want to apply electronically.

Vote:

Motion Carried

3.) Consideration of the Adoption of a Resolution to Adopt the Updated Oakland County Hazard Mitigation Plan and its Recommendations as the Foundation for the Mitigation of Natural, Technological and Human Hazards that Occur in the City of Wixom

CM-09-152-18: Moved and seconded by Councilmember Rzeznik and Deputy Mayor Beagle to adopt the following resolution to adopt the updated Oakland County Hazard Mitigation Plan and its recommendations as the foundation for the mitigation of natural, technological and human hazards that occur in the City of Wixom:

**CITY OF WIXOM
AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION 2018-47
TO ADOPT
THE OAKLAND COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the mission of the City of Wixom includes the charge to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of the City of Wixom; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Wixom is subject to flooding, tornadoes, winter storms, and other natural, technological, and human hazards; and,

WHEREAS, the Oakland County Homeland Security Division and the Oakland County Local Emergency Planning Committee, comprised of representatives from the County, municipalities, and stakeholder organizations, have prepared a recommended OAKLAND COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (the "Plan") that reviews the options to protect people and reduce damage from these hazards; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Wixom has participated in the planning process for development of this Plan, providing information specific to local hazard priorities, encouraging public participation, identifying desired hazard mitigation strategies, and reviewing the draft Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Oakland County Homeland Security Division, with the Oakland County Local Emergency Planning Committee, has developed the OAKLAND COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN as an official document of the County and establishing a County Hazard Mitigation Coordinating Committee, pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (PL-106-390) and associated regulations (44 CFR 210.6); and,

WHEREAS, the Plan has been widely circulated for review by the County's residents, municipal officials, and state, federal, and local review agencies and has been revised to reflect their concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Wixom and the City Council that the Oakland County Hazard Mitigation Plan and especially sections of the Plan specific to the City of Wixom, are hereby adopted as an official plan of the City of Wixom.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Wixom Emergency Management Coordinator is charged with supervising the implementation of the Plan's recommendations, as they pertain to the City of Wixom and within the funding limitations as provided by the City Council or other sources.

Director Moore said that every four years Oakland County, under the leadership of the Executive Office and the Homeland Security Division, update their Emergency Operations Plan. The City of Wixom updates ours every four years as well. We adopt their Emergency Operations Plan and create a support plan that deals with more local issues in the event of a disaster. Under that County Emergency Operations Plan, they have a section called Threat and Hazard Analysis. Under that section, they have created the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is also updated every four years. Early 2017, we received word that they would begin the process of updating the Oakland County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Staff has participated in conversations to update the plan. Most recently, the County sent communications asking us to update what our local hazards would be. With the public's input and the local community's input, Oakland County has now created an 800 page document; 300 pages of that is available on line; the remaining 500 pages deals with the hazards of the individual communities and school districts. Those 500 pages are not available to the public. He said the County Homeland Security Division is confident that this is a good plan that will pass muster with FEMA. Director Moore recommended that the City of Wixom adopt the Oakland County Plan.

Vote:

Motion Carried

4.) Recommendation to Utilize a Bid Process from Macomb County, Michigan and Authorize the Purchase of Three 2019 Ford Police Interceptor® Utility Vehicles for \$84,069 from Signature Ford of Owosso, Michigan

CM-09-153-18: Moved and seconded by Councilmember Smiley and Deputy Mayor Beagle to approve the utilization of a bid process from Macomb County, Michigan and authorize the purchase of three 2019 Ford Police Interceptor® Utility vehicles for \$84,069 from Signature Ford of Owosso, Michigan.

Councilmember Kennedy asked why we weren't going with Gorno Ford since they are \$500 cheaper. Director Moore explained that the representative from Gorno Ford wanted him to commit the City on the spot to their bid process. Without Council approval, he couldn't do that. He asked if the bid price would still be available on September 26th, the day after this Council meeting, and the representative said no, we would have to pay retail.

Deputy Mayor Beagle commented that there was only a \$384 difference in the three cars. It is not a big difference. He said he could support this.

Councilmember Rzeznik stated that during the last budget session, this was discussed in depth. At that time, Council made decisions in future years to purchase two vehicle replacements each year instead of three.

