

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY HALL, 121 N. FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020.

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

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

Absent: None

Other officers present: City Manager Frank Goodroe, Clerk/Treasurer John Dantzer, DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey, Police Chief Ken Walters, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Frechette, Summer Music Series Chairperson Dawn Budge, and Mid-Michigan President Ray Stover.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Ray Stover of MidMichigan Hospital gave a Covid virus update.

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Summer Music Series Chairperson Dawn Budge gave an update on the summer concerts in the park and discussed possible changes to the lineup because of the Covid virus. It was the consensus of Council to reschedule any concerts that were planned before July.

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As an addition to the agenda, Manager Goodroe updated Council that Officer Michael Godfrey has turned in his letter of resignation due to him moving.

Manager Goodroe also noted that Officer Godfrey and Officer Steve Morris were injured in a recent arrest altercation.

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO DECLARE THE OPENING AND ALLOW CHIEF WALTERS TO POST THE OPENING.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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A bid and sole source vendor request for the City assessor was submitted for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY POWLEY, TO APPROVE THE SOLE SOURCE VENDOR REQUEST AND APPROVE THE BID FOR THE CITY ASSESSOR SERVICES TO MVW AND ASSOCIATES AS SUBMITTED.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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A bid and sole source vendor request for the purchase of garbage cans for Irons Park was submitted

MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPROVE THE SOLE SOURCE VENDOR REQUEST AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF SIX CANS NOT TO EXCEED \$3,816.00 PLUS SHIPPING.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO PAY BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,158.38.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPROVER RESOLUTION 20-09

RESOLUTION NO. 20-09

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL BILLING AND CLAIMS MANAGEMENT SERVICES WITH ACCUMED BILLING, INC.

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch, Ogemaw County, Michigan has determined that providing fire and rescue services to the residents of Ogemaw County is advisable, necessary and in the public interest; and

WHERAS, it is necessary to obtain professional billing management services for the collection of service charges from individuals, insurance companies, Medicare and public aid related to the provision of said fire and rescue services; and

WHEREAS, the billing and collection of charges for services is difficult because of complex procedures and regulations, which require the skills of a billing and claims management service firm.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of West Branch, Ogemaw County, Michigan that:

FIRST; The City of West Branch has heretofore determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the public interest to contract with the firm AccuMed Billing, Inc. to provide professional billing and claims management services for fire and rescue services.

SECOND; The Fire Chief or Fire Board Chairman are hereby instructed and authorized to sign such contract with AccuMed Billing, Inc., with a service fee of 8.00% of monies collected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, which a vote hereon is taken by aye and nay and spread at large on the minutes of the Council/Board.

- All resolutions in conflict herewith are repealed; and
- This resolution is effective immediately upon adoption and shall remain in full force and effect until repealed by the City Council.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Manager Goodroe updated Council on a program that is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act that would allow for hazard pay for police officers. Manager Goodroe noted that currently it was only for cities with a population of over 1,000,000 and for counties with a population of

over 2,000,000 but that they would still submit the paperwork in case it was extended to smaller municipalities.

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD APRIL 6, 2020 AND THE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD APRIL 3, 2020.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY AND THE MARCH POLICE REPORT.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Member Showalter reminded everyone to continue to practice hand washing and stay safe.

Member Pugh noted she had a few face masks available.

Manager Goodroe thanked Member Pugh for her work with face masks and Chris Powley and his colleague for their work in providing face masks.

Manager Goodroe gave an MDOT work update.

Manager Goodroe also gave a City staffing update, a census update, and a tax tribunal update.

Manager Goodroe also noted that estimated revenue is anticipated to go down and will have an effect on the current and upcoming budget.

Member Bennett asked about PPE supplies for the officers. Chief Walters noted they did have everything they need.

Member Bennett also asked on the utility rate study. DPW Superintendent Killackey noted it was put on hold with the executive orders.

Chief Walters noted his regret in the resignation of officer Godfrey and noted he will be missed.

DPW Superintendent Killackey gave a public works update.

Member Zimmerman and Bennett commended the DPW for their branch and leaf clean up.

Member Showalter commended the DPW for getting the flags up downtown.

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Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

John Dantzer, Clerk