

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017.

Mayor Denise Lawrence called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

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

Absent: Council Members Joanne Bennett and Dave Lucas

Other officers present: City Manager Heather Grace and Treasurer/Clerk John Dantzer.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

* * * * *

MOTION BY LAWRENCE, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 12:08 PM ON THE 2017-2018 BUDGET INCLUDING THE TAX MILEAGE RATES PROPOSED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET.

Yes – Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler

No – None

Absent –Bennett, Lucas

Motion carried

* * * * *

Glenda Colclassure addressed Council with questions on the makeup of the budget including the amount of line items, the planning and zoning budget, the use of grants, the sewer debt and water debt, wages, non motorized transportation, routine road maintenance, and how the total for all line items were calculated.

Manager Grace answered the questions that were submitted.

Mayor Lawrence also addressed the questions.

Member Showalter also addressed the questions.

Dianne Gavitt addressed Council with questions on the shortfall that was planned and if that would be taken out of the carry over fund as well as questions on taxes and wages.

Manager Grace answered the questions that were submitted

Eric Young asked for some of the biggest changes in the proposed budget for this year and about wages.

Manager Grace answered the questions that were submitted.

Denise Simmons addressed Council with questions on the police department.

Manager Grace answered questions on the issue.

Questions were asked on the tax millage.

Manager Grace answered the questions on the taxes.

Member Schaiberger addressed the question as well.

* * * * *

MOTION BY LAWRENCE, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 12:45 PM ON THE 2017-2018 BUDGET INCLUDING THE PROPOSED TAX MILLAGE RATES PROPOSED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET.

Yes – Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler

No – None

Absent –Bennett, Lucas

Motion carried

* * * * *

Glenda Colclassure addressed Council on the status surrounding the lawsuit between the City of West Branch and West Branch Township and Edwards Township.

Manager Grace did provide an update on the issue but noted she could not go into specific details due to pending litigation.

Member Schaiberger also addressed the issue and noted the Council has spent a considerable amount of time in dealing with the issue.

Toni Gavitt addressed Council with concerns over the retirement of DPW Superintendent Dennis Jameson and who would be in charge of monitoring the City’s water as well as questions on the City police and the amount of coverage they provided.

Manager Grace answered questions on who was in charge of monitoring the water as well as police staff numbers and coverage.

Member Showalter addressed the questions on the police department as well.

* * * * *

MOTION BY SCHAIBERGER, SECOND BY WEILER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MAY 1, 2017

Yes – Lawrence, Schaiberger, Showalter, Tuttle, Weiler

No – None

Absent – Bennett, Lucas

Motion carried

* * * * *

Member Weiler commented on the new Fireman’s memorial and how nice it looked.

Mayor Lawrence updated Council on the Fabulous Friday’s meetings and concerns over the monitoring of underage drinking at the wine walks. She noted that they will need to look at developing a policy to deal with that situation and how to enforce it.

Mayor Lawrence updated Council on the last EMS meeting.

Mayor Lawrence reminded everyone about the upcoming recreation meeting.

Manager Grace thanked everyone for attending and the questions that were presented.

* * * * *

Glenda Colclassure asked if the City had liability coverage for events like the wine walk.

Manager Grace noted that the City’s liability coverage did cover downtown events.

Mayor Lawrence noted that they will look into coming up with a new policy to deal with the issue.

* * * * *

Mayor Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 12:52 pm.

Denise Lawrence, Mayor

John Dantzer, Clerk