

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN PERSON AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022.

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, DPW Supervisor Mike Killackey, Chief Kenneth Walters, City Attorney Gregory Meihl, and County Commissioners Mark Surbrook and Craig Scott.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Commissioner Surbrook gave a report. The county has approved the purchase of two Chevy Tahoe's. The county is also behind moving the veteran's office to the old state police post. There will be some renovations necessary and the county will cover those costs.

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Yvonne DeRoso stated that Deshano has purchased the last four sites in the Victorian Manor complex and is working on one more duplex with two units. Chad Deshano is also here from Deshano and is requesting an entrance off Fremont Street. They will remove the dead tree, put planks down over the curb, and repair/replace any damage that is done. John will draw up a quick contract to that effect for Chad to sign. Rusty requested to abstain from the vote.

**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO ACCEPT MEMBER SHOWALTER ABSTAINING FROM THE VOTE.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY PUGH, TO ALLOW DESHANO ACCESS TO THEIR CONSTRUCTION SITE VIA FREEMONT STREET UPON SIGNATURE OF REPAIRING/REPLACING DAMAGES CAUSED BY SUCH ACTIONS.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Abstain- Showalter**

**Motion carried**

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Commissioner Craig Scott introduced himself to council and announced that he would be taking over for Commissioner Surbrook in January 2023 as the representative of the County. He sits on various boards including the Airport and Parks and Recs. He is also a representative for NEMSCA.

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Additions to the agenda included MDOT Trail Assessment under New Business and moving the discussion of the Pocket Park item D. under new business to the end following Public Comment Any Topic.

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**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$140,698.62.**

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

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

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**MOTION BY ADAIR, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO DESIGNATE MEMBER SHOWALTER AS THE MML CONFERENCE VOTING DELEGATE.**

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

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

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**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO NAME MANAGER DANTZER AS THE HEALTH OFFICER.**

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

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

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**MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY ADAIR, TO SUPPORT MDOT’S ASSESSMENT THAT THE RECREATIONS IMPACTS OF THE TRAIL DETOURS WOULD BE TEMPORARY AND MINIMNAL AND THE DETOUR WILL NOT AFFECT THE OVERALL USE, FEATURES, OR ACTIVITES AS A WHOLE.**

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

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

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**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE MEETING HELD AUGUST 15, 2022.**

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

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

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER'S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY; MINUTES FROM THE AIRPORT BOARD MEETING HELD JULY 20, 2022; AND MINUTES FROM THE DDA MEETING HELD JULY 26, 2022.**

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

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

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Member Showalter gave accolades for the perfect score on the AMAR Audit.

District 3 and 5 need a representative on the Ogemaw County Emergency Dispatch Authority Board due to the reapportionment of the county this year.

Member Jackson reported that it was a very nice holiday week end with lots of traffic going through town. The wrestling event was well attended and excellent entertainment.

Member Bennett asked about replacing or fixing the damaged tree planters. This was going to be done following the work by MDOT but as that has been set back a year they will be taken care of sooner.

Member Adair received a complaint from a community member that the flowers are growing so well that it is difficult to see around the corner. They will be trimmed back.

Member Showalter let Council know that the screws are coming loose on the board walk on the east side of Valley Street. Mike will send someone out to get that taken care of.

Manager Dantzer announced that we still have not had any interest in the opening for the Board of Review. The Work Session will be rescheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> following the regular City Council meeting. Perhaps we could put up a sign/banner at the old state police post announcing this will be the future site of the Veterans Alliance donated by the City.

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO HAVE MANAGER DANTZER PURSUE A PRICE QUOTE FOR THE BANNER FOR THE VETERAN'S ALLIANCE.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Chief Walters announced that he applied for the Community Grant from Walmart and we were awarded \$5,000 this year. They also had to put another car in the shop.

Lois Berquist invited Council and public present to the dedication of Millie Miller’s totem pole created in 1967 and recently restored, at the museum on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am with the dedication promptly at 12:00 pm.

**AT 6:33 PM, MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, WAS MADE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268 (h), WITH CITY ATTORNEY GREG MEIHN REGARDING THE DOWNTOWN POCKET PARK.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**AT 6:58 PM, MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO RE-OPEN THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.

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Paul Frechette, Mayor

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Lori Ann Clover, Clerk