

**CITY OF WIXOM
BUDGET SESSION
MAY 20, 2020**

This meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Mayor and all members of Council in attendance via Zoom, as well as the City Manager and Department Heads.

Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik suggested they revisit the Parks and Recreation Budget as the last item of discussion.

Mayor Beagle introduced Philip Weipert, Wixom's County Commissioner, to speak to the dais regarding CARE Act funds and the 2020 Census.

Mr. Weipert thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. He informed the Council of three free locations of COVID testing within the County. He explained that Oakland County received CARE Act money from the Federal Government. The CARE Act provided the State of Michigan with almost 4 billion dollars, and Oakland County received 219 million dollars. He noted the money needed to be spent on COVID related expenses by December 31, 2020 or were required to return the funds. Oakland County gave 15 million to the small budget stabilization, 10 million to non-profit organizations, another 50 million for small business stabilization and 30 million for City, Villages and Townships. He stated the funds could not get used for revenue replacement but anything COVID related would be fine. He said the County was investigating if the money could go toward the FEMA 25% match. He stressed the importance of the 2020 Census as the Census Count Committee made it aware to him recently that Wixom needed to boost their response to the Census. He was aware that the City Staff and Council talked frequently about the Census but he wondered if there was anything they could do assist. He noted the response from Wixom was 59%. He explained that Oakland County and SEMCOG had outreach blogs available and literature to pass out. He offered to bring the materials to the City so they could get passed within the supermarkets, gas stations, hardware stores, etc. The goal was the increase the number so Wixom could receive more shared revenue; the estimated every resident brought \$3,000 for the next ten years. He added that the State Revenue Sharing was based on population and assured them the Census would remain confidential.

Mayor Beagle indicated the majority of the Wixom residents lived in the apartment complexes and they believed the Census did not benefit them. He said the City was working with property managers and landlords of the apartment complexes to spread the word about the Census to their tenants. He mentioned that they placed a 2020 Census banner in the downtown area off Pontiac Trail. Also, they placed signs regarding the Census around the City. Mayor Beagle felt they needed some assistance in reaching out to the apartment complexes.

Mr. Brown indicated they had worked with Amanda out of the County Executive's Office on a lot of efforts regarding Census outreach. He thought she had been great and together they came up with all sorts of methodologies and strategies. He was aware of one area that had a low response and tried to focus their efforts on that area. They tried to get creative and believed they had been doing their best. He said they would make the Census outreach a priority between now and when they closed out the Census.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox wondered if there were mailers that were sent to residents regarding the Census and if they needed Census workers to report to the areas that had not been receptive. Mr. Wiepert was aware that Census jobs were coming soon and stated that mailers and flyers were available. He suggested the material should be placed in grocery stores, gas stations and stores. He commented the material was also available in different languages.

Councilmember Behrmann believed the businesses within the plaza off Pontiac Trail where the Dunkin' Donuts was located would be an ideal location to pass out Census materials as it was heavily traveled. In addition, it may be good to place signs and banners within the apartment complexes.

Councilmember Gottschall was aware they had been waiting on the State to open up before Census door knocker would become available. He asked if Police Officers could pass out flyers to people they met in a non-emergency situation. He wondered if the County or Federal government created the stipulation that the CARE Act money could only be utilized on COVID related matters. Mr. Weipert said that was the Federal requirement but asked them to understand that included overtime, education, plexiglass, PPE, etc. Councilmember Gottschall said the items he mentioned were not a giant expense to the City, but they may lose \$600,000 in State Shared Revenue and that was a concern. He indicated how surprised he was that the money could not be used for revenue replacement when businesses would be using the funds similarly to get through their tough times. Mr. Weipert commented that the 10 million dollars allocated for non-profits could get used toward their revenue replacement.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if there were any updates on the business start-up kit supplied by the County. Mr. Weipert said those kits were coming soon.

Call to the Public

Caleb Shang of 49030 Pontiac Trail thanked everyone for their great attention to detail when it came to the budget. He thought the approval of the DDA Executive Director position was at a perfect time because they had helped the DDA and VCA District folks navigate the restrictions and executive orders of COVID-19. He believed Council set a gold standard in keeping honest. He encouraged Council and Administration to think about the business owners when it came to any money that was not being used. He was aware a lot of the budget was pegged for certain use and could not be applied elsewhere but if there was any wiggle room, he hoped it could be applied toward some direct assistance to the Wixom businesses. He was aware that recovery was not going to snap back and even when the doors reopened only a certain number of patrons would be allowed inside.

REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND CONTINUED

Police (57-59, 144)

Director Moore pointed out some items that directly related to the Michigan Airline Trail. A slight increase in overtime from the General Operating for the sole purpose of extra patrol on the Trail. He noted that they arrived at the amount based on 30 weeks at 5 hours per week. Additionally, he commented an electric bicycle was placed in the Capital Budget for patrolling the 2 mile stretch of the Trail. The bike itself cost \$3,500 but they included \$1,500 for helmets, equipment, training, etc. He explained that within the Capital Expense, they put in the replacement of the 8-9-year-old current in-car camera system they utilized. Currently the officers do not wear body cameras, but instead they use in-car cameras that were mounted in the patrol car with the officer wearing a wireless mic on their uniform. The vendor they currently used for their in-car camera system hoped to get out of the police in-car camera business. He estimated the cost of a new in-car camera system at \$52,000. He explained that Oakland County had been undergoing an immense upgrade to the police, fire and EMS radio system. They received many radios from a County grant, but they believed an additional \$25,000 was needed to upgrade the basic radio system they were getting. In addition, some of that money would purchase any extra equipment and additional radios for the station, records and dispatch. He said at their preliminary budget presentation last February, they hoped to remodel and upgrade the Police Department kitchen but decided against that given the current revenue situation. He said with the \$35,000 they asked for under Facility Improvements would be used to install two new garage doors within the sally port and an update to the cell block/booking area floors. He commented how they typically requested two new patrol cars but were only requesting one given the potential loss in Revenue Sharing.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she didn't notice the electric bike within the Capital Item Summary they received. Director Moore said the bike information was under Special Equipment in the Capital Improvement Highlight on page 57. He did not include any supplemental documents about the bike; however, the day before he prepared a Memo for Council regarding the bike. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox appreciated that Director Moore was only requesting one patrol car. She asked to hear more about the need of a new car. Director Moore said he intended to replace the Traffic Safety Officer's patrol car as it had 40,000 road miles and 6,600 engine idle hours. Based on an equation he obtained from Heinz Park Ford, if you took idle hours and multiplied by 28, you get an estimate of the total road miles for the car. In conclusion, that vehicle had 185,000 equivalent road miles. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox appreciated the explanation, but still felt 40,000 actual miles seemed very low. She asked for more information about the engine idle situation that Director Moore planned to address. Director Moore said he reached out to several colleagues and learned policies from departments varied from one extreme to another. For example, one agency never turned off their patrol cars off while another department turned the engine off every time. He indicated that he would curtail the number of hours their engines idled. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox wondered how long the life span was on in-car cameras. Director Moore said 8-9 years.

