

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020**

Mayor Beagle called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present:

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

AGENDA CHANGES:

Mr. Brown added Correspondence #2 – Mac Valves, Inc. Letter Regarding Their Donation to the Police and Fire Departments.

MINUTES:

CM-04-38-20: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Behrmann and Gottschall to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of March 11, 2020.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox,
Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley
(0) NAYS**

Motion Carried

CM-04-39-20: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of March 26, 2020.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox,
Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley
(0) NAYS**

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1.) **Emergency Management Order #005 from City Manager Steve Brown Regarding 2020/2021 Budget Delays**
- 2.) **Mac Valves, Inc. Letter Regarding Their Donation to the Police and Fire Departments**

Mayor Beagle read the letter from Mac Valves, Inc. which indicated that they donated \$10,000 each to the Police Department and the Fire Department in appreciation of their service during the pandemic.

Mr. Brown stated that this was not solicited from anybody at the City; they just felt it was the right thing to do. He said that the City certainly appreciated that level of recognition.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Brown explained for those attending this virtual meeting as an attendee, there was a "raise hand" button at the bottom of the screen for those wishing to speak.

There were no public comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS:**1.) Departmental Reports – February 2020**

Councilmember Sharpe questioned how the bids for the Beck Road milling and resurfacing were working in the midst of this pandemic. Mr. Sikma replied that the bids were supposed to come in the first of the month, but because of COVID-19, they were postponed. He stated that they didn't expect those bids to come in now until the first week of May.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said that in the past, the Water Department reports had a sentence on the front page that told if there were any exceedances delivered to MDEQ. He wondered if we could get our new contractor to add that to their report. Mr. Sikma said that he could make that happen. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought a quick summary on the top of the report would be appreciated.

2.) Fire Monthly Report – February 2020**3.) Police Monthly Report – February 2020**

Councilmember Gottschall wanted to confirm that the Police and Fire employees all had an adequate supply of personal protection equipment. Director Moore thought they were in good shape. He said the police officers don't use as much as the firefighters. Chief Roberts said that on Saturday, the Fire Department received their first allotment from Oakland County's Emergency Operation Center of N95 masks in various sizes. Councilmember Gottschall asked how long that supply would last but Chief Roberts didn't know how to predict that as they were not using them as often as people that worked in a hospital setting. He thought they had about 1,500 masks currently.

Councilmember Gottschall also asked if the City was enforcing the closing of any non-essential businesses that have been operating. Director Moore replied that since the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order, they immediately started tracking these types of violations. We investigated 21 violations of this order. He explained that if the Police found merit for the alleged violation and the business owner was not compliant, a preliminary police report would be assigned to a detective. It would then go to the Oakland County Prosecutor to determine if probable cause existed. He said to date, they have not sent anybody to the Prosecutor's Office. That made him believe that either they were unfounded, or they came into compliance. He thought the residents and business owners in the City of Wixom were taking this very seriously.

Councilmember Behrmann appreciated Chief Roberts taking his comments last month and including them in this month's report.

Mayor Beagle questioned if there was any extra crime during this period of "Stay Home, Stay Safe." Director Moore replied that since the City embarked on the partial closure, the Police Department followed suit in terms of putting officers in direct contact with the public. For non-violent crimes, they are encouraging the public to make the report by telephone or utilize e-reporting through the City's webpage. He reminded the Council that the crimes were broken down by Part A (more serious, violent crimes) and Part B (non-violent felonies and misdemeanors). For the Part A crimes, he took the last 70 days prior to the pandemic and compared them to the last 30 days since this crisis. The Part A crimes have gone down in Wixom. Director Moore indicated that surrounding communities have reported Part A crimes increasing due to battery-type assaults. He thought this could be attributed to the shelter-in-place and people being confined together, but Wixom was not seeing that. We have seen a slight increase in the Part B crimes. This would include shoplifting, malicious destruction of property or vandalism. He couldn't necessarily attribute that to the pandemic because the timeframe is so short. It has only been about 30 days.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-04-40-20: 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.) Downtown Development Minutes of January 23, 2020

Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox, Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley
(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Enact an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances for the City of Wixom, Chapter 9.20, Offenses By Or Against Minors, by Amending Sec. 9.20.060 and Sec. 9.20.070, to Include Vapor and Alternative Nicotine Products and Raise the Legal Age to Purchase These Products to Twenty-One**

CM-04-41-20: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Gottschall and Smiley to enact an Ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances for the City of Wixom, Chapter 9.20, Offences By or Against Minors, by amending Sec. 9.20.060 and Sec. 9.20.070, to include vapor and alternative nicotine products and raise the legal age to purchase these products to twenty-one.

Councilmember Gottschall appreciated the schools being added to the list of places being covered by the ordinance. He noticed in the new version that it seemed we removed the community services the courts could impose. He said he was fine with allowing for the community service; he just wasn't sure why we were singling out a particular community service that needed to be done at a care facility. He said he would almost rather be in favor of adding service hours back in. He also noted the fine for people who possessed it. For all three strikes, it was \$50 even after multiple occurrences, whereas with the vendors' or merchants' fines grow with each

occurrence. He thought we should consider a growing fine for those possessing as well.

Mr. Brown said he talked to the attorney that drafted this ordinance and he did not ask him to remove those items. The attorney thought it was appropriate to remove all forms of community service because that was a court-based decision. He said that it doesn't take the option away from the court at all and he thought it was appropriate to remain silent on it. Regarding the \$50 non-increasing fine, Mr. Brown could only assume that was to be consistent with the rest of the communities in the district.

Director Moore added that prior to the pandemic, he attended a meeting at the court involving all the police chiefs in the area, the prosecutors, the judges, the court administrator and representatives from the Walled Lake Consolidated School District. He said that much of this ordinance language was boilerplate because this vaping issue has almost risen to the level of a task force. He believed this was consistent with ordinances in other communities.

Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox, Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) Recommendation to Award the Bid for the Annual Overband Asphalt Crack Sealing Program to the Lowest Qualified Bidder, K & B Asphalt and Sealcoating of Adrian, Michigan, for the Unit Price of \$1.08 Per Pound with a Total Cost Not to Exceed \$50,000 with Funding Allocated from Account #203-554-976.393, Local Road Capital Program – Pavement Preservation**

CM-04-42-20: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to award the bid for the annual Overband Asphalt Crack Sealing Program to the lowest qualified bidder, K & B Asphalt and Sealcoating of Adrian, Michigan, for the unit price of \$1.08 per pound with a total cost not to exceed \$50,000 with funding allocated from account #203-554-976.393, Local Road Capital Program – Pavement Preservation.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik recalled that in past years, we partnered with Milford, Howell and Brighton. He wondered if there was a reason they were not listed as participating this year. Mr. Sikma replied that he asked Brighton and Howell, but they did enough last year to include this year. He also asked Fenton, but they were still looking at their budget and declined to bid with Wixom. All communities will be asked again next year. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if he thought it had an impact on the price per pound. Mr. Sikma thought it was negligible. He didn't think it was more than ten cents per pound from last year.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox,
Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley**

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

- 2.) Recommendation to Award the Bid for the 2020 Pavement Marking Program to the Lowest Qualified Bidder, JV Contracting of Goodrich, Michigan for an Amount not to Exceed \$55,183 with Funding Allocated from Account #203-441-976.050, Local Road Fund – Routine Maintenance and Account #202-441-976.050, Major Road Fund – Routine Maintenance**

CM-04-43-20: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Sharpe to award the bid for the 2020 Pavement Marking Program to the lowest qualified bidder, JV Contracting of Goodrich, Michigan for an amount not to exceed \$55,183 with funding allocated from account #203-441-976.050, Local Road Fund – Routine Maintenance and account #202-441-976.050, Major Road Fund – Routine Maintenance.

Councilmember Sharpe stated that the report indicated we did not know how much striping we needed to do until we inspected the roads. He wondered how we send this out for bid if we didn't know how much they would be doing. Mr. Sikma said that we have several different legends to look at, and had a formula based on the footage of white and yellow lines that were added to the roads. He said we tell them we have 6,000 feet of stripe for the major roads and so much on the local roads, then they give us their price based on that. He noted that he knew how much feet we do each year. The markings stay a little longer on asphalt. He indicated that his report did not include the fact that Milford was part of this bid and that helped with the price. He also said that we follow behind them on occasion, so they don't drive 50 mph and stripe as they go.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox,
Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley**

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

- 3.) Recommendation to Award the Bid for the Roof Replacement at the Maple Forest Well House to the Lowest Qualified Bidder, Weatherseal Home Improvements, Shelby Township, Michigan for an Amount Not to Exceed \$7,950 with Funding Allocated from Account #591-537-971.410, Water Enterprise Fund Use of Capital Reserves**

CM-04-44-20: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Behrmann to award the bid for the roof replacement at the Maple Forest Well House to the lowest qualified bidder, Weatherseal Home Improvements, Shelby Township, Michigan for an amount not to exceed \$7,950 with funding allocated from account #591-537-971.410, Water Enterprise Fund Use of Capital Reserves.

