

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE WEST BRANCH CITY HALL, 121 N. FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 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, and Rusty Showalter.

Absent: Cathy Zimmerman.

Other officers present: City Manager Frank Goodroe, Clerk/Treasurer John Dantzer, and Public Works Superintendent Mike Killackey.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO EXCUSE MEMBER CATHY ZIMMERMAN FROM THE MEETING.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent – Zimmerman**

**Motion carried**

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At 6:02, Mayor Frechette opened the public hearing to take comment on a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a water treatment plant.

Manager Goodroe discussed the grant including what the funds would be used for and what the cost to the City would be.

DPW Superintendent Killackey discussed how the water treatment plant would work.

Larry Fox of C2AE, who assisted in the grant application, discussed the grant process.

Member Bennett asked about possible concerns that the expenses could contribute to not having enough money available for the water line replacement for Houghton Ave. in 2023. Manager Goodroe noted that the City would be looking for additional funding sources for the Houghton Ave water line project.

Member Jackson noted that Council had the option to look at the water rates annually and could make adjustments if needed.

It was noted that the City is being proactive and that the plant or another well may eventually be required. It was noted that if the City is awarded the grant for the treatment plant, then no additional wells in other locations would be required and the cost to the City of the plant would be less than one new well.

Member Pugh discussed the option of adding a redundancy well as noted in the letter from EGLE. Superintendent Killackey noted that because of the cost and the way the grant was worded, they could not put the redundancy well in this application.

No one else wished to speak on the subject.

**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Zimmerman**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-03**

**Resolution 20-03**

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Strategic Fund has invited Units of General Local Government to apply for its CDBG-Infrastructure and Resiliency (CDBG-IR) Competitive Funding Round; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of West Branch desires to request up to \$2,000,000 in CDBG funds to build a water treatment plant and for the addition of a new well; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of West Branch commits local funds from its General Fund Designated Economic Advancement and Water Fund in the amount of up to \$40,000; 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 59.91percent of the residents of the City of West Branch are low and moderate income persons as determined by the census data provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; 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, Frank E. Goodroe 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, Powley, Pugh, Showalter**

**No – None**

**Absent –Zimmerman**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY PUGH, TO BRING BACK TO THE TABLE THE AWARDING OF THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT ASSISTANCE.**

Clerk Dantzer noted a 2/3 vote was required to bring it back to the table.

**Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter.**

**No – None**

**Absent –Zimmerman**

**Motion carried**

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Manager Goodroe discussed new information received on the Safe Routes to School grant including the amount that the City would be eligible for and due to the fact that engineering costs cannot be paid with grant money.

**MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO RESCIND THE CONTRACT FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL APPLICATION WITH THE MCKENNA GROUP.**

**Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Powley, Pugh, Showalter.**

**No – None**

**Absent –Zimmerman**

**Motion carried**

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Member Jackson commended the Public Works for their winter storm cleanup.

Member Pugh noted the upcoming West Branch Rising meeting has been cancelled.

Manager Goodroe gave an EDC Board update and noted the fellow program has been renewed for 2020 to Redevelopment Ready Communities and the City would be submitting an application to see if it can get awarded a fellow for another year.

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Allen Bruder of Mercantile Bank spoke to Council and offered assistance to the City in any manner in which they can.

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Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:32 pm.

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Paul Frechette, Mayor

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John Dantzer, Clerk