

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 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: P. Behrmann
K. Gottschall
T. Gronlund-Fox
T. Rzeknik
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES: (None)

PRESENTATIONS:

1.) Presentation from Lakes Area Community Coalition

Mayor Ziegler stated that we had a celebration a few weeks ago when we had the box installed in the Police Lobby for people who wanted to drop off prescription drugs. The Coalition was responsible for having this box installed. We talked at that time about having a presentation to find out a little more about the Coalition.

Kristen Quinn, Founder and President of the Board of Directors of the Lakes Area Community Coalition, spoke regarding the development of this organization, which is funded by the federal government. Their vision is to create a healthy, vibrant, drug-free community. They want to reinforce healthy choices and lifestyles, as well as coping skills. She stated that their mission is to prevent drug and alcohol use among our youth by promoting protective factors. This year they kicked off the Youth Action Board, hoping this organization would ultimately become run by the youth. The students represent all four middle schools and all three high schools. Since they came together, they have determined that vaping is a huge issue. They are heavy on social media, community interviews, and resources.

Joan Baert explained that the Coalition is made up of the Board of Directors and the Youth Action Board. They also work closely with sector representatives. She provided the Council with several examples of the work that the Coalition does for our community. She thanked the Council for opting out of recreational marijuana sales licenses in the City of Wixom. Reducing access is a big deterrent to youth underage substance use. She encouraged the Council to keep on top of that ever-changing legislation. Other things to consider in the future is the continued enforcement of laws around substance use, access, making sure the alcohol retailers are compliant with the laws, and making sure our drivers are not driving impaired. They will continue to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as the DDA. She said they would love to explore the possibility of a social host ordinance in the City of Wixom. This ordinance would provide for an enforceable misdemeanor with fines for adults who host parties where there is underage drinking. She said they have a website and they are on Instagram and Facebook. Lastly, she encouraged anyone to contact them at any time.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thanked them for talking about their great programs and the things that they do. She said that it sounds like a lot of the services and messages that they provide are similar to that of the Youth Assistance. She asked that they talk about the differences. Ms. Baert stated that the work of the Coalition is prevention. Youth Assistance

targets kids who are in trouble, are at risk, or who have already experienced problems. They do more with recovery and moving them in the right direction. She said they appreciate the work of the Youth Assistance and they do work with them. Their work does overlap. They are also funded differently.

Councilmember Smiley thanked them for their presentation and for all that they do. One of her examples was that they had Judge Reeds doing sentencing at Walled Lake Northern High School and he asked if that was a mock court case. Ms. Baert replied that it was an actual sentencing. It was very impactful. If they agree to have the sentencing in front of the audience and agree to make an impact statement, it would be a reduction of sentencing as it counts toward community service. Councilmember Smiley asked if they would be doing that at other high schools. Ms. Baert replied that it is challenging to get the cases. Last year they did one at Geisler Middle School and one at Walled Lake Central. They will do one at Western High School in January and they have one scheduled for Walnut Creek Middle School in May.

Councilmember Rzeznik thanked them for their presentation. He asked if they partnered or collaborated with some of the other non-profits that focus on substance abuse in the Lakes Area. He knew of a couple of them who were run by families who were closely touched. Ms. Quinn stated that Liz Martin was on the ground floor with her in building this organization. She was engaged and focused on the opioid side. When they moved toward the prevention of all substances, that was when she decided to focus more on the opioid side. The loss of her daughter Angie had a lot to do with what started this organization. She said they partnered with Ryan's Hope previously to do a Narcan training. They have also worked with organizations like Easter Seals and Oakland Family Services that do provide the actual services.

Mayor Ziegler thanked them for their presentation. It was very informative and the City looked forward to working with them in the future.

2.) Presentation of Fiscal Year 2018-2019 City of Wixom Financial Audit

Doug Bohrer and Jeffrey Gertley were present from Plante Moran to review the audit findings with the Council.

Mr. Bohrer said he appreciated the Council inviting them to the meeting to present the results from the June 30, 2019 financial statement audit. He thanked Mr. Brown and Ms. Stamper, as well as their departments. They request a long list of items each year and staff was able to do that in a reasonable timeline so they could complete the audit as scheduled.

