

**CITY OF WIXOM  
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

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

**Present:**

**Mayor:** R. Ziegler  
**Deputy Mayor:** P. Beagle  
**Councilmembers:** P. Behrmann\*  
K. Gottschall  
T. Gronlund-Fox\*  
T. Rzeznik  
R. Smiley (Excused)

**AGENDA CHANGES:**

Mayor Ziegler suggested that New Business #1, Consideration of the Confirmation of the Mayor's Recommendation to Appoint Tia Gronlund-Fox and Peter Behrmann to Vacant City Council Seats, Effective Immediately and with a Term Expiring January 1, 2020 at 11:59 AM, be discussed now.

**1.) Consideration of the Confirmation of the Mayor's Recommendation to Appoint Tia Gronlund-Fox and Peter Behrmann to Vacant City Council Seats, Effective Immediately and with a Term Expiring January 1, 2020 at 11:59 AM**

**CM-11-172-19:** Moved and seconded by Councilmember Rzeznik and Deputy Mayor Beagle to appoint Tia Gronlund-Fox and Peter Behrmann to vacant City Council seats, effective immediately and with a term expiring January 1, 2020 at 11:59 AM.

Mayor Ziegler thought this made sense to him because effective January 1<sup>st</sup> at noon, these same two people will be placed on the Council for their rightfully elected terms. The Council agreed and thought it was a good idea.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

\*The City Clerk swore in both Councilmember Behrmann and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox and both took their seats on the dais.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1.) Public Hearing to Solicit Community Input Regarding the Utilization of the 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Allocation**

Ms. Magee explained that the Block Grant Program provides funds for the purpose of renovating older homes, revitalizing neighborhoods, providing human services, and rebuilding community infrastructure that benefits low to moderate income residents. Qualified projects must be located in census tracts that are occupied by low to moderate individuals and families that meet HUD's standards and guidelines. In Wixom, we have two census tracts and both are located south of Pontiac Trail.

Federal regulations concerning the utilization of these funds and how they are allocated require a public hearing. Those agencies that would like to request funding from the City Council may do so at the public hearing.

Mayor Ziegler read the Rules for Public Speaking at a Public Hearing. He then opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Vicky Kennedy, representative of Common Ground, distributed brochures to the Council. She thanked the Council for the opportunity to ask for Wixom's continued support to help people in crisis. They are a mental health agency that has been helping people move from crisis to hope for over 48 years and they do that every single day. Last year, they helped 139 Wixom residents. She asked for \$5,000 from the City of Wixom to help them continue to serve the people from Wixom.

Beth Cundy, representative of HAVEN, distributed information sheets to the Council. She thanked the City of Wixom for all the help and support given in the past. HAVEN is an agency that works with issues of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Last year, Wixom's support enabled them to serve 40 clients from Wixom and she asked that they continue the support again this year. Their services enable survivors to receive free services and support to heal from the injustices of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. Most people know that they provide shelter, but they also do group and individual counseling, legal advocacy, PPO assistance and safe and compassionate forensic exams. She said that if Wixom was unable to support HAVEN, she hoped we would help spread the word about their agency.

Cindy Dillon, representative of St. Vincent De Paul, said they appreciate all the help they have gotten from the Block Grants in the past. Last year, they helped 16 households with a total of \$6,814; \$5,062 was used for those facing eviction; \$1,400 was for utility shutoff assistance; \$302 was for home repair; and \$50 was for transportation expense. She hoped to have more help from Wixom in the future.

Donovan Neal, Executive Director of Hospitality House, requested a minimum of \$5,000 of the Community Development Block Grant monies be made available to help assist the pantry in providing food assistance to low income residents of Wixom. In the past six months of 2019, Hospitality House has distributed over 212,000 pounds of food to 593 Wixom households, of which 103 were unique households. Wixom is the second largest beneficiary of Hospitality House's food services and each client received approximately 51 pounds of food per visit from the pantry. Every month they allow families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level to come and shop the pantry, selecting the foods that best meet their family needs. CDBG funding will allow the agency to continue to provide this type of assistance, as well as allowing them to increase their provision of services to the City by offering transportation assistance in the form of low cost car repair. He said they launched that program this week with their first client. Individuals who do know about Hospitality House know them for their food pantry services. Often people do not recognize that they also provide emergency transitional shelter housing. They recently assisted a woman who was living in her car. Her husband left her with nothing and she was in a local hotel. She received funding from one of the agencies that was represented here tonight. Hospitality House was able to put her in a hotel for up to 30 days. That program, Breathing

Room, was designed to make sure those individuals have a place to go after they need the hotel. He was happy to report that individual has completed her stay at the hotel and is now a Wixom resident. Mr. Neal thanked the Council in advance for all the help they have provided and he hoped they would consider Hospitality House again this year.

