

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 21, 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 Clerk Lori Ann Clover, DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey, Chief of Police Kenneth Walters, Ogemaw County Commissioner Mark Surbrook.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Mayor Frechette made an addition to the agenda under IV. Scheduled Matters from the Floor to include C. Veteran’s Group and the use of the old MSP Post.

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Mark Surbrook reported that their audits went well. ~~There was no quorum at the last board meeting so no motions were passed.~~ There was no quorum at the last District Health Department #2 meeting so no motions were passed. He gave an update on the Rifle River Drain Drainage District Proposal.

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Gail Hughey presented on the West Branch/Rose City Schools bond proposal. This is a continuation of the existing 1.67 millage rate and will go towards the skilled trade facilities, gym, pool, and locker rooms. There will be an informational meeting at Ogemaw Heights March 29, 2022 at 5:30 pm concerning the bond proposal. If approved it will take a year to design, bids will go out the following year, and construction will begin in 2024.

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Mike Thorne presented on an idea to convert the old MSP Post into a Veteran’s Center. This would put the VFW, the American Legion, and the Veteran’s Affairs in one building for a “one stop shop” for veterans. Jay Weiss was present and stated that the American Legion was in support of the idea. Mike Surbrook stated that the Veteran’s Affairs would be in support of the idea also. Concern was expressed regarding the number of stairs and handicap accessibility. Samuel PeLong, a representative from the Disability Network of MidMichigan that was on Zoom, expressed interest in doing an accessibility survey of the building.

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Discussion took place regarding the water/sewer administrative adjustment request. Manager Dantzer noted in his written report that he spoke with David Lucas and the cost of the water loss was not part of

his insurance claim. Further discussion took place and due to the special circumstances of this adjustment council suggested having a check off box to make sure that the cost of the water was included in the future for any similar situations.

MOTION WAS MADE BY PUGH, SECOND BY FRECHETTE TO APPROVE THE WATER/SEWER ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENT

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 THE REMOVAL OF THE FLAG POLE AT THE OLD MSP POST.

Discussion took place regarding the flag pole at the old MSP Post and the request to allow Officer Johnson to remove the pole. With the possibility of converting the building into a Veteran’s Center perhaps Officer Johnson would not be opposed to the pole remaining.

ADAIR RESCINDED HER MOTION.

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO POSTPONE THE DECISION UNTIL COUNCIL IS ABLE TO REACH OUT TO OFFICER JOHNSON TO ASCERTAIN HIS WISHES.

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 THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$51,229.11.

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 RESOLUTION 22-10 ADOPTION OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES.

RESOLUTION #22-10

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Treasury issued bulletin 17 of 2021 to all Assessing Officers and County Equalization Directors, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Bulletin was to provide information on statutory changes, procedural changes and reminders for the 2022 assessment year, and

WHEREAS, MCL 211.7u, which deals with poverty exemptions, was significantly altered by PA 390 of 1994 and was further amended by PA 620 of 2002, and

WHEREAS, local governing bodies are required to adopt guidelines that set income levels for their poverty exemption guidelines and those income levels shall not be set lower by a city or township than the federal poverty guidelines updated annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Branch City Council hereby adopts the federal poverty guidelines for 2022.

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 22-11 MDOT AGREEMENT.

RESOLUTION 22-11

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch and the Michigan Department of Transportation have partnered for a project on N. First St. between Houghton Ave and State St and on State St. between N. First and Fairview St., and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation requires a resolution to be adopted by the local municipality noting the acceptance of the contract along with the contract information and those that are authorized to sign the contract, and

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that Contract No. 22-5065, Control Section EDD 65000, Job Number 206617CON by and between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of West Branch is hereby accepted, and

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED, the West Branch City Council hereby designates, City Manager, John Dantzer authorized to sign the said contract:

Motion by Commissioner _____
Seconded by Commissioner _____

ADOPTED: AYES: _____
NAYES: _____
ABSENT: _____

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution made and adopted at

a regular meeting of the West Branch City Council on Monday, March 21, 2022

Signed _____
Lori Ann Clover, West Branch City Clerk

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

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE MEETING HELD MARCH 7, 2022 AND THE WORK SESSION HELD MARCH 10, 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; APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE WWTPA HELD DECEMBER 14, 2021, MINUTES FROM THE AIRPORT BOARD MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 16, 2022, AND MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL DDA MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 28, 2022 AND MARCH 9, 2022; AND THE WEST BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2022 MONTH END.

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

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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Communications from Charter and the Michigan Public Policy Survey for March 2022 were shared.

Mayor Frechette gave an update on the Back to the Bricks tour.

Member Bennett stated that it has been quiet.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

Lori Ann Clover, Clerk