

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY HALL, 121 N. FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021.

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

Present: 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 Amanda Stang, Chief of Police Ken Walters, Police Officer Brandon Bicoll, DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey, County Commissioner Mark Surbrook and City Attorney Meihn.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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County Commissioner Mark Surbrook gave an update on the County. He noted the County recently had a re-districting meeting and County Commissioner, Craig Scott, will now serve as the City's district representative.

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**MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OFFER OF LOT 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY CONDOMINIUMS FROM DARREL EHINGER FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO POSTPONE ANY DISCUSSION ON THE MSP FLAGPOLE UNTIL AFTER THE CITY RECEIVES OWNERSHIP OF THE PROPERTY ON SEPTEMBER 27,2021.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPROVE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$79,833.17.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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City Manager Dantzer addressed Council regarding the 13 Ways to Kill Your Community Speed Consulting times. It was the consensus of Council to schedule the consult for September 30, 2021 at 3PM.

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE CITY MANAGER DANTZER TO CAST THE VOTE FOR THE 3 MML LIABILITY AND PROPERTY POOL CANDIDATES.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPROVE THE K-9 LIABILITY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND AUTHORIZE CITY MANAGER DANTZER TO SIGN.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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**AT 6:13 PM, MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, 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 6:27 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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**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPROVE CITY ATTORNEY MEIHN TO TAKE ACTION DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – None**

**Motion carried**

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Council member Zimmerman requested to be excused from the remainder of the meeting due to a prior obligation.

**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO EXCUSE MEMBER ZIMMERMAN FROM THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING AT 6:28PM.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – Zimmerman**

**Motion carried**

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Mid-Michigan Easement request was added to the agenda under Item F.

**MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE MID-MICHIGAN EASEMENT REQUEST AND AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER DANTZER TO SIGN.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – Zimmerman**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY ADAIR, TO APPROVE THE SUMMARY AND MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS, FROM THE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 7, 2021.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – Zimmerman**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY; APPROVE THE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD AUGUST 10, 2021; APPROVE THE AIRPORT BOARD MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD AUGUST 18, 2021; AND THE AUGUST MONTH END POLICE REPORT.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – Zimmerman**

**Motion carried**

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City Manager Dantzer updated Council on the replacement of the city sidewalks. He noted that they are hoping to pour them Wednesday, weather permitting. He also stated the South Fourth Street project has begun with the street pulverizing being completed and ready for the next step.

Police Chief Walters introduced his newest officer, Brandon Bicolli and his K-9, Kony to Council. He stated that he is still awaiting Officer Bicolli's uniform but hopes to have him patrolling on his own soon, especially since they are an officer short due to an injury.

Bob Perlberg with the Ogemaw Herald objected to the approved motion, for City Attorney Meihn to take action on the Pocket Park, citing it goes against the Open Meetings Act.

City Attorney Meihn stated that the motion did not go against the Open Meetings Act but agreed in order to be transparent, the Council could make a motion for him to prepare the documents discussed and present them at the next Council Meeting.

**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO RESCIND THE PREVIOUS MOTION MADE FOR CITY ATTORNEY MEIHN TO TAKE ACTION ON THE POCKET PARK.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – Zimmerman**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO AUTHORIZE CITY ATTORNEY MEIHN TO COMPOSE A WRITTEN DOCUMENT PERTAINING TO THE POCKET PARK AND SUBMIT IT AT THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – Zimmerman**

**Motion carried**

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Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM.

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Paul Frechette, Mayor

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Amanda Stang, City Clerk