Bridget Ajemian, representative of Western Oakland Meals on Wheels, asked for the consideration of \$5,000 of the CDBG money to be allocated to Western Oakland Meals on Wheels to help the senior residents in Wixom. Meals on Wheels serves seniors 60 years and older that are homebound and frail. They don't want to go into a nursing home so by providing services, they are able to stay in their homes. One key component was the volunteer drivers that take them the meals while providing a safety check on them Monday through Friday. With additional funds, they can serve weekend meals and some breakfast meals. She noted that in January and February they send out blizzard boxes which are shelf-stable meals so the seniors have meals available when they aren't able to deliver because of the snow. She said they would appreciate the Council's consideration.

With no other comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

**MINUTES:**

**CM-11-173-19:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Rzeznik and Gronlund-Fox to approve the Joint City Council, DDA, Planning Commission and ZBA meeting minutes of October 21, 2019.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CM-11-174-19:** Moved and seconded by Deputy Mayor Beagle and Councilmember Gottschall to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of October 22, 2019.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1.) **Note of Thanks from the Beagle Family**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** (None)

**CITY MANAGER REPORTS:**

1.) **Fire Monthly Report - September 2019**

There were no comments or questions on this report.

2.) **Police Monthly Report - September 2019**

Councilmember Gottschall noticed an increase in the Automotive Accidents. With the new Traffic Safety Officer, he wondered if we had noticed any particular areas that were troubled areas that were ongoing with accidents or speeding. Police Lieutenant Mark Bradley replied that the intersection with the most crashes is Grand River and Wixom Road. He indicated that people try to squeeze in a turn

before the light changes and that would be the primary reason for the crashes. Councilmember Gottschall asked if there was anything the Police Department thought we could do to help lessen the issues in that area. Lieutenant Bradley stated that he just spoke with the Traffic Safety Officer yesterday regarding this intersection. That officer has had conversations with the Road Commission and they are discussing changing the lighting pattern at this location in the spring. He hoped that would alleviate some of those problems.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked that the Cemetery Board Minutes be moved from the Consent Agenda to New Business #8.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**CM-11-175-19:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Beagle and Councilmember Gottschall to approve the Consent Agenda as presented which included:

- 1.) Approval to receive and file:
  - a. Library Board Minutes of September 23, 2019
  - b. Downtown Development Authority Minutes of September 24, 2019
  - c. Planning Commission Minutes of October 7, 2019
- 2.) Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance and Dedication of Kenan and Adel Drives within the Cliffs North, LLC Development and the Placement of these Roadways into the City Street System
- 3.) Recommendation to Approve a Winter Maintenance Agreement with Robertson Brothers Encore Development for Monument Lane, Union Street and Valor Way by Adopting the Authorizing Resolution and Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Sign the 2019 Agreement on Behalf of the City

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** (None)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.) **Consideration of the Confirmation of the Mayor's Recommendation to Appoint Tia Gronlund-Fox and Peter Behrmann to Vacant City Council Seats, Effective Immediately and with a Term Expiring January 1, 2020 at 11:59 AM**

(This was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.)

- 2.) **Consideration of the Mayoral Appointment of Michael Monahan to the Cemetery Board with a Term to Expire June 30, 2020**

**CM-11-176-19:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Gottschall and Rzeznik to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Michael Monahan to the Cemetery Board with a term to expire June 30, 2020.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**3.) Recommendation to Authorize the Submittal of the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program Allocation of \$51,165 with \$5,000 to HAVEN, \$5,000 to Emergency Services, \$5,000 to Disabled Services and \$36,165 to Civic Center Improvements**

**CM-11-177-19:** Moved and seconded by Councilmember Rzeznik and Deputy Mayor Beagle to authorize the submittal of the 2020 Community Development Block Grant application with distribution as follows and authorize the Mayor to sign the application on behalf of the City: \$5,000 to HAVEN; \$5,000 to Emergency Services; \$5,000 to Disabled Services; and \$36,165 for Civic Center Improvements.

