

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019.

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

Present: City Mayor Paul Frechette, Council Members Joanne Bennett, Mike Jackson, Ellen Pugh, Cathy Zimmerman, and Chris Powley.

Absent: Council Member Dan Weiler.

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBER DAN WEILER FROM THE MEETING DUE TO PERSONAL REASONS.

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

No – None

Absent – Weiler

Motion carried

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Cindy Scott from Stephenson and Company presented the audit findings for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and noted the City received an unmodified opinion which is the highest level of assurance given.

MOTION BY ZIMMERMAN, SECOND BY POWLEY, TO ACCEPT THE AUDIT FINDINGS AS PRESENTED.

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

No – None

Absent – Weiler

Motion carried

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As an addition to the agenda, a listing agreement was presented by Yvonne Deroso to list City properties that were available for sale.

MOTION BY PUGH, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPROVE THE LISTING AGREEMENT FROM YVONNE DEROSO FOR ONE YEAR AT A 5% SALES COMMISSION.

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

No – None

Absent – Weiler

Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO PAY BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$273,426.58.

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

No – None Absent – Weiler Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY POWLEY, TO APPROVE THE RIGHT TO LIFE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT AS PRESENTED.

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

No – None Absent – Weiler Motion carried

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An option to refinance the water bond was presented that would lower the interest rate from 4.9% to 2.3%. It was noted that the length of payment would remain the same.

MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE REFINANCING OF THE WATER BOND WITH MERCANTILE BANK AND AUTHORIZE MANAGER GOODROE TO SIGN ANY PAPERWORK NEEDED.

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

No – None Absent – Weiler Motion carried

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Manager Goodroe shared the attorney RFP. It was the consensus of Council not to make any changes.

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MOTION BY POWLEY, SECOND BY PUGH, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 18, 2019.

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

No – None Absent – Weiler Motion carried

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MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE TREASURER’S REPORT AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY; THE MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS HELD SEPTEMBER 10 AND OCTOBER 17, 2019; AND THE OCTOBER POLICE REPORT.

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

No – None

Absent – Weiler

Motion carried

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A MML training opportunity was shared.

A Consumers Energy flyer on their Winter Care Program was shared.

A flyer on the recent West Branch Township presentation that Manager Goodroe attended was shared.

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Mayor Frechette wished everyone safe travels and a happy Thanksgiving holiday as well as reminded everyone of the upcoming Santa Train meeting.

Member Bennett reminded everyone of the upcoming Mainstreet Manager meeting.

Member Pugh commended the entire City staff for the great work on this year’s audit.

Member Jackson noted the Planning commission completed the final zoning ordinance draft and that they would be holding a public hearing and then submitting the final draft to Council for approval.

Member Zimmerman spoke on how impressed she was with Ms. Scott and her professionalism with the audit.

Manager Goodroe gave a Manager’s update which included updates on the Mainstreet Managers program, that there will be bids coming to Council on several items, reminded everyone of the upcoming employee appreciation program, noted an upcoming developer meeting, updated Council on the new email addresses, noted the City had a meeting with the City’s health insurance provider and that there will be a substantial increase coming, noted the City will be working on an Economic Development Strategy, noted upcoming joint City/Township meetings, and gave an EDC meetings update

Superintendent Killackey updated Council on some water service line breaks, repairs on the plow trucks, Christmas decorations, and noted the wastewater staff will be helping with snow removal this year.

Chief Walters spoke on the health insurance increases.

Clerk Dantzer spoke on the new email addresses.

Mayor Frechette adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

Paul Frechette, Mayor

John Dantzer, Clerk