

**CITY OF WIXOM  
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019**

Mayor Ziegler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Present:**

**Mayor:** R. Ziegler  
**Deputy Mayor:** P. Beagle  
**Councilmembers:** K. Gottschall  
T. Gronlund-Fox  
B. Leder (Excused)  
T. Rzeznik  
R. Smiley

**AGENDA CHANGES:** (None)

**PRESENTATION:**

**1.) Introduction of Probationary Firefighters Frank Hamann, Miguel Peguero and John Paronish to the Mayor and City Council**

Chief Roberts introduced three men who have recently completed the Firefighter I and Firefighter II of the Fire Academy.

Chief Roberts indicated that Frank Hamann was a graduate of the Livingston County Fire Academy. He came to the City of Wixom with four years of private emergency medical experience and worked as a Public Safety Service Aide within the Wixom Police Department. He explained that Miguel Peguero also was a graduate of the Livingston County Fire Academy, had a marketing education from Wayne State University and worked as a Public Safety Service Aide for the Wixom Police Department. Chief Roberts noted that John Paronish graduated the Farmington Hills Fire Academy and has a degree in architectural construction.

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to the three gentlemen.

The Council recessed at 7:11 p.m. They reconvened at 7:28 p.m.

**MINUTES:**

**CM-08-132-19:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Rzeznik to approve the Special City Council meeting minutes of July 23, 2019.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CM-08-133-19:** Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Beagle and Councilmember Gottschall to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of July 23, 2019.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1.) Notice of Hearing for the Gas Customers of Consumers Energy Company Case No. U-20209

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments at this time.

**CITY MANAGER REPORTS:****1.) Fire Monthly Reports - June 2019**

There were no questions or comments regarding this report.

**2.) Police Monthly Reports – June 2019**

Deputy Mayor Beagle asked if the operating under the influence within the Group B Crimes of the Police Monthly Report included alcohol and marijuana. Director Moore said it included intoxicating beverages and drugs. Deputy Mayor Beagle wondered if there was a report or stats he could share in regards to the designated traffic safety program. Director Moore indicated that the traffic safety officer began his assignment on July 15, 2019 and has worked 16 ten-hour shifts. Within that timeframe, there were 127 traffic stops, three arrests for driver-related offenses, 52 tickets issued and 75 warnings. The Director anticipated that once the program was up and running, the citations would increase. He added that the Records Manager created three categories (traffic patrols, traffic education, and traffic engineering) within the management system allowing us to keep track of the traffic safety program activities more efficiently. Starting August 14, 2019 through Labor Day, the Wixom Police will participate in the campaign called "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over." Deputy Mayor Beagle asked what would be the best way to contact this officer or the Police Department concerning a traffic-related issue within their subdivision or otherwise. Director Moore said by emailing the Department at [policeadmin@wixomgov.org](mailto:policeadmin@wixomgov.org).

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**CM-08-134-19:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
  - a. Library Board Minutes of June 24, 2019
- 2.) Request to Set a Public Hearing on August 27, 2019 for Rezoning of Parcel Number 17-31-401-013, a 16.34 Acre Parcel at 3400 Theodore Street, from R-3, One-Family Residential to R-4, One-Family Residential
- 3.) Acceptance of a Permanent Sidewalk Easement Along N. Wixom Road Granted by Damas Wixom Retail Located at 28345 Beck Road for the Amount of One Dollar (\$1.00)
- 4.) Acceptance of Water Main Easement Granted by Wixom Development Company for Property Located at 28702 Wall Street for the Amount of One Dollar (\$1.00)
- 5.) Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement to Construct an Interim Water Line Service and Emergency Water Line Connection Between the City of Wixom and the City of Novi at West Twelve Mile Road

- 6.) Recommendation to Approve the Designation of Deanna Magee and Catherine Buck as the 2019 MERS Officer Delegate and Alternate and that a Delegate Certification Form Listing Their Names, as well as the Names of the Employee Delegate and Alternate (Susan Comben and Marilyn Stamper), be Forwarded to MERS for the 2019 Annual Meeting

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** (None)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.) Approval of an Agreement with EHIM, Inc. of Southfield, Michigan to Provide Professional Services Administration of the City's Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan**

**CM-08-135-19:** Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Beagle and Councilmember Rzeznik to approve an agreement with EHIM, Inc. of Southfield, Michigan to provide professional services administration of the City's Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan.

Mr. Brown indicated that the City had an arrangement with a prior company for the HRA services they utilized for the benefit of the employees. They had some experiences that were suboptimal with that company. Their hope was that with this agreement and a new provider, services would improve. He noted the cost with the new provider was less than what we are currently paying.

Councilmember Rzeznik asked about the overlap should someone make a prior claim through Claims Choice. Ms. Stamper indicated that all claims submitted after the September 30, 2019 deadline would be handled by EHIM. Additionally, EHIM would obtain a listing of all payments made through September 30<sup>th</sup> and compare the list to the claims that still needed to be made.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

- 2.) Recommendation to Utilize a Bid Process from Macomb County, Michigan and Authorize the Purchase of Two (2) 2020 Ford Police Interceptor® Utility Vehicles for \$65,098.00 from Signature Ford of Owosso, Michigan and Utilize a Bid Process from the Oakland County Cooperative Purchasing Program and authorize the Purchase and Installation of Two (2) Replacement Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) and Peripheral Equipment for the Police Department Patrol Vehicles for \$9,709.66**

**CM-08-136-19:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Rzeznik to utilize a bid process from Macomb County, Michigan and authorize the purchase of two (2) 2020 Ford Police Interceptor® Utility Vehicles for \$65,098.00 from Signature Ford of Owosso, Michigan and utilize a bid process from the Oakland County Cooperative Purchasing Program and authorize the purchase and installation of two (2) replacement mobile data computers (MDCs) and peripheral equipment for the Police Department patrol vehicles for \$9,709.66.

