REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024.

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: Council Member Ellen Pugh

Other officers present: City Manager John Dantzer, DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey, Chief Ken Walters, City Realtor Yvonne DeRoso, and City Attorney Gregory Meihn.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

* *

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPOINT CITY MANAGER, JOHN DANTZER, TO SERVE AS ACTING CLERK DUE TO BOTH THE CLERK AND DEPUTY CLERK BEING UNAVAILABLE FOR THE MEETING.

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

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

* *

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF $192,121.35.

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

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

* *

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBER PUGH FROM THE MEETING.

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

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

* *

Manager Dantzer noted the City received two offers for the vacant parcel the City had for sale in the industrial park. One from Mr. Tommy Dault and one from Mr. Justin Benjamin. He then requested Council to go into closed session to review with the City Attorney his written writing concerning

potential legal liability regarding the conditions of the property, the impact of selling the property on the Masterplan, and what appropriate terms are necessary with regard to the sale of the property to protect the City, which all should be considered.

Mr. Dault addressed Council on his plans for the property noting it would be for a large residential project.

Todd Johnson, on behalf of Mr. Benjamin, addressed Council with his plans for property noting it would be for commercial/industrial businesses.

Council went into closed session at 6:20 pm

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(H) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT TO REVIEW WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY HIS WRITTEN WRITING CONCERNING POTENTIAL LEGAL LIABILITY REGARDING THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY, IMPACT OF SELLING THE PROPERTY ON THE MASTER PLAN, AND WHAT APPROPRIATE TERMS ARE NECESSARY WITH REGARD TO THE SALE OF THE PROPRETY TO PROTECT THE CITY.

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

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

* *

Council returned from closed session at 6:43 pm

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION.

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

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

* *

MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE CITY MANAGER, JOHN DANTZER; CITY REALTOR, YVONNE DEROSO; AND CITY ATTORNEY, GREG MEIHN TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH JUSTIN BENJAMIN ON THE SALE OF THE INDUSTRIAL LOT PROPERTY.

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

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

* *

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO MOVE THE FARMERS MARKET TO THE GATHERING PLACE FOR 2024 ONLY.

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

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

* *

MOTION BY ADAIR, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 4, 2024.

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

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

* *

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER'S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY, THE MINUTES FROM THE PLANNNG COMMISSION MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 13, 2024, AND THE FEBRUARY POLICE REPORT.

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

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

* *

Member Showalter noted his granddaughter as well as several other young ladies where in attendance at tonight's meeting in order to get their All-American Award. He also noted she was recently chosen to attend the World Strides Stem program for the second year in Bowling Green. He further noted she was the first student selected to attend two years in a row by a different teacher.

Member Bennet thanked Justin Benjamin for his investment in the community. Member Bennett also asked if Chief Walters could get a total of grant funding he had been able to receive for the police department.

Member Jackson noted the MDOT road rehabilitation project was about to begin.

* *

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:52 pm.

_____ _____

Paul Frechette, Mayor John Dantzer, Acting Clerk