

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, FEBRUARY 20, 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, Attn Greg Meihn (via zoom), and County Commissioner Craig Scott.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Scott gave an update on County activities. There was an agreement with MidMichigan and the Transit to transport patients and with the Child Assessment Center in Roscommon for suspected abuse cases. Equalization, Planning, and Zoning purchased a new vehicle. A quote was accepted for updates on the annex building. Emergency Manager Bowers informed the county of a new cyber security grant. The county has received part of the Opioid Grant settlement.

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Manager Dantzer informed Members that Mr. Simmons had a family emergency and apologized for missing the meeting. Council will address his request at the next meeting when he can be present.

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Julie Hock informed Council about Maxwell Therapy Center. She has a small farm where troubled children are allowed to come and interact with the animals as a part of their therapy. She is requesting the city approve her fundraiser "Game Night" to be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

**MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSES FOR MAXWELL THERAPY CENTER.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Mayor Frechette opened the public hearing for the proposed property rehabilitation district at 111 N. Third St at 6:17 pm. Ryan Smith from Gemini Capital Management spoke on their behalf. They will be completing the upgrades to the property. Discussion was held with Council and Mr. Smith. Manager Dantzer explained that the only thing that would need to be voted on today would be the approval of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District. If the application is approved it would freeze the property

taxes at the current rate (except for school mileage millage) until the allocated time was over and it would then be re-evaluated. This is also a part of the DDA District.

No one from the public wished to speak on the subject and no communication was received by City Hall prior to the meeting.

**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:21 PM.**

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

**No – None                                  Absent – None                                  Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,327.26.**

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

**No – None                                  Absent – None                                  Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR SURLINE ELEMENTARY PTO COLOR RUN.**

**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 RESOLUTION 23-05 TO ESTABLISH AN OBSOLETE PROPERTY REHABILITATION DISTRICT AT 111 N. THIRD ST.**

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

**No – None                                  Absent – None                                  Motion carried**

**RESOLUTION 23-05**

**Establishing an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation (OPRA) District**

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 146 of 2000, the City of West Branch has the authority to establish "Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Districts" within the City of West Branch; and

WHEREAS, Alexander Limited Partnership has filed a written request with the clerk of the City of West Branch requesting the establishment of the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District for an area at 111 N. Third St. located in the City of West Branch hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of West Branch determined that the district meets the requirements set forth in section 3(1) of PA 146 of 2000; and

WHEREAS, written notice has been given by mail to all owners of real property located within the proposed district and to the public by newspaper advertisement in the Ogemaw Herald and/or by public posting of the hearing on the establishment of the proposed district; and

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2023 a public hearing was held and all residents and taxpayers of the City of West Branch were afforded an opportunity to be heard thereon; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it to be in the public interest of the City of West Branch to establish the Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District as proposed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of West Branch that the following described parcel(s) of land situated in the City of West Branch, Ogemaw County, and State of Michigan, to wit:

RH WEIDMANN & CO'S ADDITION NORTH 47 FT OF LOT 1, BLOCK 2 AND N'LY 47 FT OF E'LY 20 FT OF LOT 2, BLOCK 2.

hereby is established as an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District pursuant to the provisions of PA 146 of 2000 to be known as Obsolete Property Rehabilitation District No 1.

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**MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY ADAIR TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 6, 2023.**

**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 WEST BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT JANUARY 2023 REPORT.**

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

**No – None    Absent – None    Motion carried**

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Mayor Frechette announced that there would be a joint Airport and Zoning Board established. The City would have one seat on the Board. After discussion Council thought Manager Dantzer would be the best representative.

**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO APPOINT MANAGER DANTZER TO THE JOINT WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY AIRPORT ZONING BOARD.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Member Showalter announced that early enrollment for the MML Capital Conference is now open. He will be unable to attend this year.

Attorney Meihn apologized for missing the work session and stated that he would be setting up a meeting with Manager Dantzer next week.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:36 pm.

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Paul Frechette, Mayor

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Lori Ann Clover, Clerk