

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 MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021.

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, Rusty Showalter and Cathy Zimmerman

Absent: Ellen Pugh

Other officers present: City Manager John Dantzer, City Clerk Amanda Stang, City Treasurer Michelle Frechette, Police Chief Ken Walters, Public Works Superintendent Mike Killackey and County Commissioner Mark Surbrook.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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County Commissioner Surbrook discussed the meeting held regarding the Arenac County Drainage Commission, stating that the vote had passed to include Ogemaw County but that there is a Council specialized in drain districting that is working to get Ogemaw County removed. Commissioner Surbrook also noted that as of now, nothing can be done regarding the KCC Millage, however there is a group starting a petition and they are working along with County attorney Meihn. It was also noted that the EMS are receiving two new ambulances and hope to be on a rotation schedule for new ambulances.

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$66,899.79.

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

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 21-06, FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE.

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

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

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MOTION BY ADAIR, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE THE START TIME AND PLACE FOR THE FIRST COUNCIL MEETING IN 2022 TO BE JANUARY 10, 2022 IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL

HELD SEPTEMBER 21, 2021; THE MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 9, 2021; THE DDA MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 26, 2021; AND THE NOVEMBER MONTH END POLICE REPORT.

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

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

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Communication from the Michigan Department of Treasury was shared informing the City of West Branch has met the financial criteria and are authorized to issue municipal securities without further approval.

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Mayor Frechette presented AJ Wirth a certificate and pin for having worked for the City at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for 5 years.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY SHOWALTER TO RE-APPOINT YVONNE DEROSO AND JOSHUA ERICKSON TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

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

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON TO RE-APPOINT THOM JONES TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.

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

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY ADAIR TO EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBER ELLEN PUGH FROM THE MEETING HELD DECEMBER 20, 2021.

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

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

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Member Showalter thanked the DDA for the new lights and Christmas Tree downtown.

Member Adair thanked DPW Superintendent Killackey for his work in getting the tree operational and noted how gorgeous downtown looks at night. Member Adair also inquired about how much money in grants, City Manager Dantzer has acquired for the City this past year. Manager Dantzer noted that it is just over \$7 Million Dollars. Member Adair thanked City Manager Dantzer for his diligent work.

Member Jackson noted that downtown looks awesome and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Member Zimmerman expressed her sincere appreciation to Clerk Stang for her work with the City and noted that she will be greatly missed. She also thanked City Manager Dantzer noting that appointing him City Manager was the number one best thing they could have done for the City of West Branch.

Manager Dantzer thanked the staff for the last year stating it has been an honor to work with such a great staff.

Police Chief Walters thanked Council for their support.

City Clerk Stang noted that she will miss everyone and thanked them for allowing her to be a part of the City of West Branch.

Business Owner Pete Fabbri commended City Council on their operation of the City noting that he hasn't been to a Council Meeting in awhile because he didn't feel the need to protect his interest in the City. He stated that he had heard how great the City Council was doing and appreciated how they handle the City. Mr. Fabbri also thanked the Police and DPW for their outstanding work in the City noting it is nice to be informed with projects in downtown when you have a business. He finished with adding that downtown has never looked better.

Business Owner Joe Clark thanked the City for their outstanding accomplishments with running the City of West Branch.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:28 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

Amanda Stang, Clerk