

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN PERSON AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY HALL, 121 N. FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020.

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

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

Absent: none

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Bruce Reetz gave an update on Ogemaw County happenings.

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Acting Manager Dantzer presented two tree cutting bids. Alliance Tree Service at \$4,500 and Worthy Tree Service at \$1,500.

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO AWARD THE TREE CUTTING BID TO WORTHY TREE SERVICE NOT TO EXCEED \$1,500.00.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Acting Manager Dantzer presented two street repaving bids and asked Council to postpone awarding due to the bids not having matching square footage diagrams.

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO POSTPONE THE STREET REPAVING BID IN ORDER TO GATHER MORE INFORMATION ON THE BIDS.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY POWLEY, TO PAY BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$98,417.09.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Discussion on the Chamber Christmas Parade Special Event Permit and the Halloween Pole Decorating Special Event Permit. Parade to be held December 12, 2020 from 7pm to 8pm. The Pole Decorating will be from October 18 through November 4.

MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMITS FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARADE AND POLE DECORATING CONTEST.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Acting Manager Dantzer presented the MERS Delegate Certificate form and stated that he and Michelle Frechette were nominated as the Employer and Employee Delegates for this year’s MERS convention and meeting.

MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE THE MERS DELEGATE CERTIFICATION FORM FOR THE 2020 MERS CONVENTION AND BUSINESS MEETING.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Acting Manager Dantzer discussed the Coronavirus Relief Local Government Grant Opening Certification for police department expenses related to Coronavirus and asked Council to allow him to proceed on behalf of the City.

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPROVE THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT AND AUTHORIZE ACTING MANAGER DANTZER TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS FOR THE GRANT.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Acting Manager Dantzer discussed the first half payment of the 20/21 Airport Budget Appropriation.

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY POWLEY, PAY THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20/21 AIRPORT BUDGET APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,300.00.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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The Council discussed trick or treating in the City. It was noted that typically the times are downtown from 5pm to 6pm and City-wide from 6pm to 8pm. Acting Manager Dantzer noted he will check with the Merchants to see if they are okay with keeping the Downtown time and will bring a Resolution to Council at the next meeting.

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Council discussed the Faith Alive Trunk or Treat Special Event Permit and Traffic Control Order 20-01. It was noted that Faith Alive will be having a drive through event this year and requested making Hansen St a one-way street. Chief Walters noted that he was okay with what was presented.

MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE THE FAITH ALIVE TRUNK OR TREAT SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT AND TO APPROVE TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER 20-01.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Acting Manager Dantzer discussed the Title VI 2020 Plan.

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO NAME ACTING MANAGER DANTZER AS THE TITLE VI COORDINATOR AND TO ACCEPT THE TITLE VI 2020 PLAN.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY POWLEY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS HELD AUGUST 31, 2020 AND SEPTEMBER 14, 2020; AS WELL AS THE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 14, 2020.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURERS REPORT, INVESTMENT SUMMARY, MINUTES FROM THE AIRPORT BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 19, 2020, MINUTES FROM THE WWTP AUTHORITY MEETINGS HELD JUNE 17 AND JUNE 23, 2020, THE AUGUST POLICE REPORT, AND AUGUST CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Mayor Frechette noted that the Fairgrounds were open for an event and that they had a good turnout.

Member Jackson reported that the Airport has broken ground on the new hangers.

Member Showalter stated that there is a flag by Living Well or Cottage Designs that sticks straight out into the sidewalk. Chief Walters said that it was being looked into.

Acting Manager Dantzer discussed cellphones that were ordered by Manager Goodroe and the cost involved with them. After talking with Tom Spencer, City IT consultant, it is determined that there are enough safeguards in place with multiple user names and passwords on the different systems that the additional phones are not needed. It was the consensus of Council to have Acting Manger Dantzer proceed with cancelling the phones.

Acting Manager Dantzer passed out an updated housing plan. Council discussed the possibility of needing increased security around the well house. Superintendent Killackey stated that they are good now and that just an update to the SCADA system could be done.

Chief Walters stated that he has started the search for a replacement for Officer Steve Morris who is retiring in October.

Acting Manager Dantzer asked Commissioner Reetz if the new County budget included night shift coverage for the Sheriff Dept. Commissioner Reetz stated not yet but that there will be a millage on the November ballot.

Superintendent Killackey stated that they have the bucket truck and that it works well.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268 (h) TO DISCUSS MATTERS SUBJECT TO ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY POWLEY, TO ALLOW ATTORNEY MEIHN TO PROCEED AS DISCUSSED WITH COUNCIL IN CLOSED SESSION.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 7:03pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

Michelle Frechette, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer