

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN PERSON IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023.

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 Supervisor Mike Killackey, and Ogemaw County Commissioner Craig Scott.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Commissioner Scott gave an update on county activities. Ogemaw County road patrol millage will be on the February ballot. There was a resolution to adjust work hours for the clerk’s office as they are currently down one staff person. A snowmobile and trailer were purchased with grant funding from the Dow Foundation. The medical contract for the Ogemaw County Correctional Facility was amended. The RV Park is closed for the season. The nature park is closed due to hunting season and rut. The deer are also under quarantine due to the case of CWD found in Ogemaw County.

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$107,415.66.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Discussion was held regarding the next council meeting falling on New Year’s Day.

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY ADAIR, TO RESCHEDULE JANUARY’S MEETINGS FROM THE 1ST AND 15TH TO THE 8TH AND 22ND WITH THE MEETING ON THE 8TH BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM TO COMPLY WITH CITY ORDINANCE SECTION 6.1.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Ordinance 23-02 was introduced at the previous meeting and Planning Commission held a public hearing and voted to recommend approval.

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY PUGH, TO ENACT ORDINANCE 23-02 TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP TO REZONE PARCEL 052-462-009-00 FROM CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TO MIXED USE DISTRICT AND PARCELS 052-108-003-00, 052-108-004-00, 052-108-005-00, AND 052-108-006-00 FROM SINGLE FAMILY TO MIXED USE.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Manager Dantzer explained that in response to Governor Whitmer declaring December 11-17 as water and wastewater worker week, he thought the city should show their support for our own workers.

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-32 WATER AND WASTE WATER WORKERS WEEK DECEMBER 11-17.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

RESOLUTION 23-32

WHEREAS, water is one of our most valuable resources in West Branch and is necessary to sustain life; and,

WHEREAS, a clean and abundant supply of water is important for the protection of public health for the citizens of West Branch; and,

WHEREAS, the drinking water and wastewater industry assists in the creation of jobs, attracts industry and investment, and provides safe recreational opportunities for West Branch residents; and,

WHEREAS, West Branch’s certified drinking water and wastewater treatment workers focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities; and,

WHEREAS, the water and wastewater professionals’ mission overall is to protect the public health, quality of life, and well-being of the people of West Branch; and

WHEREAS, Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, has proclaimed December 11-17, 2023 as Water and Wastewater Professionals Workforce Week in Michigan; and

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Mayor Frechette announced the Santa train went well. The wine walk was well attended. The Rose City Parade was nice and our parade is Saturday December 9th at 7:00 pm.

Member Pugh reported that the Christmas Tree and decorations were receiving compliments from lots of people she spoke with.

Member Bennett reported that we had very nice weather for the Santa train and Member Jackson thought the forecast was favorable for the parade this week end.

Manager Dantzer announced that Charter has received funds to provide internet services to the industrial park. Rob did an awesome job decorating the office for Christmas as usual. DPW did a wonderful job repairing the main break in the cold.

DPW Killackey stated he was working on the light programs for the Christmas Tree.

Bill Ehinger and Denise Lawrence expressed concern with the road and water line construction and the Veterans Banner Program.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

Lori Ann Clover, Clerk