

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET, MONDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2016.

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

Present: Mayor William Ehinger and Council Members Kim Ervans, Jim Hasty, Denise Lawrence, Dave Lucas, Tim Schaiberger, and Rusty Showalter.

Absent: None

Other officers present: City Manager Heather Grace, Treasurer/Clerk John Dantzer, and Police Chief Ken Walters.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY LUCAS, TO PAY THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78,798.36**

**Yes –Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter**

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY EHINGER, SECOND BY LUCAS TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 154.268 (H) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.**

**Yes –Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter**

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SCHAIBERGER, SECOND BY LAWRENCE TO CLOSE THE CLOSED SESSION AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.**

**Yes –Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter**

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO ALLOW THE CITY ATTORNEY TO ADD THE CHARGE OF TRESSPASSING ON THE RIEGLE LAND ISSUE AS WELL AS AUTHORIZE THE CITY ATTORNEY TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS FOR SETTLEMENT WITH THE ASSITANCE OF THE CITY MANAGER.**

**Yes –Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter**

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Manager Grace noted that they did film video at Irons Park as part of the Patronicity Grant and that they would need authorization to open fund raising accounts at both Chemical Bank and Mercantile Bank with authorized signors as Clerk/Treasurer John Dantzer and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Frechette.

**MOTION BY ERVANS, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO AUTHORIZE THE OPENING OF FUNDRAISING ACCOUNTS AT BOTH CHEMICAL BANK AND MERCANTILE BANK WITH AUTHORIZED SIGNORS OF CLERK/TREASURER JOHN DANTZER AND DEPUTY CLERK/TREASURER MICHELLE FRECHETTE.**

**Yes –Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter**

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Manager Grace submitted information on land that was foreclosed upon and was originally brought to Council who decided not to purchase at that time. She noted that it was not bid upon at a State foreclosure auction and could now be transferred to the City at no cost. She further noted that if Council decided they did not want the property, it would be transferred to the County.

Member Ervans asked if there were any issues with the land that could cause the City any future adverse situations. Manager Grace noted that there were no blight issues because it was vacant land and that it was not in a contaminated land area based on the most current State plans.

Member Ervans asked if sewer and water was available if someone wanted to purchase the lot in the future. Manager Grace noted that there were utilities.

Mayor Ehinger asked if it was wetland. Manager Grace noted that from initial inspection, it did not appear to be wet but there were some wetlands in that area. She further noted that if it was wetlands, it wouldn't necessarily be bad because they could possibly still use it for something such as storing snow since it is so close to the DPW garage. She also noted that part of the wellhead protection program is to protect City wetlands.

Mayor Ehinger and Member Schaiberger both noted that there was nothing to lose by accepting the land.

**MOTION BY EHINGER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO ACCEPT THE FORECLOSED LAND.**

**Yes –Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter**

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY LAWRENCE, SECOND BY ERVANS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 7, 2016.**

**Yes –Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter**

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE MINUTES FROM THE FIRE BOARD MEETINGS HELD APRIL 21, 2015, JULY 21, 2015, OCTOBER 20, 2015, DECEMBER 15, 2015, AND JANUARY 19, 2016.**

**Yes –Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter**

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE MINUTES FROM THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AUTHORITY MEETING HELD MAY 31, 2016 AND THE OCTOBER POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT.**

**Yes –Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter**

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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A communication on Charter lineup changes was shared.

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Member Lawrence noted that there would be a food distribution and that they needed volunteers to help with boxing up the canned food.

Member Hasty asked about the open position at DPW due to the retiring of Howard Beach. Manager Grace noted that the open position was already posted.

Member Showalter reminded everyone about the upcoming CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) wreath auction on December 6 which raises money for neglected and abused children in the community.

Member Schaiberger noted the recent Kiwanis variety show went well and that the West Branch Rose City Music boosters would be doing a craft show to help raise money.

Mayor Ehinger noted that the leave pickup has gone well this year.

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Manager Grace shared that they did receive the retirement letter from Howard Beach and that they already have the immediate job opening posted and they are looking for someone with water qualifications and with a CDL.

Manager Grace noted that the 16<sup>th</sup> annual West Branch City of Lights contest would be judged on December 17, 2016 and invited any Council Member to be a judge if they would like.

Manager Grace asked Council if they would like to have an ugly sweater contest this year as they did last year which would be open for all City employees and Council Members. It was the consensus of Council to have the contest again.

Member Ervans asked about the annual employee appreciation party this year. Manager Grace noted that they were planning it for some time in January because many employees would not be able to make it in December due to family Christmas parties.

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Mayor Ehinger noted that there were several signs around the City that he would like to see removed. He noted on Wright St just west of South First and on Shrigley by the cemetery there were signs that said no trucks allowed but was the roads were used constantly by big trucks and that he would recommend removing since it was being used all of the time and has never been enforced anyways. He also noted that there was a slow children playing sign on the corner of S. First St. and Ripley St. that was originally put up because of a business in the area but that it was no longer being used as such. He noted that by removing these signs it would help eliminate the clutter of having too many signs.

**MOTION BY EHINGER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO REMOVE THE NO TRUCKS ALLOWED SIGNS ON WRIGHT ST. JUST WEST OF SOUTH FIRST AND ON SHRIGLEY BY THE CEMETERY AS WELL AS THE SLOW CHILDREN PLAYING SIGN ON THE CORNER OF S. FIRST AND RIPLEY ST.**

**Yes –Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter**

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

Member Schaiberger noted that they should keep the signs in inventory in case they would be needed in other areas of the City in the future.

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Chief Walters updated Council on the USDA grant for the patrol car and the grant for the police radios. He also noted that in addition to the original \$2,000 grant he received for the Shop with a Cop program,

he received another one for \$1,800. He further noted that the City officers raised a couple hundred dollars for the Christmas for Kids program from their no shave November fund raiser.

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Mayor Ehinger adjourned the meeting at 6:47 pm

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William Ehinger, Mayor

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John Dantzer, Clerk