

**CITY OF WIXOM  
49045 PONTIAC TRAIL  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 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:**

Mr. Brown requested the addition of New Business #6 – Request to Waive the Bid Process and Approve a Three-Year Contract with Zoro’s Christmas Lighting of Livonia, Michigan for the Purchase and Installation of Holiday Lights at a Price of \$3,672.00 in Year One and \$2,400 Annually for the Second and Third Years for Storage and Installation of the Lights from the Downtown Development Authority Event & Promotion Expense Account #248-729-956.002.

Councilmember Behrmann requested the addition of New Business #7 – Discussion of the Potter Road Traffic.

**PRESENTATION:**

- 1.) Eagle Scout Recognition – Nicolas Carrizales

Mayor Beagle read a proclamation honoring Nicolas Carrizales on his achievement of scouting’s highest rank - Eagle Scout.

Mr. Carrizales stated that the project took one month to plan and only three days to execute. He planted trees in various areas in the City, including Gunnar Mettala Park, Gilbert Willis Park, the Wixom Habitat, and the Wire House. He said it was a fun project and he was happy to be able to do it. He is a senior at Walled Lake Central and is applying at Michigan State University. He hoped being an Eagle Scout would help him get accepted to MSU.

The Mayor and Council congratulated Mr. Carrizales.

**MINUTES:**

**CM-08-110-20:** Moved and seconded by Councilmembers Smiley and Sharpe to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of August 11, 2020.

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

**(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1.) Notice of Hearing for the Electric Customers of DTE Electric Company Case No. U-20723

**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 comments made at this time.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

- 1.) **Fire Monthly Report - June 2020**

There were no comments on this report.

- 2.) **Department Report – July 2020**

In regard to the Community Services report, Councilmember Sharpe questioned if we were giving the money back to those businesses who sponsored our activities. Ms. Magee stated that they were in contact with all who donated. Some requested that their donation be applied to next year's events, while others requested that their donation be returned. The refunds amounted to \$7,500.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik had a question regarding the Water Report. He noticed that there were no FOG (Fats, Oils and Greases) samplings done during July. With so many repeat offenders, he asked if we didn't have the time or personnel to do it. Mr. Sikma replied that they started sampling at the beginning of August, so those results will be listed in the August report. He apologized that it didn't happen in July.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** (None)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** (None)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.) **Consideration of the Confirmation of the Mayoral Appointment of Robin Meister to the Cemetery Board with a Term to Expire June 30, 2022**

**CM-08-111-20:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to confirm the Mayoral appointment of Robin Meister to the Cemetery Board with a term to expire June 30, 2022.

Mayor Beagle indicated that Ms. Meister approached him about serving on the Cemetery Board during the August Primary. She has an interest in genealogy and thought the Cemetery Board would be interesting.

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

**(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried**

- 2.) Recommendation to Authorize Video-Recording and/or Zoom Meeting Hosting of All Regularly Scheduled City Council Meetings and Other Meetings on an As Needed Basis by MERGE LIVE of Walled Lake, Michigan at a Cost of \$200 per Meeting for a Total Cost Not to Exceed \$7,800 for Fiscal Year 2020/2021**

**CM-08-112-20:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Gottschall and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to authorize video-recording and/or Zoom meeting hosting of all regularly scheduled City Council meetings and other meetings on an as needed basis by MERGE LIVE of Walled Lake, Michigan at a cost of \$200 per meeting for a total cost not to exceed \$7,800 for Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik commented that Rob was doing a great job. Mayor Beagle added that in the beginning, he was not sold on recording the Council meetings, but MERGE LIVE has been doing a great job.

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

**(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried**

- 3.) Recommendation to Authorize the Purchase of a Columbarium and Associated Installation Services for the Wixom Cemetery from Inch Memorials, of Northville, Michigan, for a Price Not to Exceed \$49,782 and Authorize the Required Budget Amendment**

**CM-08-113-20:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Gronlund-Fox to authorize the purchase of a columbarium and associated installation services for the Wixom Cemetery from Inch Memorials, of Northville, Michigan, for a price not to exceed \$49,782 and authorize the required budget amendment.

Mr. Brown stated that there has been quite a bit of interest from a variety of sources within the City about adding a columbarium at the Wixom Cemetery. He explained that a columbarium is a repository or structure for holding the cremation remains for those who choose that method of burial. It is becoming more and more popular in the funeral industry. A majority of burial services are now being done by cremation. Within ten years, that number is expected to go all the way up to about 70%. We feel it would be appropriate for us to add this service to our Cemetery for a variety of reasons, including the demand and it allows us to have additional

capacity at a small footprint in the Cemetery. He indicated that we started doing some research on this and we came up with a request for proposal process that was done by Deanna Magee and Tim Sikma. We received several different proposals and they were presented to the Cemetery Board for their recommendation. The Board made a recommendation to proceed with the purchase of a columbarium from Inch Memorial. They also made a recommendation to proceed with a certain color combination, but there was new information about that color not being exactly what we wanted. Inch Memorial recommended that we go with Tiffany Finish Barre Gray with a Jet Black niche plate cover. The recommended bid (from Inch Memorial) has the option of going with or without the foundation, but the price of \$49,782 does include the foundation. He said we have had talks with the local concrete company in Wixom and we can save some money while supporting a local business. We may or may not proceed with the foundation through Inch Memorial. A round style columbarium was recommended and a map included in the packet showed the proposed location. Also, we can expand on this if there was additional interest beyond the 96 niches.

Councilmember Smiley asked how many cremations we had annually. Mr. Brown said that over half of the business the local funeral homes are doing was in cremations. We have had many residents interested in this. With Council's approval, we will probably start doing the legwork to determine the cost and start marketing it before it is installed. Councilmember Smiley wondered how long before we would need another one. Mr. Brown said that the center one would go toward the center of the area we had chosen. We could expand with another rectangle one or curved ones to offset this piece while adding quite a bit of capacity. Councilmember Smiley said that there were 96 niches. He asked if we would recuperate the cost of the columbarium over time. Mr. Brown felt that we would. We will work with consultants in the funeral home business to get an idea about surrounding pricing to be sure we are at an appropriate spot. We are confident that if we manage to fill this columbarium, we will more than cover our cost and be able to provide for long-term maintenance in the Cemetery. Councilmember Smiley assumed that the other columbariums that were bid had less niches. Mr. Brown said that was correct.

Councilmember Behrmann asked about the cost to buy one a niche versus a gravesite. He wondered if niches were more affordable. Mr. Brown said that it would depend on what we decide to charge per niche. Some niches can also be double capacity. We will have to determine if we would charge more for double versus single occupancy. He thought we would also be looking at the general gravesite cost because it was something that hasn't been updated in a while.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik added that he attended the first presentation over a year and a half ago. At that time, it was considerably less expensive because with the gravesite, you also have the cost of the vault and the opening and closing of the grave, which was very expensive. He thanked Russ Meredith and Michael Monahan, two residents who had been talking about this idea after one of the Council meetings. They stuck with it, attended many meetings and got it at least this far. He thought we should consider resident and non-resident prices, as well as a pre-construction sales discount. We could probably make up the cost of the construction

of the first 96 niche unit by doing pre-sales. He knew the Cemetery Board would be taking these items up if this got approved tonight.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox said she supported the motion. She shared that she was speaking to someone who was in the funeral business and that person indicated this particular company in Northville was very professional and good to do business with.

Councilmember Gottschall said that we received the 96-space option from Inch Memorial. The Fenton Memorial bid did not equal a round number of spaces. He wondered if we knew the number of niches that were included in the other bids. Mr. Sikma replied that Fenton Memorial proposed a 72-niche for \$33,073 and Eickhof Columbaria proposed an 80-niche for \$39,500. Councilmember Gottschall said that math didn't calculate (\$33,073 for a 72-niche). It was \$459 per niche, not \$514.90 as the report indicated. He thought getting a larger one was a wise choice. Mr. Brown stated that the \$514.90 was inclusive of the foundation. Councilmember Gottschall said that Inch Memorial would be \$518, so it was a little more expensive. Mr. Sikma said that was for a more expensive color of stone and the price dropped after we chose a different color.

Mr. Brown said that when this was presented to the Cemetery Board, they were told that we were not concerned about the cost. It was hard to get apples to apples because of the way the bids were constructed. We wanted it to be more about function and aesthetics.

