

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 2, 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 Manager John Dantzer City Clerk Lori Ann Clover, 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 Lori Boyce was appointed to the Veterans Affair Committee. A volunteer intern was appointed to the equalization Office and if that goes well the option will be explored for other offices.

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Public hearing was opened for the 2022/2023 fiscal year city budget. No one from the audience wished to speak on the subject. A work session will be held for the budget on Wednesday May 4, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Public hearing was opened for the USDA Grant for a DPW Service Vehicle, a plow truck with a salt spreader. The grant will reimburse for at least 50% of the cost and possibly 75%. No one from the audience wished to speak on the subject

**MOTION WAS MADE BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Mayor Frechette made an addition to the agenda under X. New Business to include D. MDOT Resolution 22-12.

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**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$43,221.37.**

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

**No – None                                  Absent – None                                  Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AND SERVICE.**

**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 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION REQUEST FROM LT. JORDAN AT STING.**

Further discussion took place to increase the contribution given to STING each year. This year’s contribution is already in the budget. When discussing next year’s budget, the council will review the possibility of increasing the contribution.

**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 RESOLUTION 22-12.**

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch and the Michigan Department of Transportation have partnered for a project on Wright St, S. Second St., and S. Third St., and

WHEREAS, this work is for improvements to these streets as they will be used as detours during MDOT’s reconstruction of Houghton Ave, and

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the city of West Branch approves of the street improvement proposed and to be constructed by MDOT on Wright Street from M-30 east to 2nd Street and on 2nd and 3rd Streets from Wright Street north to M-55 (Houghton Ave). These improvements include cold milling and hot mix asphalt resurfacing of the project area along with American with

Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalk ramp improvements. These streets are approved to be used for a traffic detour during MDOTS's reconstruction of M-55 (JN201118).

There will be no additional cost to the city for these improvements.

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

**No – None                                  Absent – None                                  Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE MEETING HELD APRIL 18, 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 OGEMAW FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETING HELD JANUARY 25, 2022; THE OGEMAW COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 9, 2022; AIRPORT BOARD MEETING HELD MARCH 16, 2022; AND THE ELECTION BOARD MEETING HELD APRIL 21, 2022.**

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

**No – None                                  Absent – None                                  Motion carried**

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Mayor Frechette reminded council members of the budget meeting on Wednesday May 4, 2022.

Member Showalter stated that he was unable to attend the wine walk but heard positive comments about its success. He expressed regret and sympathy that Mr. Deshano passed away and informed members that his business plans were being reviewed.

Member Pugh reminded council to review the City Manager Evaluation tool and send her any revisions tomorrow. She incorporated a score of 1-4 and a NO (not observed) option. She will forward the final draft to Mayor Frechette by Wednesday. She reminded everyone present to vote in the special school election tomorrow.

Member Jackson reported that they received their annual audit results for the Airport. The results were issued with an unmodified opinion. They will be moving forward with health insurance for the director.

Manager Dantzer informed council that he will be meeting with the three Veteran's Groups concerning the use of the old State Police Post on Monday May 9th at 6:00 pm.

Former Mayor Ehinger and Lawrence were in attendance. They expressed concern with the re-routing of traffic during the MDOT project. Concern was also stated about recycling with GFL. Recycling will still be available although it may not be conducted exactly as it is now. They also asked about the marihuana ordinance. Manager Dantzer informed them May 3rd the city would begin to take applications for a one-month period.

Mayor Lawrence asked if the city was still receiving funding to prevent parking on one side of the street by the post office. Manager Dantzer stated that he was unaware that the city had ever received funding for the parking situation. She asked about the Veteran's Banner Program and expressed concern at the price of \$200 every two years to fly the banners. She then asked about the program in Grayling and Manager Dantzer stated that the program had been modeled after theirs but he would check and see how their program was modeled.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:31 pm.

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Paul Frechette, Mayor

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Lori Ann Clover, Clerk