

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 5, 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 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 Scott reported that the Commissioners discussed several items including keeping service vehicles clean, the sheriffs new pick up, credit limit for FOC, an addendum on the MERS DC for employees to be able to take loans, medical coverage for the inmates, corrections budget, revamping the notification protocol for COVID, Rifle River Park, and GPS for all county vehicles. The next meeting is Thursday and Commissioner Scott invited Council Members and informed them that it is available via Zoom and all meetings are archived on YouTube.

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,658.41.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Discussion was held regarding the decisions made by DDA for the street selections made through Beckett and Raeder. DDA will be covering the cost from M-30 through Valley Street so between Valley and Fairview would be the City’s cost. Currently there is no lighting in that area. DDA will be replacing the light poles with Lumecon Ring of Fire (this was to follow the historic theme). They will be replacing the trees with the same Cleveland Pear trees with 3” diameter for bidding purposes. For the retaining wall east of Valley Street they will be using Grand Ledge Block. The garbage cans will be standard to match the existing ones. Council liked the theme set by the DDA and would be willing to follow it from Valley to Fairview. DPW will look at the existing light poles for possible refurbishing to place on the River Walk and in Irons Park. They will also attempt to replant the existing trees.

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 21, 2022.

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

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY JACKSON TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY; AND MINUTES FROM THE DDA MEETING HELD OCTOBER 25, 2022.

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

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETT TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL FOR THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF MAYORS FOR 2023 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95.00.

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

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

Discussion concerning the Community Exchange followed with Council agreeing that they would review it again for 2025.

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Mayor Frechette announce that the Wine Walk was well attended. The DPW did an awesome job with the Christmas decorations. The Santa Train was also well attended and very successful.

Member Bennett seconded the Mayors sentiment and stated that she had several comments on the beauty of the decorations.

Member Showalter and Mayor Frechette stated that the fire department did a very good job responding to the incident on Saturday with the explosion of the second stage gas tank.

Member Showalter asked about the lights on the Christmas Tree. Manager Dantzer explained that there were several different schemes the lights rotated through.

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL FOR THE HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM CITY COUNCIL IN TWO ISSUES OF THE VOICE FOR \$65.00.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Manager Dantzer asked Council if they would like to host an Open House this year. Council stated that they would like to see it continued, however, tailoring the refreshments back from what they were in the past as it hasn't been well attended.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON TO APPOINT CAROL ADAIR AND JOSH ERICKSON TO THE RECREATION BOARD.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

Manager Dantzer stated that this would be necessary for the grant on the Pocket Park. Three members from the last board Lois Burquest, Lisa Jenson, and Meredith Schleicher volunteered for the Board. Member Adair will represent the Council and Josh Erickson will represent the Planning Commission.

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Mayor Frechette announced that the Christmas Parade is December 10th at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.