

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

Mayor Beagle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor: P. Beagle
Deputy Mayor: T. Rzeznik
Councilmembers: P. Behrmann
K. Gottschall
T. Gronlund-Fox
P. Sharpe
R. Smiley

AGENDA CHANGES: (None)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

1.) Discussion of Fiscal Action Plan for FY 2020-2021

A. Police Department

Mayor Beagle said this was the second of the series of meetings that he was scheduling to get the Council ready for the budget sessions later in April. We have a three-year budget and if we have any questions we can get them answered now so the budget sessions go smoother.

Director Moore provided a slide show regarding some significant projects that the Police Department was looking at in the next fiscal year. He also wanted to give a little background on the Police budget.

He explained that the current Police budget was approximately \$3.2 million. This budget is broken into five major divisions including Salaries and Wages, Professional and Contractual, Operating Supplies, Maintenance and Repairs and Capital Outlay. Some of the major accounts in the Operating Budget include the Police Dispatching Services, Equipment Rental, Gas and Oil, Law Enforcement Supplies, Consultants and Personnel and Training.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if the only time of the year we subcontract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office is for our Light the Night event. Director Moore replied yes, other than for Dispatching Services.

Director Moore stated that some of the significant projects for the 2020-2021 fiscal year include the Police kitchen, which hasn't been updated since 1992. He budgeted \$20,000 in fiscal year 2018-2019 but that money was never spent. The cost of the project would be approximately \$38,000.

Another significant project on his list involved the increase of patrolling the Michigan Airline Trail. He came up with a three year plan for that. In year one, beginning July 1, 2020, he would like to increase the Police Overtime by

approximately \$8,400 and purchase an electric bicycle (including the Police package, helmet and training) for \$5,000.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked what period of time he was looking at for the overtime. Director Moore said he would look to see when the volume of pedestrians was the greatest to determine the best time. She also asked if he had talked to the other Police Chiefs along the Trail to see what their plan was to patrol their section. He said he has not spoken to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office regarding the Commerce Township section but the Walled Lake Police Department has invested in segways. She asked him to find out what the neighboring communities would be doing and he said he would be happy to find out and get back to the Council.

Councilmember Smiley thought it might make sense to see what communities that have had this Trail for a while are doing about patrolling it and what have they encountered. Every town is different, so we may need to tweak what they are doing. He was glad there was something in the works now.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if we had bikes now. Director Moore replied yes but they are not being utilized. Councilmember Behrmann asked if Director Moore thought if the expense of the \$5,000 bike would actually be used. Director Moore said he would insist on it. This bike could be used during Light the Night or even patrolling other parks in the City.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if there was a reason he was looking at an electric bike instead of a regular bike. Director Moore replied that the speed of getting the officers to a problem efficiently would be helpful. The 1,000 watt electric bicycle will do 30-35 miles per hour.

Mayor Beagle noted that in year two, he was requesting the purchase of a second bike but he didn't show any overtime noted. Director Moore said that if he were allowed to purchase a second bicycle, he would insist that one be used by officers who were already on duty.

Next, Director Moore showed the overtime numbers over the course of five years with 2.5% increases every year. He built in about a 3% increase on the second bicycle for year two, so that would be about \$5,200. Mayor Beagle asked if there would be any advantage to buying both bikes at the same time. Director Moore said he would certainly ask that question of the vendor at the time of the purchase.

Councilmember Gottschall asked how much time we spend walking through the Habitat to check for vandalism. Director Moore thought the night shift officers do it more than the day shift officers. He didn't have a hard number.

Mayor Beagle asked if the DPW guys checked the Habitat. Mr. Sikma replied yes, they do check for vandalism and to make sure it is in good shape.

Director Moore stated that in year three, he put in the purchase of a trail-friendly ATV that would include the police package for \$30,000. Councilmember Behrmann asked if we had anything like that now. Director Moore replied that there is nothing like that on the Police side. The Police Department is a member of OakTac (Oakland

Tactical Consortium). When we have an event such as Light the Night, we use their Polaris Ranger for the night. The Fire Department gets a device from Huron Valley Ambulance.

Councilmember Smiley asked if there would be other purposes for this ATV. Director Moore thought it would be wise to combine this unit with the Fire Department. They could get access to a patient having a medical emergency at the back of the habitat, for instance.

Director Moore showed the Capital Expenditures chart which showed the cost over the ten year period. This would be the annual increase for all of these purchases.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik commented that something like the bikes with proper tires could also be used to patrol the back of some of our parks. Director Moore added that we have had injured people on the trails.

