

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN PERSON IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023.

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, Police Chief Ken Walters, and DPW Supervisor Mike Killackey.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mayor Frechette gave a brief update on county activities. There next meeting will be tomorrow at 5:30 pm available via Zoom. The road millage renewal and restoration will be on the February ballot.

\* \* \* \* \*

Amanda Piglowski was present from AuSable Valley Community Mental Health. She requested the placement a Narcan dispenser in the Pocket Park. This would be beneficial for not only people with drug addictions but also elderly who may have forgotten they already took their medicine or children the accidentally got into something. The cost of Narcan in a pharmacy is \$45.00 and this would be free to whoever needs it. The Health Department and AVCMH do give free Narcan out during office hours but this would allow for anyone that needed it after hours or was afraid to go into the agencies and request it. If accidentally taken Narcan has no effect unless a person has opioids in their system and it will reverse the affects of those opioids. AVCMH would be responsible for the upkeep and stocking the dispenser.

Council Members had some concerns over the availability of Narcan in a public park. Member Zimmerman was concerned that there would be a greater chance of an overdose if a person knew there was a cure available. Member Adair was concerned if it were in the Pocket Park it would be needed at Iron’s Park and it would never be where it was needed. Chief Walters informed council that all law enforcement carries Narcan with them at all times. Member Pugh asked how much was in an individual box and how much to treat an overdose. Ms. Piglowski informed members that it depended on what was overdosed on and how much was taken. Tawas police just reported the necessity of having to use six boxes on an overdose victim. Member Jackson stated concern that someone would wipe out the supply and put it out for sale to make money. Member Adair suggested placing the dispenser outside of the Police Department or jail. Ms. Piglowski was concerned that this would deter those in need from using the dispenser. Mayor Frechette asked where these dispensers were already placed. Ms. Piglowski stated that they were in Belair, Oakland County, and Lansing. Manager Dantzer suggested placing the dispenser outside of either McLaren or the new MyMichigan walk in clinic.

**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON TO POSTPONE A DECISION ON THE NARCAN DISPENSER AND FOLLOW UP WITH THE PRESIDENT OF MYMICHIGAN.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

\* \* \* \* \*

Manager Dantzer explained that only one bid was received for the sale of a snow plow no longer in use. The bid was a bit low but the plow needs some work. Supervisor Killackey thought it was a fair price.

**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO ACCEPT THE BID FOR \$750.00 WITH AN AGREEMENT THAT THE PLOW IS BEING SOLD AS IS.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

\* \* \* \* \*

Manager Dantzer met with Mr. Gilbert on the City Hall sign that was donated. He suggested placing the sign inside where it would be kept pristine. Mr. Gilbert really wanted it displayed out front and will be adding “City Hall” to the sign along with doing some research on lighting. This was a collaboration of several businesses that Mr. Gilbert works with in his Made in the USA store. He also stated that he would maintain the upkeep of the sign and if necessary, have it replaced if it gets too bad.

**MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY PUGH TO GRACIOUSLY ACCEPT THIS GIFT OF A CITY HALL SIGN AND SEND A THANK YOU TO MR. GILBERT.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

\* \* \* \* \*

**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$229,480.63.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

\* \* \* \* \*

Manager Dantzer explained that there was still an issue with some unpaid personal property taxes that have been uncollectable from a city business. Attn. Meihn has been sending notices threatening legal

action if the back taxes are not paid. No payments have been made and the letters are not working. At this point we have two options, to write it off or proceed with legal action. Council asked if this business was still operating. Manager Dantzer stated that it was.

**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO PROCEED WITH LEGAL ACTION TO COLLECT THE UNPAID BACK TAXES.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

\* \* \* \* \*

Manager Dantzer asked Council if they would like to host an open house again this year. They are usually held the second meeting in December. General consensus was in approval of hosting an open house with the refreshments being a little more limited this year.

\* \* \* \* \*

Manager Dantzer explained that there were continued and increased issues with the amount of garbage and non-recycling materials that are being dumped at the recycling center. There was also a box of hazardous waste dropped off last week. He spoke with Mr. Spencer and received a quote of \$927.01 for a video camera to be installed at the recycle center with the video stream footage transmitted back to city hall. There is a little over \$10,000 in the committed funds for recycling which would be more than enough to cover this cost. Council asked what the consequences would be if a person were caught. They would be ticketed appropriately and the fine large enough to cover the cost of staff time to research the transgression.

**MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE THE BID FROM GREAT LAKES TECHNOLOGIES FOR \$927.01, AND AUTHORIZE THE USE OF COMMITTED RECYCLING FUND TO COVER THE COST.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

\* \* \* \* \*

Manager Dantzer explained that the rezoning of the properties on N. First and S. Second St. would allow for the use of these properties as both residential and commercial. Planning Commission held a public hearing and voted to recommend approval. This also brought on the discussion of being able to make sure rentals were kept up in the city limits. Manager Dantzer explained that this would be a Rental Rehab Program through the City. Council requested that Manager Dantzer further explore this program. Member Showalter also informed members that through the CARES ACT that was just passed November 6<sup>th</sup> it is much harder to evict a renter. There are many more time extensions and steps to go through.

**MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE THE INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 23-02 TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP TO REZONE PARCEL 052-462-009-00 FROM CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT TO MIXED USE DISTRICT AND PARCELS 052-108-003-00, 052-108-004-00, 052-108-005-00, AND 052-108-006-00 FROM SINGLE FAMILY TO MIXED USE.**

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

Manager Dantzer explained that the sale on M-30 was not included in the contract with Ms. DeRoso. The purchaser agreed to pay half of the 4% Ms. DeRoso was requesting for all of her assistance and research with the sale of this property.

**MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE SALES COMMISSION OF 4% FOR THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY ON M-30.**

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY BENNETT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 6, 2023.**

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ADAIR TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY; THE WEST BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 2023 REPORT; PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 10, 2023; MINUTES FROM THE AIRPORT BOARD MEETINGS HELD FEBRUARY 22, MARCH 15, APRIL 19, MAY 17, JULY 19, AND SEPTEMBER 20, 2023; AND MINUTES FROM THE OGEMAW FIRE BOARD MEETINGS HELD JANUARY 17, AND APRIL 18, 2023**

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

Communications shared were certificates from the Chambers for the Light Pole decorations, People's Choice Runner Up and first place most creative use of a skeleton. An invitation to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Pathway Connection of Ogemaw Township and the City of West Branch. Also included was a holiday card from Fleis and Vandenbrink.

Mayor Frechette announced that the bell ringing went well this week end. He also informed council of a grant program available to city residents for energy efficient upgrades to homes. The funding can be approved up to \$25,000 and the income level for three to four family members is up to \$90,000.

Member Bennett informed members that the Made in the USA store is absolutely incredible.

Member Zimmerman stated that the death of Grange Bell is a huge loss to our city. She would like to see the city do something to honor him. Perhaps a proclamation and/or a bench with a plaque when downtown is redone. Mayor Frechette also informed members that there was a scholarship in the works with a memorial ride to raise funds.

Member Pugh reminded council that there are five more weeks of bell ringing. Ninety five percent of all money collected goes where it is intended not into the administration of the funds. Member Zimmerman stated that she does an awesome job organizing all of this.

Member Showalter stated that the conference was not as good this year as last years. It was not as interactive and the topics were not as relevant to our city.

Chief Walters informed members that we would be losing another Officer on December 4<sup>th</sup>. These two officers we've lost are getting completely out of law enforcement. There are also still two vehicles in the shop.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.

---

Paul Frechette, Mayor

---

Lori Ann Clover, Clerk