

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, AUGUST 16, 2021.

Mayor Pro Tem Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Jackson, Council Members Carol Adair, Joanne Bennett, Ellen Pugh, Rusty Showalter, and Cathy Zimmerman.

Absent: Mayor Paul Frechette

Other officers present: City Manager John Dantzer, Chief of Police Ken Walters, MSP Lieutenant Michael Brown, and DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Bobby Dack, Alan Bruder, and Kevin Munson, on behalf of the Ogemaw Orioles baseball organization, addressed Council on future baseball tournaments noting they hold a midnight madness tournament every year and were requesting to get Councils approval to have the noise ordinance of 11:00 extended for their midnight madness tournament each year. It was noted they had 45 teams for the midnight tournament last year which brings lots of people and business to our community.

Member Pugh asked if they use additional fields other than the West Branch fields. Mr. Dack noted they did use the field off of M-55, in Rose City, and at the High School.

Member Zimmerman asked how long they were asking to have the noise ordinance extended to. Mr. Dack noted they would like to have 1:00 a.m.

Member Pugh asked if they were asking for the Ogemaw Outlaws girls' organization as well. Mr. Dack noted that he was only requesting this on behalf of the boy's tournament but wouldn't be surprised if the girls came and asked for the same thing.

Manager Dantzer requested the organization turn in a special event permit each year in order for City staff to keep up with the event.

MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO AUTHORIZE THE OGEMAW ORIOLES TO HOLD THEIR MIDNIGHT BASEBALL TOURNAMENT ONCE A YEAR AND ALLOW THE NOISE ORDINANCE TO BE EXTENDED UNTIL 1:00 A.M. DURING THAT EVENT CONTINGENT UPON A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT BEING SUBMITTED.

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

No – None

Absent – Frechette

Motion carried

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Manager Dantzer presented an updated bid for the S. Fourth St road and water line replacement project. It was noted the new project total was estimated to be \$302,605 with \$226,345 being the total for the water line and \$76,260 being the total for the road. Manager Dantzer further noted the local street fund has money available in the 2022 budget to cover the road but the water fund budget was going to be \$69,414 short. It was Manager Dantzer’s recommendation to use ARPA funds to cover the budget shortfall.

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE THE BID FROM STERLING EXCAVATING FOR THE S. FOURTH ST PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED \$302,605

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

No – None

Absent – Frechette

Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,289.93.

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

No – None

Absent – Frechette

Motion carried

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Lieutenant Michael Brown of the Michigan State Police, Police Chief Ken Walters, and Mayor Pro Tem Jackson presented City Police Officer, Lane Matthews, with a life saving award for his actions at an active shooter scene on June 8, 2021.

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPROVE THE OGEMAW HILLS FREE METHODIST CHURCH SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT AS SUBMITTED.

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

No – None

Absent – Frechette

Motion carried

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Member Zimmerman noted the special event permit for the Ogemaw Healthy Kids Block Party was not signed off by Chief Walters or DPW superintendent Killackey. Chief Walters and Superintendent Killackey noted they did not see any issues with the request.

MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE OGEMAW HEALTHY KIDS BLOCK PARTY SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT AS SUBMITTED.

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

No – None

Absent – Frechette

Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY ADAIR, TO APPROVE THE TITLE VI NON-DISCRIMINATION PLAN.

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

No – None

Absent – Frechette

Motion carried

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY ADDAIR, TO RESCHEDULE THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2021 MEETING TO SEPTEMBER 7, AT 6:00 DUE TO THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY.

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

No – None

Absent – Frechette

Motion carried

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Manager Dantzer noted he is in the process of working with the utility companies on the extension of services into the M-30 housing property and they have requested to have the roads named as part of their engineering process. Manager Dantzer noted there were six streets in the development.

Member Pugh asked about who the property was purchased from. Manager Dantzer noted that it was purchased from the Burt Schick family and at the time of purchase, Gerald Lehman addressed Council and asked to have the road going into the property named in Mr. Schick’s memory as it was part of his longtime family farm. It was the consensus of Council to name the main road entering the development Schick Dr.

Member Bennett asked if it was known who was on Council at the time the Charter was adopted. Manager Dantzer noted he did not but would look into it.

Member Pugh noted she would like to consider one road to be named after Adrian Dantzer who was instrumental in getting the expressway to run by West Branch.

It was the consensus to have Manager Dantzer look into the original council members at the time of the Charter adoption and bring back to Council at the next meeting.

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE MEETING HELD AUGUST 2, 2021.

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

No – None

Absent – Frechette

Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ADAIR, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY; APPROVE THE DDA MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR AND INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS HELD JULY 27, 2021; APPROVE THE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS HELD MARCH 9, 2021 AND JUNE 8, 2021; AND THE JULY POLICE REPORT.

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

No – None

Absent – Frechette

Motion carried

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A communication from the Michigan Public Policy Survey was shared.

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Mayor Pro Tem Jackson noted the Victorian Art fair went well and was heavily attended.

City Manager Dantzer noted that he attended a meeting with MDOT and they are planning on releasing a press release noting they will be having a public meeting on Wednesday, August 25 from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm to go over the plans for the 2023 Houghton Ave reconstruction project.

City Manager Dantzer also noted the carving of the Smiley water tower was completed in Irons Park.

Police Chief Walters noted everything with the Victorian Art Fair went well with some congestion on Saturday.

Bob Perlberg thanked Council for continuing the virtual meetings for transparency but noted the audio was not very good. Manager Dantzer noted he would look into options to correct the issue.

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Mayor Pro Tem Jackson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Mike Jackson, Mayor Pro Tem

John Dantzer, City Manager and acting Clerk