

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET, MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 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, Police Chief Ken Walters.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**MOTION BY LAWRENCE, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO EXCUSE MEMBER DAVID LUCAS FROM THE MEETING.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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As an addition to the agenda, a special event permit was submitted by Jude Fonguh to hold a 5K run to support breast cancer. Manager Grace noted it was already approved by Chief Walters and there was no street closure required.

**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL EVENT AS PRESENTED BY JUDE FONGUH TO HOLD A 5K RUN TO SUPPPORT BREAST CANCER STARTING ON THE CORNER OF WRIGHT AND S. EIGHTH STREET, GOING EAST ON WRIGHT ST. AND TURNING TO THE SOUTH ONTO S. FOURTH ST., THEN GOING TO HANSEN RD. AND TURNING TO THE WEST, AND THEN GOING TO PROGRESS ST. AND TURNING TO THE NORTH, THEN GOING TO COLUMBUS ST. AND TURNING TO THE WEST TO THE END POINT ON COLUMBUS ST.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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Samantha Fabbri addressed Council again with her disappointment with how the DDA attendance issue had been handled. She further noted that she thought all of the discussion of attendance issues at their DDA meetings was referring to the Planning commission not the DDA. She also indicated that, in her opinion, if the DDA members had been made aware of attendance issues earlier, that she believes that

they could have fixed the problem easily. She further encouraged Council to talk to the residents and that she will continue to work for the City

Joe Clark noted he was invited and has served on the DDA for over 40 years and that he also disliked the way that attendance issue was handled. He also indicated that he was unaware of the attendance policy and how excused absences work.

Sandy Rabidue addressed Council that she too did not like how the DDA attendance issue had been handled, and that she thought that the removal of the DDA members would not be good for the City. She further noted that the members of the DDA are very passionate about what they do and do not want to be removed from the Board.

Manager Grace noted that during the DDA meeting prior to the Council meeting where the Board absences were discussed, she discussed attendance issues with the board and passed out printouts of attendance record sheets. Grace also noted that she has repeatedly noted in her communications with the boards and with Council that the removal from the boards were procedural and required under the City Charter, but that nothing prohibited the Council from re-appointing the members back to their old positions following the removals, should the Council so desire.

Sandy Rabidue indicated that she did remember seeing the attendance printouts, but that she still thought that the issue should have been handled differently. She further noted that the attendance rules for board members had not been enforced in the past.

Joe Clark noted that he thought when they were discussing attendance issues that it had to do with Planning Commission and some other attendance issue of the DDA, and that he thought that the issue should have been addressed more directly.

Manager Grace apologized for any misunderstanding that may have occurred and indicated that she was sorry for not taking into consideration the amount of emotion that was involved.

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Beth Peszko, on behalf of the merchants downtown, asked Council to be able to put tables and chairs downtown in front of their businesses as long as they obey the 5' minimum passageway requirements.

Mayor Lawrence asked if they would all be uniform. Mrs. Peszko said they would not all be the same and that they wanted to make the downtown look more inviting.

Manager Grace asked if she was asking just for in front of her business or for the entire City. Mrs. Peszko noted it was for the entire City. Manager Grace noted they do have a sidewalk café permit but that it does not cover a blanket permit to allow multiple areas to be approved at one time. She noted they could look into redoing the zoning to allow for blanket applications.

Member Bennett asked if there would be enough room on the sidewalks. Manager Grace noted the permit process is when they would inspect the request to make sure there is enough room for ADA compliance.

Member Showalter noted he loved the idea.

Member Schaiberger noted he was in favor of it as long as there was enough room for people to still get by.

Member Tuttle noted he was in favor of the idea

Member Bennett noted she was also in favor of it as long as the City still met all ADA requirements.

Mayor Lawrence noted her concern that they would have to consider the snow removal if they were going to be left outside during the winter. She further noted they could refer it to the Planning Commission.

Manager Grace noted that the City is required to have a permit process for these types of issues due to the fact that the sidewalks along Houghton Avenue are within a MDOT road-right-of-way, and that she could have the Planning Commission look into the possibility of amending the permitting process ordinance to potentially allow for blanket permits.

Mrs. Peszko asked about the possibility of looking into wider sidewalks if the downtown was going to be redesigned.

Member Showalter recommended having the Planning Commission look into the issue and be proactive.

