

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 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: City Manager Heather Grace, Clerk/Treasurer John Dantzer, DPW Superintendent Mike Killackey, Police Chief Ken Walters, Ogemaw County Commissioner Bruce Reetz, and Planning Commission Chairman Robert David.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

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Clerk Dantzer swore in the new Mayor and Council Members

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Mayor Frechette opened the public hearing at 6:02 pm to take comment on a USDA grant for a DPW service truck

No one from the public wished to speak on the subject.

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING at 6:05 PM

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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County Commissioner Bruce Reetz gave a County update which included the first meeting with the new County Commissioners.

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY WEILER, TO PAY BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$96,139.71.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO ACCEPT WITH REGRET THE RESIGNATION OF SHELDON JUSTICE FROM THE AIRPORT-LIBRARY BOARD.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Manager Grace presented an energy management grant opportunity due to the City being a part of the Project Rising Tide program. Manager Grace noted that one of the grant opportunities would allow for the upgrading from standard lights to LED light fixtures and since the City has recently already completed this that the grantors would allow the Library the opportunity to use that portion of the grant. Manager Grace further noted that she did reach out to the Library and they are interested and thankful to be included.

MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPROVE AND PARTNER WITH THE OGEMAW LIBRARY FOR THE COMMUNITY ENERGY MANAGEMENT GRANT.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Estimates were submitted for repairs to the downtown clock. It was noted that DPW has looked at it several times and are not sure if the problems are caused due to an electrical issue or a clock mechanical failure. DPW Superintendent noted that he did talk with the clock manufacturer and they recommend getting it serviced every 3-5 years and that it hasn't been serviced since 2005.

MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY FRECHETTE, TO APPROVE TO START WITH THE ELECTRICAL QUOTE AND HAVE THEM REVIEW THE WIRING AND IF NEEDED TO HAVE THE CLOCK MANUFACTURER LOOK AT THE CLOCK AND HAVE SUPERINTENDENT KILLACKEY GET BACK WITH COUNCIL ON HIS RECOMMENDED NEXT COURSE OF REPAIR BASED ON WHAT IS FOUND OUT THROUGH THE REVIEWS.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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A recommendation was submitted from the DDA Board to approve the addition of the 1.9573 millage rate on all properties within the new DDA district based on information provided by Miller Canfield. It was noted that the new district was created some time ago but that the millage was never added to the properties. Manager Grace recommended having Miller Canfield provide guidance on the proper procedure for adding the millage.

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE DDA AND TO APPROVE TO LEVY THE DDA MILLAGE TO THE NEW DISTRICT UPON THE REVIEW OF PROCEDURE FROM MILLER CANFIELD.

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

No – Ehinger

Absent – None

Motion carried

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A new veteran banner program was presented with a recommendation of 50% of the proceeds from the program being used to help fund the purchase of the downtown flags and the rest to be divided among the following organization for services they provide to City residents: 15% Ogemaw Historical Society, 15% Ogemaw Veterans Museum, and 20% Ogemaw Veterans Alliance.

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY EHINGER, TO APPROVE THE VETERANS BANNER PROGRAM AS PRESENTED.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD DECEMBER 17, 2018.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY EHINGER, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY; THE MINUTES FROM THE AIRPORT BOARD MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 21, 2018; THE MINUTES FROM THE DDA MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 27, 2018; THE MINUTES FROM THE EMS BOARD MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 14, 2018; AND THE DECEMBER POLICE REPORT.

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

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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A letter noting the official change from Charter Cable to Spectrum was shared.

The West Branch Airport year in review report was shared.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPPOINT MEMBERS JACKSON AND EHINGER TO THE AIRPORT BOARD.

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

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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Mayor Frechette noted he will serve on the Fire Board and will continue to have Chief Walters serve on the DDA Board on his behalf.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPPOINT MAYOR FRECHETTE TO SERVE ON THE EMS BOARD AND REACH OUT TO FORMER MAYOR LAWRENCE AND HAVE HER ACCOMPANY HIM TO WORK THROUGH THE TRANSITION.

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

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPPOINT COUNCIL MEMBER MIKE JACKSON TO SERVE AS MAYOR PRO TEM TO FILL THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2019 .

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

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY FRECHETTE, TO APPPOINT MEMBER PUGH TO SERVE ON THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.

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

No – None Absent – None Motion carried

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Chief Walters updated the status of the 911 Board

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Member Jackson welcomed the new Mayor and Council Members.

Member Zimmerman thanked everyone who voted for her and promised to do her best.

Member Bennett welcomed the new Mayor Council Members.

Member Ehinger thanked everyone who voted for him.

Member Pugh thanked everyone who voted for her and noted she is anxious to start working.

Manager Grace congratulated and welcomed the new Mayor and Council Members and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

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Eric Young asked what the increase in taxes would be for the average property in the new district. Clerk Dantzer noted that he did not have that information at this time but that the millage rate that would be levied is 1.9573

Joe Clark spoke on the new DDA district and noted he did not believe it would be a big increase in taxes to residents in that area.

Dora Zapczynski asked questions on the location of the new DDA district and it was noted that it extends from N. First St. to Valley St. along Houghton Ave.

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Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

John Dantzer, Clerk