

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019.

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

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

Absent: Council Member Ellen Pugh

Other officers present: City Manager Frank Goodroe, Clerk/Treasurer John Dantzer, Police Chief Ken Walters, Planning Commission Vice Chairperson Bob David, and DDA Vice Chairperson Joe Clark.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Mayor Frechette noted the City Clerk did receive the written resignation of Council Member William Ehinger on Friday, July 26.

Manager Goodroe noted the resignation and opening was included in the newspaper, the minutes of the previous meeting on the website, and the meeting notice for the special meeting that was posted which would serve as adequate notice of vacancy. He also noted he did receive a letter of interest from Christopher Powley. Manager Goodroe also went over the requirements for the appointment.

Council discussed the process to fill the opening including using the order of finish based on the votes from the previous election, an application and interview process, or an appointment based on the recommendation of the City Mayor with all three methods believed to have been used in the past.

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPOINT CHRIS POWLEY TO FILL THE VACANT CITY COUNCIL SEAT WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2020 BASED ON HIS NOTICE OF INTEREST BEING RECEIVED AND THE FACT HE IS QUALIFIED AND NOT PROCEED WITH FORMAL APPLICATIONS AND INTERVIEWS.

Yes — Bennett, Frechette, Jackson, Weiler, Zimmerman

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

City Clerk Dantzer presented the oath of office and swore in Christopher Powley to the City Council.

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY ZIMMERMAN, TO APPROVE THE REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE OF THE MAYOR TO THE MICHIGAN MAYOR’S CONFERENCE.

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

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY WEILER, TO APPROVE THE REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE OF MAYOR FRECHETTE, MEMBERS BENNETT, PUGH, AND JACKSON TO THE MML CONFERENCE.

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

No – None Absent – Pugh Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD JULY 15, 2019.

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

No – None Absent – Pugh Motion carried

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Mayor Frechette provided an upcoming meeting update.

Member Jackson welcomed Member Powley to the Council. Member Jackson also noted the EDC has removed current director Mandi Chasey from her position and will work on filling the position and will be looking at new revenue sources.

Member Weiler also welcomed Member Powley to the Council.

Member Zimmerman also welcomed Member Powley to the Council.

Member Bennett congratulated Member Powley on his appointment to Council.

Member Powley thanked Council for the opportunity to serve the City on the Council.

Manager Goodroe noted he will be bringing any grant opportunities to Council for their approval before application. He also noted that he had a grant application for the Music in the Park Summer Music Series with no match being required.

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY FRECHETTE, TO APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE MUSIC IN THE PARK SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

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

No – None Absent – Pugh Motion carried

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Manager Goodroe noted he has conducted a salary survey and reviewed compensation and will be presenting any recommended changes at a future meeting.

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Chief Walters updated Council that Mike Bowers has been named to replace Buffy Kish as the Emergency Manager

Chief Walters congratulated Member Powley on his appointment to Council.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBER ELLEN PUGH FROM THE MEETING.

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

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

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Rusty Showalter congratulated Member Powley on his appointment.

Joe Clark also congratulated Member Powley.

Bob David noted his request to allow Member Powley to still serve on the Planning Commission in which he was recently appointed to.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 267 OF 1976, SECTION 15.268 (d) TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY UP TO THE TIME AN OPTION TO PUCHASE OR LEASE THAT PROPERTY IS OBTAINED.

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

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

Council went into closed session at 6:48 pm

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY BENNETT, RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

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

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

Council returned to open session at 7:25 pm

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO AUTHORIZE THE MANAGER TO PROCEED WITH THE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY.

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

No – None

Absent – Pugh

Motion carried

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Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm.