

SPECIAL 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, MAY 24, 2021.

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

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

Absent: Council Member Chris Powley

Other officers present: City Manager John Dantzer and City Clerk Amanda Stang.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Carol Adair introduced herself to Council.

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPOINT CAROL ADAIR TO THE OPEN COUNCIL SEAT.

Yes — Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman

No – Bennett

Absent – Powley

Motion carried

Clerk Stang swore Ms. Adair into office.

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-15 TIPSY BEAR SIDEWALK CAFE.

RESOLUTION #21-15

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch does allow for sidewalk cafes as per section 7.20 of the zoning ordinance, and

WHEREAS, any sidewalk café request from a business located off of Houghton Ave. must file a permit with MDOT, and

WHEREAS, a requirement to approval by MDOT requires a resolution of support from the local City Council, and

WHEREAS, upon approval by MDOT, it is the responsibility of the City to monitor the requirements of the permit, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Branch City Council does hereby approve the sidewalk café permit for the Topsy Bear Bistro for the 2021 calendar season

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – Powley

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-16 CDBG GRANT.

RESOLUTION 21-16

WHEREAS, the Michigan Strategic Fund has invited Units of General Local Government to apply for its Water-Related Infrastructure (WRI) Competitive Funding Round; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch desires to request \$2,000.000 in CDBG funds to construct a water treatment plant and replace again water line infrastructure under Houghton Ave.; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch commits local funds from its water, water replacement, general fund, and USDA loan in the amount of \$1,150,000; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the local Community Development Plan as described in the Application; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will benefit all residents of the project area and 59.91 percent of the residents of the City of West Branch are low/mod as approved by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, local funds and any other funds to be invested in the project have not been obligated/incurred and will not be obligated/incurred prior to a formal grant award, completion of the environmental review procedures and a formal written authorization to obligate/incur costs from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of West Branch hereby designates the City Manager as the Environmental Review Certifying Officer, the person authorized to certify the Michigan CDBG Application, the person authorized to sign the Grant Agreement and payment requests, and the person authorized to execute any additional documents required to carry out and complete the grant.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – Powley

Motion carried

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Council Member Jackson reminded everyone of the Annual Fly In taking place at the West Branch Airport on June 19, 2021.

Manager Dantzer discussed the CDBG Grant and the need for a public hearing which will take place Monday, May 31, 2021 at 11:00 am.

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Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

Amanda Stang, Clerk