Vote:

Motion Carried

5.) Recommendation to Approve Utilizing MERGE LIVE of Walled Lake, MI to Video Record All Regularly Scheduled City Council Meetings at a Cost of \$200 per Meeting for a Total Cost Not to Exceed \$4,800 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

CM-09-154-18: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Kennedy to approve utilizing MERGE LIVE of Walled Lake, MI to video record all regularly scheduled City Council Meetings at a cost of \$200 per meeting for a total cost not to exceed \$4,800 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Mr. Brown indicated that staff went through a process of looking at options on this, including expanding our relationship with the Walled Lake Community School District, purchasing our own equipment, and a third party provider of video recording services. We decided to do a beta test of that option and we had MERGE LIVE commit to two months of meetings to see how we like their work product. It turns out we like their work product very much. We are recommending that we proceed with a full year of activity. We have spent about \$1,000 so far. Beyond the bills we have incurred already, we will end up with an additional expense of \$3,800, but the full amount is reflected in this request. It was the Administration's recommendation to proceed with MERGE LIVE for every meeting, allowing us to have a consistent, professional recording each time.

Deputy Mayor Beagle said that if we wanted to continue our association with the Walled Lake School District, we could do an infomercial for each of our Departments. We could put them on our website and our YouTube channel. Mr. Brown mentioned that very thing to Ms. Evola because we would still like to maintain a relationship with the School District. We would like to offer some opportunities to the students to do some work with us.

Councilmember Kennedy asked Mr. Brown if this would be coming out of the PEG fees. Mr. Brown replied that it would be coming from the Broadcasting Televising Account which was set up for this. It is a source of funding for that. We set up a separate line item in the IT budget. Councilmember Kennedy again asked Mr. Brown if this was part of the PEG fees. Mr. Brown replied yes. Councilmember Kennedy said that was all he was asking.

Mayor Ziegler thought we set money aside for this at the budget hearings and that was confirmed.

Mr. Brown indicated that it was a previous request of Councilmember Rzeznik that we include the actual line item that is being budgeted, the description, the adopted budget that was set up at the beginning of the year, and how much money was left in that account. We are going to apply this to each report that involves expenditures of funds.

Councilmember Smiley asked if there would be an additional expense if we have a live broadcast of the meeting. Mr. Brown replied no, there is no added cost. It might make our Administrative Assistant's life a little easier to go live. Sheryl Lucas explained that she has to upload the file on YouTube and on the website.

Ken Milburn of MERGE LIVE explained that it reduces the handling by going live. Right now, he takes a recording and sends it to Ms. Lucas. She then downloads it and sends it to YouTube. If we go live, it goes right from here to YouTube. It is able to be viewed live and at a later time. He indicated that there would be a little period of testing prior to it going live.

The Council decided at this point that they would like to go live beginning at a future meeting.

Councilmember Rzeznik asked if there was a way to do the direct upload to YouTube and keep it private until it gets released to the public domain. Mr. Milburn replied yes. There is a check box that says the video should remain private until it is unchecked. Councilmember Rzeznik thought we should do that anyway to get it streamed into YouTube during the live meeting. The technology is there to keep it from being posted until we are ready. Councilmember Rzeznik wondered if MERGE LIVE employ the use of interns through the Technical School. He thought there might be a way for students to stay involved as interns through MERGE LIVE. Mr. Milburn said they have done work with interns in the past, but not in the Walled Lake School District. He said he had a brief conversation with a representative from the District about the possibility of having some interns support them in different events.

Mayor Ziegler stated that he was not totally in favor of going this route. His preference would be to continue to monitor it to see what the feedback is. He assumed there was a way we could monitor how many hits we get or how many people are watching it. He thought this kind of feedback would be helpful for next year when we are deciding whether or not to keep this program in place. Mr. Brown thought there was analytics available. Mr. Milburn added that when we go to the YouTube channel, we can see the number of views of the videos that have taken place so far. There has been a steady increase. In all the communities he does, they have all increased; they have never had a community drop down in viewership. There is a learning curve where people have to find out about it. Once they find out about it, they are more engaged. Mayor Ziegler thought that would be helpful during the budget sessions. A concern of his was that people won't show up at the meetings.

Fatooma Saad said she was not a resident of Wixom but she was here for a school project. She agreed with Mr. Milburn. She is a Marine Corp veteran and she worked as a Public Affairs Specialist. One of the things they utilized a lot was social media. Part of that was live streaming large events. They found that the analytics for videos was a lot higher than news articles. People want to see it. There are more community members that can't get here. As an outsider, she thought this was a good opportunity. This is how the communities communicate now. The President of the United States communicates with the whole world via Twitter and we see how popular and effective that is to getting out his message. A lot of elected officials are beginning to engage the public in a way that they can be engaged in the comfort of their own homes while still be active in their communities.

Vote:

Motion Carried

6.) Consideration of the Approval of the 2018-2019 Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) Contract in the Amount of \$13,262 to be Funded through SMART with the Local Match Funded through Oakland County Public Transportation Authority (OCPTA) and Authorization of Mayor Richard Ziegler to Sign the Contract on Behalf of the City

CM-09-155-18: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Kennedy and Rzeznik to approve the 2018-2019 Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) Contract in the amount of \$13,262 to be funded through SMART with the local match funded through the Oakland County Public Transportation Authority (OCPTA) and authorize Mayor Richard Ziegler to sign the Contract on behalf of the City.

Councilmember Rzeznik asked about the utilization for the transportation program. Ms. Magee stated that it has increased. It tends to be the same people but they are utilizing it.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Jesse Watts, a student at Lakeland High School, seconded the conversation regarding the live streaming to YouTube. From personal experience, he felt it tends to bring a lot more engagement than simply uploading things to YouTube. You tend to notice the comments are a lot more active.

Fatooma Saad added that the comment section is where we will find a lot of the millennial generation. She thought live streaming and taking it into the digital world will provide a more informed community across all generations. There will still be people who want to come to the meetings to see the faces and hear the banter. But we will also get people who can't come or are a lot more comfortable getting their information from a digital source. She said Wixom was one of the first places she worked. She used to work at the bank inside Meijer before she was in the Marine Corp. She has always loved the community. She stated that the more informed our population is, the stronger the community is. We are only as smart as the least informed among us. She thought moving in that direction with other initiatives is only going to make the City of Wixom stronger.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown stated that we are jointly hosting an event with Milford Village and Milford Township on October 4th at 7:00 p.m. at the Milford Civic Center located at 1100 Atlantic Street. This is a PFAS Informational Event to discuss something that is of interest to people in the region related to a particular class of contaminants. In spite of an industrial user in Wixom who has stopped the use of a class of chemical that is no longer allowed after 2015, we are still experiencing some wastewater discharge from their operation that has levels beyond the guidelines. We will have representatives from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Oakland County Health Department and the Huron River Watershed Council present at this event to

provide some information on the health of the Huron River Watershed. He encouraged all those interested to attend this event.

Mr. Brown further explained that we do have an issue with our effluent that discharges from our Wastewater Treatment Plant also being beyond the recommended guidelines. That is not something that is coming about because of any activities at the City of Wixom. We do not utilize any chemicals in any of our processes that have those substances present. The obvious spot to search for why that was occurring was to look at industrial users in the community that might be a source of that kind of chemical usage. We did identify a company in Wixom, Tribar Manufacturing, who does have an issue with their wastewater discharge that is coming to our plant. There is no treatment processes in place in Wixom or in the surrounding area for this class of substances. When it entered our Wastewater Treatment Plant, it was passed through our Plant and ended up being discharged to the Huron River Watershed. MDEQ has contacted us about this and we have been working with them, as well as Tribar Manufacturing, to address it at the source, which is what the prescription is for fixing these problems from the MDEQ. Staff visited Tribar a few days ago to talk about the efforts they are taking to address the situation. In conjunction with that, we issued an Administrative Compliance Order to Tribar to put them on formal notice about this problem. This requires them to take action by certain dates. They will be required to evaluate how this is occurring and what is causing it to be present in their discharge to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. They will also be required to develop and implement strategies and plans for dealing with that and reducing the presence of those PFAS substances and eliminating them in the long run. Tribar is taking this matter very seriously and they are working with consultants in their own internal staff to determine the best approach to getting this under control and eliminating that contaminated discharge to our Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Brown indicated that he has done a posting to the City's website with some basic information and the posting of the Administrative Compliance Order will be present tomorrow. We are working with the MDEQ to get this under control and we take this matter very seriously.