Director Moore noted that both of these items had been budgeted. He said the mobile data computer proposal was the exact same proposal that was brought before Council at the last meeting.

Councilmember Gottschall understood that on July 23, 2019 they approved the mobile data computers on existing cars but wondered how long they expected to have the new patrol vehicles actually working for the Police Department. Director Moore replied three years on the current cycle of purchasing two cars each fiscal year. Councilmember Gottschall wondered if they would need to replace the computers within that timeframe. Director Moore said the life on the computers was approximately six years.

Councilmember Rzeznik suggested that during the upcoming budget sessions, they should benchmark some of the local communities to view their policies on replacement of vehicles, idol verses non-idol and mileage. He believed they needed to take a closer look into that and perhaps revisit our own policy.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox wondered when the older police vehicles would be given to the other departments. Director Moore thought late winter or early spring.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Lisa Volker, 1617 Windingway Drive, had concerns regarding the Wixom Habitat. She said that in the past, we have had trouble with trash and vandalism there. She was pleased to report that is much less of a problem. There does seem to be a problem with keeping the Habitat up. The brush is overgrown to the point where people are breaking off branches so they can walk down to the platform. The platform is sinking again. Her real concern was safety. When the boardwalk gets wet, it becomes slippery. Because there is a buildup of leaf decay and mold over time, it is slimy and dangerous. Last month there was a horrific accident there. The husband of a friend of hers went for a walk there on July 23 and he slipped on the boardwalk. He had an injury to his leg which required three plates, 12 screws and 46 staples. He is off work for a minimum of three months and he has no disability insurance. She thought this should be addressed before there is a fatality. There is a very small sign at the entrance to the Habitat that says, "Watch your step." You might think that sign refers to the fact that the pavement is ending and you are stepping onto the boardwalk. If we can't do something to make the boardwalk safer, she thought we needed to place a "Slippery when wet sign." The Habitat is one of the few places in Wixom where you can go for a quiet walk. There aren't any athletic fields or playgrounds. Those all have their place in this community. The Habitat is a little jewel in Wixom. She stated that last year, the New York Times printed an article that talked about more and more physicians are prescribing walks in the woods for their patients. They are finding that spending time in nature actually decreases people's blood pressure and stress level. This is a place that is great for that, but we need to take care of it and we need to make it safer for people.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Brown said the Clerk's office was campaigning to get registered voters to sign up for the City's Absent Voter List. By signing up for this list, the Clerk's office would send an application for every election asking if you wanted an absentee ballot. With the new requirements, you no longer need to have a reason to vote by absentee ballot. The Clerk was excited for this because she felt this was a way to increase voter participation. In preparing for the 2020 calendar, the joint meetings of the City Council, Planning Commission, ZBA and DDA dates need to be selected. Typically, they schedule these meetings in January, June and October. Please contact the City Manager's office or the Planning Department with your availability.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Deputy Mayor Beagle** welcomed Frank Hamann, Miguel Peguero and John Paronish to the Wixom Fire Department.

**Councilmember Gottschall** thanked the newest firefighters and congratulated Louie McKaig on his promotion within the Police Department. He hoped the joint meetings would be replaced with working sessions for City Council to discuss important topics. He was aware there were presentations given at the joint meetings but it didn't feel like it was getting everyone on the same page. He believed it felt like they were having a meeting just to meet. He thought there were a lot of important things that needed to be discussed; therefore, he would rather have study sessions a few times a year instead of the joint meetings.

**Councilmember Gronlund-Fox** welcomed the new firefighters. She thanked the DPW for adding the additional hazardous waste event. She received a lot of positive feedback from residents regarding the concerts and activities this summer. She thanked Ms. Magee and her staff for their efforts in making those events a success. She noted how she attended a few fitness classes offered and found them to be great.

**Councilmember Smiley** welcomed the new firefighters. He participated in the latest Household Hazardous Waste event and found it to be a great success. He thanked the Fire Chief for Camp 911. He believed the children loved that camp and they learn a lot. He said that his family attended a Detroit Lions game and heard a young lady from Wixom singing the National Anthem.

**Councilmember Rzeznik** welcomed the three newest probationary firefighters. He was happy to hear the budget-approved traffic safety officer was effective. He noted that the Momberg Endowment Fund that sat within the Wixom Community Foundation may be able to assist with signage at the Wixom Habitat. He suggested Ms. Volker get with Councilmember Smiley after the meeting to talk more about that.

**Mayor Ziegler** indicated that they needed volunteers for the Block Party on September 7, 2019. If you were interested, please contact Laura or Debe within the Economic Development Department. He encouraged everyone to attend the event even if they could not commit to working. He congratulated the new firefighters and welcomed them to Wixom. He recalled asking the members of these Boards and Commissions at a prior joint meeting if they wanted to continue having joint

meetings and most said they did. He agreed that they needed to have a little more in-depth discussions on topics so work sessions would be beneficial. He suggested having a work session with the Council and future Council members to discuss some information relative to the City moving forward. He thought maybe an agenda could be drafted for a meeting in September. He would rather see this happen sooner rather than later because it was important to have discussions on the roads, pacer ratings, the millage renewal and any other items that the future Council may be dealing with.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Catherine Buck  
City Clerk

Approved 8-27-2019
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