

**CITY OF WIXOM
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020**

Mayor Beagle called the meeting to order at 7:00 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)

MINUTES:

CM-04-45-20: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gottschall and Smiley to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of April 14, 2020.

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

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1.) Notice of Hearing for the Electric Customers of DTE Electric
Company Case No. U-20222**

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Beagle stated that the City was utilizing the video and audio of Zoom. Members of the audience will be able to hear the Council speak. When public comments are permitted, members of the public will be called upon as would happen at an in-person meeting. The Mayor will determine the order of public speaking. If an audience member wanted to speak, they would use the “raise hand” feature in order for the Mayor to know they wished to be unmuted. When they are unmuted, they would have five minutes to address the public body. At the conclusion, the audience member would be muted and removed from the que.

There were no public comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORTS:

- 1.) Departmental Reports – March 2020**

Councilmember Gottschall noticed under the Fats, Oils and Grease section of the Water/Wastewater Report that we have not sent out any notice of exceedances due to the “Stay at Home” order. He wondered if we could mail letters or make phone calls to notify these businesses that they are putting too much of the FOG material into our system. Mr. Sikma replied that this was two-fold. We are not sampling at this time because there are really no discharges. There are take-out services, but

the restaurants are generally closed right now, which causes less impact on the fats, oils and grease. He said we are utilizing our samplings in other areas right now. Councilmember Gottschall noted that this report was for March and it listed about nine or ten restaurants in violation. He thought those would have been samplings done in February. Mr. Sikma indicated that he would follow up on those.

Ruben John, Project Manager of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, said that they have found it better to actually hand the notice of violation to the business operator. If they mail it, it tends to get ignored. He noted that they received the results a little late in March when COVID-19 was well underway. Councilmember Gottschall asked if they had plans to follow-up with these businesses once the pandemic was over and Mr. John said absolutely.

Councilmember Sharpe noted that the City Manager's Update showed Lite the Night was still scheduled for June 25th. He knew that the City of Detroit had cancelled their fireworks and he wondered if we were still planning to go ahead with ours. Mr. Brown replied that staff was actively talking about cancelling that event but we haven't made that move yet.

In regards to the Fats, Oils and Grease section of the Wastewater report, Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked how long we would give those businesses to come into compliance. She also wondered what the repercussions were if they didn't come into compliance during that timeframe. Mr. John replied that they are typically given about a month to come into compliance. They require them to get their fats cleaned out and produce paperwork indicating it had been done. If they fail to have it done, we hire Metro Environmental to do it and we bill the business. Mr. Sikma added that we would continue to sample and if they are still in violation, we end up cleaning and televising those sewer lines coming from the business. All of those expenses do come back to the restaurant. He said that they typically come into compliance quickly after the letters. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if we ever issued fines and Mr. Sikma replied that we have not on Fats, Oils and Greases in the past. We do have the ability to issue fines; we just have not. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she knew how hard those substances are on our system. She would be in favor of looking into something that would help them get into compliance and stay in compliance. Mr. Sikma said that the civil penalties start at \$500 per day per violation; however, the cleaning and televising on a more frequent basis can multiple that fine even more.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox understood that a lot of communities were having trouble with residents and business owners disposing of rubber gloves down the toilets. She asked if we had an issues or problems with that. Mr. Sikma said that we haven't had any major issues with that, but there has always been a continuous problem of items that shouldn't be in the collection systems. Just because a product says it is flushable doesn't mean it is. He noted that with so many industries closed right now, our flows have gone down significantly.

CONSENT AGENDA: (None)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None)

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) Recommendation to Adopt the West Nile Virus Reimbursement Resolution Designating DPW Director, Tim Sikma, as "Agent" for the City of Wixom to Seek Reimbursement of Eligible Expenses Incurred Under the Oakland County West Nile Virus Fund Program**

CM-04-46-20: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to adopt the following West Nile Virus Reimbursement Resolution designating DPW Director, Tim Sikma, as "agent" for the City of Wixom to seek reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred under the Oakland County West Nile Virus Fund Program:

**CITY OF WIXOM RESOLUTION 2020 – 09
COUNTY OF OAKLAND, STATE OF MICHIGAN
AUTHORIZING WEST NILE VIRUS FUND
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST**

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Oakland County Executive, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners has established a West Nile Virus Fund Program to assist Oakland County cities, villages and townships in addressing mosquito control activities; and