Councilmember Gottschall noted that the report indicated mold remediation work needed to be done. He asked if this bid included that work as well. Mr. Sikma replied yes, it does. He said that \$1,900 was to remove the mold and replace some of the drywall. Councilmember Gottschall asked if they were re-decking the entire roof or just shingling. Mr. Sikma replied that they will be re-decking a portion of it, but it was primarily shingling. He explained the well house has damage because of the hole on the top where they pull the wells out. Sometimes there is a leak at that location and if it is not noticed soon enough, it starts to decay down toward the bottom of the roof. Councilmember Gottschall said that he recently got a roof quote for his own project and thought this quote was a little high if it was going to be shingles only and no decking.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if this was the building at the corner of Maple and Beck Roads. Mr. Sikma replied no. This well house was just west of Gunnar Mettala Park, tucked into the Courtyards of Maple Forest.

**Roll Call Vote: (7) AYES – Beagle, Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox,
Rzeznik, Sharpe, Smiley
(0) NAYS**

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Sheryl Lucas, 3301 Bennington, explained the procedure for requesting to speak at a Zoom meeting. She said that if you are using a traditional computer or iPhone, there is a little hand to press to raise and lower your hand to make a comment. If you are using a traditional phone, you can raise your hand by pressing *9. You can also toggle with *6 to mute and unmute yourself.

DDA Executive Director Laura Cloutier provided an update from the DDA regarding how the COVID-19 has affected our businesses. She said that Downtown Wixom is made up of 38 businesses. Since the COVID-19 crisis began and Governor Whitmer issued the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order, 39% of our businesses have closed temporarily, while 58% of the businesses have stayed open or helped from working at home. Many businesses that are deemed essential under the Executive Order have significantly reduced their hours, days of operation, and what services they provide. She said that businesses have been in contact with customers through updating their websites and social media channels. The Wixom DDA began visiting businesses on Monday, March 16th to show support and offer any assistance. Based on information from these visits, she created a database showing what businesses were open, closed, had updated their hours, etc. The DDA has kept in constant communication with the downtown business owners via in-person, phone calls, emails, and social media. They have provided information on the various financial assistance programs that are available through the County, State,

and Federal agencies, along with providing the best practices that could help enhance their businesses during this crisis. After reaching out to downtown business owners, she was able to speak with ten of the business owners regarding how the COVID-19 crisis has affected their overall business. These businesses have seen a range of 12 to 95% decrease in sales. Nine of the ten businesses have applied for one or multiple financial assistance programs (County, State, and Federal) that are currently available. One business has received notification that they will be a recipient of the SBA Disaster Loan. She believed there was significant concern whether our downtown businesses would be able to continue operations or re-open and pull out of this crisis without receiving financial assistance in a timely manner. She said the business owners in downtown are thankful for the DDA's support and constant communication. All have mentioned that the information provided has been helpful. They appreciate the DDA's dedication to helping the community and look forward to a day that we all can come together in Downtown Wixom again.

DDA Chairman Caleb Sheng said he was extremely honored to work through this crisis response with his fellow DDA members, and he commended the committee leadership and Laura Cloutier. He said they had worked tirelessly since Executive Order 2020-9 was established. He explained that businesses had seen each day bring additional revenue loss and hardship, and often rapid major changes in policy, finances, and lifestyle. The members of the DDA took it upon themselves to keep pace with that, even though they were volunteers that had their own businesses and challenges. He felt that the City Council could be extremely proud of these volunteer DDA members for rising to the commitment of public service. When everyone's plates were overflowing, they looked to their fellow community members, stepped up, and put those challenges on their own shoulders as well. He said he was incredibly proud of them. In working with the downtown business owners, they were experiencing the challenges they faced in seeking out the financial assistance options presented to them. He explained some types of obstacles encountered were the SBA's direct Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, which was the first popularized financial relief option as it pre-existed the pandemic. But as local folks began pursuing this, it quickly became difficult for many applicants due to system overloads and revamps, the securitized nature of the loans, the higher threshold for approval, and sparse federal guidance. Recently and unfortunately, the key attractive feature of the EIDL program was the interjecting \$10,000 loan advance originally targeting a 3-day turnaround but was revised to a "7-10 day to indefinite" time frame, setting back an applicant's timeline for receiving aid.

