

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, MARCH 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, Chief Ken Walters, and Attn. Greg Meihn (via Zoom).

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Mayor Frechette opened the Public Hearing for the Proposed 2023-2027 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan at 6:01 pm. Members Zimmerman and Bennett both congratulated Manager Dantzer for such a well put together plan in such a short time frame.

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

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**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED 2023-2027 FIVE YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN AT 6:03 PM.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95,465.52.**

**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 MAY MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY ADAIR, SECOND BY PUGH TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-08 THE 2023-2027 FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

**RESOLUTION #23-08**

WHEREAS, the Recreation Committee is made up of representatives from the City of West Branch, and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Committee began the process of developing the 2023-2027 Five-year Parks and Recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of West Branch were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the 2023-2027 Five-Year Parks and Recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on Monday, March 20, 2023 in the Council Chambers of the West Branch City Hall, to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the 2023-2027 Parks and Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch has developed the Plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the City of West Branch, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the City Council of West Branch voted to adopt said 2023-2027 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the West Branch City Council does hereby adopt the 2023-2027 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ADAIR TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 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; WEST BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 2023 REPORT; MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 21, 2023; AND MINUTES FROM THE RECREATION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 9, 2023.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Communications shared included the Michigan Public Policy Survey March 2023 edition.

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**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO APPOINT KAREN BIGGS TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION BOARD AS A MEMBER AND TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Mayor Frechette informed members that EMS had their audit. It went well however the numbers were very low. They discussed the possibility of a millage collaborating with the Transit for an August election. The Director has announced her retirement in June. At this point the Administrative Secretary will be the interim part time director. The Board did approve new monitors for the ambulances as the old ones were not holding up well.

Member Adair stated that the City Hall sign was looking a bit worn. Manager Dantzer informed members that he has included the cost of a new sign for our first-round of 2023/2024 fiscal year budget.

Member Showalter wished everyone a happy first day of spring.

Member Dantzer asked about the next steps for replacing old meters with council members and Attn. Meihn. There are approximately 50 residents that still have the old meters and haven’t scheduled despite the two letters and tags hung on the doors. A third letter will be mailed out with wording Attn. Meihn will send to Manager Dantzer and if they still refuse there is an Ordinance Violation.

Chief Walters said he had one officer just return that was off due to the birth of a child and another officer expecting and will be taking time off.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:23 pm.