Director Moore said this next expenditure was being investigated on a cost-benefit analysis. This is Signal Prioritization. Last summer, he saw a demonstration of the vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) technologies. Signal prioritization has many different names – signal preemption, emergency vehicle preemption and emergency vehicle prioritization. There are two goals – reduce intersection-related crashes and improve public safety response times. Signal prioritization allows for the automated transfer of a traffic control signal from its normal and routine operation to a special mode in order for public safety vehicles to efficiently proceed through a controlled intersection. An emitter affixed to the vehicle communicates with a detector affixed to the traffic signal. This communication allows for the public safety vehicle to travel through the intersection on a green light. The City of Novi has these on 29 intersections in their community. When they installed the most recent receivers at M-5 and 13 Mile Road, it cost just less than \$12,000. They do not put these on the Police vehicles, only the Fire vehicles. If this was to be determined beneficial, it could potentially be put into the Capital Plan in year three (2022-2023). He thought it would cost approximately \$70,000.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox knew that we had a little ways to go before we knew what was going on with the Beck Road widening project. We may need to move those signals so she would hate to put them on a signal that has to come down or be moved. Mr. Brown said that the rosier projection he would have regarding the construction activity on Beck Road would be about a year past this. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik added that the equipment goes into the signal box and on the mast itself. It is very portable and could be moved easily.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if there was a need for this. He wondered if the Fire Department had any issues where they couldn't get through an intersection. Director Moore said that in his 25 years with the Police Department, he didn't recall a police-related, intersection-related crash where the officer was attempting to respond to a call. There was one time that involved an ambulance, but not one of ours. He didn't think there was a problem with intersection-related crashes with public safety vehicles. But he felt it would enhance response times. Councilmember Behrmann asked if this system would work with Huron Valley Ambulance or just our

ambulance. Director Moore replied that he spoke to the Vice President of Huron Valley and there was nothing on the horizon for them to explore this type of technology.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik added that one life was saved in Sterling Heights as a result of this technology. There are 38,000 deaths in vehicle crashes per year and if we can save six, eight or ten, it is significant. We have a Level 2 Trauma Center at Beck Road and getting people there is critical.

Mr. Brown added that the grants that we will be submitting for potential funding on Beck Road will incorporate language for intelligent transportation system technology.

Director Moore continued with his projections for year three of his budget. He is interested in hiring an additional police officer for the purpose of having a dedicated officer in a regional surveillance unit called SONIC (South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Crew). Many community police departments, including Novi, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, have dedicated members in SONIC. If we have a string of daytime home invasions and we have a committed member in SONIC, they will divert their resources to the City of Wixom to help with surveillance. He said he could call the Michigan State Police and they would come for a day or two. If we have a dedicated police officer from our municipality in this SONIC organization, they will work the case until there are no longer leads or until they have someone in custody. There is a benefit to having a dedicated person in this regional group. He stated that the national average for police officers is 1.9 per 1,000 residents in the community. The Midwest average is 1.7 officers per 1,000 residents. Wixom is 1.5 based on the 2018 census estimate.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked how much work a SONIC officer would be doing in Wixom. Director Moore replied that it would be on an as-needed basis. If we are having a good streak where we are not having those types of crimes, they would not be spending much time in Wixom. When we are having those bad streaks and we need to end the problem quickly, that is when a group like SONIC is wonderful. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she would be curious to know what our data is on how many of those streaks we have. She thought it was a great idea to have a SONIC officer, but she didn't think they'd be in our community much. We would get the benefit for those types of incidents, but if those incidents weren't going on we aren't going to get the use out of that officer. Director Moore said that we utilized SONIC about two months ago on a case that happened in Wixom near the Novi border and they made a successful arrest. It happens more often than you might think.

Councilmember Smiley wondered if the expense of the SONIC membership was the same as hiring a full time police officer to be a part of SONIC. Director Moore stated that the expense of SONIC was paying the officer's wages.

Councilmember Behrmann commented that he would like to see what the comparison would be to us having another officer patrolling our streets every day versus putting an officer in other communities. He asked if we had any other programs like this where we were paying the salary of an officer that doesn't do

any work in Wixom. Director Moore replied no, not now. Councilmember Behrmann could see this making more sense in larger communities, although he thought Director Moore would know better than he would. He was curious to see if we would have a better impact if this officer was dedicated to our community. Director Moore stated that the benefit of SONIC is that they would all be of a detective level. Not only would they be doing the surveillance but they would also be investigating the cases. Many times that is something that a patrol officer doesn't have the time to do.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik asked what other communities were members of SONIC. Director Moore said he knew that Novi, West Bloomfield and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office were part of it. He would get the other communities for the Council tomorrow.

Lastly, Director Moore showed the Council a chart of expense for the additional officer for five years using 2.5% annual increases.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik commented that he felt these meetings were very beneficial. He thanked the Mayor for setting up these meetings. He felt the Council got a lot of foresight here. Mayor Beagle said that his goal was to discuss the DPW and the City Manager's Office at the second meeting in March.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if it would be possible to have the information prior to the meeting. Mr. Brown said that this information was complicated by vacations and he apologized. The Council would have the information prior to the next meeting.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: (None)

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 pm.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

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| Approved 3-11-2020 |
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