Next, DDA Chairman Sheng stated that we all know the Federal Paycheck Protection Program, as forgivable loans are set out by the CARES Act that were backed and serviced by private lenders such as banks and firms like PayPal. The DDA has been constantly following and updating its guidance on this program as this was eagerly anticipated by business owners to produce low-threshold, same-day approvals with rapid origination. Unfortunately, this program has turned out to be a source of difficulty and delay for business owners facing day-over-day revenue losses that were relying on access to fast funds. He said almost two-thirds (\$217 billion dollars) of the PPP monies have already been spoken for. He noted that Congress was wrangling about how to augment the \$349 billion in PPP monies. In addition,

he indicated that most major banks are turning away new customers seeking to apply for PPP loans and tiering existing customers to determine whom to service first or at all. He noted that applicants were also beginning to report an unspoken rule among some banks to prioritize a loan amount range such as \$50k-\$350k. He said the highest lender fee paid by SBA was 5% for loans below \$350k, so this optimization of lender fee generation was boxing out many of the smallest-profile businesses. This unfortunate combination traps many businesses between a rock and a hard place as they run out of cash on hand. He said that they're only permitted to access their own bank, yet their own bank is radio-silent for applicants who are seeking loan amounts lower than the bank's internal targets and/or not meeting the bank's internal definition of a priority/serviceable customer. He added that even after receiving intake responses, a significant number of applicants are still facing an indefinite time frame as to when their bank's internal approval will occur, thereafter when SBA will process their approval, and then when their bank will disburse. He stated that all this was happening while revenue losses added up every day. He indicated that the MEDC's Small Business Relief Program administered through Oakland County as our EDO, and Oakland County went on to match MEDC's funds and more, with disbursements targeted to begin April 21, 2020. Locally, our district comprises 1% of the total grant applications that Oakland County received (7,600 total), and grants are capped at \$10,000. He added that while this program was acting as a needed rapid response, businesses are facing revenue losses much higher than the awarded amounts. He expressed that the DDA had a unique ability to step into the gap for Downtown Wixom's hardest-hit business owners, which DDA Board Member Vanessa Willett could explain as she was the DDA's Head of Economic Vitality and had been using her long and impressive resume' of commercial experience to identify issues and come up with solutions.

Russ Meredith, 378 Fletcher, thanked the Council, administration, and staff for all they were doing to keep things moving right now. He commented that the Pontiac Trail traffic has dropped off drastically since the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Order. He wondered if it would be possible to change the timing on the traffic light at Pontiac Trail and Center Boulevard. He thought blinking lights might make it a little easier.

DDA Board Member Vanessa Willett, 1455 Cranberry Court, said she has been out with Executive Director Laura Cloutier and other board members. She appreciated everyone still making Wixom a priority. One of the things they have found critical during this time, is the need to help the downtown businesses get ahead of the funding that may or may not come through, or that may take quite a bit of time to come through. She said they have put together a program based on some information provided by many of the businesses downtown in the form of a questionnaire, in addition to multiple in-person visits. The program they have put together for review by Council has also been reviewed by lobbyist through Main Street Oakland County, John Bry. This program would reallocate funding and TIF monies from the DDA to help assist multiple downtown businesses in order to keep them afloat long enough for other funding to come through. This would be looked at as a loan and would be paid back to the DDA. She said whether we are Council members, residents, or business owners, she believed we had a responsibility and a

neat opportunity to help and show the kind of community we have in Wixom. She said they were looking to make a difference.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown said that congratulations were in order to the two police officers who recently welcomed new babies. We also have work anniversaries ranging from 27 years to three years. He mentioned Community Services Director Deanna Magee was celebrating 22 years with the City.