Councilmember Gottschall asked if the foundation was a concrete pad or something more decorative. Mr. Sikma said this was several thousand pounds. The concrete structure was 42-inch base and a 4-inch concrete pad over the top of it. There would be a significant amount of concrete in the ground to hold it up. It was not decorative. The decorative piece would be the stone just above the foundation. Councilmember Gottschall wanted it to look nice. He has brought up increasing the Cemetery Board's budget in past Budget Sessions because it needed to be beautified at times. He wanted to make sure we paid attention to that. Mr. Brown said we were planning on doing the landscaping and other features around the columbarium. In fact, we will be reaching out to the schools to see if there was a class that might be interested in participating in some kind of design. If not, we will proceed and compare it to other installations in other cemeteries. We will make sure it looks nice with surrounding stone and benches around it.

Councilmember Sharpe said that we didn't budget for this. He thought we should have a pretty good business case before we would invest in something like this. We are not in the profit-making business. We just held budget sessions a couple of months ago and he didn't recall it being discussed. He looked up prices of niches and they suggest about a \$700 fee for a 9" x 9" box, which comes out to be about \$64,000. That would cover our fees. He said he would have to insist that the Cemetery Board would cover the expense of this with the cost for the 96 units. He thought we pushed that aside. There was no mention of covering the expense in any of the paperwork that was submitted to Council and he wasn't sure how that could have been overlooked. Mr. Sikma explained that the financial summary shows that it comes out of the Cemetery line item and goes into the General Fund for the

Cemetery for capital improvements. We have approximately \$100,000 in the Cemetery Fund right now. It was transferred in and transferred out. Councilmember Sharpe asked if we had this money in the budget and Mr. Sikma replied that we have the money in the fund. Councilmember Sharpe clarified that we were holding that money there for the right time and we are deciding if this was the right time. Mr. Sikma replied that was correct. That fund comes from sale of the plots. Councilmember Sharpe asked if we would be covering our costs and if that was part of the Cemetery Board's charter. Mr. Brown explained that the charge for burials, whether plots or columbarium, are intended to be done in such a way as to provide for those immediate expenses as well as longer term maintenance. He thought this columbarium would help to make future demands. We will be able to cover the cost plus allow for maintenance of the landscaping and the rest of the Cemetery. He thought it would strengthen our financial position in the long run, especially if it was as popular as we think it will be.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik added that niches in the Holly Cemetery were selling from \$1,200 to \$1,500. Mr. Brown said that was consistent with what he was hearing. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik stated that a ground grave was about \$3,000 when you add the cement, the opening and the closing of the grave.

At this time, Mr. Brown showed the Council a sample niche that was supplied by Inch Memorial.

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

**(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried**

- 4.) Recommendation to Approve the Local Road Improvement Matching Fund Program Cost Participation Agreement with Oakland County for Joint and Crack Sealing of Local Roads and Pavement Markings with an Estimated Total Project Cost of \$86,495, with the County Funding Not to Exceed \$36,495 and a Local Share of \$50,000 and Authorize the Department of Public Works Director to Sign the Agreement**

**CM-08-114-20:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmember Gronlund-Fox and Deputy Mayor Rzeznik to approve the Local Road Improvement Matching Fund Program Cost Participation Agreement with Oakland County for joint and crack sealing of local roads and pavement markings with an estimated total project cost of \$86,495, with the County funding not to exceed \$36,495 and a local share of \$50,000 and authorize the DPW Director to sign the agreement.

Mr. Sikma explained that this program was part of a cost sharing advantage presented by Oakland County. Wixom had taken advantage of the program four times before with this being the fifth agreement, the hope being that local roads become improved for businesses and promote economic development. This year Oakland County granted \$36,495. The City would match money with the funds taken from crack sealing, pavement marking and the Beck Road project. The money the City would use had been budgeted and planned for local roads. Mr. Sikma noted that Oakland County granted \$18,000 back in 2016, and believed this

program was growing. He felt hopeful the program would continue and the City participation assisted in its growth.

Councilmember Sharpe stated that the packet of information supplied to Council indicated the projects included West Road; however, the application given to Oakland County did not reference West Road. He wondered if there was a specific set of streets. Mr. Sikma indicated they were general roads but the County wanted the roads to be industrial. He added that the West Road repairs were completed in July so it just spilled over into this fiscal year; therefore, they would not be adding West Road in this year's budget.

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

**(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried**

### **5.) Recommendation to Adopt the Master Plan Update**

**CM-08-115-20:** Motion and seconded made by Deputy Mayor Rzeznik and Councilmember Smiley to adopt the Master Plan.

Mr. Avantini said he was glad to present this Master Plan as it was recommended by the Planning Commission. They had three primary goals within this update of the Master Plan. The first goal was to address the many areas of change within the City. The second goal was to get various input from the public, Council and businesses within the City. The last goal was to make the Master Plan user-friendly as a lot of plans were voluminous. In addition, they had been working on numerous zoning amendments and would be coming to Council with those soon. After all of these items were completed, he hoped they had everything in place to handle any of the land use issues for the next five to ten years.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik noted one of the largest changes was the land use designation for the former Ford property from industrial to mixed-use. He asked if the change would help expedite potential prospects for the property. Mr. Avantini believed that it would but understood that it put heavy reliance on the Planning Commission. The property owner and Planning Commission met to discuss the expectations of both sides given the zoning change. Deputy Mayor Rzeznik appreciated the efforts from everyone because any assistance in development of the property was encouraged.

Councilmember Gronlund-Fox thought the Master Plan was very easy to follow. She questioned the household types within the neighborhood goals. It read that more than half (59%) of households consisted of families (related persons), but the next sentence indicated that 44% were married couples. Mr. Avantini stated that when you deal with census data, you receive figures like this, but it meant that 44% were considered to be traditional (married couples). Councilmember Gronlund-Fox noted the transportation map indicated public and private roads, but it also mentioned unknown. She wondered what they meant by unknown roads. Mr. Avantini said they used the Act 51 map, so he imagined that classification related to funding. He never noticed that before but was curious to find out what they meant by that

classification. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox noted that under land use it talked about implementation strategies and to conduct a complete updated traffic assessment. She wondered if the City performed this and how often it was done. Mr. Avantini didn't think the traffic assessments were completed all at once but more in sections based upon the area/circumstances. He believed Oakland County continuously monitored traffic flows because that determined funding, expansion, etc. The City had a Road Asset Plan that kept track of the road assessment and traffic conditions. Councilmember Gronlund-Fox stated that one of the implementations strategies talked about entryways and keeping the City looking nice. She recalled discussion about entryway signs before and asked what the status of that was. Mr. Brown said they were working on some cost estimates and alternatives with a local company. They were at the beginning stage as they were currently analyzing what they wanted to do in terms of signage at the major entrances to the City, including damaged or old signs and outdated signs. He said he would bring something forward to Council shortly.

Councilmember Behrmann thought a lot of the feedback was implemented in the new update of the Master Plan. He questioned the second paragraph on page 35 as it read, "This plan recognizes the need for small single-family residential neighborhoods that would cater to those desiring quality owner occupied houses with less maintenance, and this could come from a PUD rezoning or the VCA." He believed the last sentence needed to be completely removed and it should read, "This plan recognizes the need for small single-family occupied houses within the VCA, that would cater to those desiring quality owner occupied houses with less maintenance." He thought leaving the second sentence in would become "Exhibit A" in a lawsuit should a developer choose to sue the City. He recalled the outpouring of opinions from the residents when Creekside was on the agenda and the Master Plan was being proposed. He thought the language could become problematic if it wasn't changed.

Mr. Avantini said the sentence could be changed to what Councilmember Behrmann proposed as he did not think it would become an issue. He added they had requirements in trying to become ROC-certified through the State of Michigan as they had to be open to different types of housing. He believed they could accomplish that within the VCA. Councilmember Behrmann figured they should amend the original motion to reflect the change.

**CM-08-115-20:** Amended Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Behrmann and Smiley to adopt the Master Plan with the amendment to the second paragraph on page 35 of the Master Plan to read, "This plan recognizes the need for small single-family occupied houses within the VCA, that would cater to those desiring quality owner occupied houses with less maintenance."

Councilmember Smiley referenced page 23 and wondered why they specifically called out automotive companies when they stated "auto-oriented". Mr. Avantini replied that "auto-oriented" meant patrons coming into the City from the Interstate as opposed from neighborhoods. He noted that the word "update" on page 23 should not be capitalized.

