

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, DECEMBER 19, 2022.

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

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

Absent: Joanne Bennett

Other officers present: City Manager John Dantzer, City Clerk Lori Ann Clover, City Treasurer Michelle Frechette, DPW Supervisor Mike Killackey, Chief Ken Walters, and County Commissioners Mark Surbrook and Craig Scott.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Commissioner Surbrook reported that the Commissioners discussed an addendum on the MERS DC for employees to be able to take loans. They also discussed the sale of the high banks at Rifle River Park and maintaining them as a nature area. The Michigan Nature Association has been in contact with Commissioner Surbrook and is interested. He also gave an update on the Field of Dreams. Commissioner Scott invited Council Members to the next meeting which is Thursday at 5:30.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO EXCUSE MEMBER BENNETT FROM THE MEETING.

Yes —Adair, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman

No – Showalter

Absent – Bennett

Motion carried

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MOTION BY ADAIR, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$152,518.31.

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

No – None

Absent – Bennett

Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN TO PROCEED WITH THE CITY APPOINTING A BUILDING INSPECTOR AND AUTHORIZING MANAGER DANTZER TO BEGIN THE PROCESS.

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

No – None

Absent – Bennett

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY ADAIR TO MOVE THE NEXT MEETING FROM JANUARY 2ND WHICH IS A CITY HOLIDAY TO JANUARY 3RD AT 6:00 PM.

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

No – None

Absent – Bennett

Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY PUGH TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS FOR MARCH FOR LIFE AND SPECIAL OLYMPICS SNOWSHOE PRACTICE.

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

No – None

Absent – Bennett

Motion carried

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MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO APPROVE THE MDOT PERFORMANCE RESOLUTION FOR MUNICIPALITIES.

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

No – None

Absent – Bennett

Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY JACKSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD DECEMBER 5, 2022.

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

No – None

Absent – Bennett

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 NOVEMBER 2022 REPORT; MINUTES FROM THE NCMCF MEETING HELD OCTOBER 5, 2022; AND MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING HELD DECEMBER 12, 2022.

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

No – None

Absent – Bennett

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO REAPPOINT MICHAEL PUGH TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/25.

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

No – None

Absent – Bennett

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO REAPPOINT DIANNE GAVITT TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION.

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

No – None

Absent – Bennett

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON TO REAPPOINT BOB DAVID AND RUSTY SHOWALTER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE 11/30/25.

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

No – None

Absent – Bennett

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY ADAIR TO REAPPOINT TOM JONES TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE 8/15/25.

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

No – None

Absent – Bennett

Motion carried

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Mayor Frechette stated that the Christmas Parade went well and downtown was packed. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. He is looking forward to working with everyone for another two years.

Member Jackson echoed the Mayors sentiments.

Member Adair informed members that her out of town family was so impressed with the parade that they are taking ideas back to their home town. She reported that the Recreational Committee met on Thursday and Manager Dantzer has done an amazing amount of work getting the Committee set up. A survey went live today asking residents what their priorities would be for the City.

Member Showalter wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Manager Dantzer reported that the state sent him the signed agreement for the \$2.6 million EGLE Grant (no match required!).

During public comment Christopher R Hohl asked for a variance to drive his 8-wheel ORV from his house on Victory to S Seventh and across Houghton to N Seventh which is where the designated ORV route begins. After discussion Council will do more research and meet with the City Police Chief to see if they can work anything out.

Commissioner Surbrook announced that he has appreciated working with the City Council during his term.

Jocelyn Garza reminded Council that the hand rail behind the Herald Office needs fixed. DPW Supervisor Killackey informed Council that it is already in the process of being repaired.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:33 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

Lori Ann Clover, Clerk