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Matthew Muir spoke by speaker phone on behalf of the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. He noted they are a coalition whose fundamental goal was to keep a balance between the needs of commerce, safety, and infrastructure. He noted they are currently working on trying to prevent a change in the transportation requirements that would allow for larger weights and longer lengths of trucks. He currently noted that the State of Michigan currently allows the largest weight of any State in the U.S. He further noted the heavier the truck the more pavement and bridge damage that is observed as well as an increased crash rate. He finally noted that his goal was to get local government officials to join in their opposition to proposals that would increase the length or weight allowed.

Manager Grace also went over some statistics of oversized trucks that applied specifically to the State of Michigan.

Member Showalter noted he was opposed to bigger and heavier trucks due to expensive infrastructure repairs and that he would be in favor of signing the letter of opposition.

**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY LAWRENCE, TO APPROVE SIGNING THE LETTER OF OPPOSITION FROM THE COALITION AGAINST BIGGER TRUCKS AS A WHOLE GROUP.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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Manager Grace noted they did send out an RFP for Cemetery Wayfinding signs but did not receive any bids but she would continue to reach out for quotes.

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Mayor Lawrence asked about the wayfinding signs that were purchased with the Loop Group.

Manager Grace noted they did have to do a FOIA request to get the information on where the signs were and received a response with a request for funds in the amount of \$600 due to the amount of work required.

Member Showalter noted that he believed the City was never an official voting member of the group but did contribute money to purchase the gateway signs.

Mayor Lawrence noted her concern that the City had to pay money to get information from a group they were a part of.

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Manager Grace noted they did send out an RFP for Children’s Garden Sidewalk but did not receive any bids but she would continue to reach out for quotes

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Bids were brought back for weed control in the City limits and it was noted that when looking at State licenses, one of the companies that submitted a bid did not have the appropriate licensing needed.

**MOTION BY LAWRENCE, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO APPROVE THE WEED CONTROL BID FROM TD SERVICE LLC AT A RATE NOT TO EXCEED \$75/HOUR.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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Heather Neuhaus addressed Council with a Chamber update and discussed the different programs they were involved in and how they help promote the City and the entire community as a whole.

**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPROVE THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RENEWAL.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY LAWRENCE, TO APPROVE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,900.70.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY LAWRENCE, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 17-16**

**RESOLUTION 17-16  
SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION ALLOCATION FOR THE HIGHWAY BREWING CO.**

WHEREAS, § 94.24 of the City of West Branch Code of Ordinances provides that cost allocations for sidewalk construction may be altered, indexed, waived, or paid by installation upon Council resolution, and

WHEREAS, City Resolution # 97-12 found it to be in the best interest of public health, welfare, and safety to promote an aggressive sidewalk improvement effort by allowing subsidy scheduled to provide for the payment of sidewalk assessments in the City as follows: “Very Low Income – City responsible for 75%; Lower Income – City responsible for 50%; with income thresholds as determined by MSHDA Section 8 Existing Eligibility Income Limits for the current year, and . . . that residents opting to pay full assessment in the same calendar year as construction receive a 5% discount from total responsibility for construction, and . . . that residents opting to pay in installments be billed three annual payments, each equaling 1/3 of total responsibility for construction, and . . . that individual cases may be examined by City Council and fees for sidewalk construction and related costs (engineering, grade work, retention walls, etc.) may be amended or waived by City Council motion at an open, regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council”; and

WHEREAS, The Highway Brewing Co. has requested City Council to approve a reconstruction of the sidewalk in front of their building, located at 209 W. Houghton Avenue, West Branch, MI; and

WHEREAS, The Highway Brewing Co. has chosen to contract with Finished Concrete to perform the work, at a cost of \$4,400.00; and

WHEREAS, The Highway Brewing Co. has opted to have the full costs of their assessment added to their taxes in the same calendar year as construction and then also pay said assessment in the same calendar year as construction;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council for the City of West Branch hereby approves  
The Highway Brewing Co.'s request for reconstruction of the sidewalk in front of  
their building, located at 209 W. Houghton Ave.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council for the City of West Branch also approves a cost  
allocation schedule for said project as follows:

70% of costs allocated to The Highway Brewing Co.; and

30% of costs allocated to the City of West Branch, in an amount not to exceed  
\$1,320.00.

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY WEILER, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO SET TRICK OR TREATING HOURS FROM  
6:00PM-8:00 PM.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

Member Showalter noted he would like to see it shared out that the downtown retailers will be open  
from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm for trick or treating.

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**MOTION BY LAWRENCE, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO APPOINT TRACY WILLIAMS TO THE  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 1/1/18.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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Manager Grace submitted a rough draft for changes to Chapter 32 known and described as the Planning  
Commission Ordinance and noted Council would need to choose the ex officio wording and the  
segments of the community that they would like represented on the Commission.

Mayor Lawrence noted that she does attend the meetings and that they do ask questions to the ex  
officio Council Member of what went on at the Council meetings and that at least one if not two should  
be required.

Member Showalter like the idea of two Council members on the Commission.

Member Schaiberger noted he would be willing to serve on the Commission as a second member.

**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY LAWRENCE, TO CHOOSE THE MAKEUP OF EX OFFICIO MEMBERS FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "THE COMMISSION MAY HAVE UP TO THREE EX OFFICIO MEMBERS, CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS: AT LEAST ONE, BUT UP TO TWO, REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL; AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST BRANCH, IF THE MAYOR SO DESIRES PROVIDED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS NEVER EXCEEDS 1/3 OF THE TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION."**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

Manager Grace also noted that Council needed to decide on the makeup of the segments of the community that they wanted represented on the Commission.

Manager Grace also noted that any changes would take effect as soon as possible after the resolution is adopted and that the current board would no longer exist but could be reappointed as long as they all fit into the segments chosen.

Sandy Rabidue asked if there was a "grandfathered-in" clause that would allow the board to stay as is until they need to be replaced. Manager Grace noted that there was such a mechanism in the original law that passed in 2008, but that it only allowed for the board's composition to remain unchanged until the year 2011—meaning that the period allowing for that has long since passed.

Mayor Lawrence noted that as a part of the Redevelopment Ready Communities program that the City is a part of, these changes are required.

Member Bennett asked if this had been discussed with the current Planning Commission Board.

Member Showalter noted he believed transportation should be one of the segments.

Mayor Lawrence noted industry should be one of the segments.

Member Schaiberger noted he did not believe agriculture and natural resources would be segments they would need for the City.

Member Showalter noted he believed the ones that definitely apply would be commerce, industry, transportation, government, and recreation. He further noted that public health would be something to look into.

Manager Grace noted that part of the new statute does allow for Cities of our size to have up to two members of the Planning Commission as members even if they are not registered electors of the City so long as they are registered electors somewhere in the State of Michigan.

Member Schaiberger agreed with Member Showalter on the segments that definitely apply.

Mayor Lawrence noted they have a large portion of school teachers both current and retired so they should consider education as one of the segments. Member Showalter noted they also have schools in the City.

Clerk/Treasurer Dantzer noted one option would be to choose a resident as other major community interest. Manager Grace noted there is a considerable amount of zoning issue that deal with residential issues.

**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO HAVE THE SEGMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY READ AS FOLLOWS: "ONE MEMBER FROM RECREATION, ONE MEMBER FROM EDUCATION, ONE MEMBER FROM PUBLIC HEALTH, TWO MEMBERS FROM GOVERNMENT, ONE MEMBER FROM TRANSPORTATION, ONE MEMBER FROM INDUSTRY, ONE MEMBER FROM COMMERCE, AND ONE MEMBER FROM RESIDENTIAL.**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

Manager Grace noted that she will use those decisions to draw up a formal version for approval at a future meeting and went over the process of how the transition would take place.

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**MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY BENNETT, TO KEEP ALL SEATS ON ALL BOARDS/COMMITTEES AS IS FOR NOW WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT IF THEIR TERM IS ACTUALLY UP AT WHICH TIME THEY WOULD NEED TO APPLY FOR REAPPOINTMENT AND ALSO WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION WOULD CHANGE AT THE TIME THE NEW ORDINANCES ARE ADOPTED.**

Member Showalter noted he made a motion at a previous meeting to allow the current DDA and Planning Commission Boards to continue as two separate entities for at least 6 months and that by removing members now would interfere with that time line. Member Showalter also noted that while there was no ill intent and things snowballed, it did hurt some people’s feelings and it caused some people to be offended and that we need to remember that we are all part of a community and that we need to work together as a community and putting a wedge into that has no benefits in any way. He further noted that with the animosity and disruption, no work is getting done and he wants to see the City of West Branch move forward and it was his opinion and belief that this is the best thing to do at this time to allow both boards to fix their problems and to allow them to collaborate and work together.

Mayor Lawrence noted it was her opinion that the Charter is the law of the City and that they have to follow the Charter. She noted she attended the last Planning Commission meeting and that no members of the DDA were at it after previously talking about how they were going to start attending each other’s meetings.



Sandy Rabidue noted she didn't understand how you hold it against someone for not attending a board meeting that they are not a part of or required to attend. Mayor Lawrence noted that at the last Council meeting, it was discussed that in order to work together you have to understand what is going on in each other's meetings and members of the DDA who were present at that meeting indicated that they would go to Planning Commission meetings, and Planning Commission members who were also present at the last Council meeting also indicated that they would go to DDA meetings as well.

Member Showalter indicated that that was not how he understood it.

Mayor Lawrence asked if Member Showalter had ever been to a Planning Commission meeting and Member Showalter noted that he had not and stated that on record at the last meeting.

Sandy Rabidue said that in the past DDA members were never expected to attend Planning Commission meetings and that she has been on the DDA for 20 some years.

Mayor Lawrence noted that it was talked about at the last Council meeting.

Member Showalter indicated that he felt that just having someone attend a meeting does not mean that they are collaborating together. He further noted that he would rather see joint meetings scheduled so everyone is aware that it is a joint collaborative meeting and that they have done this exact same thing with joint meetings with the Planning Commission.

Mayor Lawrence noted that if they don't meet together to do that, then it is never going to happen.

Member Showalter noted that the DDA has a brand new chairman and that even if he would have put it out there that there that there was a joint meeting with Planning tomorrow night it would not be enough notice.

Mayor Lawrence noted that they shouldn't be on the board if they can't commit to what they are appointed to.

Member Showalter noted he agreed that the Charter was the law, but that it has been violated multiple times in the past.

Mayor Lawrence indicated that such violations need to stop.

Member Showalter said that he felt that things were, moving forward.

Mayor Lawrence noted that is the job of Council to enforce the Charter as it is written, especially when they are put on notice of violations.

Sandy Rabidue asked if it was Mayor Lawrence's expectation that if you sit on the DDA Board, you must attend all Planning Commission meeting. Mayor Lawrence noted it was not.

Sandy Rabidue noted the DDA does have a joint meeting scheduled with the Planning Commission.

Joe Clark indicated that he thought that the reason that no one showed up to the Planning Commission meeting was because that some DDA members did not know whether they were still on the board or not.

Mayor Lawrence asked everyone if they agreed the Charter is the rule of the City.

Samantha Fabbri noted that it has not been enforced in the past and that at the last meeting they got the impression that several of the DDA members had already been removed from the board, so they did plan on attending any more meetings. She noted that she agreed with Member Showalter, and that she didn't know she was required to go to the other meetings, but that if it was beneficial, then she would agree they need to work together, but to expect everyone to attend the very next night would be too much to expect.

Mayor Lawrence disagreed with Ms. Fabbri's assessment of the situation. Ms. Fabbri indicated that she disagreed with the Mayor's assessment of the situation.

Sandy Rabidue asked if a workable solution would be to have a member serve on both boards and Member Bennett noted that Jayson Stroebel is already currently serving on both the DDA and the Planning Commission. Ms. Rabidue further noted that they did not even know this was an issue and asked if every Planning Member was supposed to attend every DDA meeting and vice versa.

Mayor Lawrence indicated that in her opinion, they should be making an effort to do so.

Samantha Fabbri indicated that she did not think that it would be reasonable to have every person that sits on a committee to go to every meeting and asked for some clarification on what is expected of them. She further noted that she did not like arguing, but felt that there had been a lot of miscommunication.

Joe Clark noted that maybe someone from the Planning Commission could have reached out and reminded the DDA of the meeting and invited them.

Beth Peszko asked if the minutes from both boards are shared and that they could have joint meetings every so often but the minutes should always be shared so they know what is going on at each meeting because communication is everything. Manager Grace noted they are shared online and available on the City website.

Eric Young asked if the meetings for both the DDA and the Planning Commission are posted public meetings, and would they not have a quorum issue if everybody shows up for a meeting that is not posted as a meeting for their particular board. He noted that he felt that there should be more clarity regarding board expectations.