The Council received the financial statement audit, the end of audit letter, and the PowerPoint presentation in their packets. He started with the financial statement. This opinion is an unmodified opinion. It is the highest form of assurance you can receive from a third party independent auditing firm. This tells that both the numbers and the disclosures are materially correct.

Next, Mr. Bohrer reviewed the Budgetary Comparison Schedule for the General Fund with the Council. The actual results of the total revenue line and the total expenditure line were within about 3% of the budgeted results. He said we were doing a pretty good job of getting those budgets amended accordingly so they tie into the actual results for the year. The variances, both on the revenue side and the expenditure side, were favorable variances.

In regard to the capital assets, Mr. Bohrer noted that the City invested over \$7.5 million in capital assets, which included roads, buildings and infrastructure. For the long-term debt, he indicated that the City issued bonds this year to fund both pension and OPEB obligations.

Those obligations were around \$22 million. Throughout the year, the City continued to pay down debt in the amount of just shy of \$2 million.

Mr. Gertley reviewed the financial statement highlights and year-to-year trends for both governmental and business-type activities. First, he showed the General Fund Revenue Trends, which included property taxes, State Shared Revenue and grants, building permits, charges for services, cable franchise fee and all other revenue. He then showed the General Fund Expenditure Trends. The largest expenses for the City were the OPEB and pension contributions to MERS. The rest of the General Fund Expenditures (General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Recreation & Culture) remained fairly consistent year-to-year. Overall, he stated that the expenditures were in line with the budget.

Next, he went over the Five Year Trend of Total Revenue and Expenses compared to Unrestricted Fund Balance (committed Fund Balance and the unassigned Fund Balance). Over the last four or five years, the City has been between 55% and 70%. If we excluded the OPEB and pension contributions, we would be at about 73% unrestricted Fund Balance compared to total annual expenditures.

Mr. Gertley reviewed the Water and Sewer Operations. For both, he noted that the rates are set appropriately to cover the true operating expenses. Just like the Governmental General Fund, the business-type activity of the unrestricted net position is also in a very healthy position.

He showed the trends of Capital Investment compared to the Depreciation of Assets currently in place. There was significant capital improvement done within the year, primarily for parking lot renovations and road construction projects. Both the Governmental Activities and the Enterprise Funds show a healthy, unrestricted Fund Balance which gives the City the opportunity year to year to make these capital improvements to roads and parking lots.

The final two slides he reviewed were the funding status of both the pension and retiree health care plans. In fiscal year 2018, the pension plan was 59% funded and now it is 92% funded in 2019 because of the bond issuance and the large lump sum contribution into this plan. The City went from recording a liability of \$13.9 million in 2018 to only a \$2.96 million liability in 2019. In 2018, the retiree healthcare plan was 61% funded and in 2019, it is now 125% funded.

Councilmember Rzeznik asked if the total pension liability and plan asset, which was currently 92%, was expected to remain stable or if it would fluctuate year after year. Mr. Bohrer said that the pension percentage is as of December 31 and OPEB is a June 30 measure date. Part of the reason the 92% is there is because the investment performance for the plan for calendar year 2018 was negative. If you flip that and ask what the investment performance for OPEB between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, it was positive. That is one of the reasons that funded percentage looks a little lower than the OPEB. As far as what it will look like going forward, he said that was a good question. The financial statements lay out a couple options as far as if investment return is higher or lower by 1%. He couldn't tell what that was going to be, but if it was above what the assumptions say, that funding percentage is going to go up. If it is below, it will continue to stay where it is at or decline some. Councilmember Rzeznik clarified that it would fluctuate based on the market and Mr. Bohrer said that was correct.

In terms of the total indebtedness compared to what our debt capacity would be for a community our size, Councilmember Rzeznik wondered where we were. Mr. Bohrer said that we would be well below what the legal limit would be (10% of the SEV). Most of the debt is related to the recent bonds that were issued. The Sewer Fund has zero debt and the Water Fund will pay off the principle on that debt and then that will be debt-free as well. It is

predominantly the OPEB and pension bonds that we will be paying off over a period of time. The City made that decision to stabilize what the payments are going to be and to get these funds funded. We are still way below our debt capacity.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if the actuarial assumptions were supposed to change every year. Mr. Bohrer said that was correct. It could potentially have a negative effect. The main one was the investment return assumption. He didn't think it would have a big impact on Wixom. On the OPEB side, the mortality tables continue to get updated as more data becomes available. Also, the healthcare cost trends would have an effect. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if the goal was still around 120% to 125% to be funded so we don't have to make contributions. Mr. Bohrer said that an over-funded position would help with that. Over time, we will see how these assumptions will play out. There are some acquired assumptions that the accounting standards mandate relative to investment return, as an example. There are others like the healthcare cost trends that are specific to us. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said that the concern is that we are still paying our bond payment, but we will still have to kick in the regular payment toward MERS.

Mr. Bohrer then reviewed the year-end letter. This is a required communication to the Mayor and Council. It is broken down into three sections – Internal Control Related Matters Identified in an Audit, Required Communications with Those Charged with Governance and Other Recommendations and Related Information. He noted that there were some journal entries that the auditing firm found. These three entries totaled roughly \$200,000. There were two potential changes in accounting standards. The titles of what the debts were called were changed this year. He discussed the estimates and the big ones were related to OPEB and pensions. There were a number of assumptions related to rate of return on investment assets, healthcare cost trends, the actuarial tables. These assumptions should be looked at regularly by City management, and they are. They found those estimates to be reasonable.

Mr. Bohrer suggested that the City make sure the actuaries are considering using the most recent mortality tables. Secondly, he suggested that the City consider the long-term rate of return for its OPEB plan. On the healthcare cost trends, the actuary really should have information specific to Wixom's healthcare costs. The General Fund does have administrative charges and that is to allocate a portion of the cost of the different departmental functions that benefit those other funds. He suggested that we take a look at what was being charged and make sure it was commensurate with the actual cost to provide those services and to update those summaries to make sure those charges are reasonable.

The last item was the Uniform Chart of Account that Ms. Stamper was already well-aware of. That is required to be changed by the fiscal year of June 2021. Mr. Bohrer recommended the City review the cybersecurity and Information Technology Controls. Public Act 202 and Public Act 57 relate to reporting requirements. He knew the City has been conforming to those, but some of those rules have changed. They have consolidated a lot of the TIFA related reporting requirements into one. The details are in the letter and he noted that the City has been following those to date. There is an upcoming pronouncement that will be effective next year. It is referred to as GASB 84. That will have a big impact on the City because it will take a number of agency-type funds that currently aren't on the City's books (related to the defined contribution plans for both healthcare and pension, as well as the 457 plan). That activity will be put on the books and have disclosure requirements. They have put together some templates and tools to help their clients work through that. This will make our statements look different next year.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thanked him for the review. She wondered if there was a difference between the budgeted amount and the actual amount that was noted under the expenditures on the Budgetary Comparison Schedule of the General Fund. Mr. Bohrer

replied yes. He explained that the only thing that is identified in the audit is if there are expenditure overruns. There was one of those under the pension and OPEB lump sum payment line. Unless you amend the budget on the last day of the year and you have no adjustments to your books at June 30th, you'll never have your budget and actual be the same. There will always be some differences. If a community gets within 5% of their budgeted numbers, that is pretty good. He indicated that 2% or less was a best practice. The City was around 3% on the revenue side as well as the expenditure side for the fiscal year ending June 2019. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox clarified that this difference was only because of the pension and OPEB contribution. Mr. Bohrer said that was correct.

Mayor Ziegler thanked the auditors for their presentation.

MINUTES:

CM-12-193-19: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gottschall and Smiley to approve the Special City Council meeting minutes of November 26, 2019.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CM-12-194-19: Moved and seconded by Councilmember Rzeznik and Deputy Mayor Beagle to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of November 26, 2019.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1.) Email from Thomas Marcucci Regarding his Resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Parks & Recreation Commission**
- 2.) Elimination of Library Overdue Fines**

Mayor Ziegler also mentioned that a note of thanks was received from the Colyer Family.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: (None)

CITY MANAGER REPORTS:

- 1.) Fire Report - October 2019**

There were no questions regarding this report.

- 2.) Police Report - October 2019**

There were no questions regarding this report.

- 3.) Quarterly Budget and Investment Report - June 2019**

There were no questions regarding this report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-12-195-19: Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Smiley and Deputy Mayor Beagle to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:**
 - a. Library Board Minutes of October 28, 2019
 - b. Downtown Development Authority Minutes of October 22, 2019

Vote:

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.) Recommendation to Confirm the Mayor's Reappointments of Bruce Faber to the Board of Review with a Term to Expire December 31, 2022, and Eric Jarvis and Eddie Osman to the Tax Abatement Review Board with Terms to Expire December 31, 2022**

Mayor Ziegler stated that he was going to separate these appointments into three different motions.

CM-12-196-19: Moved and seconded by Councilmember Rzeknik and Deputy Mayor Beagle to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Bruce Faber to the Board of Review with a term to expire December 31, 2022.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CM-12-197-19: Moved and seconded by Councilmember Rzeknik and Deputy Mayor Beagle to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Eric Jarvis to the Tax Abatement Review Board with a term to expire December 31, 2022.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CM-12-198-19: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Rzeknik to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Eddie Osman to the Tax Abatement Review Board with a term to expire December 31, 2022.

Councilmember Gottschall stated the City Charter reads that each member of a City Board or Commission shall have been a resident of the City for a least one year prior to the date of their appointment, and shall be a qualified and registered elector of the City on such day, and through the tenure in office. He said that his support of this had not changed since the initial appointment of Mr. Osman because of the way the Charter was written. He was sworn to uphold the Charter. He stated that it was not personal and he recognized that Mr. Osman was a big supporter of the community, but that was the way he interpreted the Charter.

Mayor Ziegler said that Mr. Osman had been on the Board for a while; therefore, they had this discussion before. He noted that there were several other individuals on that particular Board that were not residents, such as Mr. Bell who was there on behalf of the Walled Lake School District. The school has a vested interest in a tax abatement. He explained that the other people that were on that Board that were not residents were business owners in Wixom who pay taxes. He said that this Board was not a standard Commission. He felt what the Charter referred to were the Commissions that had been staples within the City, such as the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. He said they had honored those appointments as the Charter said and required members of those committees are residents of the City. He recognized that Councilmember Gottschall understood differently and that it was nothing personal against the appointment.

Councilmember Rzeknik noted that there were certain committees that were formed over the years such as the Tax Abatement and the Beck Road Widening that did not have Wixom residents but business owners that had a vested interest in the City. He added that a lot of those business owners pay a lot more in taxes than an individual. He was in favor of the ad hoc committees being made up of Wixom business owners.

Mayor Ziegler pointed out that they consulted the attorney when this appointment came before Council previously.

Councilmember Behrmann believed that particular committee would dissolve if they were to take the stance that you must be a resident because most of the members were not residents of Wixom.

Councilmember Smiley thought if the attorney did not see any issues with it than he didn't either.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox clarified that the position of the City was that ad hoc committee members did not have to be residents but they did need to be business owners. The Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals needed to have residents only as members. Mayor Ziegler believed that to be correct.

Roll Call Vote: (6) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gronlund-Fox, Rzeznik, Smiley, Ziegler
(1) NAYS – Gottschall

Motion Passed

2.) Recommendation to Review the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Financial Audit and Authorization to Accept and File

CM-12-199-19: Moved and seconded by Councilmember Gottschall and Deputy Mayor Beagle to accept and file the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Financial Audit.

Mayor Ziegler thought the report was pretty thorough and he was very pleased with the Finance Department.

Vote:

Motion Carried

3.) Recommendation to Accept Hubbell, Roth, & Clark's Proposal for Engineering Services for the Basis of Design Update for the Wastewater Treatment Plant in an Amount not to Exceed \$23,900

CM-12-200-19: Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Beagle and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to accept Hubbell, Roth, & Clark's proposal for engineering services for the Basis of Design update for the Wastewater Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$23,900.

Councilmember Gottschall wondered why "waive the bid process" language was not being used if they were awarding a contract to a company that wasn't a sole provider of the service, and they didn't have an established professional service agreement. Mr. Sikma explained that HRC was the engineering firm that designed the Wastewater Treatment Plant and for that reason they felt it made them the most qualified. He explained that the basis of design basically looked at each of the fine processes and determined the treatment capabilities. He felt that the State had some concerns regarding the future flow so they wanted to make sure the plant was able to treat the wastewater in a manner that was in compliance with the permits they currently had. He added that the basis of the design was an update from a study conducted in 2004. He felt they should have it updated so that could ensure that the future flows from Wixom and Milford were in compliance.

Councilmember Gottschall understood that HRC had essentially completed all of the City's engineering work at the treatment plant; however, he still questioned why they would not be waiving the bid when they were not going with a sole provider.

Vote:

Motion Carried

4.) Consideration of a Commitment of Fund Balance, Budget Amendment and Subsequent Transfer of Funds in Excess of the Estimated June 30, 2019 indicated in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget, Plus \$1,428,299, for a Total of \$2,200,757 to the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) to Address the December 31, 2018 Unfunded Pension Liability

CM-12-201-19: Moved and seconded by Councilmember Rzeznik and Deputy Mayor Beagle to commit Fund Balance, Budget Amendment and subsequent transfer of funds in excess of the estimated June 30, 2019 Fund Balance indicated in the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget, plus \$1,428,299, for a total of \$2,200,757 to the Municipal Employees Retirement System to address the December 31, 2018 Unfunded Pension Liability.

Councilmember Rzeznik asked if the figures would be more accurate if they dated the actuarial assumption June 30th. Ms. Stamper replied that if they were looking at a 7.75% interest rate return, that may be the case, but MERS already adopted new assumption that they planned on using going forward. She said they had MERS look at the December 31, 2018 assumptions, take that unfunded liability amount and base it on a 7.35% assumption which resulted in \$2.2 million. She explained that the trend MERS saw was that 7.75% was not a realistic figure to base the funding so they decided to lower that amount. She noted that they had been using a 7% assumption with OPEB as they had the ability to set that rate years ago when they performed the actuarial studies. She added they ordered those studies themselves; therefore, they were not governed by exactly what MERS was doing on their actuarial side. That was why you saw the big difference in funding levels. She explained how conservative they had been with the OPEB. Now MERS was noticing the trend and had decreased the rates to be more realistic. In order to get ahead of it, they know that number would be \$2.2 million but they would do another evaluation at the end of the year. She said this liability would carry into the next actuarial because that was when they would start using the 7.35%.

Councilmember Rzeznik asked if there was something they could do proactively so they wouldn't be doing this same thing every year. Ms. Stamper said it was based on market fluctuation but they could plan conservatively. She felt that this year it hit quite hard because of the market and MERS changing their assumption going forward. They wanted to see it 100% funded when they came out of that year but unfortunately it changed. She added that when they did the bonding process, they knew it was ever-changing and not being at 100% was a possibility.

Mayor Ziegler said that had they not bonded there would have been an adverse impact on the unfunded liability anyway. Ms. Stamper confirmed. She said had they not bonded, the \$15 million of unfunded liability would have become much more. She added that it happened with the \$820,000 as the change in interest rates (7.75% to 7.35%) resulted in the growth to \$2.2 million. She wondered what \$15 million would become in the actuary. She felt it was a good decision because we would save money over time because we prefunded that.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox was aware that MERS changed their assumption on a regular basis. It appeared that same thing would be happening going forward so she would like to have something in place. She thought they could set money aside without it being spent on other things. She felt this would keep creeping up and she didn't want to see the City in this

situation again. She mentioned that the report talked about additional discretionary contributions, allowing regular annual contributions to be calculated at that higher lever, or a combination of both. She was in favor of the higher lever but wondered what they meant by a combination of both.

Mr. Brown said that it was just an arbitrary decision the Council could make instead of funding the full \$2.2 million; they could choose to fund \$1 million and carry forward the \$1.2 million. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox was in favor of funding the \$2.2 million. She asked if there was a goal higher than 100% funded because 100% was a moving target. Mr. Brown said the prospect of going over 100% was positive to the standpoint that you had some room to absorb negative experiences, but at the same time, you could worsen the impact of having that money if there was a downturn in the economy. He explained that if we were funding at 125%, we could potentially lose more money. Ideally, they would like to be in the ballpark of 100% with going a little above for wiggle room and that was their goal with the \$2.2 million contribution.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox noticed that the report reflected the line items that the \$2.2 million would be pulled from. She wondered if there were any projects or purchases that would be pushed out by doing that. Ms. Stamper replied no. Mr. Brown said that was the beauty of having a healthy fund balance and budget stabilization fund because decision like this can be made. He applauded prior Councilmembers and City Administrators for having the foresight to put Wixom in a positional to have fund balances available as opposed to not being able to fund it or cut services and expenses.

Councilmember Rzeznik noted that the entire purpose of the budget stabilization fund was to be set aside. It was at 12% with the general fund balance at 15%.