Mayor Ziegler mentioned that this doesn't have any impact on the drinking water. Mr. Brown said that was correct. The City is on the Great Lakes Water Authority system. There has been no impact on the drinking water. Mayor Ziegler thanked the City Manager for staying on top of this situation.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Kennedy thanked the City Manager for aggressively looking into the PFAS issue as he felt the water system was very important. He appreciated all the work the staff was putting into this matter as well.

Councilmember Smiley had no comments.

Councilmember Rzeznik indicated that they had previous discussions regarding the One Stop Ready Program and Redevelopment Ready Communities. He felt one of the biggest single barriers for economic development within this region was the motor transportation system. He thought that the motor transportation system needed to be in the front and center of the plans. He believed without egress in and out of the City, economic development would not occur, no matter how ready the

City was. He thought the City Administration needed to continue to keep the pressure on Lansing and Washington. Also, he mentioned that a lot of people may not be aware that Robertson Brothers came upon a willow tree with honey bees while they were developing the property behind the Wixom Post Office. He said that the DDA took the advice from Tracy Kallek from the Building Department and relocated the honey bees. They were able to make jars of honey and sell them at the Block Party. The program they planned was to get the schools involved and they moved the entire colony to the property behind the DPW building. He thought this would be an excellent project for the school kids and the honey was delicious.

Councilmember Gottschall recalled that he read an article from the MML regarding the green city benchmark test for analysis and we had a map of how the City was doing. He thought that would be something to look into as we were talking about improvements to the City campus and buildings where we could improve our green infrastructure. He mentioned while he was reading about the installation of a carbon filter and monthly testing being mandated regarding PFAS. He wondered if the hope was the carbon filter would eliminate the PFAS and the monthly testing was to show that it was still at zero or was it if they were still putting PFAS into the system and the goal of testing monthly would be to show the readings going down. Mr. Brown said the goal was to maintain the testing to determine if the levels stayed the same, rise or drop. He noted that once a system is in place, the levels should decline. Councilmember Gottschall asked if that system should get the City into the acceptable levels and would it take a number of months. Mr. Brown said that it would most likely be a number of months because they are still working on getting a system designed and implemented. Once the system begins operating and it performs the way it is supposed to, then they should see a pretty quick improvement in the numbers coming from Tribar and that would translate to the affluent. He added the other thing that was working against us was the size of the system. One source was a large operation but the entire wastewater processing was a small operation and their percentage of our affluent was actually pretty large. Councilmember Gottschall asked about the timeline for getting this under control. Mr. Brown said Tribar indicated they stopped using PFAS in 2015 but these chemicals still remain in pipe lining or equipment. They had to determine where the sources of those are and then implement a treatment; therefore, it would take some time. As he mentioned, it was not like Tribar did anything wrong up until this point but this was something that recently came to light as an issue. He added that Tribar and the City were never asked to test for PFAS. The goal was getting them compliant as much as possible. Councilmember Gottschall said that this was something that we had to address and quickly because as we drag it out, it will make matters worse. He did not feel that this process should take 4-6 months but more like a few weeks to figure it out or else you are done. Mr. Brown thought the timeline discussed was around 6-8 weeks but was unsure how that would play out. This had occurred in other areas of the State where there was no shut down of that operation pursuant to interactions of MDEQ. He assured the Council that they would continue to stay in touch with the MDEQ and make sure they were taking the appropriate steps, including potential enforcement actions against Tribar if the steps were not taken quickly.

Councilmember Beagle mentioned there were five work anniversaries ranging from 5 years to 21 years of service. He thanked those employees. He was looking

forward to the brand new event this weekend - Barkin' in the Park at Gilbert Willis from 12 noon to 4 pm.

Mayor Ziegler thought the City was working quickly on the PFAS issue because they only learned of this recently. He wanted to make sure the problem gets addressed but certainly did not want to close anybody down.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 10-09-2018
