

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET, MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017.

Mayor Denise Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Denise Lawrence and Council Members Joanne Bennett, Tim Schaiberger, Rusty Showalter, Aaron Tuttle, and Dan Weiler.

Absent: Council Member Dave Lucas

Other officers present: City Manager Heather Grace, Treasurer/Clerk John Dantzer, and Police Chief Ken Walters.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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As an addition to the agenda, Chief Walters introduced newly hired Officer Joe Adams to Council.

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Anthony Buckettt addressed Council on the water bill adjustment policy noting his concern that he did not agree with it being only allowed once per customer.

**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO ALLOW ANTHONY BUCKETT TO HAVE THE OPTION OF CHOOSING WHICH QUARTER HE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A BILLING ADJUSTMENT FOR.**

**Yes – Bennett, Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler**

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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New information was received for the bid on the ice skating rink that was awarded at the last meeting.

**AS PER THE CHARTER, IN ORDER TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE TABLE, A MINIMUM OF FIVE VOTES WOULD BE NEEDED.**

**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO BRING BACK TO THE TABLE THE BID FOR THE ICE SKATING RINK FOR IRONS PARK.**

**Yes – Bennett, Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler**

No – None

Absent –Lucas

Motion carried

**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY WEILER, TO AWARD THE BID TO EZ ICE RINK WITH THE 10 YEAR WARRANTY NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF \$9,360.00 DUE TO THE FACT OF THE SUPERIOR WARRANTY AND SHORTER SET UP TIMES.**

**Yes – Bennett, Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler**

No – None

Absent –Lucas

Motion carried

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO PAY THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,405.99**

**Yes – Bennett, Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler**

No – None

Absent –Lucas

Motion carried

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A route for the Memorial Day parade was presented to Council

**MOTION BY SCHAIBERGER, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE THE PARADE ROUTE AS SUBMITTED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 103.**

**Yes – Bennett, Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler**

No – None

Absent –Lucas

Motion carried

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A request was submitted from the John Tolfree Health System Corporation requesting Council sign a resolution dissolving the corporation and distribute its assets.

Member Schaiberger noted that he thought that this was all finalized at one time and wasn't sure why it was coming back to us.

Member Showalter noted he would like to receive an update on the affiliation process and that before we approve the resolution, we ask to get an update.

Mayor Lawrence noted that she was not happy with the first resolution that was approved and how it was forced upon the City and now after years, they are back asking for another one. In her opinion, she would like them to come to Council and answer questions on what is going on.

**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO POSTPONE THE DECISION ON THE RESOLUTION UNTIL A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE HOSPITAL CAN ATTEND A COUNCIL MEETING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE AFFILIATION PROCESS.**

**Yes – Bennett, Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler**

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SCHAIBERGER, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO RECOGNIZE PROCLAMATION 17-04, RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK AND HONORING THE MILLIONS OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY LEVELS.**

**PROCLAMATION # 17-04**

**Whereas:**

Americans are served every single day by public servants at the federal, state, county and city levels. These unsung heroes do the work that keeps our nation working;

**Whereas:**

Public employees take not only jobs, but oaths;

**Whereas:**

Many public servants, including military personnel, police officers, firefighters, border patrol officers, embassy employees, health care professionals and others, risk their lives each day in service to the people of the United States and around the world;

**Whereas:**

Public servants include teachers, doctors and scientists ... train conductors and astronauts ...

nurses and safety inspectors ... laborers, computer technicians and social workers.. and countless other occupations. Day in and day out they provide the diverse services demanded by the American people of their government with efficiency and integrity; and

**Whereas:**

Without these public servants at every level, continuity would be impossible in a democracy that regularly changes its leaders and elected officials;

**Therefore:**

We, the City Council for the City of West Branch, do hereby announce and proclaim to all citizens and set seal hereto, that May 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, is Public Service Recognition Week. All citizens are encouraged to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of government employees at all levels -federal, state, county and city.

**Yes – Bennett, Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler**

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION 17-07 AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS NECESSARY TO RECEIVE REDEVELOPMENT READY COMMUNITES (RRC) CERTIFICATION FROM THE MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MEDC)**

**RESOLUTION #17-07**

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch has engaged in the MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Program, including entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the MEDC and undergoing an evaluation of the City's redevelopment practices as reported in the Redevelopment Ready Communities Community Assessment Report and Evaluation of Findings dated April 2017; and

WHEREAS, the MEDC has developed a program for certifying Redevelopment Ready Communities and the City of West Branch desires to achieve that certification by implementing best practices and recommended strategies for redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch is currently updating its Master Plan and Zoning Code and will utilize recommendations and technical assistance to ensure that

development readiness is appropriately addressed in that document; and

WHEREAS, the program includes evaluating the strong partnerships with city boards and commissions related to development including the City Council, City Planning Commission, City Recreation Committee, City Zoning Board of Appeals, and City Downtown Development Authority; and

WHEREAS, after review of the Redevelopment Ready Community Assessment Report, the City of West Branch is willing to complete the tasks as outlined, which will involve interaction with the aforementioned City commissions and boards; and

WHEREAS, certain recommendations have and will be made by the MEDC that are required in order for the City to attain Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of West Branch, through its City Council, hereby authorizes the implementation of recommendations made by MEDC and that are necessary to receive Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification from MEDC.

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A letter from Sharon Anderson requesting to paint the fire hydrant in front of her house was shared and it was the consensus of Council to have Manager Grace deal with it administratively and to verify that it is painted the appropriate color.

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An MSU Extension Leadership program and survey was presented to Council. It was the consensus to have Manager Grace look further into the program.

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE MEETING HELD APRIL 17, 2017 AS WELL AS THE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD APRIL 17, 2017.**

**Yes – Bennett, Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler**

**No – None**

**Absent – Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER'S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY AS WELL AS MINUTES FROM THE FIRE BOARD MEETING HELD JANUARY 24, 2017, THE MINUTES FROM THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AUTHORITY MEETING HELD JANUARY 26, 2017, AND THE MINUTES FROM THE AIRPORT BOARD MEETING HELD MARCH 15, 2017.**

**Yes — Bennett, Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler**

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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A communication from Charter Cable was shared on lineup changes.

A photo was shared of the new Fireman's Memorial stone.

A Consumers energy efficiency program update was shared.

An MDOT I-75 road improvement update was shared.

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Member Schaiberger updated everyone on a spaghetti dinner for the Alger Parks and Recreation Area and that the Kiwanis ran the concession stand at the Michigan County Hall of Fame Concert. He further noted that it was well attended and would like to look into getting an amphitheater where they could hold larger concerts. He also reminded everyone of the Iron Band Dogs steak fry held to raise money for local kids charities.

Mayor Lawrence reminded everyone of the Fabulous Friday's meeting on Wednesday mornings.

Mayor Lawrence also shared details on a marijuana symposium at the Rose Township hall. Chief Walters further addressed details on the symposium as well.

Manager Grace updated Council on a joint DDA meeting that she recently attended and presented plans that the Tolfree Foundation is looking into adding a dog park to their park so it may not be advantageous to have the City look into adding another one.

Manager Grace also asked about holding a special meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> at noon to approve the 2017-2018 budget. It was the consensus of Council that the date and time would work for everyone.

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Lois Bergquist addressed Council on the Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame and noted that they are looking for a building to house all of their displays as well as an auditorium.

Chief Walters updated Council on the police department buildings repairs.

Mayor Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

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Denise Lawrence, Mayor

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John Dantzer, Clerk