Mayor Beagle said when they removed a police car from rotation, it usually was given to another Department to use.

Councilmember Smiley appreciated how they bumped the kitchen and the patrol car off this budget. He wondered if going from two cars down to one car would affect the rotation cycle plan they had in place and/or would they come back to Council next year hoping to make up the difference. Director Moore said he reviewed the master fleet plan and felt comfortable going from two cars to one during this fiscal year and promised he would not ask for three cars next budget. Councilmember Smiley confirmed they increased pay rate for the Crossing Guards. Director Moore said they did increase their pay and since then Look Lake Elementary had no difficulties finding a Crossing Guard. Councilmember Smiley inquired about the possibility of having a Crossing Guard placed at Wixom Elementary. Director Moore said he reached out to the school and learned the District was not willing to provide a Crossing Guard for Wixom Elementary, because they provided bus services to the students on the east-side of North Wixom Road and there was no designated crosswalk at that location.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik reviewed the fleet inventory sheet and asked if they hoped to replace the vehicle with 43,846 miles. Director Moore said they took possession of two brand new Explorers purchased by the FY 2019/2020 budget at the beginning of COVID-19; therefore, they haven't been outfitted and placed in service yet. He said the car with 43,846 miles and the other car with 39,000 plus miles would be changed out. The car purchased from the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 budget, would replace the car with the 40,280 miles. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked what cars would be rotated into the fleet at City Hall. Director Moore said they planned to replace the Escape at the Police Department and the Crown Victoria at the Fire Department. He believed the third patrol car would go to auction. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik was comfortable with reducing the purchase to one patrol car and hoped with the reduced idling procedure they could retain these cars for a longer period of time. He indicated how he struggled with the purchase of an electric bike because the two miles of the Trail they would patrol was a flat surface. He asked if they could use drug forfeiture money to purchase the electric bike. Director Moore hoped to perform a scheduled replacement of patrol rifles with the forfeiture funds. He agreed that even a marginally in shape person should not have a problem biking two miles of the trail; however, his thought was the officer would feel fresher should they need to respond to an emergency had they been riding an electric bike beforehand. He indicated the officer would have a radio and could be dispatched to all types of emergencies such as CPR. Deputy Rzeznik wondered what the top speed was for the electric bike. Director Moore said it was 25 mph. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik insisted they look into forfeiture funds to purchase the electric bike. He asked if the \$52,000 for in-car cameras was for every vehicle. Director Moore said it was only for the seven vehicles that

engaged in uniform policing activities. They estimated roughly \$5,000 per car for the camera and \$15,000 for infrastructure.

Councilmember Behrmann wondered why they requested \$70,000 for the purchase of one car this Fiscal Year when they budgeted \$90,000 for two cars last Fiscal Year and \$100,000 for two cars next Fiscal Year. Director Moore said they brought \$21,000 of the unspent money from Fiscal Year 2019/2020 into Fiscal Year 2020/2021. They planned to outfit three cars and purchase one car with the \$70,000. Councilmember Behrmann said he supported the electrical bike as long as it was used.

Councilmember Gottschall noticed the line item Consultants and Personnel was typically underused and wondered what exactly was paid from that account. Director Moore said they paid the TIA membership, document shredding, the assistance they received from the Oakland County Sheriff with Lite the Nite, annual fire extinguisher inspections and recharge, maintenance to the audio/video system, physiological evaluation for new hires and funding of the Employee Assistance Program. He intended on using more of that money to utilize the Employee Assistance Program but was stalled due to COVID-19. Councilmember Gottschall asked if the account could be trimmed given they know there wouldn't be a Lite the Nite. Director Moore feared by reducing the budget the money would not be there for Lite the Nite next year. Councilmember Gottschall said they used \$16,000 of a \$42,000 of the Equipment Rental/Radio Rental budget, and hoped it could come down. Director Moore said that account paid for CLEMIS, Live Scan, mug shot participation fees, etc. but figured it could be reduced by \$2,000. He was aware a 3% increase in CLEMIS fees would be implemented soon and another 3% increase in the near future. As of right now, they paid \$5,000 per quarter for CLEMIS without the initial 3% increase. Councilmember Gottschall understood the Employee Assistance Program was covered from Consultants and Personnel but inquired about any other training. Director Moore said when personnel attended any training such as; radar school, field sobriety training, evidence technician education, records management training, etc. it was all taken from the Training-Police budget. Councilmember Gottschall wondered if the training budget should be reduced as they did not utilize the full \$22,000. He asked if employees were aware there was funding for training available and/or was training encouraged by administration. Director Moore said the employees were aware there were funds for training as the Police Lieutenant took care of all the training bulletins for staff. They usually used much of the training when they hired new personnel. Councilmember Gottschall asked why they had only spent \$1,000 of the \$5,000 Civilian Desk Aide-Additional Cost budget and suggested a reduction. Director Moore said that budget paid for the Service Aide pre-hire processes. He commented that they hired many Service Aides this year but the bills pertaining to their pre-hire employment was coded to an incorrect account. Once that account was squared away, the dollar figure would become more adequate. Councilmember Gottschall wondered how much of the \$5,200 of that budget would be used. Director Moore estimated \$4,500.

Councilmember Gottschall noticed they requested \$3,200 in Public Safety Recruiting when those funds were not used often. He knew the Fire Department only asked for \$2,000 for recruiting and they had a hard time getting personnel. He asked if the Police Department had a difficult time getting qualified applicants. Director Moore said they had struggled to get Service Aides and Police Officer candidates. Councilmember Gottschall thought they were going to hire a new officer. Director Moore said the process was stalled because of the current situation with the budget. Councilmember Gottschall was unsure about the amount of money they were requesting for Public Safety Recruiting because the Fire Department was asking for less for the same thing and they had trouble with recruitment. He didn't know if they needed to increase the Fire Department budget or lower the Police Department budget. Director Moore said they considered the account Public Safety Recruiting so it could be utilized by both Police and Fire.

Councilmember Sharpe stated the Council approved the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Police Operating Budget of 3.28 million dollars and this year's budget was 3.3 million, essentially an increase of .8%. He commended Director Moore for being so conscientiousness with the Operating Budget. He said that he could not get past the electric bike request within the because they hadn't opened the Trail yet and so they were not sure there would be a need for it. He said once you brought an

asset like this on board, you'd incur operating expenses and maintenance. He suggested removing the electric bike and bring it back if there was a need. He felt this bike was a luxury and if they were to include it within this budget, it would appear they had not carefully guarded the tax dollars.

Mayor Beagle asked how many radios they would receive from Oakland County. Director Moore said 21. Mayor Beagle said the camera price was steep but felt it was an insurance policy should they need them. He thought about the no idle car police and wondered if they needed an additional battery within the car so the computer would stay on while the car was off. Director Moore said the resident car expert, Ms. Shave, was working with the vendor to determine where the sweet spot was for turning the car off before it started to impact on the battery. Mayor Beagle understood they would reduce Equipment Rental- Radio Rental would be reduced by \$2,000 but questioned everybody's thoughts regarding the electric bike.

Councilmember Gottschall mentioned he was still on the fence over the electric bike. He was in favor of buying a regular bike now and move up the future purchase of an ATV should the budget accommodate the purchase. He wasn't sure they would need an electric bike and an ATV.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox preferred to push the electric bike out one year.

Councilmember Behrmann said the electric bike cost \$3,000 out of a 3-million-dollar budget. He felt if Director Moore believed the bike would benefit his officers and the community, then he was in favor of the purchase.

Councilmember Smiley echoed Councilmember Behrmann's comments regarding the electric bike. He wondered if purchasing the ATV sooner than later would mitigate the need for the electric bike. Director Moore recalled telling the Council they would share the ATV with the Fire Department and potentially convert the ATV to a medical transport unit.

Mr. Brown stated the ATV and the electric bike would not be used for the same purpose. As an officer would not patrol the trailway on a daily basis with the ATV.

Councilmember Smiley was in favor of purchasing the electric bicycle.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought they should postpone the electric bike as a quality bicycle fully outfitted was less expensive. He knew police presence was the largest prevention of crime; therefore, you could serve the same purpose with an officer peddling up and down the trail.

Councilmember Sharpe was in favor of removing the electric bicycle from the budget. Even though the Police Department had a 3-million-dollar budget, the Council continued to authorize almost everything they asked for with the exception of this \$5,000 luxury.

Mayor Beagle suggested the electric bike be removed from the budget but leave \$2,500. In the event, they were not successful in using forfeiture funds to purchase the electric bike, they could purchase a higher quality peddle bike.

Councilmember Gottschall said he didn't assume the ATV would patrol the Trail, but figured it would become useful when trying to respond quickly to a medical emergency. He acknowledged the speed of the electric bike would become beneficial in an emergency, so that was the reason he figured they could utilize the ATV. He supposed a regular bike would work if an officer was just patrolling the Trail. He was in favor of pushing the bike out with the potential of having the discussion of the ATV sooner rather than later.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik stated with the wind at his back he was able to get to 19.5 mph on the Trailway.

There was a consensus on this budget after they removed the electric bicycle from Capital Improvement.

Fire (61-63, 141)

Chief Roberts said the goal the Fire Department wished to achieve for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 was provide 24-hour station coverage, increased focus of recruitment and retention of Paid on Call Firefighters and to participate in the regional Assistance for Firefighters (AFG) to replace the all their self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). He explained that they included a Part-Time Secretary within this budget as the Fire Department was the only Department within the City that did not have secretarial help. They hoped to host a City-wide Table Top Exercise for Emergency Planning with the funds allocated from FY 20/21. They performed a similar exercise ten years ago that simulated a train derailment. Also, due to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, they needed to increase funds to the Rapid Response budget. They hoped to replace all the SCBAs that had come to the end of service life by obtaining a grant, but noted how they placed funds for SCBAs in the Capital Budget should their grant be denied. He indicated that Oakland County Road Commission (RCOC) would no longer service the notification system they used to alert traffic along Wixom Road that a fire truck would be leaving the station. RCOC provided two options to mitigate their situation; install a traffic signal in front of the station or update the current system. He mentioned they had two items carry over from FY 19/20, one was the purchase of an ambulance and the other being the storage building. Unfortunately, both items suffered setbacks and weren't completed. Chief Roberts explained how could no longer borrow the Gator Utility Vehicle from Huron Valley Ambulance for events, and hoped to purchase their own. He was not sure if sharing a utility vehicle with the Police Department would be idea as it might cause conflict if they should need the vehicle at the same time.

Mayor Beagle indicated that Commissioner Wiepert would look into any grant possibilities that could be used toward a traffic control device in front of the Fire Station.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked when they would find out if they received the grant for the SCBAs. Chief Roberts assumed early August. He said the City would be responsible for 10% of the \$225,000 cost. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked to hear more information about the storage building. Chief Roberts said their equipment was being stored in trailer behind the Fire Station and its condition was declining rapidly even though it was an enclosed trailer. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox encouraged them to pursue a grant for a traffic signal outside the Fire Station. She questioned what Officers Compensation was used for in the General Fund. Chief Roberts indicated when a Paid on Call Firefighter was on call during the weekend, they received a higher hourly rate and a monthly stipend as they were considered a supervisor of the shift. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox inquired more information about the proposed \$30,000 for overtime. Chief Roberts explained that every employee of the Fire Department was able to receive overtime if they worked over 106 hours; however, they usually only had two Paid on Call Firefighters that worked enough hours to receive the compensation. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if they already had Part-Time Clerical person. Chief Roberts said they had a Part-Time Records Clerk that worked for the Records Manager. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked Chief Roberts to explain how he hoped to staff the Fire Station for 24 hours. Chief Roberts indicated that over several years they held discussions regarding staffing the station when there was a gap in coverage. Currently, the gaps were from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. Monday through Friday and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. Additionally, there wasn't any coverage from 6 a.m. through 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. He noted that their Department was the only Department around that responded to an emergency 100% by a pager. They did not have shift coverage, and he was not allowed to bring in an outside employee to cover the Station that wasn't already on the Department. Unfortunately, the Paid on Call Firefighters worked full time resulting in periods of time without any coverage.

