

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD JOINTLY WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) HELD AT THE CITY POLICE STATION , 130 PAGE STREET ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2019.

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

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

Absent: None

Other officers present: Clerk/Treasurer John Dantzer, DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey, Police Chief Ken Walters, DDA Chairperson Samantha Fabbri, Planning Chairperson Corine Lucynski, Attorney Gabriel Dantzer, and County Commissioner Bruce Reetz.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

* * * * *

As an addition to the agenda, Chief Walters notified Council that the City was eligible for additional funds from the energy grant that was recently awarded but needed approval to apply for the additional funds.

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO APPLY FOR THE ADDITIONAL ENERGY GRANT FUNDS.

Yes — Bennett, Ehinger, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Weiler, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

As another addition to the agenda, County Commissioner, Bruce Reetz, gave a County update which included a presentation from the Michigan Association of Counties, approved the 2020 transit budget, paid bills, approved the appointment of Attorney Gabriel Dantzer to the indigent council , updated their equalization department division fees, and approved the purchase of new equalization software.

* * * * *

Planning Chair Cori Lucynski gave the board’s annual report and noted they have been working on redoing the Masterplan and a complete zoning update which should be finished shortly.

DDA Vice Chair Joe Clark gave the board’s annual report and noted they have agreed to a maintenance agreement with the City which should help fund more projects, they have been attending joint DDA meetings with West Branch and Ogemaw Townships, discussed the recent Kirtland Community College news and the news that Lake Superior State will be opening a campus in St. Helen, they have been working on their five year plan, discussed the possibility of forming a joint recreation committee in order

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY EHINGER, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY; THE MINUTES FROM THE AIRPORT BOARD MEETING HELD DECEMBER 19, 2018; THE MINUTES FROM THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AUTHORITY MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 18, 2018; THE MIINUTES FROM THE EMS BOARD MEETING HELD DECEMBER 19, 2018; AND THE MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD DECEMBER 11, 2018.

Yes — Bennett, Ehinger, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Weiler, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

A Charter/Spectrum update was shared

The Ogemaw County Emergency Dispatch Authority agreement to establish was shared.

* * * * *

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPOINT MIKE COZAD AND CATHY ZIMMERMAN TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO FILL OPEN SEATS WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 1/1/21.

Yes — Bennett, Ehinger, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Weiler, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY PUGH TO ACCEPT WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION OF CITY MANAGER HEATHER GRACE

Yes — Bennett, Ehinger, Frechette, Jackson, Pugh, Weiler, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

Mayor Frechette updated Council on the 911 Board meeting he attended and noted Will Engemann was named as the citizen at-large member for the new Emergency Dispatch Authority.

Member Bennett updated Council on the joint DDA meeting she attended. In addition, she noted she is looking into a Consumers Power community impact grant and noted the need for assistance if anyone was interested.

Chief Walters updated Council on the police car USDA grant

DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey updated Council on his service vehicle USDA grant and commended his staff for their hard work on the recent snow plowing and removal.

Clerk/Treasurer Dantzer updated Council on an upcoming meeting with MDOT in regards to the Houghton Street reconstruction project.

Mayor Frechette updated Council on an upcoming meeting he had scheduled with the U.S. Army recruiter.

* * * * *

Eric Young asked on the process going forward for the Manager replacement. Mayor Frechette noted that nothing has been determined yet due to the fact that the resignation date was the 10th and in the mean time they would start to develop that plan.

Eric Young also asked if the property that was approved to have the City Attorney make an offer on could be identified. Attorney Dantzer noted the purchase of property was allowed to be discussed in closed session and; therefore, was not required to be identified.

Pete Fabbri updated Council on the Back to the Bricks progress and asked if Chief Walters and Clerk/Treasurer Dantzer would be interested in working on the project.

Commissioner Bruce Reetz spoke on all of the Bigfoot stuff around town.

Kara Fachting noted to Member Bennett that she could possibly get help from the high school's National Honor Society for the Consumers grant.

Kara Fachting also asked about the lack of garbage pickup during that week and noted her concern that it was going to cause issues because people would have two weeks' worth of garbage. It was noted that due to the weather, Republic was not picking up trash but did say that if people put extra garbage out, they will pick it up.

* * * * *

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

John Dantzer, Clerk