

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 6, 2023.

Mayor Frechette called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: City Mayor Paul Frechette, Council Members Carol Adair, Joanne Bennett, Ellen Pugh, Rusty Showalter, and Cathy Zimmerman.

Absent: Mike Jackson

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

* * * * *

Commissioner Scott gave an update on County activities. The previous county meeting was canceled due to the snowstorm and the county building was also closed. The surveyor agreement for the Re-monument Program was authorized. Commissioners gave the Emergency Manager permission to pursue homeland security grants and the sheriff’s department to pursue a USDA Grant to purchase a couple of new vehicles. They are appointing a transit board to oversee operations and have approved a quote for a standalone electronic prescription program. Whittemore/Prescott students will again be paired up with county officials on Thursday.

* * * * *

Steve Simmons requested permission to drill a well at 2525 Griffin Rd. if he were to purchase the property. He would like to move his shop into town, however, the chlorine in city water messes with the bentonite used for drilling wells. He would need to drill a well to be able to fill his trucks. The building and any other water usage would be city water. If the property were to be sold he would make sure the well was capped. He is also waiting on a level one environmental study of the property. Manager Dantzer will reach out to Attn. Meihn to draw up an agreement that will not conflict with the ordinance and won’t set a precedence.

* * * * *

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

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

No – None

Absent – Jackson

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$306,621.28.

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

No – None

Absent – Jackson

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY PUGH TO HOLD THE FIRST BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING MARCH 13, 2023 AT 9:00 AM IN WEST BRANCH CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

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

No – None

Absent – Jackson

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN TO APPROVE THE WATER BILL ADJUSTMENT FOR 155 N FOURTH ST. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$993.88.

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

No – None

Absent – Jackson

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSE FOR MAX-WELL THERAPY CENTER FOR THE ACTUAL GAMING DURING THEIR FUNDRAISING EVENT.

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

No – None

Absent – Jackson

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-06 POVERTY GUIDELINES.

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

No – None

Absent – Jackson

Motion carried

RESOLUTION #23-06

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Treasury issued bulletin 19 of 2022 to all Assessing Officers and County Equalization Directors, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Bulletin to provide information on statutory changes, procedural changes and reminders for the 2023 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 2023

SIZE OF FAMILY UNIT	POVERTY GUIDELINES
1	\$13,590
2	\$19,310
3	\$23,030
4	\$27,750
5	\$32,470
6	\$37,190
7	\$41,910
8	\$46,630
For each additional person	\$4,720

* * * * *

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-07 ACT 51.

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

No – None

Absent – Jackson

Motion carried

RESOLUTION #23-07

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Branch City Council does hereby authorize the transfer of up to 50% of the Act 51 money from Major Street to Local Street.

* * * * *

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ADAIR TO APPROVE THE OBSOLETE PROPERTY REHABILITATION PROGRAM AS SUBMITTED.

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

No – None

Absent – Jackson

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY FRECHETTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE REGULAR MEETING AND WORK SESSION HELD FEBRUARY 20, 2023 WITH THE CORRECTION IN THE SPELLING OF "MILLAGE" IN THE REGULAR MINUTES.

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

No – None

Absent – Jackson

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETTE TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY; MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 10, 2023; MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 6, 2023; MINUTES FROM THE AIRPORT BOARD MEETING HELD JANUARY 18, 2023; AND MINUTES FROM THE LAND BANK AUTHORITY MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 8, 2023.

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

No – None

Absent – Jackson

Motion carried

* * * * *

Communications shared included the Michigan Public Policy Survey February 2023 edition and the Water Fluoridation Quality Award for 2021.

Member Zimmerman requested that the MDOT meetings be added to upcoming events on the agenda. She told council that she had called Manager Dantzer regarding the material that is being transported on the trains going through town and was very impressed that he was already investigating. The emergency manager and fire chief will need to request that information and they are working on it.

Member Dantzer informed Council that 5 Star would be finishing up the last of the lines on the list this week. They will be back to work on disturbed sites and additional service lines. The MDOT meeting was rescheduled to Thursday.

DPW Supervisor Killackey stated that with all the snow he was able to bring out the big snowblower but due to lack of use it needs repaired again.

Member Pugh thanked DPW for how clean they are keeping the sidewalks during the snow storms.

Chief Walters informed Council that there are books in police vehicles that explain what each of the hazardous material signs mean and they are trained to respond to an accidental spill.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

Lori Ann Clover, Clerk