

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN PERSON AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY POLICE, 130 PAGE STREET ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020.

Mayor Frechette called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Present: Mayor Paul Frechette, Council Members Joanne Bennett, Mike Jackson, Chris Powley, Ellen Pugh, and Rusty Showalter.

Absent: Cathy Zimmerman

Other officers present: City Manager John Dantzer, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Frechette, Deputy Clerk Amanda Stang, DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey, and Chief Ken Walters.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

* * * * *

Mayor Frechette presented Steve Morris with his retirement proclamation plaque.

PROCLAMATION #20-03

WHEREAS, Officer Steve Morris was very dedicated to the citizens and businesses of the City of West Branch, and

WHEREAS, Officer Morris served diligently on the West Branch Police Department as a part-time Police Officer from June 20, 1994 and as a full-time officer from February 12, 1995 through October 30, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the City could always depend on Officer Morris to give of his time for the citizens of the City of West Branch, and

WHEREAS, Office Morris thought of the City needs before he thought of his own needs, and

WHEREAS, the West Branch City Council would like to recognize Officer Morris for his many years of untiring and dedicated service to the City of West Branch,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Branch City Council hereby recognizes Officer Steve Morris for his many years of untiring and dedicated service to the City of West Branch on this second day of November 2020, and

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED, that the West Branch City Council hereby wishes Steve well in his future endeavors.

* * * * *

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO PAY BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$195,452.72.

Yes – Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter

No – None

Absent – Zimmerman

Motion carried

* * * * *

Manager Dantzer submitted new job descriptions for the newly created Clerk and Treasurer positions due to the clerk/treasurer job being split into two positions.

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY POWLEY, TO APPROVE THE CLERK AND TREASURER JOB DESCRIPTIONS.

Yes – Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter

No – None

Absent – Zimmerman

Motion carried

* * * * *

The Council discussed the City Manager joining the Michigan Economic Developers Association membership. It was the consensus to also allow the Manager to enroll in any other Municipal Managers Memberships/Associations deemed necessary.

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO ALLOW THE CITY MANAGER TO JOIN THE MEDA AND OTHER MANAGER ASSOCIATIONS.

Yes – Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter

No – None

Absent – Zimmerman

Motion carried

* * * * *

Manager Dantzer submitted the payoff for the M-30 land contract and noted the payment was needed so the City can start to sell of the lots.

MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE THE LAND CONTRACT PAYOFF IN THE AMOUNT OF \$95,465.08.

Yes – Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter

No – None

Absent – Zimmerman

Motion carried

* * * * *

Discussion was held regarding the approval of the Ogemaw County Land Bank Agreement. It was further noted that Yvonne DeRoso will work on getting the deed signed over.

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE OGEMAW COUNTY LAND BANK AGREEMENT.

Yes – Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter

No – None

Absent – Zimmerman

Motion carried

* * * * *

Discussion was held on the approval of the Michigan Department of Agriculture Rural Development Grant. It was noted that John Iacoangeli of Beckett and Rader has been working on the infrastructure grant application with Manager Dantzer. Manager Dantzer noted Council would need to appoint someone to sign on the City’s behalf and asked Council to approve the Resolution of Support as well.

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY POWLEY, TO AUTHORIZE MANAGER DANTZER TO SIGN THE MDARD GRANT APPLICATION AND APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT.

Yes – Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter

No – None

Absent – Zimmerman

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS AND SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 19, 2020.

Yes – Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter

No – None

Absent – Zimmerman

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT, INVESTMENT SUMMARY, MINUTES FROM THE DDA MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 16, 2020, THE OGE MAW COUNTY TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 17, 2020.

Yes – Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter

No – None

Absent – Zimmerman

Motion carried

* * * * *

A communication on elections from the Michigan Public Policy Survey was shared.

* * * * *

Mayor Frechette congratulated Steve Morris on his retirement.

Member Pugh commented on the great turnout for the trunk or treat at the Methodist Church on Halloween.

Member Jackson stated that he was glad to see people out and about on Halloween and was glad the City kept it ‘normal’ this year.

Member Showalter stated the same on Halloween and that the trunk or treats were well organized.

Member Bennett made a motion to excuse Member Zimmerman.

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO EXCUSE MEMBER CATHY ZIMMERMAN FROM THE MEETING.

Yes – Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter

No – None

Absent – Zimmerman

Motion carried

* * * * *

Member Powley agreed with Halloween and asked about the Township lighting being out on the way to Walmart.

Manager Dantzer reminded everyone of an MDOT meeting to be held Monday at 1pm at City Hall to review lane configurations. He also noted that he is working on a COVID plan and will have Attorney Meihn review it and bring to the next Council meeting. He also noted that Council will need to begin work on a virtual meeting policy that must be in place by December 31, 2020.

Treasurer Frechette thanked everyone.

Superintendent Killackey updated the paving project on Lindsey St., noting it went well, and that MDOT will be starting on the M-30-Houghton Ave project on Tuesday.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:48pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

Michelle Frechette, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer