

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN PERSON AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022.

Mayor Frechette called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: City Mayor Paul Frechette, Council Members Carol Adair, Joanne Bennett, Mike Jackson, Ellen Pugh, Rusty Showalter, and Cathy Zimmerman

Absent: None

Other officers present: City Manager John Dantzer City, Clerk Lori Ann Clover, DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey, Chief Ken Walters, and City Treasurer Michelle Frechette.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Mayor Frechette made additions to the agenda under IV. Scheduled Matters from the Floor to include D. Mary Beebe – District Court Judge candidate.

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Commissioner Surbrook reported that the County purchased three new vehicles for building, zoning, and equalization staff. They will also be purchasing an animal control vehicle. The Sheriff’s office received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 for equipment funding. Equalization department gave report. The Health Department Board approved some fee increases but tabled water and well fees.

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Mike Hoadley introduced himself as a candidate for the 99th district representative. He is currently on his second term as the Mayor of AuGres. He is a veteran and serves on several council and veterans boards. As a result of the redistricting the 99th district includes Pinconning north to the Ogemaw County line and from Lake Huron to include parts of Gladwin. He will fight for enhanced funding for townships.

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Michelle Frechette presented on Amazon Smile, a donation program which contributes 0.5% of eligible Amazon purchases to the charity of your choosing. She requested that the City’s Amazon Smile account be tied to the Ogemaw County Humane Society.

MOTION WAS MADE BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN TO TO APPROVE ADDING THE REA FAMILY ANIMAL SHELTER AS THE SMILE DESIGNEE FOR THE CITY AMAZON ACCOUNT

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Mary Beebe introduced herself as the Prosecutor for Roscommon County. She will be running for District Judge in the November election. She comes with twenty-seven years of experience working with the court systems. She volunteered in the past for the Caring Pregnancy Center in Ogemaw County.

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MOTION WAS MADE BY JACKSON, SECOND BY BENNETT FOREGO FORMAL BIDDING, APPROVE THE SOLE SOURCE REQUEST, AND APPROVE THE SELECTION OF MVW AND ASSOCIATES, INC. AS THE CITY ASSESSOR WITH NO INCREASE IN FEES FOR THE 2022/2023 FISCAL YEAR.

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION WAS MADE BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO FOREGO FORMAL BIDDING, APPROVE THE SOLE SOURCE VENDOR REQUEST, AND APPROVE THE SELECTION OF STEPHENSON AND COMPANY PC AS THE CITY AUDITOR FOR A FIVE YEAR ENGAEMENT FROM FISCAL YEAR 2023 THROUGH 2027.

Council Member Showalter stated that Stephenson and Company does a lot of behind the scenes work with staff that does not get charged to the City.

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY ADAIR, TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$71,568.30.

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO BRING BACK TO THE TABLE THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL DECISION TO OPT OUT OF THE MARIHUANNA LICENSING AT THAT TIME.

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ADAIR, TO APPROVE THE ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 22-01 ZONING FOR MARIHUANA FACILITIES AND ESTABLISHMENTS.

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY ADAIR, TO APPROVE THE ENACTMENT OF ORDINANCE 22-02 REGULATION FOR MARIHUANA FACILITIES AND ESTABLISHMENTS.

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR THE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL BASH.

Member Showalter suggested an old-fashioned baseball exhibit. Mayor Frechette also suggested reaching out to the Highrise to inform them of the event so they would be aware of the increase in traffic.

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPROVE THE MOMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM BETWEEN WEST BRANCH ROSE CITY SCHOOLS AND THE WEST BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT. THIS CONTRACT WILL RUN FROM AUGUST 2022 THROUGH THREE SCHOOL YEARS.

It is being presented at the school board meeting tonight also.

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE MEETING HELD APRIL 4, 2022.

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ADAIR, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY; WEST BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTH END REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2022; APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE NCMCF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 2, 2022; AND THE MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD MARCH 22, 2022.

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Member Bennett requested the code enforcement report to be ongoing with complaints listed by address and ongoing for a 12 months period. Member Zimmerman requested that they be differentiated between city code violations and police matters.

Member Bennett also thanked guests for attending the meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the various evaluation forms distributed for review. Member Pugh will incorporate any suggested changes. Member Showalter stated he has some suggestions he will email. Member Bennett requested that Treasurer Frechette pull the last Managers evaluation.

Manager Dantzer is putting together a meeting with the three Veteran’s Groups regarding the old state police post and will let council know the date.

Manager Dantzer set a meeting for the budget work session May 4, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

DPW Superintendent announced that the first new hire would start Monday.

Christine Dunn asked about the process for the Marihuana licensing. The Ordinances will go into effect fifteen days following this meeting. The office will then begin to receive applications. Allowed locations are mostly in the industrial park.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

Lori Ann Clover, Clerk