Ms. Magee indicated that in the past, we have tried to rotate the public service agencies with the exception of HAVEN which we have funded every year. We want to fund as many as possible. We are only allowed to fund four projects total; of those four projects, three can be public services.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked what the disabled services was and which of the agencies would fall under this label. Ms. Magee replied that the one that was here tonight was Common Ground. She explained that disabled services is classified under psychiatric and crisis. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox saw that the funding was allocated to a specific category, such as emergency services, but not a specific agency. Ms. Magee said that was correct. The Block Grant rules allow the authorization to a category. Once we receive a letter to spend the funds (which will be next December), the City will post a public notice for anyone in emergency services that would like to reapply for those funds. The criteria are written by the City according to the Council's direction on the public service agencies they would like to fund. It does not come back to Council. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked how it was determined which of those specific agencies that applied for that money get it. Ms. Magee said it was based on the Council's discussion as far as what agencies they would like to fund. These are all agencies that we have funded in the past. Staff sets the criteria and it has to be posted in a public place. If there was another emergency services, like Hospitality House and St. Vincent De Paul, they can both come back and request the funding. However, the criteria were written specifically toward the Council's direction on what service they would like. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she saw that the \$36,000 to the Civic Center Improvements was for a pathway. Ms. Magee stated that during the budget sessions, staff proposed a Civic Center pathway. At that time, it was suggested that we secure more grant funding toward that \$172,000. She hoped to fund this project with two years of CDBG funds, and hopefully a third year. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked who that path would benefit. Ms. Magee said that the path has to benefit low to moderate income. We have to be approved by the Block Grant people. Since we are on the south side of Pontiac Trail, we qualify.

Mr. Brown added that there are areas of the City that are designated as having a certain portion of low to moderate income people in it. That area south of Pontiac Trail qualifies. With the location of the path being in that area, it fits the criteria and is eligible for funding under CDBG. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said that if we didn't use that money for that path, could that money go to some of those other agencies. Ms. Magee replied no. We are capped at 30% of our total.

Deputy Mayor Beagle noticed that HAVEN requested \$4,000 and he wondered why we were giving them \$5,000. Ms. Magee replied that her recommendation was to break it out evenly at \$5,000 each. Deputy Mayor Beagle thought the Civic Center pathway wasn't a favorable project during the budget session. It will take three or four years to get to \$172,000. He asked if we couldn't find something around here that would benefit us more immediately. Ms. Magee said that staff was proposing this but the Council could recommend whatever they would like. This was one project that there was some interest and it was recommended that we seek more funds for that project. Deputy Mayor Beagle asked if we had to dedicate what that money would go for tonight and Ms. Magee replied yes, but we will have an option to reprogram any money at a later date.

Councilmember Rzeznik clarified that this was for Civic Center Improvements. Ms. Magee said that was correct.

Mayor Ziegler stated that this was routine, but over the last 20 years he has been on Council it has changed a lot. He thought the reason was because the federal government has their rules and the County distributes this money to the different communities with their own rules. He recalled that we have taken a look at the different agencies and we appreciate all of them. If we had our way, we would always divide everything evenly to everybody. The problem is the rules restrict the number of agencies that we can fund. Years ago, the Council decided to have the administration alternate between the agencies as best we can so we are being as even-handed as possible. We have rededicated funds in the past when we have changed our minds. Mayor Ziegler said he was somewhat favorable to a pathway during the budget meetings. He thought it was a good thing because the seniors would like to exercise outside. He would hate to see one of them get hit by a car.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**4.) Recommendation to Approve a Proposed Site Plan, Subject to the Conditions Outlined in the Planning Commission Motion of October 7, 2019, Regarding the BP Gas Station at the Corner of Old Wixom Road and Pontiac Trail and Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to Sign the First Amendment to Consent Judgment Governing the Property**

**CM-11-178-19:** Moved and seconded by Councilmember Rzeznik and Deputy Mayor Beagle to approve a proposed site plan, subject to the conditions outlined in the Planning Commission motion of October 7, 2019, regarding the BP Gas Station at the corner of Old Wixom Road and Pontiac Trail and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the First Amendment to the Consent Judgment governing the property.

Mr. Brown stated that previously the Council discussed how to proceed with the potential new addition to the BP Gas Station. There was a process that was established at that time, beginning with an initial presentation made to the Mayor and Council. The Mayor and Council referred it to the Planning Commission for further study and they recommended that this site plan be approved subject to certain conditions (including a waiver for parking lot screening, a waiver for parking lot landscaping, and the acceptance of one tree and 15 shrubs planted along the

west property line rather than the south property line). Council can now make the final decision as to whether they want to approve the site plan as presented and to authorize the signing of a first amendment to the consent judgment. This property is subject to a consent judgment that was a result of a previous litigation. The site plan would require an amendment to the consent judgment, which has already been signed by the property owner.

Kelly McIntyre, from CIB Planning, indicated that this property was in the VCA; however, because it was developed under the consent agreement, it was reviewed under the B3 commercial standards with the exception of the façade. The façade was reviewed according to the VCA standards. They are going to expand their existing 3,182 square foot convenience store by adding 4,400 square feet (7,582 total square feet). In order to do that, they need to take a portion of the lot they own to the south and combine it to make room for parking and some detention. They aren't making any changes to the pumps. They will be adding a gas-powered generator to the rear of the property and they will be adding a 1,000 gallon DEF tank on the west side of the building. Both of those will be well-screened with a brick wall, which will match the façade of the new building. The entrances stay the same and there are no changes in circulation. There is added parking as a result of the expansion.

Ms. McIntyre said that in regard to the waivers that they are asking for (parking lot landscaping), we require that parking lot islands be landscaped and have a tree. Because of the nature of this project and maintenance, they felt it would be better if they kept it mulched and the Planning Commission agreed. Also, they have some trees that they are required to plant. Those are supposed to be on the south property line, but the Planning Commission felt that they would be better served on the west property line to help buffer the rear of the building from Pontiac Trail.

She indicated that they spent a lot of time on the architecture. There are details that include the canopy and windows. They have a peaked roof. The building looks like it is two stories, but it is not. They vertically break up the building with different materials. The height of the building is 31 feet, which meets the VCA standards. With the exception of the three conditions, it does meet all of the zoning requirements. The Planning Commission was quite happy with it and felt it would be a nice improvement to that corner.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox noted the minutes from the Planning Commission reflect someone asking about some things that were supposed to be changed that were not. She asked if everything was changed that was required to be changed. Ms. McIntyre stated that all of the concerns and changes have been addressed.

Deputy Mayor Beagle said he was not a fan of the 1,000 gallon DEF tank sitting next to the station. He knew it would be screened, but that is a pretty big tank in the downtown area. Ms. McIntyre said that you shouldn't be able to see it. It will have an underground pump. Deputy Mayor Beagle asked if that could be buried and away from the building. Ms. McIntyre thought that would be a larger investment and carefully done. You would have to watch the existing tanks that are under there and it would be a bit more complicated. She said they felt the screening of the wall

was adequate. Deputy Mayor Beagle said this was a concern of his. He didn't want that tank so close to the building in case something was to happen.

Councilmember Rzeznik asked if the brick enclosures would match the building brick. Ms. McIntyre replied yes. They will match the dumpster enclosure and the new building. Councilmember Rzeznik asked if the screening would be six-feet high as well. Ms. McIntyre said it would completely shield the DEF tank and the generator.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**5.) Recommendation to Approve the Purchase of 4.90 Acres of Former Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company Property from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for \$8,800 for the Purpose of Developing Phase 2 of the Michigan Air Line Trail West of Wixom Road to Old Plank Road**

**CM-11-179-19:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Behrmann and Rzeznik to approve the purchase of 4.90 acres of former Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company property from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for \$8,800 for the purpose of developing Phase 2 of the Michigan Air Line Trail west of Wixom Road to Old Plank Road.

Mr. Brown explained that the City intended to continue with the development of Phase 2 of the Michigan Air Line Trail that extended from Old Wixom Road to Pontiac Trail. He said that during Phase 1, the City was unable to utilize the Safety Path millage revenue to cover the costs because Phase 1 was owned by the Trailway Council, not the City alone. In order to eliminate that issue, they approached the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), as they were the owner of that section of property, to purchase the property. He said they agreed to sell the property to the City for \$8,800. He noted that the report submitted to Council reflected how affordable that purchase price was. He felt it was a worthwhile investment because it would allow the City some additional flexibility and have control of that property when they proceed with the development of Phase 2.