Councilmember Gottschall asked what the budget stabilization balance would be after the \$2.2 million. Mr. Brown said it would be \$1.3 million. Councilmember Gottschall recalled that within the last year or so the balance of that fund was \$4 million. He understood that the budget stabilization fund was intended for this type of use but he hoped there was a goal of starting to put money back into the funded plan. It did not sit well with him to spend almost \$3 million in a two-year period. He recalled projects that were paid for by this fund that had not been planned. Mr. Brown recognized that those projects were not budgeted projects and they were not part of the 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan but noted that the Council recognized that and felt those projects still needed to be accomplished. He felt that it was the same discretionary decision before them tonight. Would the Council feel that it was worthwhile to use of the budget stabilization fund and general fund monies to make up the short fall and pay the \$2.2 million against this unfunded pension liability. He stated that it was fully at the discretion of the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Gottschall explained that the report talked about the benefit of having the City funded at or above 100% in case there were shortfalls or budgeting issues in the future. He asked what the dollar amount would be or a projected dollar amount would be if this was not acted on. Ms. Stamper said that MERS did not provide a long-range payment plan but she thought that the \$2.2 million would be spread over 10-15 years. She said when you look at the funding level over a period of time funded annually, the percentage started to drop. Even though they make the payments that they tell them to make, they would see a drop in the funding because it's cheaper to pay the money upfront. Councilmember Gottschall felt that it was bitter news. If they knew they were going to adjust things, it would have been nice to hear of it ahead of time. It seemed like the only news they received from them was bad.

Vote:

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: (None)**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Brown said the Beck Road widening project had begun after the motion was made to go ahead with the lobbyist grant writer. The Michigan Air Line Trail continues to move forward and the ribbon cutting would be postponed until early spring. He mentioned they were going to work on a sidewalk program with the DPW regarding things like gaps or trip hazards. He congratulated the Community Services Department for hosting a very successful Tree Lighting event.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Behrmann said he enjoyed the Tree Lighting as he brought his family. He said that he sat on the ZBA with Tom Marcucci and felt that it would be a big loss to have him no longer participating on the ZBA and Parks and Recreation Commission. He thanked Mr. Marcucci for what he'd done for Wixom.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she attended the Tree Lighting program and thought it was great and well-attended. She thanked Ms. Stamper and the staff of the Finance Office for participating in the audit as she believed that was a big undertaking. They did a great job.

Councilmember Rzeznik gave Ms. Stamper and her staff kudos for the audit. He felt the new accounting system cleared up a lot of the ill of yesteryear. He felt the Tree Lighting event was great and a lot of fun. He mentioned that Novi unanimously approved their portion of the Beck Road Task Force portion at their last meeting.

Councilmember Smiley thanked Ms. Stamper and the staff for completing a successful audit. He said that he and his wife had a great time at the Tree Lighting event. He would like everyone to start thinking about 2020 Study Sessions.

Councilmember Gottschall thanked Tom Marcucci for all of his years of service and dedication to Wixom. He felt that he was a generous person and felt that he was one of those people that were engrained in the community. He felt that the Library getting rid of their late fees was a great idea. He noted that the report said their Library card would be blocked if an item was 21 days late or the person had 25 overdue items. He thought 25 items was high and wondered if that figure was correct. Ms. Dickson confirmed that was correct.

Deputy Mayor Beagle thanked Ms. Stamper for a successful audit and thought that it was very rewarding to get successful outcome year after year. He thanked Tom Marcucci for his volunteerism in the City. He thought the Tree Lighting was great and looked forward to the Santa Breakfast hosted by the Fire Department this coming weekend. He felt it was an honor to be invited to help out.

Mayor Ziegler echoed the comments regarding the Tree Lighting and Mr. Marcucci. He said that this was his last meeting in the Council Chambers because the next meeting on December 17, 2019 would be held in the Community Center. He hoped that everyone would bring family and friends with them to celebrate as it would be a very nice festive occasion. He felt that everything was working fine at Wixom because they had a good healthy fund balance and the Departments were running at top speed. He thought the DPW Department did a great job, Parks and Recreation did a great job, Ms. Stamper and the Finance Department did well with the City's finances, and Ms. Buck and the Clerk's Office was also doing good. He would miss working with them.

Mr. Brown noted the venue for the next meeting (December 17, 2019) would be changed to the Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved: 1-14-2020
