

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH PLANNING COMMISSION HELD JOINTLY WITH THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET, ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2016.

Mayor William Ehinger and Planning Commission Chairman Tim Schaiberger duly called the meetings to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Members: Bob David, Kara Fachting, Heather Grace, Jan Hasty, Mike Jackson, Tim Schaiberger, and Dan Weiler.

Absent: June Longstreet and Shirley McClenahan.

Others officers in attendance: City Clerk/Treasurer John Dantzer, DPW Superintendent Dennis Jameson, City Attorney Gabrielle Dantzer, Mayor William Ehinger; as well as Council Members Kim Ervans, Jim Hasty, Denise Lawrence, Dave Lucas, Tim Schaiberger, and Rusty Showalter

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY HASTY, TO POSTPONE THE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE LAST REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING.

Motion carried

City Council voted not to approve a PILOT request from the Trails at West Branch Apartment Complex.

A sign permit variance was submitted by Faith Alive Church. Jim Westheim, the executive pastor of Faith Alive Church, noted the sign is getting old and they would like to replace it with something new. They would be using the same support structure and then new sign would be 10” taller than the old sign. He did note that it would contain LED lights which may be brighter than the previous lights.

It was discussed that it was roughly the same size as the old one and the extra 10” of height would not create any obstruct the view of drivers or create driving distractions and would not affect the look of the area. It was noted that there were residential homes in the area so the brighter lights could potentially cause issues at night.

Manager Grace recommended including a requirement that they include a dusk to dawn switch so that they could turn off the lights at night if there were any complaints from the residents in the area.

MOTION BY WEILER, SECOND BY DAVID, TO APPROVE THE SIGN VARIANCE FOR FAITH ALIVE CHURCH WITH THE CONDITION THAT THEY INCLUDE A DUSK TO DAWN SWITCH SO THAT THEY COULD TURN OFF THE LIGHTS AT NIGHT IF THERE WERE ANY COMPLAINTS.

Motion carried

Jude Fonguh submitted site plans for a drive thru pharmacy.

Member David asked if it was going to be a 24 hour pharmacy and Mr. Fonguh noted that it was not planned to be open 24 hours.

It was discussed that the site plan did not include enough information to make a decision and that the plans were not submitted early enough to have in their packet so they could look at it prior to the meeting.

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY HASTY TO POSTPONE ANY DECISION ON THE SITE PERMIT UNTIL BETTER SITE PLANS CAN BE SUBMITTED.

Motion carried

Manager Grace provided an update on the City water issue caused by the fire suppression system at Wausau and the steps they were going through to fix it.

City Council approved the payment of bills

City Council approved the participation in the Northeast Michigan “ Prescription for Health” program.

City Council approved an updated Shared Service Agreement with West Branch Township.

City Council approved the 2016 MERS Conference delegate.

Manager Grace noted some questions have been raised on the current weed ordinance and asked for suggestions on any changes that they would like to see to the current ordinance.

City Council approved the minutes and summary from their last meeting.

City Council received and filed the July Police Report

Manager Grace shared a correspondence on the annual MML meeting and Council approve the voting delegate for the 2016 meeting.

City Council Member Kim Ervans asked about the blight issues in the City. Manager Grace noted that one location has been ticketed, and two other locations have been sent notices that they need to respond to. She further noted that they are trying to pick one new building each week.

City Council Member Denise Lawrence noted that the new EMS director will be introduced at the next EMS meeting.

City Council Member Jim Hasty noted the condition of the old bicycle factory and that he would like to see that addressed as a blight issue. He also asked if an issue is that the factory lies partly in the City's limits and partly in Ogemaw Township. Manager Grace noted that she has talked with Ogemaw Township Supervisor Denis Stephens on the issue and that they are working on trying to get the entire building annexed into the City so it would be easier to proceed.

Member Showalter noted that he would like to see someone from the Planning Commission or another board invited to the MML convention.

Planning Commission Member Dan Weiler asked about the house on the corner of Second and Wright that had siding taken down and has not yet been put up. Manager Grace noted the City would send a notice of inquiry on the property.

Planning Commission Member Bob David noted that Mike Riegler continues to move equipment and other things onto City property that abuts to land Mr. Riegler owns and noted something needed to be done about the issue especially since when he came to the Planning Commission to get approval for the building, he lied about lot lines. City Council Member Evans noted his concern that Mr. Riegler may be living at that location and it is not zoned for residential use. Manager Grace noted that she would set up a meeting with Attorney Dantzer

City Council Member/Planning Commission Chairman Tim Schaiberger asked about the stumps at the park and if the plans to have a carving contest were still in works. Manager Grace noted that the stumps were too rotted and not able to be carved.

Manager Grace introduced the shirts that will be used for the Smiley Helpers Program and that her plans were to have anyone who donated 8 hours or more. She further noted that Kelli Collins will be in charge of the program and that all helpers would be required to sign an indemnity agreement. There was discussion held on what the required hours would be to get the shirt.

Mayor Ehinger noted the amount of work that Ausable Valley workers have done on the Children's Garden and commended them on how nice it looks.

Chairman Schaiberger adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.