Councilmember Gottschall asked about the timeline and cost for Phase 2 of the Trail. Mr. Brown noted they procured another significant grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. He believed that the project costs roughly \$1 million per mile without factoring in additional amenities. Councilmember Gottschall said that it appeared this phase would be an island of paved trail because on either side of the trail it was unfinished. Mr. Brown said the MDNR property did not run all the way to Wixom. He was aware of pieces of property that needed to be taken care of in terms of easements or other avenues. He mentioned they had a ribbon cutting scheduled that has been canceled because of the weather. He explained how the trail ended at Wixom with the current plan bringing it down Wixom Road to Pontiac Trail, then connecting back to the finished trail later on down the path. They were looking to proceed with the development of Phase 2 and there were some connections to be made in order to reach the property they would be procuring, should they receive approval. Councilmember Gottschall said when he read the

report before the meeting, he wasn't sure about this because there were no details within the report about any grants they received for the work or what the cost would be, but merely saying, "let's buy this land." He was happy to hear that Mr. Wilson was so giving and for that reason his mind was changed somewhat. Mr. Brown indicated that obviously this amount of an investment was nothing that they couldn't walk back from should things become more complicated or costs become far beyond what's expected, which he didn't anticipate. He said that it was a minor investment that allowed the City greater flexibility in the future.

Mayor Ziegler commented that there was an alternate route that could be taken. He thought that route went in front of the golf course and back over to Old Plank Road. Mr. Brown confirmed that was correct.

Councilmember Behrmann wondered if there was another community looking to develop the property after Wixom's portion ended. Mr. Brown said that Milford Township had been actively involved in discussions with hopes to connect the Michigan Air Line Trail to the Huron Valley Trail.

Councilmember Rzeznik clarified that the segment between the City limits and Old Plank Road was in Milford Township. He wondered if that would come under the Michigan Air Line Trail. Mr. Brown confirmed that it would. Councilmember Rzeznik thought a small segment would belong to the City of Wixom, including repairs and maintenance. Mr. Brown stated that the intent was to have it all be part of the Air Line Trail. The City would still retain ownership of the property itself but the overall trail as it runs through Commerce, Walled Lake, Wixom and into Milford Township would be considered part of the Air Line Trail. Councilmember Rzeznik said that, theoretically, the maintenance from end to end would become the responsibility of the Air Line Trail. Mr. Brown confirmed that was correct.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**6.) Recommendation to Waive the Bid Process and Award the Wixom Road Sidewalk Construction Project to Commerce Construction of Milford, Michigan in an Amount not to Exceed \$52,175**

**CM-11-180-19:** Moved and seconded by Councilmember Rzeznik and Deputy Mayor Beagle to waive the bid process and award the Wixom Road sidewalk construction project to Commerce Construction for a total not to exceed \$52,175.

Mr. Brown said that Phase 1 of the Michigan Air Line Trail was essentially completed. He said that until Phase 2 was developed they needed to work around the area that was unfinished from the City of Wixom into Milford Township. He explained this trail would run down Wixom Road to Pontiac Trail, cross over Wixom Road then cross back over Pontiac Trail. He added that it would ultimately connect to the Huron Valley Trail. Because of the nature of the situation and not having the easement secured, they were not able to perform a proper bid process. He understood that it wasn't an ideal situation as they preferred to bid this work out. If the Council did not approve to waive the bid process, they would not be able to get the work completed this year and it could create a situation where they wouldn't have a sidewalk connection to Pontiac Trail. He explained that the basic idea was to

invest on the basis of the time issue and get the sidewalk completed by awarding this contract.

Mayor Ziegler explained that in order to waive the bid process, they needed to have a 100% of the vote of Council.

Mr. Brown added that there was prior sidewalk work that was done several years ago that they took into consideration that wasn't quite \$52,175 but explained that material costs have skyrocketed in the past year. It was his opinion they were not too far off with the cost.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked if they would go out to bid next spring for the sidewalk program already in place. Mr. Sikma confirmed that they would. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thought they could add this on to that bid so they could potentially obtain a better price. Mr. Sikma said they may obtain a better cost, but noted that there were a couple incidentals that added to the cost of this project (Wixom road traffic concerns, safety concerns and special equipment needed to break up the grade).

Mr. Brown indicated that the proximity to Wixom Road was very tight so that was where the safety concerns were. Mr. Sikma said they didn't anticipate next year's work starting until July. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked why work on these projects wouldn't start until July. Mr. Brown indicated that the larger dollar road projects took precedence.

Mr. Sikma noted that they had authorized bids in February and they still didn't get the Grand River Avenue projects completed until August. He anticipated the same situation with this project. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox asked when this project would be completed should it pass tonight. Mr. Sikma thought it would be before Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Rzeznik believed that heavily traveled trails with a five-foot width were not enough, especially if you mixed pedestrian and bike traffic together. He was unsure if the space along Wixom Road was large enough. Mr. Sikma agreed that it would be tight. Councilmember Rzeznik insisted that a sign be posted at that location to prevent people from going into Wixom Road.

Councilmember Behrmann clarified that they were talking about that section of property between the house and the trail. Mr. Sikma confirmed. Councilmember Behrmann asked if a crossing could be installed at that location directing them to the sidewalk across the street. Mr. Sikma said they planned on doing that but not at this time.

Councilmember Gottschall indicated that he was not in favor of this, and being in a position where they were being asked to waive the bid process was bothersome. He recalled being asked to waive the bid process for the latest leaf collection trailer. He felt that they should have known there was no sidewalk in that location instead of waiting until the trail was completed. He looked back through the meeting minutes because he recalled conversations held in regards to the Safety Path program, and on September 24, 2019, they awarded HRC for designing with offering bids out in

April 2020 for that project with construction starting in June 2020. He said they had no sidewalks there forever and that it made more sense just waiting a few months. He did not anticipate that people would be out once they started to get even more snow. He thought it would be pretty easy to place HAWK crossing lights at that location. Unfortunately, he would be voting against this for those reasons.

Councilmember Behrman questioned the pedestrian safety if this did not pass and the HAWK lights could not be completed. He was willing to support either option but felt they needed to do something. Mr. Sikma said they would look into the HAWK crossing lights.

Councilmember Gottschall thought they could put signage out notifying people that the trail ends and that would be sufficient for now. He said it was not like they were talking about never installing sidewalks. He felt they would see a benefit to the cost by waiting.

**Roll Call Vote: (4) AYES – Beagle, Behrman, Rzeznik, Ziegler  
(2) NAYS – Gottschall, Gronlund-Fox  
(1) ABSENT - Smiley**

**Motion Failed**

**7.) Recommendation to Award Five-Year Agreements for the Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water and Wastewater Facilities to F&V Operations of Grand Rapids, Michigan for an Annual Cost in Year One of \$1,184,363 and Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to Sign the Agreements on Behalf of the City**

**CM-11-181-19:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Rzeznik and Gronlund-Fox to award five-year agreements for the operation, maintenance and management of water and wastewater facilities to F&V Operations of Grand Rapids, Michigan for an annual cost in year one of \$1,184,363 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreements on behalf of the City.

Mr. Sikma explained that the contract for the water/wastewater facility in Wixom went thought July 1, 2019. When they were in negotiations with Suez, they learned that Suez was requesting additional financing to the point where it was over 26% of their current agreement. He said they felt it was prudent to take this contract out for bids. They received five proposals. All five bids were reviewed and the contractors were interviewed. They ultimately felt the best fit was F&V. They felt their proposal was more in line with the services and needs of the community and their price was reasonable. They recommended the approval of a five year contract with F&V with the option to renew twice for five years each.

Councilmember Rzeznik noticed that there was really no discussion in the contract should F&V change the majority of their ownership. He was aware that a lot of contracts had this because it allowed for a potential cause for termination. Mr. Sikma explained that there were termination clauses within the contract. He agreed that was a concern but said there was contract language that protected the City.

Councilmember Rzeznik asked if there were any issues when ownership changed in the past with the current provider. Mr. Sikma did not know of any.

Deputy Mayor Beagle said he noticed the agreement reflected a first-year cost of \$1,184,363 subject to an annual pricing adjustment for subsequent years based on the consumer price index capped at 3.25. This was not included in the RFP so he asked if it had been negotiated. Mr. Brown explained that was left as an open item to be negotiated during the process but had since made its way into the contract. It was written into the contract with a cap of 3.25.

