

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HELD AT THE WEST BRANCH CITY HALL AT 121 N. FOURTH ST. ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY
25, 2020.

Chairperson Fabbri called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

Present: Members Anthony Bair, Joanne Bennett, Joe Clark, Samantha Fabbri, Autum
Hunter, Sandy Rabidue, Ken Walters, and Cathy Zimmerman (arrived at 12:04).

Absent: Member Erin Resteiner

Others present: Clerk Clerk/Treasurer John Dantzer, City Manager Frank Goodroe.

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**MOTION BY CLARK, SECOND BY RABIDUE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH
CORRECTIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD JANUARY 27, 2020 AND THE
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 3, 2020.**

Yes – Bair, Bennett, Clark, Fabbri, Hunter, Rabidue, Walters

No – None Absent – Resteiner, Zimmerman Motion carried.

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**MOTION BY FABBRI, SECOND BY HUNTER, TO APPROVE BILLS IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$9**

Yes – Bair, Bennett, Clark, Fabbri, Hunter, Rabidue, Walters

No – None Absent – Resteiner, Zimmerman Motion carried.

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Chairperson Fabbri shared the cost proposal for the gathering place. The Board discussed
the cost total and various grant opportunities. The Board also discussed doing an
interview with the Herald on the gathering place. It was the consensus of the Board to
continue with the MEDC’s CDBG grant application.

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The Board discussed the possibility of engaging in the Michigan Historic Preservation
Network. Member Bair noted he would look further into the program.

**MOTION BY FABBRI, SECOND BY CLARK, TO POSTPONE DECISION ON
ENGAGING IN THE MICHIGAN HISTORIC PRESERVATION NETWORK.**

Yes – Bair, Bennett, Clark, Fabbri, Hunter, Rabidue, Walters, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – Resteiner

Motion carried.

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Chairperson Fabbri noted she did have contact with someone from the railroad on the gathering place.

Chairperson Fabbri also noted she spoke with the owner of Alpine Chocolate in Gaylord about possibly expanding to West Branch. Member Rabidue noted she would reach out to him.

Member Walters noted that he would be leaving the DDA after the gathering place is completed.

Member Hunter discussed the downtown improvements to the old book store.

Member Bair noted he would look further into the Michigan Historic Network and report back to the Board.

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY FABBRI, TO EXCUSE MEMBER ERIN RESTEINER FROM THE MEETING.

Yes – Bair, Bennett, Clark, Fabbri, Hunter, Rabidue, Walters, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – Resteiner

Motion carried.

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Manager Goodroe discussed upcoming planning and economic development training opportunities including a Vision Keepers Economic Development Strategy and joint DDA training session. Manager Goodroe also noted the fellowship program opportunity was just announced and would be open to communities engaged in the RRC program. Manager Goodroe also discussed the possibility of adding a new position to the City that would encompass community and economic development/DDA director. Manager Goodroe also spoke on the census.

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Member Bennett left at 1:00

Member Zimmerman left at 1:05

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MOTION BY RABIDUE, SECOND BY HUNTER, TO APPROVE UP TO \$50 TO SUPPORT THE JOINT DDA TRAINING.

Yes - Bair, Clark, Fabbri, Hunter, Rabidue, Walters

No - None Absent - Bennett, Resteiner, Zimmerman Motion carried.

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Chairperson Fabbri adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.