Councilmember Smiley said it sounded like we will get more time to review the budget and he thought we would need it. Mr. Brown said that he and Finance Director Marilyn Stamper had conversations with other levels of government in terms of submitting our budget. There is no level of concern with delaying our budget adoption. He said they were looking at the presentation of the budget to be as late as May 12th, which was delayed from the original April 14th date. The budget adoption would be brought to Council as late as June 23rd. He was hopeful it would be before those dates. He indicated that there was a concern they were not meeting the requirements of the Charter, but this was a unique situation. He and the Finance Director have been under a lot of demands since this pandemic began. He said we are not taking this lightly and will get it done as soon as possible. Councilmember Smiley asked if we would be able to have virtual budget discussions. Mr. Brown replied that if we are in the same situation where we are not able to get out in public, we could have the budget discussion in a virtual format. The work sessions are typically the week after the budget is presented to the Council, so the latest would be the week of May 18th. He asked the Council to look at their calendars and get back to him with their availability. He thought they would be looking at May 19th and May 20th, or earlier, depending on when the budget was presented to Council.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if it would still be possible before our next regular meeting to go over the City Manager's budget and the DPW budget. Being a new Councilmember, he was using those sessions to understand the budget a little better. Mr. Brown said he would touch base with the Finance Director and DPW Director to see what the status was. It could be done prior to the next regular Council meeting on April 28th. Also, Councilmember Behrmann stated that Emergency Order #5 was included in this packet. He wondered what Emergency Orders #1, #2, #3 and #4 were. Mr. Brown replied that those were not included but he would send them to the Councilmembers.

In regard to the budget discussions, Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she attended a SEMCOG webinar regarding the economic effects of COVID-19 and what it means specifically for the State of Michigan, Oakland County and the local units of government. She said she was usually optimistic about things, but the numbers they were talking about were rather alarming. She said when she received the information, she would forward it to her fellow Councilmembers. She understood that the Oakland County numbers are not expected to be back to 2019 levels until sometime in 2022. She stated they had two more years of potential negative impacts on Oakland County but believed that Wayne County was worse. She thought this was something to think about when we are having those budget discussions.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Gottschall asked if the City had been officially cancelling any events, like Derby Day and other DDA or Parks and Recreation events on the calendar. Mr. Brown replied yes. The Parks and Recreation events have been cancelled and Derby Day has also been cancelled. Councilmember Gottschall knew we had contracted with services for Derby Day and wondered if that money had been paid yet. Mr. Brown said he did not know of any negative financial impacts on the cancellation on that. He added that we had the unfortunate situation of cancelling wedding receptions. He mentioned that we were in the position where we thought it best until we can see the end of this pandemic. Councilmember Gottschall asked Finance Director Stamper if there was anything that jumped out at her where we would not be seeing as much revenue as a result of this pandemic. Ms. Stamper indicated that the State was going to do an online webinar on Monday, April 20, to discuss State Shared Revenue and she was hoping to get information from that. She indicated that it was obvious that there was a decrease in building permit revenue which they had experienced already over the last few weeks. She wasn't sure how this would affect the builders going forward. She said it was fortunate the agreement with SAFEbuilt noted their fees were covered by approximately 62% of that incoming revenue so it doesn't affect us too much on the expenditure side. She said that we received notification early from the State about ACT 51 (major and local road revenues) notifying us to expect a decrease, but they haven't released any numbers yet. She mentioned that we will probably get hit from a few different directions; they just have not provided any concrete numbers. She mentioned that was another big reason for delaying the budget submittal. As we were preparing the budget, we had no idea COVID-19 was going to affect us this way. This gives us a little more time to collect the data over the next couple weeks. Councilmember Gottschall said he has been watching the news on mortgage forbearance. He learned that people could go into forbearance for three months for their mortgage payment. He asked if we heard anything from the federal government about how property taxes would be handled regarding those accounts that carry escrows for property taxes and insurance. Ms. Stamper replied no. She said that the tax bill for this upcoming season was based on the values as of December 31, 2019, so those taxable values were set in place. She said there has been no talk of extending due dates on the upcoming tax bills at this point. She thought this would be something we could discuss as we get closer to see what affect this has. Councilmember Gottschall thought this might be something to check into. He knew of the liquidity issue with a lot of the mortgage servicers has become a giant worry because people were not making their mortgage payments and the servicers were still responsible for paying the mortgage bond holders, but they are saying they don't have the capital to pull that off for any length of time. He didn't believe people were thinking much about that right now. Councilmember Gottschall thanked Mac Valves, Inc. for their very generous donation to the Police and Fire Departments. It was completely unexpected and great to see a company step up to make this kind of a donation to public safety units. He hoped we could get them some recognition once things return to normal. He also wanted to share his thoughts with the Kirby family, and Bruce Kirby, on the passing of our former City Clerk, Linda Kirby. He said that she was a wonderful person. He knew of many employees that had commented on this loss, but he really thought about her family at this time.

