

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

Mayor Beagle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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-07-84-20: Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Sharpe and Gronlund-Fox to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of June 23, 2020.

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

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

1.) Note of Thanks from Director of Public Safety Ron Moore

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Beagle stated that the City was utilizing the video and audio of Zoom. Once connected to the meeting, members of the public wishing to participate in the virtual public comment must alert us that they wish to speak by pressing *9 on their telephone keypad. Pressing *9 will activate the "raise hand" feature signaling to us that you wish to comment. Participants will be called one at a time, as would happen during an in-person meeting. When you are unmuted, please introduce yourself by stating your name and address for the record. You will then have (5) minutes to share your comments with the City Council. At the conclusion of your comments or your (5) minutes, you will be muted and removed from the public comment queue.

There were no public comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1.) Fire Monthly Report - May 2020

Councilmember Behrmann wondered if the COVID calls were increasing. Chief Roberts reported that they have seen an increase in the COVID calls this past month.

2.) Police Monthly Report - May 2020

There were no comments regarding this report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-07-85-20: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Sharpe to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
 - a.) Downtown Development Authority Minutes of May 28, 2020
 - b.) Library Board Minutes of June 8, 2020
- 2.) Recommendation to Accept a Permanent Sidewalk Easement Along North Wixom Road Granted by Allan Hagopian Located at 232 North Wixom Road for the Amount of One Dollar (\$1.00)
- 3.) Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution Accepting and Dedicating Residential Streets and Sanitary Sewer with the Right of Way in Anthem at Tribute – Phase 2-3 and Adopt the Public Act 51 of 1951 New Street Acceptance Resolution and Accept the Streets of Independence, Fletcher, Goodrich, Madison, Theodore, Curtis and Center Boulevard and Add 0.955 Miles of Roadways to the City Street System

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 City of Wixom Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 18.12, General Provisions, Sec. 18.12.170, Special Events and Section 18.12.180, Temporary Uses, Including Modifications to Chapter 18.22 Zoning Board of Appeals and Chapter 18.24 Definitions**

CM-07-86-20: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to approve the enactment of an ordinance to amend the City of Wixom Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 18.12, General Provisions, Sec. 18.12.170, Special Events and Section 18.12.180, Temporary Uses, including modifications to Chapter 18.22 Zoning Board of Appeals and Chapter 18.24 Definitions.

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

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

- 2.) Recommendation to Enact an Ordinance to Amend the City of Wixom Code of Ordinances, Chapter 16.12, Subdivision Approval, Sec. 16.12.080, Condominium Subdivision Approval**

CM-07-87-20: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Sharpe and Smiley to enact an ordinance to amend the City of Wixom Code of Ordinances, Chapter 16.12, Subdivision Approval, Sec. 16.12.080, Condominium Subdivision Approval.

Councilmember Behrmann stated that at the last meeting when this was introduced, he was in support of moving this forward with the indication from staff that the language could be updated to give us an option in case we have a development that we wanted to see a second time around. He didn't see that language and because of that, he will be voting no on this enactment.

Mr. Brown said that question was discussed with the Planning Consultant and with Legal Counsel. There was not a mechanism that would be recommended to allow for certain cases to be brought back to Council and the City Attorney saw that as being a potential legal issue. The decision needs to be made that either you stand with the ordinance as it is or you are in favor of the amendment that allows it to be handled at the Planning Commission level

Councilmember Behrmann said that given our current Planning Commission, we would be fine with this change. The problem was that he didn't see how the Planning Commission would be in five or ten years. He would much rather not get into a situation where a subdivision gets approved that this Council was not happy with. He said he would still be voting no.

Councilmember Gottschall indicated that he was still not a fan of this. He didn't like the idea of the Council ceding their review power to appointed people. We have a lot of long-term members on the Planning Commission right now who know what they are doing, but we have to plan for the unknown future. Sometimes we haven't done that in the past with previous decisions and contracts. He wanted to see us set up for success and the final decision-making authority in the hands of the elected officials.

Kelly McIntyre explained the difference of what information was presented to the Council at the preliminary review and the final review. The preliminary basically sets the design for the entire development. The location and width of the streets, the sanitary and storm information, the topography, the number of units, the size of the lots, the setback lines, the woodlands, the wetlands, and the proposed recreation areas are all presented to the Council. If there was an issue with any of those, they could change the actual design of the development. During the final review, they ask for the final engineering details for the street construction, the landscape plan, lighting, elevations of the proposed developments, the floorplans and the master deed which is sent to the attorney for review.

Councilmember Smiley said that the Council is still reviewing it. He didn't see how the Council could get shocked or surprised. He liked the idea that we would

streamline the process to make things go faster and friendly. He said he would be voting yes.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thought that as a One-Stop Ready Community, we need to find a way to streamline this process. These developments cross past the Council and mayoral appointments for a vote so he was hoping that we take the same care and diligence in future Planning Commission appointees that we have in the past. He said he would be voting yes.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox knew that we talked about the rationale for this being to streamline the process. She confirmed that right now it goes to the Planning Commission twice and to the City Council twice. She was struggling with the streamlining because if it was still going to go to the Planning Commission twice, she wondered if we could get it on the Council agenda during the same two-week period that it goes to the Planning Commission. She said that we have a great Planning Commission right now, but we don't know what that group will look like in the future. The Council appoints these people, but we don't know how they will actually be until they get on the Commission. She was wondering if there was another way we could streamline or get that to Council sooner.

Mr. Brown said that we can always try to coordinate that a little more tightly and do it in anticipation of the next Council meeting. He said staff would do their best to keep that as short as possible.

Councilmember Behrmann commented that the Planning Commission meets twice a month just like the Council. He noted that we are talking about a week's delay by having it come back to Council one more time. Mr. Brown thought that was about right but he would have to look at a calendar to be sure.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if there was another reason for this change to the ordinance besides trying to streamline the process. Ms. McIntyre said that the City was in the process of becoming a Redevelopment Ready Community. In doing that, there was a strong emphasis on streamlining our development review processes. This was one of the recommendations. There are many communities that only see it once and sometimes their Council doesn't even see it. This was our effort at reducing some of the time while meeting the strong recommendation of the Redevelopment Ready Community. Becoming certified offers us potential grant opportunities and assistance for development. There was good reason to be Redevelopment Ready certified.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if SAFEBuilt was the company that reviewed the initial plans. Ms. McIntyre replied that CIB Planners review the preliminary and final site plans. SAFEBuilt comes in for the construction documents and inspections.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked how long it took to turn around the review once those plans come in. Ms. McIntyre replied that they ask for the applicants to provide their material 30-days in advance. That gives us ten days to review the project. In addition to CIB Planning, they also have to have engineers and the Fire Department review them. They put all the reports together and send out the Planning Commission packet a week in advance, so that was about 30 days. When it comes to Council, they get it a week in advance. There is some prep time that has to happen between a number of entities to get that packaged together. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox confirmed that it was 30 days. Ms. McIntyre said that was correct, with the caveat that they have provided all of the information that was required and there aren't any issues. We only take plans to the Planning Commission that are ready to be approved. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if there was a way to streamline the process to cut down on the 30-day review time instead of taking away a review of Council. Ms. McIntyre said she didn't know if we were able to do that and she would certainly look into that. She thought it would depend on the depth of the plan. Sometimes we are getting plans that are 72 sheets and a development that is 130 units, or it is an industrial building that requires a lot of review. That does take time. We could strive for that but she thought that was something administration and the consultants would have to work out.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said that the one-week delay talked about earlier was theoretical. That would be if it was pushed back to the Planning Commission and then to the Council. Because it is getting pushed back, there are always modifications. Sometimes it also requires a legal review. Our past history has shown it has been months in delay. He gave Mr. Brown a hard time about a year ago because we weren't Redevelopment Ready certified and missed out on significant grant opportunities. He said he was still very much in support of the ordinance amendment.

In regards to the Planning Commission meeting dates, Mr. Brown said that the second one of the month often falls just the night before the Council meeting. There would be a two-week delay unless the Council was prepared to act the very next day.

Councilmember Gottschall asked what grants we missed because we weren't Redevelopment Ready. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik said that there were some Oakland County Main Street Grants that were available. We have a sizeable piece of property and there are a couple of areas in the downtown that could have used some grant money. He said he talked to Ms. Barker about it prior to her departure. More will come up in the future as well. Councilmember Gottschall asked what those grants were for. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik did not recall the details of them, but he thought there were start-up initiatives, as well as potential use for buildouts of

existing businesses in Main Street communities. Councilmember Gottschall said that last time he asked about Stonegate and if that would have fallen under this. We had the proposal on West Maple Road that didn't go over so well a number of times. Those were all things that he would like to see come back to Council. Short of not being able to legally put in some wording for calling certain projects back, that was where this gets iffy. If we were really going to be cutting out one of the reviews, he thought it would be more appropriate to not be looking at the preliminary. We would send it to the Planning Commission to get everything worked out and then it would come to the Council. He would rather see a finished product, or nearly finished product. He understood and agreed with streamlining but not to the point of not protecting our residents who are already here and allowing certain things to potentially go up that we would have otherwise not been a fan of if things get changed after the Council sees it. We ended up going to court over Stonegate and we have the West Maple project. It would be nice if everything just went smoothly, but it seems we have more turbulence around Wixom when someone asks to build a neighborhood. A major concern he had was trying to protect the residents that are already here. He agreed that being efficient was nice. He wasn't sure if we were getting complaints that it was taking forever. We seem to have a lot of people wanting to build in Wixom, so it doesn't seem that we are scaring people away.

Councilmember Behrmann said that it was brought up that we missed out on different grants, but we are talking about a subdivision ordinance, not an ordinance for reviewing our industrial properties. He said we sat through many Joint meetings during the last couple of years where Mr. Avantini hammered home to us that we are one of the fastest communities in the area at getting projects approved. He thought we have already done a really good job at it and he agreed that this was not an area where we need to be quicker. In fact, those two streets next to the Village Center Area have been approved for over a year or two and they are just now starting to build on one of them. Stonegate was approved through litigation a year and a half ago and they are just starting to put houses up. Us approving their subdivision two weeks earlier isn't going to make a difference because they are still taking two years to put a shovel in the ground. If we had developers pounding on our door that they wanted to build houses tomorrow, that would be one thing, but that was not what he was seeing.

Mr. Brown said he didn't dispute the comment about how quick we are compared to other communities. If we maintain the current course, we are talking about a potential few week delay. In addition, if we make the change, it would shave off about two weeks from the process.

Mayor Beagle confirmed that we should not table this until the next meeting to get some kind of mechanism in place where certain things could come back to the Council. Mr. Brown said that the City Attorney thought that was something that

would not be appropriate. It was a decision as to whether the Council likes the ordinance as it is or if they are in favor of the amendment. If you introduce a qualification where it could come back to Council, that would be a potential issue.

Councilmember Smiley thought that if it comes to the Council and they don't like it, the Council says no. It would go away and have to come back. He clarified that it wasn't like the Council would have one chance to say something about it if we were to pass this ordinance and we hope they do it. If the Council says no, he asked if it would come back to Council again. Ms. McIntyre replied that was correct. When the Council sees something at the preliminary and it doesn't meet the requirement, the Council can deny it. If the applicant wants to continue, they can go back to the drawing board to start all over again. If the Council is not happy with what they see, they can deny it or send it back to the Planning Commission for revisions. Councilmember Smiley said it would come back to the Council after they dotted the I's and crossed the T's. It was just a couple of weeks but it gets us in the good graces of Redevelopment Ready. He didn't think this was as big of a deal. Everyone makes a great case.

Councilmember Gottschall confirmed that if the Council denied the preliminary and they want to reapply, they re-incur all of the application and review fees. Ms. McIntyre replied yes because there are additional reviews. Councilmember Gottschall stated that in our current system, we could approve the preliminary which would then go back to the Planning Commission to work out all of the final details before coming back to Council. He wondered if the Council could approve something with conditions and not have the developer have to pay those fees again. Ms. McIntyre said that they pay for the preliminary review fee and a final review fee. The Council can place conditions that are consistent or pertinent to the development but not necessarily arbitrary.

Councilmember Smiley said that if we deny it because there was something not quite right, it has to start over and there are fees. If we say we can approve it with these elements, we would never see it again to make sure those elements were changed. He felt that was problematic. It was one more reason to not amend this ordinance. He was on the fence now. It seemed this amendment had many pros and cons. He thought this should be left the same if it had that much of a toss-up between pros and cons. He said he changed his mind.

Roll Call Vote: (3) AYES – Beagle, Rzeznik, Sharpe
(4) NAYS – Behrmann, Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox, Smiley

Motion Failed

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Recommendation to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement for CARES Act Distribution Between Oakland County and the City of Wixom and authorize Mayor Patrick Beagle to Sign the Agreement**

CM-07-88-20: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Gronlund-Fox and Smiley to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for CARES Act Distribution between Oakland County and the City of Wixom and authorize Mayor Patrick Beagle to sign the Agreement.

Ms. Stamper said this was an agreement we have to have between Oakland County and the City in order to submit COVID-19-related expenditures for reimbursement. We currently have about \$17,000 that we are presenting to FEMA in expenditures that we should see returned back to us. That leaves about \$11,000 in expenditures that are applicable to Oakland County. A few of the items that the County covers that FEMA does not are things like legal expenses and technology costs. She indicated that FEMA covers approximately 75% of the cost that we send to them and the County covers approximately 25% of those expenditures to make us whole.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if we had already sent in for reimbursement through FEMA. Ms. Stamper replied that she would be doing that tomorrow.

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

Motion Carried

- 2.) **Recommendation to Authorize Participation in the State of Michigan's MiDEAL Extended Purchasing Program for the Acquisition of a John Deere 1200A Diamond Dresser in the Amount of \$14,133.60**

CM-07-89-20: Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Gronlund-Fox and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to authorize participation in the State of Michigan's MiDEAL Extended Purchasing Program for the acquisition of a John Deere 1200A Diamond Dresser in the amount of \$14,133.30

Councilmember Behrmann asked if this was the same baseball field dresser that was discussed during the budget process. He remembered a lot of discussion about whether or not this was necessary, but the report was only one page. Ms. Magee replied yes. The piece of equipment is 20-years old and the City bought it as a demo. It is not operating consistently. Many times, DPW has to manually finish prepping the fields because the equipment quits. That causes extra staff time. Normally it takes about three hours a day for the DPW to prep and line the fields. It has been taking about five hours because the equipment does not function properly. Councilmember Behrmann confirmed that purchasing this new piece of equipment would save several thousands of dollars a year in labor. Ms. Magee said that was correct because they won't be having to do it by hand.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if this also posed a safety hazard if the diamonds don't get dressed. Ms. Magee replied that was correct. It was also a safety concern.

Mayor Beagle said that in order to keep the fields in tiptop condition, you have to do them one way and the next time the other way. You also have to put new dirt down on the infield.

Councilmember Gottschall said he was still not a fan of this. He coached and umpired a lot of baseball games and he saw how they did this at tournaments. Never once has he seen a John Deere Diamond Dresser. It was always a golf cart with a chain-linked fence strapped to the back with some weight on it. They zip around the field extremely quickly and the lines get put down. It was a matter of a ten-minute operation, not a few hours. He thought for the cost and the time, he would have preferred if we looked at other options or if those were presented in the packet. He said he would be voting no on this.

Mayor Beagle asked if this would be used for anything other than the baseball diamonds. Ms. Magee said it has the capability of spreading woodchips with the cart. There are other DPW functions, but the main purpose was the baseball diamonds. Mr. Sikma added that this one has a blade on the front that we can push toward the center because those mounds are crowned. We can do additional grading on these to maintain the field longer. It is 20 years old and the dust from the fields doesn't help. We have replaced the filters to help protect the motor. In fact, we lost the motor at one point several years ago. It is working on its last leg right now. Mayor Beagle asked if this could be used to groom the trails at the park. Mr. Sikma said that with the front blade, it can be used on the trail at Gilbert Willis.

Councilmember Smiley said that we have equipment that grooms the trails already. He wondered why we couldn't just use whatever we groom the trails with on the diamonds. Mr. Sikma said that it was the weight of the tool cats. Councilmember Smiley said this has the feeling of being such a luxurious item with just a few diamonds to groom during uncertain times right now. He liked the idea that we would save on labor cost over the manual work. He said he would like to see a different solution to this need.

Councilmember Sharpe asked if the diamonds were in use right now. Ms. Magee replied that we have two leagues out there now on Mondays and Fridays. We also rent the fields to other groups and agencies. Last year, we took in \$9,260 in ballfield rental. We charge \$95 per night per field to line the fields. They are used quite a bit.

Councilmember Gottschall asked how many bookings we had per year and confirmed that we charge \$95 a night for lining and preparing. Ms. Magee said that was for the leagues. We charge a different rate if they don't want them lined and only prepped. There are a variety of charges. Councilmember Gottschall asked what the key group of rentals was. Ms. Magee said that it was the leagues. She thought there were about 18 weeks with two nights each week where the diamonds were used.

**Roll Call Vote: (4) AYES – Beagle, Gronlund-Fox, Rzeznik, Sharpe
(3) NAYS - Behrmann, Gottschall, Smiley**

Motion Carried

- 3.) Recommendation to Authorize Participation in the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Organization Bid Contract for the Acquisition of Foldable Tables for City Hall from KI Incorporated of Green Bay, WI in the Amount of \$4,937.92**

CM-07-90-20: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to authorize participation in the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract for the acquisition of foldable tables for City Hall from KI Incorporated of Green Bay, WI in the amount of \$4,937.92.

Ms. Magee explained that these foldable tables are in addition to the ones we purchased last year for the Council Chambers. This will be all we need.

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

Motion Carried

- 4.) Recommendation to Authorize Participation in the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract for the Acquisition of Konica Minolta C450i Copier from Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA, Inc. of Livonia, Michigan in the Amount of \$9,132.60**

CM-07-91-20: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Sharpe to authorize participation in the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract for the acquisition of a Konica Minolta C450i copier from Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA, Inc. of Livonia, Michigan in the amount of \$9,132.60.

Ms. Magee stated that this was a replacement copier at the Community Center which was pushed back a year.

Councilmember Behrmann noticed that this was the second copier he had seen since he has been on Council. He wondered how many copiers the City has and if we would be better off doing all of the copiers with the same company rather than piecemealing them.

Ms. Stamper said we have one in most departments. City Hall has four, the Police has two, the Community Center has one, the Fire Department has one, and DPW has one. Some departments don't have the usage that others do so some of them are replaced sooner than others.

Councilmember Behrmann asked if we purchase or lease them. Ms. Stamper replied that for a time we did lease a couple copy machines and when those leases expired,

we started looking at the cost difference. It was determined that purchasing was a better option and that continues to be the case.

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

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

- 5.) Recommendation to Award the Bid of Tennis/Athletic Court Repairs to the Lowest Qualified Bidder, Goddard Coatings of Pontiac, Michigan in the Amount of \$43,370.00**

CM-07-92-20: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Sharpe to award the bid of tennis/athletic court repairs to the lowest qualified bidder, Goddard Coatings of Pontiac, Michigan in the amount of \$43,370.

Ms. Magee stated that the tennis courts are in dire need of crack repair, especially at Gunnar Mettala. We usually do the crack repair every five years. With the number of people using the courts right now, we tried to move forward as quickly as possible and Goddard Coatings can do the work in about three weeks.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik asked if we were still seeing mixed use on the tennis courts. Ms. Magee replied definitely. There are a lot of inline hockey players, tennis players, basketball and skateboarding. He knew Michigan winters were tough on those courts.

Councilmember Sharpe knew these fell under the Parks & Recreation budget. He asked who oversaw the work that was being done. Ms. Magee said that the DPW works jointly with Community Services through the whole process, including the bid process.

Mayor Beagle asked if playing roller hockey affected the condition of the courts. Ms. Magee replied not necessarily; it was mostly the weather.

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

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

- 6.) Recommendation to Accept Hubbell, Roth & Clark’s Proposal for Engineering Design Services for the Oxidation Ditch and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in an Amount Not to Exceed \$107,400**

CM-07-93-20: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzesnik and Councilmember Smiley to accept Hubbell, Roth & Clark's proposal for engineering design services for the oxidation ditch and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$107,400.

Mr. Sikma commented that this will include some aeration work. We have mixers on top of the oxidation ditches that we will upgrade and we will increase the power on them. This was the heart of the plant and we want to maintain the oxygen concentration and make them perform better. The controls themselves were the secondary piece, primarily running ethernet throughout the plant so we can have better control. Right now, our alarm systems and emergency use are based off an auto dialer that has been replaced several times. It is the 1993 version of data. It was like using beepers and pagers. With the impacts that we are seeing with no controls on phosphorus, we need a better handle on that. This was why we are looking at SCADA upgrades right now. Additionally, the Treatment Plant upgrades that we have had recently are SCADA compatible.

Councilmember Sharpe asked if this was just the package of engineering work that allows the contractor to build from. Mr. Sikma replied there was the control systems that we will need to know about. When we go to the vendors we are looking at, we will say we need supplies or connections for this, this and this and this is how we are going to get them there. There was some design work with that. The aeration system was the other part of that. There was some mechanical and electronic engineering that will need to take place prior to us getting the vendor. We will go out to bid for the construction end. Councilmember Sharpe confirmed that the \$107,000 was buying us a set of plans to bid against and Mr. Sikma said that was correct.

Councilmember Behrmann said he didn't want to beat a dead horse on this. He thought we gave an awful lot of money to HRC while not seeing any comparison quotes from other companies. He wasn't saying they were not giving us a good product, but he wondered what we were doing to make sure we were getting good value. He wasn't comfortable continuing to approve all of these contracts with HRC until we can at least make sure that we have done our homework and we are getting a good value from HRC. We are probably talking close to \$1 million a year that we give HRC throughout these different contracts that we approve.

Mr. Sikma stated that we have a contract with HRC that goes through 2022. That has been an agreement since 2017. They have been our engineer throughout the years starting in the 1950s. They did most of the sewer installation and they have designed the original Plant that was built in the 1960s with several of the upgrades throughout the years. In the 1990s, there was a portion of time when they were not the City's engineer, but since then they have been the City engineer. There is some longevity here. We do have some knowledge that we would lose if we chose another vendor at this time for the Treatment Plant. For design engineering on this particular item, he said it would take him an awful lot of time to develop a proposal to do this work.

Councilmember Behrman said that made complete sense on this particular issue and probably with a lot to do with the Treatment Plant in general. He knew it was mentioned that we have a contract. He went back to look at Council agendas for as far as he could search and he couldn't see where there was a contract approved for HRC. He said he would be interested in seeing the contract and the date it was approved. Councilmember Behrmann said that if Mr. Sikma was saying HRC was the best bang for the buck for this particular project then he would support this, but given all the work that we have given them, he thought we needed to make sure we are spending the money wisely for our residents.

Mr. Brown said he just got the final information he was looking for today and he wasn't able to put the memo together before this meeting. There was an action item by Council in July of 2017 to create a new contract with HRC that has a five-year term. It started in 2017 and will end July 1, 2022. He would provide a memo to the Council with more detail along with the contract in the next week.

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

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

- 7.) Request for Authorization to Waive the Bid Process and Purchase a Two-Year Gateway Security Suite License from Online Technology Management, Inc. from Plantation, FL at a Price of \$3,251 from City Network Account #411-283-971.322**

CM-07-94-20: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to waive the bid process and purchase a two-year Gateway Security License Suite from Online Technology Management, Inc. from Plantation, FL at a price of \$3,251 from City Network Account #411-283-971.322.

Mr. Blackburn explained that part of the security of the information system included three firewalls. The main firewall was at City Hall; there was one at DPW; and the last was at the Fire Department. Using fairly inexpensive Comcast circuits, we create a wide area network that we are able to share information between these different locations. Each of the firewalls requires a software license. In the past, we have been renewing these once a year. Now we can go to a two-year agreement and save approximately \$890.

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

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried

- 8.) Recommendation and Request to Convene a Closed Session of the City Council, in Accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of Discussing Potential Real Estate Acquisition Pursuant to, and Authorized by, MCL 15.268(d)**

CM-07-95-20: Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to convene a closed session, in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of discussing potential real estate acquisition pursuant to, and authorized by MCL 15.268(d).

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

Motion Carried

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

There were no comments at this time.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Mr. Brown stated that Chief Roberts was sworn in today as President of the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs for a term of two years. He was also elected as Chair of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) FIRE and EMS Advisory Committee after serving on this committee for ten years.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik confirmed that the entire July concert series was cancelled and August was to be determined. Mr. Brown replied yes, that was correct because of the ongoing issues of the Executive Order restrictions. He added that we are allowing people to apply for permits for gatherings that meet the Executive Order restrictions of less than 100 people in an outdoor space. He was hopeful that we would have the opportunity to revisit those events in the coming weeks and months before the end of the season.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Behrmann congratulated Chief Roberts. He asked where we were at with bringing the Fire Department budget back to Council. He didn't want this to get kicked down the road any further. After the last meeting, he was comfortable with them hiring part-time people to get the gaps covered. If that didn't work, we can come back to the table to budget for full-time people. Secondly, the Munshaw house was gone and he was very happy about that. It looks nice. Now you can see the barn, which will probably be our next problem. He thought it looked like the contractor was fixing the sidewalk. Last week he had a couple of conversations with Vilma in the Construction and Development Office. She was beyond helpful at providing him with every piece of information that he was looking for. He really appreciated that she went out of her way to provide him with the documents for his home. He wasn't sure if other cities had staff like that, but he wanted it mentioned to her that the way she treats people was very appreciated. Lastly, while going through the downtown area the other day, he noticed there was one light pole where the light was missing and another light pole where the base was destroyed near the pond. The base has been sitting next to the pole for several weeks. The green downtown Wixom sign wasn't green any more. You can't even

read the writing on it directing where the shops are. He thought we needed to spend some money to fix those little issues. This was the image of our City that people are seeing.

Councilmember Gottschall congratulated Chief Roberts on the swearing in as President of the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs and on his new role as Chairman of the MMRMA Committee. As a housekeeping note, in the past, the Council has done the City Manager's review once the budget had been passed. He wondered if there was any discussion or plans for doing that in the near future. Finally, he was sad to hear about the passing of Larry Rourke a few days ago. He wanted to share his thoughts with Joan and everyone who knew him. Larry was around the City and active for a very long time. He loved running into him at the Employee Picnic or the Ice Cream Social. He always had a good conversation with Larry. He was a very good person. This was a big loss for the City.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox extended her condolences to the family of Larry Rourke. She congratulated Chief Roberts on his recent appointments.

Councilmember Sharpe congratulated Chief Roberts. It was quite an honor to be elected by his peers and it was good to have someone selected from Wixom. He asked Director Moore about police coverage on the Air Line Trail. He was out on the Trail and it was looking great. He noticed someone already ran into one of the bollards and knocked it off. Director Moore stated that the police patrols would be beginning very soon. He had two police officers graduate from the Police Mountain Bike School and they are in the process of getting their uniforms. We can expect to see them soon.

Councilmember Smiley passed on his condolences to the family of Larry Rourke and he congratulated Chief Roberts.

Deputy Mayor Rzeknik congratulated Chief Roberts. That was quite an honor and he thanked him for representing Wixom and the firefighters in general. He offered his condolences to Joan and the family of Larry Rourke. Larry was quite a fixture here in the City. He spent countless hours with him wrapping hot dogs on Soccer Sign-Up Day and he remembered those conversations because he was a wealth of knowledge.

Mayor Beagle said his thoughts and prayers go to Joan Rourke on the passing of Larry. He congratulated Chief Roberts on his positions with the MMRMA and the Michigan Association of Fire Chief. It was an honor to administer the Oath of Office to him. He reminded everyone that we do have a Hazardous Waste Day this weekend at the DPW.

At 8:28 p.m. the City Council took a short break.

At 8:30 p.m. they entered a Closed Session to discuss a potential real estate acquisition. They rose from the Closed Session at 9:05 p.m.

CM-07-96-20: Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Gottschall and Gronlund-Fox to approve the retention of Environmental Resources Group of Wixom, Michigan to perform environmental assessment work for an amount not to exceed \$8,700.

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

Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Catherine Buck
City Clerk

Approved 7-28-2020
