

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, JULY 31, 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, and Cathy Zimmerman.

Absent: Member Rusty Showalter

Other officers present: City Manager John Dantzer, City Clerk Lori Ann Clover, Police Chief Ken Walters, and DPW Supervisor Mike Killackey.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

No – None

Absent – Showalter

Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$168,245.37.

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

No – None

Absent – Showalter

Motion carried

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The Red E Charging Host Agreement was discussed briefly, however, the representative was unable to attend the meeting so the item was tabled until the next meeting. The Company was recommended by Consumers. They discussed putting two charging stations in the parking lot off Third St.

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Manager Dantzer explained that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on July 25th. There was a member from the public that appeared in person and they were in favor of the rezoning. There was also a letter enclosed in the Council Packet of a company that was opposed to the rezoning. Manager Dantzer will be meeting with them on Wednesday at 2:00 pm if anyone would like to attend. This Ordinance also includes some kind of buffer between the parcels in question and the next property owner.

MOTION BY ADAIR, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 23-01 REZONING PARCELS 052-625-002-01, 052-625-002-02, AND 052-625-002-03 FROM MULTIPLE FAMILY DISTRICT TO INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

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

No – None

Absent – Showalter

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT TO PLACE A HALF PAGE ADD IN THE VOICE IN PARTICIPATION OF THE CHAMBER’S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

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

No – None

Absent – Showalter

Motion carried

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Manager Dantzer explained that they will need additional routes to what has already been approved and they need permission from the City.

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY FRECHETTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-22 MDOT DETOUR ROUTES.

Yes — Adair, Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh

No – Zimmerman

Absent – Showalter

Motion carried

RESOLUTION 23-22

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch and the Michigan Department of Transportation have partnered for a Houghton Ave. reconstruction project (JN 201118), and

WHEREAS, this work will require detours on various streets within the City during MDOT’s reconstruction of Houghton Ave, and

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the City of West Branch hereby approves the use of the following city streets for detours for various stages of the M-55 (Houghton Avenue) reconstruction project (JN 201118) in addition to streets approved under resolution 22-12 passed on May 2, 2022.

- Fairview Road between M-55(Houghton Avenue) and State Street
- State Street between Fairview Road and First Street
- Sidney Street from First Street to Third Street
- Third Street from Sidney Street to M-55 (Houghton Avenue)
- Second Street from Sidney Street to M-55 (Houghton Avenue)
- Valley Street from State Street to M-55 (Houghton Avenue)
- Burgess Street from State Street to M-55 (Houghton Avenue)
- Seventh Street from M-55 (Houghton Avenue) to Wright Street

Mayor Frechette announced that the Ogemaw Commissioners would be holding their first OPIAT Settlement meeting Thursday at 5:00 pm. This Committee is made up of several representatives from community service agencies including law enforcement, attorneys, hospital and other medical personnel, etc.

Manager Dantzer asked if Council Members would be interested in ordering shirts for the MML Conference this year. These are available in short sleeve and long sleeve pullovers in a few different colors. If anyone is interested please reach out to Lori Ann. DTE will be starting their portion of the reconstruction on Houghton Ave this week. The new light poles will be set up for flags and banners just like the ones downtown. They will take approximately three to six months to come in.

Mayor Frechette reported that he has been getting excellent feed back from city residents on seeing the DPW workers out and about and all the extra work they are doing. DPW Supervisor Killackey stated that the extra summer help would only be working for the next couple of weeks as school and college will be starting.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:41 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

Lori Ann Clover, Clerk