Councilmember Gottschall addressed the amended motion and questioned if the position was they would not allow smaller lot developments anywhere outside of the VCA. He wondered if a developer would be turned down if they were to propose ranch only homes for senior independent living because they needed a larger parcel. Mr. Avantini thought the intent wasn't to not allow a project but merely not to encourage a project.

Councilmember Behrmann referenced Creekside and recalled the developer promoted that he was encouraged to do a smaller lot development. He wanted to refrain from any encouragements to erect smaller lot developments along that line. He was aware of some larger undeveloped lots along Maple and Wixom Roads. He would like to see those lots developed but stay within the zoning. He recalled residents opposing a proposed development that could be erected within the VCA but outside of the VCA. Mr. Avantini said that a developer could still propose a cluster development but you would not be drastically increasing the number of units within the site.

Councilmember Gottschall noted that page 35 had a typo because they are referencing mobile homes but spelled it like the gas station Mobil. Mr. Avantini indicated they would clean up any typos.

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

**(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried**

**6.) Request to Waive the Bid Process and Approve a Three-Year Contract with Zoro's Christmas Lighting of Livonia, Michigan for the Purchase and Installation of Holiday Lights at a Price of \$3,672.00 in Year One and \$2,400 Annually for the Second and Third Years for Storage and Installation of the Lights from the Downtown Development Authority Event & Promotion Expense Account #248-729-956.002**

**CM-08-116-20:** Motion and seconded made by Councilmembers Smiley and Gronlund-Fox to waive the bid process and approve a three-year contract with Zoro's Christmas Lighting of Livonia, Michigan for the purchase and installation of holiday lights at a price of \$3,672.00 in year one and \$2,400 annually for the second and third years for storage and installation of the lights from the Downtown Development Authority Event & Promotion Expense Account #248-729-956.002.

Ms. Cloutier said that in the past, the DDA hosted an event called the Downtown Dazzle. This event encouraged the businesses to put up holiday lights to bring joy and cheer to the downtown. Last year they expanded the holiday lights when they were installed on the trees behind the VCA at Old Wixom and Wixom Road. They contracted Zoro last year and hoped to utilize them again. She noted the lights had already been purchased as the agreement with Zoro would be to have them install lights on the six trees behind the VCA entrance sign and lights on six of the twelve trees on the west side of Old Wixom Road. This project was being funded by monies donated by Wixom businesses.

Mayor Beagle mentioned this item was placed on tonight's agenda because they learned they would receive a discount if purchased prior to the next Council meeting. Ms. Cloutier explained that Zoro was running an incentive for the month of September. The lights would be placed on the trees in September but not lit until Thanksgiving.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik thanked the DDA for extending the lights further down Wixom Road because he felt it looked incomplete before.

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

**(0) NAYS**

**Motion Carried**

### **7.) Discussion of Potter Road Traffic**

Councilmember Behrmann hoped to discuss this topic after several people had concerns with traffic along Potter Road. Over these last few weeks, he drove Potter to consider the traffic. He agreed there was heavy traffic. He noted all the crosswalks on Potter had blinking yellow lights. He thought signs could be installed at these locations to remind the driver to stop at the crosswalks. He suggested a sign also be installed off Beck Road at the crosswalk at the Airline Trail. He noted a police officer presence on three separate occasions while driving on Potter Road. In addition, he had witnessed more traffic stops within the City, so he was aware the officers were out there trying to control the traffic. He wondered if anybody else had any suggestions on how they could address the traffic concerns along Potter Road.

Chief Moore said what they've done as a Police Department in trying to address some of the concerns on Potter Road was bringing the Traffic Safety Officer position back after a halt due to COVID-19. He noted that on August 10<sup>th</sup> he made a personnel change within that position and hoped the change would produce the results he anticipated. He explained that since June 1<sup>st</sup>, they made two arrests, issued 26 citations, conducted 22 extra patrols and issued 57 verbal warnings on Potter Road. He believed the personnel change would result in less warnings and more citations. Director Moore reached out to three individuals within the community - a resident off Potter Road, a resident of West Maple (east of Wixom Road) and a resident that lived on Loon Lake Road to be part of a Traffic Safety Committee. He planned on meeting with them regularly to get their insight on the traffic patterns they were noticing. He was currently looking for representatives for Charms Road and Maple Road (west of Wixom Road).