WHEREAS, Oakland County's West Nile Virus Fund Program authorizes Oakland County cities, villages and townships to apply for reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred in connection with personal mosquito protection measures/activity, mosquito habitat eradication, mosquito larviciding or focused adult mosquito insecticide spraying in designated community green areas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wixom, Oakland County, Michigan has incurred expenses in connection with mosquito control activities believed to be eligible for reimbursement under Oakland County's West Nile Virus Fund Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council authorizes and designates its DPW Director, Tim Sikma, as "Agent" for the City of Wixom, in the manner and to the extent provided under the Oakland County Board of Commissioners West Nile Virus Fund Program, to request reimbursement of eligible mosquito control activity expenses incurred by the City of Wixom under Oakland County's West Nile Virus Fund Program.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox commented that this report talks about storm sewer and catch basins. She wondered if there were other areas where the material would be dispersed. Mr. Sikma said that they typically put these larvicides into small basins that can collect water. This kills the larva before it turns into mosquitos. It is primarily used in stagnate water in catch basins. He noted that we do have a small quantity of mosquito repellants that they give out at events like Lite the Night. If we do not have the fireworks, we will be distributing them to the residents. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked how residents could request the repellants and how we would get them to the residents. Mr. Sikma replied that we do have a limited supply, but residents can call the DPW for some.

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

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

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

Mr. Brown congratulated those employees who are celebrating work anniversaries in May. Also, the City was contacted by Gleaners Food Bank about their interest in doing a food distribution event in the City of Wixom. The first event is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, from 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the municipal parking lot. Their focus is to provide food items to families with children. Gleaners was not asking for assistance from anybody for food items. This was strictly to provide food items to those persons in need at this time. They have requested the use of a dumpster and a refrigerator as they plan to do this every two weeks through the end of June. He said that they have requested people follow the six-foot social distancing recommendation so they will be placing the 20-30 pound food boxes into their trunks. He thought Wixom was fortunate to have this great opportunity.

Mayor Beagle added that they will have enough food for 200 to 300 families. He was very appreciative that Gleaners selected Wixom for this event.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Behrmann reminded everyone to stay safe. It looks like we are in the upswing. Keep your fingers crossed that everything can start opening up and we can go back to work.

Councilmember Gottschall thanked Gleaners for contacting the City and wanting to put on these events over the next few weeks. It will be a tremendous help. Unfortunately, he thought this was something the State and Federal government had been overlooking and now we have to rely on non-profits to fill the void because people can't put food on their tables. He wondered if the City could send out a news blast tomorrow with this information because it was not included in last week's news blast. He thought it would be helpful if we got this information out ahead of time. Once things get back to normal, any recognition we can give to Gleaners would be great.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if Gleaners needed any volunteers for this event. Mr. Brown replied that they are not looking for volunteers as they are concerned with social distancing during this pandemic. They indicated that they had adequate staff to handle this event. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox congratulated the employees who were celebrating work anniversaries and she hoped everyone stayed safe.

Councilmember Sharpe had no comments.

Councilmember Smiley realized that Gleaners did not want volunteers, but he wondered if someone from the City should stop there just to thank them. He wanted them to know how much we appreciated this. Mr. Brown stated that Sheryl Lucas had been very clear in expressing the City's appreciation and she will continue to communicate that to them. Councilmember Smiley thanked everyone and hoped they stayed safe. He said that Mother's Day comes after the next meeting so he wished everyone a happy Mother's Day.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thanked Gleaners. It was a great way to help families in need. Some of the other charities, like St. Vincent de Paul and Hospitality House, are hurting right now. He gave a shout out to DDA Executive Director Laura Cloutier for helping a small business owner in Wixom with their paperwork for grants. It was good to see small businesses still doing their curbside service and he hoped everyone would take advantage of that. Also, he noted that there was a family in Wixom with ten family members sick with COVID-19. The father-in-law was not out of the woods and he hoped everyone would keep them in their thoughts and prayers.

Mayor Beagle congratulated the three City employees on their work anniversaries. He thanked them for their support and time with the City. He thanked Gleaners for supporting our community and the families in need. He also thanked Steve Brown and Sheryl Lucas for organizing this. Lastly, he asked when Waste Management would be starting with their large pick-up. Mr. Sikma said he contacted them, but they haven't given us a final word on that yet. He hoped they would start next week. Mayor Beagle hoped that was right because there are a lot of families that are doing spring cleaning during this quarantine and they have a lot of large objects to throw away.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 5-12-2020