Councilmember Behrmann said with everyone being home more, it was nice to see the police in the neighborhoods. He thought they were making a more active attempt to drive through the neighborhoods. If people are outside, they are stopping and talking to them from a distance. It is the same thing with the firefighters, and he thought it was good for people to see. He believed it showed the community was there for them. He saw the post regarding the two police officers that had children and he congratulated them. He could only imagine how it must be to have a child during this pandemic. He hoped the moms and the babies were home and doing well. He noted that it was very easy to get forbearance on your mortgage right now. All you needed to do was call and ask. He said that it doesn't mean that you should take forbearance if you can afford to make a payment because you are still going to have to make those payments when the forbearance is up. He didn't think people would want to end up seeing an attorney like himself to resolve the issue at the end. He said you would be better off paying the mortgage if you can afford to pay it. That would be the cheaper and an easier way. Lastly, he hoped everyone would be safe.

Councilmember Smiley extended his condolences to the Kirby family on the passing of our former City Clerk, Linda Kirby. While he didn't know her personally, he had heard wonderful things about her. He thanked Mac Valves, Inc. for their generous donation. He welcomed Laura Cloutier as the new DDA Executive Director. He thanked her, DDA Chairman Sheng and DDA Board Member Willett for the information they supplied during the Call to the Public. He thought the downtown businesses would need the help long after this pandemic was over. He congratulated Officer Bishop and his wife on the birth of their child, Bennett Thomas, and Officer Evans and his wife on the birth of their child, Ava. He thanked those on the front lines who were fighting the pandemic. He asked God to bless them and protect them.

Councilmember Sharpe congratulated those with work anniversaries, especially City Manager Brown who was celebrating three years with the City. He thought his last month must have felt like a year in itself. He thanked Mac Valves, Inc. as he knew they were one of the business pillars in our community. He said he has been here for over 28 years and they have been in that same spot on Beck Road the whole time. He had an opportunity to use their products at Ford Motor Company and they have high quality parts and services.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thanked all of our first responders, the Police and Fire, for everything they are doing right now to keep us safe and to help those in need. She thanked Mac Valves, Inc. for their donation. She wanted the Kirby family to know her thoughts and prayers were with them. She congratulated those with work anniversaries, as well as the two police officers who had new additions to their families.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik congratulated Officers Bishop and Evans on the birth of their children. His heart goes out to Bruce Kirby and his family. He had the pleasure of working with Linda for many long hours during the budget sessions. She was a wonderful person and she will be greatly missed. He said we looked at the percentage (58%) of the Wixom businesses that are still open or working from

We are hoping they all get funded. He mentioned that the elected officials can

home. He thought that was great and encouraged everyone to participate in "Take Out Tuesdays". Sometimes that is the difference in keeping the lights on for these places. He said that they all have offered very safe options for takeout food. He noticed that they have social distancing. He knew it was tough times for all small businesses in the downtown area. He personally went through four different companies. He said the task was daunting, confusing but told them to keep at it. provide some assistance, so he encouraged people to use those resources to help navigate through the paperwork. In addition to our thanks to Mac Valves, Inc., he wanted to thank My Place for their Help for Heroes Program where they are donating 5% of their receipts to the First Responders Children's Foundation. Lastly, he knew that Mr. Meredith had brought up the change to the lights at Pontiac Trail and Center Boulevard and he wondered if the DPW Director could comment on how difficult it would be for this change given Pontiac Trail was a County road. Mr. Sikma said that he just sent a question to the Road Commission of Oakland County to see if they could change those lights to blinking until the Executive Order has been lifted. Stay tuned as to whether that request is granted.

Mayor Beagle offered his condolences to the Kirby family. He said that Linda was a wonderful lady and he had the pleasure of working with her for several years. He had a big thank you to Mac Valves, Inc. on their generous contribution. He noted that there would be a presentation for them. He thanked our first responders, the Police and Fire, for keeping us safe and each other safe. He believed they were doing a great job. He mentioned that we had nine work anniversaries; He congratulated Community Services Director Deanna Magee on 22 years of service and City Manager Steve Brown on three years. He also congratulated the parents of Baby Bennett and Baby Ava. It was nice to hear good news. Mayor Beagle asked if the upcoming election would be done strictly by mail. City Clerk Buck replied that the May 5th election was postponed as the South Lyon Community Schools moved their proposal to the August ballot.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved
4-28-2020