Councilmember Gottschall said he worked at an office building that backed up to Schoolcraft College. The college had signs at the crosswalks that say "Stop for Pedestrians" but drivers tended to always stop and not just when pedestrians were present. He wanted to make sure if they did something similar in Wixom, it was clear for motorists. He recalled a discussion with the Director about speed limits and that was something the Traffic Safety Officer would be looking into. He wondered if there had been any data on the speed limit and what the effect was;

for example, should they increase the speed limit from 30 to 35 mph so motorists feel the flow of traffic was moving better. Director Moore said they did not have any data because once the Traffic Safety Officer was getting into a nice routine, his duties shift because of COVID-19. He was reluctant to make any adjustments without the support of a traffic study. The City was a member of the Traffic Improvement Association and they would conduct a study. Councilmember Gottschall asked staff to follow through on the traffic study/speed limit conversations.

Deputy Mayor Rzeznik talked with the new Traffic Safety Officer and witnessed him at work. He thought they were effective.

Councilmember Sharpe looked forward to the speed concerns along Charms Road being addressed once Potter was complete.

Mayor Beagle thought there was confusion with the eagle eye crossing such as the crossing off Beck Road at the Airline Trail. In Ann Arbor he noted that when the crosswalk had flashing yellow lights, they put in a sign that stated, "Stop for Pedestrians". He thought maybe they could look into something similar but he believed motorists needed to be educated because they simply don't understand how the crosswalk works. He would like to see the ticket to warning ratio sway from less warnings to more tickets.

Councilmember Behrmann thanked everyone for the discussion. He wondered if the issue resided with residents or people passing through our community. He thought they should look into what the percentage was of those that violated the speed limit because it may assist them in how they educated the motorists.

#### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Russ Meredith, 378 Fletcher, thanked the Council for approving the columbarium. He thanked Mr. Brown and the administration for all the work they put into this. He thanked Mr. Sikma, the DPW staff and the City administration for all the support they have given to the Airline Trail as it was a marvelous asset to the community.

#### **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Brown noted that Anna Kulas-Rosenthal earned a certification in the FMLA specialist area from Michigan State University. She was very complimentary of their program and thought it was top notch. They were celebrating work anniversaries ranging from 2 to 28 years. He added that he was astounded after he compared tax collections and learned that they had a 4% greater collection rate in 2020 than they had 2019.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Councilmember Behrmann** congratulated the Eagle Scout. He was happy to see people were still moving up to that rank as he knew how difficult it was. He wondered if and when they would receive an update regarding the staffing at the Fire Department. Mr. Brown said they would have some information coming from his office soon.

**Councilmember Sharpe** congratulated the Eagle Scout and thought the City would benefit from his contribution. He thanked Bill Day, the Planning Commission, and Carmine Avantini for guiding the City through the Master Plan update.

**Councilmember Smiley** complimented all those people that worked on the Master Plan, specifically the residents. He thanked the Eagle Scout and was excited that all those trees were planted within the City. He thanked Robin Meister for offering her service to the Cemetery Board and offered his condolences to Mr. Pike on the passing of his mother. He wished all the kids, parents and teachers good luck with the new school year.

**Councilmember Gottschall** shared his condolences with Ken Pike on their recent loss.

**Deputy Mayor Rzeznik** gave his condolences to Mr. Pike and his family. He congratulated Nicolas on his Eagle Scout and found it to be a great achievement. He thanked the Cemetery Board and residents for participating in the columbarium request.

**Mayor Beagle** gave condolences to Ken Pike and his family on the loss of his mother. He congratulated Nicolas on earning the Eagle Scout achievement and on the project within the City. He congratulated those celebrating work anniversaries. Chief Roberts had 28 years and Clerk Cathy Buck had 9 years with the City. He congratulated Councilmember Behrmann and his wife on the birth of Addyson Rae.

**Councilmember Gronlund-Fox** congratulated Nicolas on earning his Eagle Scout, Ms. Kulas-Rosenthal on earning her certification and all those celebrating work anniversaries. She wished all the parents, students and teachers well as they navigated through this strange time of virtual learning.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Catherine Buck  
City Clerk

Approved 9-8-2020
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