Mayor Lawrence noted that what she expects is that both boards make an effort to work together and collaborate on issues.

Sandy Rabidue asked if the Planning Commission and DDA even deal with the same issues.

Mayor Lawrence discussed items that both boards deal with.

Member Showalter discussed his view on the two boards, along with his opinion that it would be unrealistic to expect DDA members to show up to the most recent Planning Commission meeting when several of them did not leave the previous night's Council meeting until 8:30 pm.

Mayor Lawrence reminded everyone that they were there to address the vacating of boards due to attendance issues and that pursuant to the City Charter that it was clear that those in violation of the attendance requirements must be removed. Mayor Lawrence asked Member Showalter if he would amend his previous motion to say "Knowingly in violation of the Charter I make this motion".

Member Showalter indicated that he would not, and that he believed that issues have come up in the past that have not always followed the City Charter. Member Showalter further acknowledged that the boards and board members in question have to rectify their issues and that he is asking Council to allow them the chance to rectify their issues, and that he believes that removing the board members in violation of the attendance requirements is not a solution, and that it would serve as a division between government and community.

Member Weiler asked if they could reappoint them right away tonight. Mayor Lawrence noted if the members were removed that they could be reappointed, but that they would have to reapply for the positions first, if they were interested.

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

**No – Lawrence**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY BENNETT, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY FROM THE MEETING HELD OCTOBER 2, 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, THE SEPTEMBER POLICE REPORT, AND THE MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 12, 2017,**

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

**No – None**

**Absent –Lucas**

**Motion carried**

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A cost breakdown and invoice from 911 was shared. It was noted that the invoice was not due for several months and that the issue would be looked into further.

A Charter Cable lineup change was shared.

A Consumers banner pole update was shared.

A newly-elected officials training brochure was shared. Member Showalter strongly recommended attending the newly-elected officials training programs.

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Member Weiler noted that during the most recent Planning Commission meeting, Lisa Saurer was voted to serve as the board's recording secretary, and that the Planning Commission also discussed issues brought up at a previous DDA meeting regarding possibly moving the DDA mobile stage to a fixed location, potentially between the City parking lot and Fire Department off of N. Third St. Clara Clark indicated that was not in favor of the idea and that she did not think that the Planning Commission should be discussing that issue without first getting permission from the DDA. Planning Commission Chair Jayson Stroebel noted that he had been the one that had brought up the idea to Planning Commission in order to get their opinion on the matter so that he could take their opinion back to the DDA.

Member Bennett reminded everyone of the next Roger Brooks viewing and that she understands both sides of the vacating boards' issue, but that she believes that the focus should be on putting people first and if that requires changing processes then the City should do that. She further noted that the West Branch community is made up of people, not the way we do things. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting and hoped that they could make big progress for the City.

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Jayson Stroebel asked about the changes to the Planning Commission and if the motion Council had just passed meant that all of the current Planning Commission members had been removed, and if so, he indicated that he felt that it could cause an issue. He also asked if the current Planning Commission could make decisions legally at the present time.

Manager Grace noted that in her opinion, and in the opinion of the City Attorney, the City Planning Commission is currently operating under a repealed State law, so it is not currently operating properly, but that that does not mean that every opinion of the Planning Commission is automatically invalid, just that anyone wanting to challenge opinions of the Planning Commission would use that argument against them, if the issue was ever litigated.

Manager Grace noted that there was no ordinance change made at tonight's meeting due to the legislative procedures process required in the City's Charter before an ordinance can be fully appealed or amended, and that the proposed ordinance would be brought back to Council during their next meeting for approval of its first reading, including the recommendations that Council had just approved. Grace further indicated that the proposed ordinance would then have to also have to have a "second reading" approved at a subsequent meeting, and then be published prior to it taking effect. She further noted that the new Planning Commission could potentially be filled with the current members, as long

as they all could fit into the segments of the community section that Council had just approved being added to the requirements for the proposed new ordinance.

Jason Stroebel reminded everyone of the joint DDA meeting between West Branch Township, Ogemaw Township, and the City of West Branch on Thursday night at 7:00 pm at the Ogemaw Township Hall.

Jason Stroebel also noted that he was recently named the Chairman of the DDA and that they will be looking at having joint meetings with the Planning Commission.

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Mayor Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 8:23 pm.

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Denise Lawrence, Mayor

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John Dantzer, Clerk