Mayor Beagle said they were presented with three different staffing profiles last February. Those options included utilizing four Paid on Call Firefighters, three full time firefighters or obtaining a Safer Grant. They decided against the Safer Grant.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox questioned if the full-time firefighters worked the shifts to cover the gapped periods of time. Chief Roberts said none of the full-time Firefighters worked weekends. They currently had only one full time Firefighter because the other full-time employees were the Fire Marshal, Fire Inspector and EMS Coordinator. He was not aware of anything that could prevent them from working those shifts, but he did not feel they could spread four people to cover 24/7. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox did not understand why the Fire Inspector couldn't fill in the gaps. Chief Roberts said the Fire Inspector performed lifesaving inspections every day and should they respond to calls, their workload would get backed up. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked how many inspections the Fire Inspector completed. Chief Roberts said 3-7 a day. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox wondered if all thirteen Paid on Call Firefighters on staff had other jobs during the day so they couldn't staff the station 24/7. Chief Roberts confirmed and indicated that he could not force them to work. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox assumed Paid on Call Firefighters could sign up for to cover the gaps in coverage. Chief Roberts said they worked was 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. He stated that he'd never been an advocate for a 24-hour full-time fire department. He believed the on-call system worked but if there weren't any benefits to offer, there would be no incentive. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox agreed that recruitment and retention was extremely important. She was aware they allocated \$2,000 for recruitment and had access to the Public Safety Recruitment budget. She asked they draft a detailed recruitment plan, acknowledging their funding, and present it to Council. Chief Roberts explained how they implemented a Public Safety Recruitment Task Force with Director Moore and tried to recruit people to the Fire Department, but people did not want to live their lives by the pager. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox was more than happy to be part of the Public Safety Recruitment Task Force as she could bring some beneficial insight. She knew that recruiting part-time firefighters was difficult, but it could be done.

Mr. Brown indicated that he did not want just a recruitment plan, but it should be a recruitment and retention plan. They needed to keep these firefighters interested in the Fire Department.

Director Moore thanked Councilmember Gronlund-Fox for volunteering her services to the Public Safety Task Force and looked forward to working with her.

Councilmember Gottschall noticed the jump to \$8,000 in Consultants and Personnel from the previous year's \$3,000. Chief Roberts said the increase was due to the \$5,000 table-top exercise he hoped to conduct. Councilmember Gottschall said in terms of the staffing concern, he was in favor of shift work with part-time Firefighters rather than adding more full-time Firefighters. With the options they'd been given and with the Safer Grant, he felt nearly all the savings was diminished in three years. He was aware that anything they decided would need to be added to the budget. He recognized there was a problem with not having someone always at the station.

Mayor Beagle felt this pandemic was a great example of why they needed to increase staffing at the Fire Department. He said they were lucky that no firefighters got COVID-19. Losing just one member of the Department, would result in a drastic effect on the City. He knew this needed to be addressed and action needed to be taken. He agreed with Councilmember Gottschall and utilize four part-time Firefighters to fill the gaps in their schedule. He did not desire a full-time department but wanted 24/7 coverage.

Councilmember Behrmann recalled the meeting in January where they were presented Council with the three different staffing options. At the end of the meeting, he recalled several members of Council questioned whether it made sense to contract with Huron Valley Ambulance to have a dedicated ambulance. He recalled various additional options brought forth at that meeting such as; using people from other departments, working with another department to help cover the gaps, going full time and doing part time. He thought they would had gotten figures and more

details of those options so they could make an informed decision. He said that he did not want to just throw money at this circumstance and hope four part-time people would fix the issue. He agreed the problem needed to be fixed, but wanted to look at all the options. He thought it was too soon to tell if the Collective Bargaining Agreement would increase retention. He remembered Chief Roberts had two new hires that did not start because of COVID-19. Chief Roberts stated they would start Wednesday, but stated they were not trained and it would take 2 ½ years to become an FF/EMT. Councilmember Behrmann wondered if they approved four part-time firefighters, would they be able to find anybody interested in working. Chief Roberts said it would be a challenge, because there wasn't anybody waiting within a one to ten mile radius interested working at Wixom as a part-time employee. The only benefit they had to offer over another department was an increase in their hourly rate. Councilmember Behrmann said he was fine with the Fire Operating and Capital budget as presented. He expressed a need for a study session to explore every option and make the decision on staffing the Fire Department. He did not want to continue kicking the can down the road, but they didn't have enough information to make any decision tonight.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he was always concerned about the gaps of coverage within the Fire Department. He felt the big retention factor was a scheduled shift versus a pager. He was in favor of part-time employees and addressing this matter quickly. He wondered why they only used a third of their training budget. Chief Roberts said the budget supported thirty firefighters and they only had thirteen. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik wanted to know if the utility vehicle would be used for the Trail, Habitat and everything else. Chief Roberts said it would because they wanted their ATV to have a stretcher and small water tank/hose.

Councilmember Smiley was not clear on what Chief Roberts recommended and welcomed the idea of a study session to work this out.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox was not prepared to decide tonight regarding the staffing concern at the Fire Department. She agreed they needed a study session and hoped the retention and recruitment plan would be available for their review at that study session.

Councilmember Sharpe felt like he was drinking from a fire hose with the staffing concerns. He needed more information in order to make an informed decision. He wanted to know what other communities were doing and what they offered their employees.

Mayor Beagle suggested they approve the Fire Department Budget as presented and conduct a Fire Staffing Study Session at 6 p.m. on June 9, 2020. He asked Chief Roberts to obtain costs, information from other communities, pros and cons of each scenario, costs associated with Huron Valley, etc. so an informed discussion could be held.

Councilmember Behrmann questioned if it was possible to obtain everything they needed in order to make an informed decision by June 9, 2020. He did not want to rush decision.

Mayor Beagle thought June 9th was a reasonable date because they already had the figures for the part-time and full-time members. They just needed to obtain the costs associated with Huron Valley and maybe a few other items.

Chief Roberts felt the Council gave a lot of amazing direction but hoped they would give all their input to Mr. Brown and Director Moore so it could be consolidated.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox was not opposed to a study session on June 9, 2020, but she was not sure if she'd be ready to decide that day. Mayor Beagle told her not to worry as they could take all the time they needed. He asked Council to forward any questions or concerns to the City Manager so they could collectively be sent onto Chief Roberts.

Councilmember Gottschall recalled seeing a document that indicated most calls came in when they did not have staff coverage at the Fire Department. He felt like it became a question if they did or did not want this problem fixed. He hoped they were all in the same mindset this problem needed to be addressed.

Chief Roberts was not trying to put pressure on anybody but stated they had been in this same place last year. He felt the system was broken. They had very few people left on the Department and they were being stretched extremely thin. If retention was as important as he believed it was, there was an urgency to address this.

Mayor Beagle said it wasn't the desire of Council to sit on this; however, they needed more time and education before they decided how they would fix this gap in station coverage.

There was a consensus on this budget.

REVIEW OF OTHER FUNDS

Water/Wastewater Enterprise (161-167)

Ms. Stamper stated the City utilized the services of Utility Financial Solutions, LLC to conduct their annual financial projection and rate study. She displayed a slide presentation that reflected their annual review. She explained the first slide pertained to the Water Department and how they followed a 3.5% overall revenue increase each year, and the cash balance that reflected that increase. This slide also indicated the negative impact should there be no increase. The next slide specified the proposed rates with the 3.5% revenue increase. She said this year they proposed the commodity rate to remain the same at \$38.80 and change the quarterly customer charge. The following slide designated the average resident would notice an increase of \$6 per quarter. The Wastewater Department was on the following slide with information reflecting the 9.90% revenue increase. This slide also referenced the impact to the cash balance if there was not an increase. She noted they were able to reduce the future rate because the improvements to the Plant was bonded. She mentioned the next slide demonstrated the wastewater rate design based on meter size. She commented that the commodity rate would change from \$29.00 to \$31.50 and the quarterly customer charge would change based on meter size. The following slide specified the monthly and quarterly impact to the resident was approximately \$6.75 for one unit of usage. She said the sewer cap would increase from \$126.00 to \$140.30. She explained the industrial flat rate would increase from \$118.25 to \$130.00, while the residential flat rate would increase from \$83.50 to \$91.75.

Councilmember Gottschall reviewed the projected cash balances on the wastewater rates and noticed they had fallen back into a territory where the revenue was less than the expenditures. He thought the game plan was to be above that situation. Ms. Stamper said they had been able to stick with the planned rate, but a rate adjustment was made with the new contractor. She mentioned that they would have seen an increase cost regardless of the contractor. She explained that they were able to stay on track with the original plan even with the higher operating cost. Councilmember Gottschall asked if they were comfortable with the revenue coming in under the expenditures. Ms. Stamper said they were because it would correct itself over time.

Councilmember Gottschall wondered why they were more comfortable spending down the cash balance verses the last few years when they wanted it to increase. Ms. Stamper noted the Capital Plan and how aggressive they had been with the improvements. She believed the cash reserve would start to grow once those items were scaled back so they would no longer lose money.

Councilmember Smiley recalled hearing once that after year 2025 they would be in a healthier position with the water/wastewater. Ms. Stamper agreed and expected once they stabilized they could be less aggressive with their increases.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if the Consultants and Personnel within the Wastewater budget could be reduced. Mr. Sikma anticipated using the money for phosphorous and the loading limits

over this next year. Councilmember Gottschall wondered what the plan was with the phosphorus. Mr. Sikma said they took a multifaceted approach and started to charge more for phosphorus from industries. They hoped the industries would treat the phosphorus on their end once they started to experience the high charges. He said if they needed to, they planned on developing an additional local limit and replace the clarifiers. Councilmember Gottschall wondered if they planned on utilizing HRC for the capital improvements. Mr. Sikma thought it would be tough to deviate from HRC because they designed the original Plant, and for that reason he hoped to continue with their services. Councilmember Gottschall wondered why all the property tax was removed within the Water budget. Ms. Stamper said the debt expired for the water system. Councilmember Gottschall asked if the Permit Fee Expenditures could be reduced within the Water budget as it wasn't being used. Mr. Sikma said that was a clerical error as money should have been taken from that account but it wasn't. That would be corrected.

Councilmember Sharpe described how he was a newer Councilmember and not as knowledgeable on this topic as some of his fellow Councilmembers. He felt confused as the information he learned at the meeting did not reflect the documentation he was given to review. He did not understand how the conversation went from talking about rates to phosphorus; however, he recalled being asked more about water bills and higher rates over the past six months. He wondered if they needed to have a water and wastewater study session.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik understood Councilmember Sharpe's frustration. He said historically they received a lengthy tutorial from Utility Financial Solutions during the budget session explaining things in more detail.

There was a consensus on this budget.

Major/Local Streets (91-97)

Mr. Sikma said during the past couple of years they utilized some general fund money to assist with additional major road improvements. He indicated they were in the process of completing last year's program which was West Road, and this year's plan was the engineering and construction of Beck Road was for mill and overlay. Next, they hoped to add an additional north/south road from West Maple Road to Pontiac Trail. They called it a connector road, but it was still referred to as the Landrow Extension Connection. They decided to push that project out a few years as they needed to determine funding based on their Act 51 money; however, there would be associated engineering cost implemented in the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for the project.

As for Local Roads, Mr. Sikma said that they talked for several years about the mix of fixes. He explained that roads were assessed on a one through ten scale (one being the worst and ten being a new road), and most of our roads were rated fours and fives. With the road millage, they planned to improve the roads as much as possible. He said they would do crack sealing and replace small portions of the roads that needed attention. Their goal was to preserve the longevity of the road. He mentioned that each subdivision was in a ten-year capital plan, and they rated the roads yearly. He indicated that the rest of the budget was for operating expenses like salt, vehicle expenses, and snow and ice removal.

Councilmember Behrmann thought the engineering had already started with the Landrow extension. Mr. Sikma said they had some preliminary engineering roughly twenty years ago. He said a water system was already there so that would become helpful should they ever need to connect. Councilmember Behrmann said he tried to understand how they paid for engineering, put in a water main, and then it stopped. Mr. Sikma knew they looked at potential designs, environmental assessments of the road, and the smaller pieces to determine if the project would continue. He indicated the project was budgeted but was aware if the cost doubled; they would push it out. He said the Landrow property owners had a large parcel with ten potential businesses that may want to connect to the water and sewer system. They had been working with them on this and understood they had three alternatives. One was going into Milford Township; one line was going straight down the City's limits along the western portion and the other line was going partially down the City limits and then east to the Landrow property. He mentioned it would all be

maintained by the Landrow property development. Councilmember Behrmann asked if they would contribute to the cost. Mr. Sikma said they were trying to work that out as it was an economic development decision. They wanted to do what was best for the City and the property owner.

Councilmember Behrmann thought they had an extensive engineering cost budgeted. He hoped they had options and didn't just continue to utilize the same engineer. He thought this was a good test to determine if they were getting the best service for their money. Mr. Sikma revealed the City engineer worked under contract that would expire next year. Additionally, they had been part of multiple projects throughout the City. He stated if it were the desire of Council, they could go out to bid for engineering services. Councilmember Behrmann asked if they had an exclusive contract with the City engineer as he never heard that HRC was the exclusive. Mr. Sikma said they also worked with other engineers on certain projects like the Airline Trail and the Beck Road Widening project.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if the Local Capital Road Plan indicated when the local roads would get repaved or patched. Mr. Sikma said most of the time they did patchwork as it cost about \$1 million to replace a two-lane road. Councilmember Behrmann clarified that \$1 million for Millstream was to completely repave, but \$350,000 for Maple Run, was to repair what needed to be fixed. Mr. Sikma said that was correct.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik was aware it was a complex formula in determining how much Act 51 funds they received but asked why they showed an increase in revenue for the next budget. Mr. Sikma said that the federal government gave the state additional money and a large share of the money would be used on the MDOT roads.

Councilmember Smiley confirmed that all the Wixom Roads were rated between and four and five. Mr. Sikma thought they had a couple of twos and threes, but most were fours and fives. He explained they followed the PASER Rating Scale and their recommendation on the repair. For example, roads with a five through seven was preserved with crack sealing. If the road was a four, they let it go until it got worse.

Councilmember Gottschall was aware of a Professional Service Agreement they had with HRC. He wanted to be shown the document that indicated the City was committed to HRC for a certain number of years. He thought it was the best solution to end the continued talk of the bid process. If administration could not present the agreement, they needed to send these projects out for bid or have a list of engineering firms to keep it semi competitive.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if they believed the State Major Road Revenue for Major and Local Roads would be cut like the State Shared Revenue. Ms. Stamper said they used a preliminary estimate that was recently given to them. Part of the revenue that was included in Act 51 was the marijuana tax. Given the uncertain situation with State Shared Revenue, they would revisit this once they obtained more information. Any adjustment to the expenditures, capital expenses and maintenance would be made should these decrease.

Councilmember Gottschall said in looking at the Beck Road Widening Build Grant application tagged at \$50,000, he knew they just submitted this past Monday. He wondered what this line item was for. Mr. Sikma said it was a wish list and if they did not receive the grants they hoped for, they would not do any of the projects. He figured they would include it so they could get an idea of what it would potentially look like if they moved forward with the widening from Beck Road all the way down to the City limits. Councilmember Gottschall clarified that this was not the cost for applying. He knew that it wasn't \$50,000 the last two times they applied. Mr. Sikma said they had an agreement with AECOM for the last couple grant applications.

Councilmember Gottschall knew the end was near for the water debt service millage at 1.25. He wondered if it made sense to ask for an increase to the Local Road millage. He indicated that residents would obtain a reduction on their property taxes. Mr. Sikma replied yes as they hoped to improve the roads and the only way to do that was additional funding. Councilmember Gottschall clarified that 1 mill brought in approximately \$770,000. Ms. Stamper said that was correct. She explained that the current Local Road millage was 1.1439 and expired in Fiscal Year

2025/2026. Councilmember Gottschall said he was not sure how the other members of Council felt about it, but not going for a full replacement may be good. Just asking for somewhere between zero and 1.25 mills would allow them to complete projects and improve the infrastructure while allowing the residents to recognize a tax break.

There was a consensus on this budget.

Cemetery (98-99)

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox questioned the Sale of Grave Lots Budget line as it went from an actual \$10,000 in 2020 to a projected \$5,000 for the next three years. She wondered if the cemetery was full. Mr. Brown said it was a trend as they consulted with someone in the funeral business and learned more people chose cremation.

Councilmember Rzeznik was aware of a presentation made at the last Cemetery Board Meeting regarding a columbarium. He believed it was supposed to be voted on at their next meeting. He noticed there was nothing reflecting that within the budget. Mr. Brown said they were still waiting to have that discussion, but things got delayed due to the pandemic; however, more information would be coming.

There was a consensus on this budget.

Safety Path (101-103)

Mr. Sikma explained they had a millage for the safety path and tried to take care of the gaps. He said they talked about the pathway along Wixom Road, but the challenge was acquiring easements as they were private for each resident. He knew some added time and cost would be involved but they still anticipated continuing the path along Wixom Road this year and a portion next spring. He indicated they also tried to cover some of the gaps on Pontiac Trail, as well as South Wixom Road. He stated they could not program anything in other than maintenance because they millage would no longer fund this program.

Councilmember Behrmann wondered if this was just for safety paths or all sidewalks. Mr. Sikma described safety paths as the sidewalks and pathways within the right-of-way of major roads. Councilmember Behrmann hoped this would be investigated further he was aware that some neighborhoods had dangerous sidewalks. He didn't think it would cost a ton of money to start fixing them. Mr. Sikma stated that the founding fathers decided early on that each of the subdivision developments had an agreement that included sidewalks; therefore, the sidewalk in front of residential homes required was the homeowner's responsibility. He mentioned how they could assist in notifying the residents when they were getting bid hoping they could catch a cost benefit.

Councilmember Behrmann thought that as our residential neighborhoods continued to get older and the sidewalks continue to shift, they would need implement a plan to keep the sidewalks safe. Mr. Sikma said the Code Enforcement Officer would visit the homeowner if it was greater than an inch or two and they received a complaint. That is the current practice, but it did not mean it couldn't be changed.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox wondered what the cost was when a tree root made a sidewalk uneven. Mr. Sikma thought it was around \$250 an hour to grind it down. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if the staff would do that. Mr. Sikma replied that they typically hired someone as it was not efficient because it took longer than a guy that did concrete work every day.

There was a consensus on this budget.

Solid Waste (104-105)

Mr. Sikma explained the annual rate was \$175 per household for solid waste collection. That included the garbage (both large and small) picked up at the curb. He believed the contract they had with Waste Management went through 2022. As the contract got closer to expiring, they would work with RRRASOC to renegotiate. He said due to different recycling programs, the

commodity rates for plastics and recycling was starting to increase. He indicated that Wixom was one of the best recyclers within the RRRASOC group. They continued to get more residents who brought household hazardous waste each season which was the reason they added another collection event last year.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik wondered if Waste Management would discontinue the plastic program. He knew they had a contract for a couple more years. Mr. Sikma said Waste Management asked for an increase but RRRASOC was able to keep them at bay. If it did warrant an expense, they would try to use the annual rate to accommodate that. They did not anticipate any other changes.

Councilmember Gottschall wondered what they were doing with the plastics since they were not going overseas as much. Mr. Sikma indicated that was taken care of at a Material Handling facility in Southfield. Councilmember Gottschall asked about the Household Hazardous Waste Program. He knew they added a program, but the budget was still underused. He hoped it could come down \$10,000. Mr. Sikma was afraid of the environmental rules that were coming to fruition on the federal side. He thought it might be more restrictive, so they wanted the funding. He preferred to keep it around \$30,000. He indicated that \$14,000 was the cost for the July event and if they had two more events, they would need those funds.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if they still believed this was a benefit to the residents or could they go to a different community. Mr. Sikma believed making recycling easier for people resulted in less trash and hazardous waste in the storm drains and garbage.

There was a consensus on this budget.

DDA, DDA/VCA Development Bond Fund (106-107)

Ms. Stamper said this budget included the property tax capture revenue in the DDA District. The reason for the increase was due to the increased development across the street. She indicated that they continued to show a donation revenue and event expense at an equal amount. That meant the DDA had the ability to expend any money they brought in for an event. She said given that most of the revenue was a tax capture, it needed to be utilized for the current debt payment and the payback back to the general fund. She stated the DDA could retain the funds they brought in for donations and carry them over. They were required to follow guidelines and spend what they brought in through donations. She indicated the transfer to the general fund, which was the payback for the prior bond payment the City covered through fiscal year 2018. She said going into this fiscal year, the payback amount that they were waiting on was \$676,899. They had a payment back to the general fund of \$367,477 budgeted this year. They anticipated that payback would be completed within three years. The final large item was the transfer out to the DDA construction debt for \$452,362 and that covered the annual bond payment due on the DDA bonds.

