

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019.

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

Present: City Mayor Paul Frechette, Council Members Joanne Bennett, Mike Jackson, Ellen Pugh, Cathy Zimmerman, Chris Powley and Dan Weiler

Absent: none

Other officers present: City Manager Frank Goodroe, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Frechette, Police Chief Ken Walters, Public Works Superintendent Mike Killackey, and Fellow Samantha Fabbri, Corporal Joe Adams and Amy Adams, County Commissioner Bruce Reetz

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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At 6:04, Mayor Frechette opened the public hearing on a 425 Agreement with Ogemaw Township.

Sue Delahanty asked if the property would be used for housing and what the target population would be, if it fit into the void that we currently have. Manager Goodroe addressed that it fits the needs of the area.

No one else wished to speak on the subject.

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE CLOSING OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman, Powley, Weiler

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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As an addition to the agenda, Manager Goodroe added generators to the agenda as well as a closed session. Chief Walters asked to add an Award for Officer Adams.

Chief Walters presented Corporal Adams with a Life Saving Award.

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Bruce Reetz gave an update on the County Administrator program and getting help from the MML as well as an interim County Administrator.

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Discussion on the City Developer bids. Manager Goodroe stated that only one response was received and that we take no action on it right now and extend the date to November 30th.

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO EXTEND THE DUE DATE FOR CITY DEVELOPER TO NOVEMBER 30, 2019.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman, Powley, Weiler

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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Manager Goodroe discussed the generator bid process that started in 2016. Generators for DPW, Smiley water tower, City Hall and Police Dept. Manager Goodroe reached out to the bidders to get an updated quote but only two responded. Generators would be paid for using the cable franchise monies.

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY POWLEY, TO FOLLOW THE BIDDING PROCESS AND PUT THE GENERATORS BACK OUT TO BID.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman, Powley, Weiler

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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Discussion on the City Prosecutor – information only – contract has been signed.

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO PAY BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$73,121.70.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman, Powley, Weiler

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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Discussion on the additional purchase of \$15,000.00 of water meters to continue changing out all of the City's water meters.

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY PUGH, TO ALLOW THE ADDITIONAL PURCHASE OF \$15,000.00 OF WATER METERS.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman, Powley, Weiler

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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Manager Goodroe discussed the scheduling of the Council Open House in conjunction with the Chamber Connection Breakfast to be held December 13, 2019 from 7:00am to 9:00am at City Hall.

MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO SCHEDULE THE ANNUAL COUNCIL OPEN HOUSE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CHAMBER CONNECTIONS BREAKFAST ON DECEMBER 13, 2019 FROM 7:00AM TO 9:00AM.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman, Powley, Weiler

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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Manager Goodroe informed all that the City received a Census Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Community Foundation in Alpena. This will be used to educate the people on how to respond online and make sure to be counted.

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY PUGH, TO ALLOW MANAGER GOODROE TO ACCEPT THE CENSUS GRANT OF \$5,000.00 FROM THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IN ALPENA.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman, Powley, Weiler

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 21, 2019.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman, Powley, Weiler

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY; THE MINUTES FROM THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 24, 2019.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman, Powley, Weiler

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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A communication on additional Census information was shared. More information to follow. Reach out Phil Mikulski at the school to get them involved.

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Member Pugh stated that the Sweet Adeline’s would be performing a free Christmas concert at 7:00pm on Saturday at the Free Methodist Church.

Manager Goodroe discussion on a proclamation from the Governor’s office – will bring back next time.

Budget/Expenditure reports will be provided each month.

We received grant for \$2,000.00 from Realtors Association to be used for a new map of the Riverwalk on the sign by the Fireman’s Memorial.

Community Promotion – Employee Appreciation Dinner 12/6 from 6:00pm Social Hour and Dinner at 7:00pm at the Willow Tree.

Mainstreet Program presentations at City Hall on November 19, 2019 at 6:00pm, invites have already gone out.

Economic Development Strategy Plan with John I – received some state funding for three 90 minute sessions to create the plan. Member Jackson will facilitate a group.

Goal / Planning setting session that was discussed at a previous meeting with Planning Members too – set a meeting in January. Members Bennett, Zimmerman and Frechette will create a program – meeting to come in January, not on the 18th due to Member Powley’s previous arrangement.

The next Veteran’s banner program in January will now be a Downtown Development Authority program. Host here with Kelli still helping and the City of Rose City to do it there with their DDA hosting it. West Branch Township will be involved as well. We will be putting up two banners on each pole.

A lot going on with Economic Development a lot of interest in the community. Industrial park west – two lot transactions now – three Federal tenants.

Gathering Place – the contract with the State was signed as a gathering place – not a parking lot.

Start thinking of adding parking in the Downtown area – help thinking of areas to create parking.

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Bill Ehinger asked who the gathering place belonged to and what it would be used for. He also asked about the cardboard dumpster.

Denise Lawrence brought up a concern with the Council and Facebook postings. She also questioned why LaDonna Schultz is handling the City’s tickets now and what the fee is. She questions the City’s creation of gmail accounts and who accesses them.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(A)(D) TO REVIEW ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGED INFORMATION EXEMPT FROM DISCUSSION OR DISCLOSURE FROM FEDERAL STATUTE.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman, Powley, Weiler

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman, Powley, Weiler

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Member Pugh asked for bell ringers for the Kiwanis group – they raised \$26,000.00 last year. She also brought up complaints regarding Taylor Door trucks still on Sidney Street.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

Michelle Frechette, Deputy Clerk