

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
HELD AT WEST BRANCH CITY HALL, 121 N. FOURTH ST. WEST BRANCH, MI ON TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Joe Clark at 12:00 pm.

Present: Joanne Bennett, Alan Bruder, Joe Clark, Autum Hunter, Sandy Rabidue, and Erin Resteiner.

Absent: Samantha Fabbri, Ken Walters, and Cathy Zimmerman.

Others present: Acting Secretary/City Manager John Dantzer

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**MOTION BY RABIDUE, SECOND BY HUNTER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM  
THE MEETING HELD AUGUST 22, 2023.**

**Yes – Bennett, Bruder, Clark, Hunter, Rabidue, Resteiner**  
**No – None      Absent – Fabbri, Walters, Zimmerman      Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY RABIDUE, SECOND BY HUNTER, TO APPROVE THE BILLS IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$7,782.83.**

**Yes – Bennett, Bruder, Clark, Hunter, Rabidue, Resteiner**  
**No – None      Absent – Fabbri, Walters, Zimmerman      Motion carried**

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The Board discussed moving the next meeting due to the Council Chambers not being available due to the City being in their annual audit. It was the consensus to switch the October meeting to October 31<sup>st</sup> at noon, if needed.

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**MOTION BY CLARK, SECOND BY RABIDUE, TO EXCUSE MEMBERS FABBRI,  
WALTERS, AND ZIMMERMAN FROM THE MEETING.**

**Yes – Bennett, Bruder, Clark, Hunter, Rabidue, Resteiner**  
**No – None      Absent – Fabbri, Walters, Zimmerman      Motion carried**

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Vice Chairperson Clark welcomed new member Alan Bruder to the Board.

Vice Chairperson Clark also spoke on the road construction and the removal of some downtown trees.

Member Resteiner asked about the possibility of hosting events downtown next year on side streets to help the downtown businesses. Acting Secretary/Manager Dantzer noted he didn't think there would be any issues as long as it wasn't planned on an MDOT detour route.

The Treasures report was submitted.

Acting Secretary/Manager Dantzer noted he was asked by a downtown business owner about the possibility of using the Gathering Place as a temporary parking lot during the road construction project to help cover the spots they will be losing on Houghton Ave.

**MOTION BY BRUDER, SECOND BY RESTEINER, TO APPROVE THE USE OF THE GATHERING PLACE AS A TEMPORARY PARKING LOT WHILE HOUGHTON AVE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.**

**Yes – Bennett, Bruder, Clark, Hunter, Rabidue, Resteiner**  
**No – None      Absent – Fabbri, Walters, Zimmerman      Motion carried**

The board discussed hours for trick or treating and if they wanted to reestablish trick or treating downtown from 5:00-6:00 pm with the city-wide trick or treating starting at 6:00. It was the consensus of the Board to have downtown trick or treating running from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm on Halloween.

The Board discussed highlights of the Planning Commission minutes including the development of old mill building, old bicycle factory building, old City PD building, and a City grant for water infrastructure that will be announced by the State in September.

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A communication from the MEDC noting the City of West Branch was not chosen as an awardee for this round of grant funding as a part of their Public Spaces Grant Program was shared.

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The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 pm.