Mayor Beagle commented that the DDA Director's salary was scheduled for \$50,000 but her salary was \$45,000. He asked if that should be changed within the budget. Ms. Stamper thought they were fine to keep it \$50,000. She looked things over at year end and any remaining funds would come back to the City as repayment.

There was a consensus on this budget.

LDFA Capital (109-111)

Ms. Stamper explained they were attempting to deplete the previous LDFA captured tax money, so they used some for road improvement projects that fell within the district. They had a little over \$500,000 left to be utilized on the Beck Road right-of-way purchase given a portion of Beck Road fell within the LDFA district. Once the funds were gone, the fund would close.

There was a consensus on this budget.

Land Acquisition (112-113)

Ms. Stamper stated that we basically recognize incoming interest income. We always budget the remaining fund balance in the event that there was a purchase that takes place so we wouldn't have to do a budget amendment. She noted that property purchases going forward always have to be approved by City Council.

There was a consensus on this budget.

Budget Stabilization (114-115)

Ms. Stamper said no activity was shown for next year except interest income earned on what they currently had. There would be no transfers in or out of this fund.

Councilmember Sharpe asked if all the funds were invested the same. Ms. Stamper replied that they were in different places as Land Acquisition was typically in a more fluid account. She was able to place the Budget Stabilization with some longer-term investment strategies so they would earn a higher rate. If they needed it, she could swap some investments around.

There was a consensus on this budget.

Forfeiture Fund (117-119)

Director Moore said they had two forfeiture fund accounts – one was the federal forfeiture and the other was the state forfeiture. The revenue they received was driven by the arrest they made and amount of assets and cash they seized. He planned a scheduled replacement of the Police Department's patrol rifles with some of the funds. He estimated the cost of the rifles around \$35,000 and that would include the lights. He would also like to purchase an electric bicycle.

Mayor Beagle asked if the scopes for the rifles came separate. He thought they might be able to talk to Trijicon. Director Moore said the scopes were separate and noted that Trijicon had always been good to them.

Councilmember Gottschall questioned why they projected the federal forfeiture at \$50,000 this year and last year. Ms. Stamper indicated that those numbers were placeholders as they did not believe there was anything planned for those future years, so they put them as placeholders to show them going down. Given this fund was truly based on forfeiture, there was no control of the revenue that came in.

Councilmember Sharpe thought \$35,000 sounded like some fancy rifles. He wondered what they did with the old rifles as they had a long service life and were probably gently used. Director Moore indicated that the rifles were lightly used in the field but heavily used at the shooting range. The reason they hoped to purchase rifles was recently he learned there was a potential for a gap developing between where the firing pin actually hit the bullet due to the usage on the range and the number of rounds they went through. This could lead to a misfire. He knew of a tool they could purchase that measured these gaps to confirm what the range staff believed. As far as the breakdown, Director Moore thought it would be about \$18,000 for 25 rifles, \$2,500 for the lights, and \$14,000 for the optics. In years past, whenever they replaced weapons, they allowed the employee to purchase them from the City at fair market value. He confirmed there was asset control on these.

There was a consensus on this budget.

CDBG Fund (120-121)

Ms. Magee noted the Community Development Block Grant Funds was a federally administrated program administrated through Oakland County. The funds were for low to moderate projects and services. The proposed budget was involved the application from last November, which included the walking path. The \$74,628 reflected two years of past allocations. The other \$15,000 was broken down to public services which they allocated to HAVEN, Hospitality House and Common Ground.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked about the Other Service. Ms. Magee replied that reflected the public services that were not administered through Oakland County. They allocated \$5,000 for LAYA, funds for Hospitality House, Common Ground, St. Vincent DePaul and Meals on Wheels.

There was a consensus on this budget.

Special Holding Agency Fund (122-123)

Ms. Stamper explained this was money held from deposits from developers and utilized for payments to the engineers and planners in the building process. We also held escrow money here. This was a pass-through fund.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if they had gotten through the self-audit and returned everybody's money. Ms. Stamper said that they depleted quite a bit of the funds, but still had some to go through.

Councilmember Sharpe asked where the fund balance came from if they returned it all. He figured there was something better they could do with \$1.3 million than having it sit in a line item. Ms. Stamper explained the monies was not the City's money and would eventually be given back to the developer or used to plant trees for that specific purpose. It had to stay within the trust fund to be utilized for those exact purposes.

There was a consensus on this budget.

Insurance Fund – Retirees (124-125)

Ms. Stamper said this fund represented the transactions that took place for the retiree health system from the funds that they held at MERS. They had a few more retirees over the past year that accounted for the change in cost. They also had retirees that turned 65 years of age. Once they hit that age, their cost went down because their plan was a Medicare supplemental plan. This fund tracked those costs.

There was a consensus on this budget.

Tribute Drain Bond Fund (127-129)

Ms. Stamper said this fund was the incoming special assessment revenue that was assessed to the properties across the street and the DDA development that were members and utilized the drain. The opposite side was the bond payment that they had to pay on the Tribute Drain installation cost when they bonded in 2005. This was enough special assessment revenue to pay those bond payments each year.

There was a consensus on this budget.

Parks and Recreation Budget Continuation

Mayor Beagle questioned the \$600,000 for the Habitat. He wondered if that cost only covered the two wooden boardwalks. Ms. Magee said that was correct as the gravel would not change. Mayor Beagle said he walked there earlier today and noticed two wooden parts. The first part included the wood and the bridge looked sturdy. The second part, along with the dock, was in bad shape. He hoped they would get costs for both Part A and Part B. He believed they could determine if they needed to do one part or both. Ms. Magee said that could be done.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said he also went to the Habitat and noticed people used it. He was in full agreement the platform needed to be replaced. But the section that ran from the edge of the platform to the east (he measured 120 linear feet), was the most critical to be replaced. Like Mayor Beagle, he observed the rest to be pretty sound and solid. He asked if Mr. Sikma had a rough linear foot on the actual boardwalk. Mr. Sikma replied no. He thought that might be a good way to obtain an estimate for the bid. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought the second section after the first bend going east was 80 feet, the third bend was 80 feet and the long 100 feet section to

meet up with the gravel seemed to be in good shape. He observed a lot of families on bikes on the safety paths and suggested they dedicate money this next fiscal year for the assets that were being used, like picnic benches and bike racks at Mack Park or Sibley Park. He would prefer they acted on those things now because the Trail was being used. He suggested a repair station at Mack Park would be another idea. He thought they should repair the portion of the Habitat that needed it most and spread that out over years so they could determine the economy.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox and Mayor Beagle agreed with Deputy Mayor Rzeznik.

Councilmember Smiley thought the partial idea was ideal. He asked how they would set a budget for a partial project. Mr. Brown suggested that they leave the budget the same and re-allocate it once they had a better idea of the cost.

Councilmember Sharpe indicated he looked at the Habitat and agreed with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. He liked the idea of breaking the Habitat project up because he didn't see a need for the entire walkway to be replaced.

Call to the Public

DDA Executive Director Laura Cloutier thanked the Council for taking their time with the budget. She said she sat in on both nights and thought they did an excellent job. She wanted to follow up regarding the PPE kits. She had been working with the downtown businesses gathering information as to how many employees they had and learned the kits would be delivered next week to the Police Department. She said she would coordinate with Director Moore regarding the distribution.

DDA Chairman Caleb Sheng said the reason he chirped about a lot was because he grew up watching an entrepreneur's life and work become blended and inseparable. He watched his Dad run the family clinic treating patients and cutting them every possible financial break while making no compromise in supporting his paid staff. He also gave to the church and to charity. Mr. Sheng believed his dad's story was being lived out in many different shapes among Wixom businesses. He mentioned as the DDA plan neared completion, the DDA Board wanted to become directly involved in the drafting process and happenings. He indicated they asked Carmine Avantini and Steve Brown to provide them with basic documentation of the budget numbers. He said the DDA was curious if there were any trackers for milestones or task assignments that were known. He indicated how they hoped to share in the needs brought up by Police and Fire. He asked if they would be open to finding a creative way to apply some of the TIF monies, which only a downtown area could capture and could only be spent within the DDA district, toward City services from Fire and Police. He hoped the DDA could obtain a written structure for performing those services by a City-wide service within the area. He stated how they tried to find a way to propose direct application of downtown-drawn tax monies toward the downtown businesses' critical cost needs. The State and County advisors had given them written documents that said it was a good thing to pursue, while some City advisors said it was not a good. He said he was waiting on written opinions from the City advisors to determine if they could find some common ground. Lastly, he noticed there was a big openness to additional meetings to learn more. He said they were all volunteers and were excited to offer their private professional expertise to the City. They hoped the City could teach them to improve their public service. He would be happy to sit down with any member of Council. He thanked the dais for their time and their stewardship.

DDA Board Member Vanessa Willett said she used the Fire and Police Departments for emergencies in the past and believed time was of the essence. She indicated that their response made a difference. She was in favor of any tax monies for Police and Fire. She understood budgeting for the City was difficult but when people needed these services, it was mostly for a critical situation. In regard to the sidewalks and slab fixing, she wondered if the property owner was responsible for fixing their sidewalk. She was unsure if that was an association issue or an issue with the property owner. She stated that she walked a lot noticed that they had sprayed some areas. She thought it would be easier to cut out and replace those areas of the sidewalk

that needed fixing. She mentioned how she felt fortunate to sit on the Oakland County Grant Committee with Deanna Magee and help thirty-nine businesses within the downtown and City of Wixom. She knew the businesses could use the money and any other help the community could provide. She indicated they were doing a crowd funding campaign and hoped to get assistance from the City Council. She indicated the DDA was eager to help the City Council in any way they could.

Mike Smith, 1692 Norton Creek, thanked the Council for addressing the gaps in coverage at the Fire Department. He knew there was not a solution, but the feedback proved there was a real intent to solve the issue. He cautioned the Council on utilizing Huron Valley. He asked them to remember that Huron Valley Ambulance's loyalty would not always be with Wixom. They covered many other communities and if the rig they assigned to Wixom was needed for a life-saving event in Lyon Township, the Wixom ambulance would go to Lyon Township leaving Wixom uncovered until another rig could come. He stated that the entire Fire Department staff were tax paying citizens with loyalty to Wixom. He said they could use the part time firefighters to cover the gaps and evolve the Department. He appreciated the Council's time.

City Manager's Comments

Mr. Brown appreciated the time and feedback. He thought this was a great process to go through to get a good budget and they could all be proud.

Council Comments

Councilmember Smiley commented that during this first budget session, Deputy Mayor Rzeznik told the new Councilmembers that budget sessions were like drinking through a fire hose which was very true. Councilmember Sharpe used that same phrase tonight and he totally understood. He still learned many new things each year. The process was exhausting, but also very gratifying. He thanked everyone for the late nights and for all the great efforts, especially Marilyn Stamper and all the Department Heads.

Councilmember Sharpe thanked Councilmember Smiley for the encouragement. He hoped he didn't have to call the Fire Department for deep vein thrombosis after sitting here for five hours.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thanked the staff for all their work and for sitting through these long meetings.

Councilmember Gottschall stated that it was different doing the budget sessions over two nights through ZOOM than in person. He thought it went as smoothly as they got through the budgets these last few years except for Police and Fire tonight. He knew they had newer members on Council, but overall it went much more quickly than his first two or three years on Council. He thought they had a good handle on it. He liked hearing everyone's feedback from all of their professions. That was one thing that wasn't always there on past Councils. We had a diverse group that knew quite a bit.

Councilmember Behrmann hoped the Council never had to use his profession. This process was long, but without Ms. Stamper, it would've been even longer. He also thanked Crystal Opalko for taking the long notes and the individuals from the community who sat with the Council for nine hours as the budget was debated.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thanked the staff, Mr. Brown, and everybody who hung in there going through these sessions. It was like drinking from a fire hose. You learned a lot more each time and maybe next year Councilmembers Sharpe and Behrmann would learn what a lamella separator was. Also, he thought they should be thankful there was not a wing plow truck in this year's budget because that would've taken another two hours. He had always harped on the use of the forfeiture funds for law enforcement equipment because if they stayed within the boundaries of what those funds can be used for. He indicated how they got the digital speed limit

signs from that fund one year. He liked to see more creative uses of those funds, rather than letting that money sit there not being utilized. It was a great session and he looked forward to the refinement to the Fire Department piece of it because they needed to get through that. He hoped to get it resolved in a quick order.

Mayor Beagle thanked the Department Heads for their hard work and for sitting with the Council for nine hours over the last two nights. He appreciated the attendees who were with the Council both nights. It was unique and went better than he thought it would. He was apprehensive about doing these sessions over ZOOM. He thanked his fellow Councilmembers for their dedication and thanked their families as they were sequestered in another part of the house while these meeting were going on.

The meeting was concluded at 10:57 p.m.

Crystal Opalko
Deputy Clerk

Approved 6-9-2020