Mayor Ziegler asked if the current employees had been offered employment with the new contractor. Mr. Sikma said that should it be approved, he thought they would contact all the local employees and collect their resumes. Mr. Brown anticipated that some or all employees would receive an offer of employment by F&V.

Councilmember Rzeznik asked if the contract covered any new reporting and/or testing requirement should the state laws change. Mr. Sikma confirmed that it would.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if HRC and the vendors that bid get the opportunity to review the Asset Management Plan. Mr. Sikma said they did and there were no issues that were raised, but they had been working through some things with the Capital Improvement Program. They included that as one of the Addendums in the RFP. Councilmember Gottschall asked if F&V had experience with implementing upgrades. Mr. Sikma said they had and mentioned they did not anticipate any problems with future use in that regard.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**8.) Approval to Receive and File the Cemetery Board Minutes of June 5, 2019**

**CM-11-182-19:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Beagle and Councilmember Gottschall to approve to receive and file the Cemetery Board Minutes of June 5, 2019

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox wondered how many inquiries there had been regarding a columbarium and if the construction would be bid out. Mr. Brown said they would go out for bids and they had some residents that had expressed an interest. He mentioned how they consulted with Mr. Ed Lynch. Mr. Lynch educated them on what would be involved in implementing this service within our cemetery. Mr. Brown thanked the Cemetery Board for meeting so often as they were used to meeting one time a year.

Councilmember Rzeznik said the national statistic had changed from 20% of people being cremated in the 1960's to 80% currently. He was aware of quite a bit of support for this.

Councilmember Behrmann asked where a columbarium would be constructed within the cemetery and what the availability was. Mr. Brown said a piece of property at the curve/dead end was a possibility. He noted that there was a fair amount of space still available in our cemetery.

Mr. Brown said that Mr. Lynch indicated they were getting more requests for cremations and having this in the City of Wixom could benefit the service they provided. He added that the cemetery account had more than enough fund balance to accommodate the initial expenditure.

**Vote:**

**Motion Carried**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** (None)

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Brown congratulated the City Clerk and Deputy Clerk for their fine job in administering the election held on November 5, 2019. He said that the Michigan Air Line Trail ribbon cutting was cancelled due to inclement weather and they would advertise the rescheduled date. The pouring of the footings for the street banner poles over Pontiac Trail was also postponed due to the weather. The rescheduled date was sometime next week. He added that the Tree Lighting Festival was scheduled for Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. He thanked the employees at the DPW for their outstanding level of service with clearing the snow. He had heard of other communities not receiving the level of service that they had in Wixom in that regard.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Councilmember Gottschall** had no comments.

**Councilmember Rzeznik** thanked all the veterans for their service. He offered his congratulations to those individuals that won the election. He thanked Mr. Monahan for volunteering for the Cemetery Board. He thought the DPW did a fine job with this past snowfall as he saw the safety paths already being cleared by 7:28 p.m.

**Councilmember Gronlund-Fox** thanked the DPW and thought they did a really good job with the recent snowfall.

**Councilmember Behrmann** appreciated that the streets were always plowed quickly and efficiently. He thanked the residents for their support in this past election. He thanked those members of Council for their words of encouragement and he looked forward to serving the City of Wixom.

**Deputy Mayor Beagle** welcomed Councilmember Behrmann and welcomed back Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to the dais. He thanked the DPW for their work during the past snowstorm. He thanked the Clerk for another successful and stress-free election. He appreciated that Mr. Monahan was volunteering on the Cemetery Board. He was grateful for the support from the voters and thanked them for coming out to vote on Election Day. He was thankful for all the support he and his family received after the passing of his father.

**Mayor Ziegler** congratulated all the winners of the last election. He expressed his appreciation to the City Clerk, Deputy Clerk and the volunteers that worked so hard on Election Day. He believed that their efforts were the result of the elections running smoothly. He recalled meeting Bob Trombley, the previous DPW Director, when he moved to Wixom 45 years ago. He said that Mr. Trombley found out that his wife was pregnant and due in December so he offered a plow to the hospital if it was needed. He thought the DPW services had always been great.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Catherine Buck  
City Clerk

Approved 11-26-2019
------------------------