

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, MAY 16, 2022.

Mayor Frechette called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Michelle Frechette, DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey, Chief Kenneth Walters, and Commissioner Mark Surbrook

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Commissioner Surbrook reported that Commission on Aging received a \$15,000 grant from Meijer to purchase a new box vehicle for delivering meals. The West Branch Township will hold their fireworks on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

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**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$331,992.86.**

**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 22-13 – HEALTH INSURANCE OPT OUT.**

**RESOLUTION #22-13**

WHEREAS, 2011 Public Act 152 (the “Act”) was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor on September 24, 2011;

WHEREAS, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirements of the Act;

WHEREAS, the three options are as follows:

- 1) Section 3 – “Hard Caps” Option – limits a public employer’s total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels, as defined in the Act;
- 2) Section 4 – “80%/20% Option – limits a public employer’s share of total annual health care costs to not more than 80%. This option required an annual majority vote of the governing body;

3) Section 8 – “Exemption” Option – a local unit of government, as defined in the Act, may exempt itself from the requirement of the Act by an annual 2/3 vote of the governing body;

WHEREAS, the West Branch City Council has decided to adopt the annual “Exemption” option as its choice of compliance under the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Council of the City of West Branch elects to comply with the requirements of 2011 Public Act 152, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, by adopting the annual “Exemption” option for the medical benefit plan coverage year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 22-14 - BUDGET**

**RESOLUTION #22-14**

WHEREAS, the City Charter of the City of West Branch states that “the Council shall, by resolution, adopt the budget for the next fiscal year and shall, in such resolution, appropriate the money required for such budget and provide for a levy of the amount necessary to be raised by taxes upon real and personal property for municipal purposes.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the budget for the City fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 as recommended by the City Manager and as adopted by the City Council, as described in the summary as follows:

|              | REVENUES  | EXPENDITURES |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 1,812,812 | 1,812,114    |

be and the same is hereby adopted, and the amount therein provided as recommended; appropriations are hereby appropriated according to the departmental total, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to carry out the provisions of the above described budget, the current tax rate shall be applied to the completed assessment roll taxable valuation of ninety-four million nine hundred four thousand five hundred fifty-four dollars (\$94,904,554) as required by Michigan Constitution.

**TOTAL CITY TAX LEVY FOR GENERAL FUND PURPOSES**

July 1, 2022 14.546 per \$1,000.00 of Taxable Value for General Operating, and tax levy of 2.9105 per \$1,000.00 for Refuse Collection

**CITY TAX LEVY FOR THE DDA DISTRICT ONLY**

July 1, 2022 1.9573 per \$1,000.00 of Taxable Value levied on the property in the DDA District and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to adopt the following budgets:

INDEPENDENT REVENUE FUNDS

| <u>Fund Name</u>                   | <u>Revenues</u> |             |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <u>Expenditures</u>                |                 |             |
| Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund       | 1,200           | 0           |
| Major Street                       | 279,600         | 230,935     |
| Local Street                       | 140,300         | 64,080      |
| Cemetery                           | 29,222          | 29,222      |
| Brownfield Redevelopment Authority | 0               | 0           |
| DDA Operating Fund                 | 113,500         | 113,500     |
| Industrial Park Fund               | 300             | 6,888       |
| Housing Resource Fund              | 6,700           | 0           |
| Sewer Debt Fund                    | 353,000         | 341,000     |
| Water Debt Fund                    | 80,000          | 68,000      |
| <br>Sewer Fund                     | <br>607,000     | <br>606,342 |
| <br>Water Fund                     | <br>531,405     | <br>444,272 |
| Water Replacement Fund             | 200,000         | 26,350      |
| Sewer Collection                   | 90,700          | 64,195      |
| Equipment Fund                     | 238,650         | 226,625     |

and,

IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is allowed to exceed any line item or department summation within any specific department or fund including both revenues and expenditures providing that the total end of the year expenditures for any fund does not exceed the original appropriation. A council resolution is required to appropriate additional amounts to any expenditure fund total; however, no resolution is required to exceed any revenue fund total.

**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 APPROVE RESOLUTION 22-15 – TAX LIENS.**

**RESOLUTION #22-15**

WHEREAS, the West Branch City Council in §51.095 and §52.39 of the City of West Branch Code of Ordinances have determined that water/sewer charges constitute a lien on the property, and

WHEREAS, §92.17 of the Code of Ordinances states that the charges for mowing noxious weeds shall be a lien against the premises,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Branch City Council hereby acknowledges the following liens and authorizes the Clerk to place these charges on the 2022 tax roll:

Water/Sewer Charges

|                      |            |                     |            |
|----------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| 346 S. Eighth St.    | \$2,092.27 | 147 Carpenter St    | \$882.35   |
| 331 S. Third St      | \$212.30   | 175 Alto Ct         | \$34.04    |
| 326 S. Livingston    | \$222.21   | 239 S. First St     | \$14.75    |
| 415 N. Second St     | \$2,792.02 | 309 W. Ripley St.   | \$469.74   |
| 607 Lindsay St       | \$53.33    | 409 N. First St     | \$116.87   |
| 134 S. Second St     | \$1,972.45 | 317 N. Sixth St     | \$225.91   |
| 615 Lindsay St       | \$58.45    | 315 State St        | \$276.11   |
| 400 State St         | \$11.55    | 607 W. Wright St    | \$1,349.85 |
| 218 Court St         | \$7.30     | 224 Court St        | \$96.35    |
| 340 Court St         | \$44.08    | 113 N. First St     | \$32.46    |
| 409 N. Fourth St     | \$96.35    | 195 Fremont St      | \$50.39    |
| 376 N. Second St     | \$186.56   | 325 S. Seventh St   | \$35.92    |
| 222 S. Sixth St      | \$60.70    | 309 S. Sixth St     | \$10.21    |
| 343 S. Third St      | \$105.22   | 164 N. Valley St    | \$70.16    |
| 106 S. Valley St     | \$122.72   | 350 N. Fourth St    | \$762.84   |
| 339 E. Irons Park Dr | \$23.39    | 431 West River Park | \$51.99    |
| 633 Court St         | \$302.80   | 226 N. Valley St    | \$121.41   |
| 372 State St         | \$25.32    | 384 N. Second St    | \$52.28    |
| 347 N. Third St      | \$31.09    |                     |            |

Mowing

|               |       |                 |       |
|---------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 133 S. Sixth  | \$185 | 340 Court St    | \$180 |
| 607 W. Wright | \$180 | 419 N. First St | \$185 |
| 323 N. Third  | \$185 |                 |       |

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITS FOR COALITION OF H.O.P.E. ROCKN’FOR HOPE MUSIC FEST AND THE HOMECOMING PARADE**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Discussion on Consumers Energy Agreement for ORV parking \$100 per year for ORV riders to park on the vacant consumers land on Fourth St. The City will put up parking signs.

**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY ADAIR, TO APPROVE THE CONSUMERS ENERGY LICENSE AGREEMENT.**

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



**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Member Jackson reported that Meijer has opened and has been very busy.

Member Showalter asked if the actual street name was Wright Street or Avenue.

Manager Dantzer gave a review on the ORV Ordinance and the two routes through the city.

Attorney Meihn gave an update on the Brownfield issues.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:36 pm.

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Paul Frechette, Mayor

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Michelle Frechette, Deputy Clerk