

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET, MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016.

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

Present: Mayor William Ehinger, Council Members Kim Ervans, Jim Hasty, Denise Lawrence, Dave Lucas, Timothy Schaiberger, and Rusty Showalter.

Absent: None

Other officers present: City Manager Heather Grace, Treasurer/Clerk John Dantzer, Police Chief Ken Walters, and Department of Public Works Superintendent Dennis Jameson.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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MOTION BY SCHAIBERGER, SECOND BY LUCAS TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT FOR A NEW PATROL CAR THROUGH USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

Manager Grace noted that the City has applied for a grant for a new police patrol car with USDA Rural Development and would invite any public comment on the grant.

Member Ervans asked on the amount of the grant. Chief Walters noted that the total price could vary once the bids come in but USDA will pay approximately 55% of the car. Member Schaiberger asked if it covered just the price of the vehicle or with all of the extras. Chief Walters noted they would also be getting the 55% match on the equipment that needed to be added to the vehicle such as lights, radios, etc. Chief Walters also noted that they were approved for a Homeland Security grant to cover the entire cost to replace all of the officers' portable radios.

Manager Grace noted that the total vehicle cost with equipment would be approximately \$42,000 and that Rural Development would be paying approximately \$23,000 while the City would pay approximately \$19,000.

Mayor Ehinger asked who we would be getting bids from and Chief Walters noted that they would be getting bids through the State because it is much lower than what local businesses can offer.

MOTION BY SCHAIBAERGER, SECOND BY LUCAS TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT FOR A NEW PATROL CAR THROUGH USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Yes –Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Paul Olson of Michigan Township Participating Plan addressed Council on his bid for the General Liability Insurance bid.

Member Ervans asked about the difference in the two company’s bids. It was noted that the two bids were approximately \$17,000 different. Member Ervans noted that Mr. Olson has handled the City’s insurance for quite some time and has kept rates stable over the years and provided good service and that we should stick with him because of that.

Member Hasty asked if the two quotes were similar in coverages and what we paid the previous year. Manager Grace noted that while there were a few minor differences, that overall it was as similar as possible and that last year the City paid \$44,769.

MEMBER ERVANS MADE A MOTION TO AWARD THE GENERAL LIABILITY BID TO MUNICIPAL UNDERWRITERS OF MICHIGAN AS SUBMITTED AND WAS SUPPORTED BY MEMBER HASTY.

Member Lawrence noted that the savings by choosing the MML proposal would just about pay the entire amount of the new patrol car and that with more budget concerns it is best to save the money on this bid.

Member Ervans noted that his concern is the service that would be provided and what happens if we switch and MML is low balling this year and then raises prices next year.

Member Schaiberger noted that the bid is only for one year and if they are unhappy with the service or they come back with a larger proposal next year then they City could switch again. He noted that he believed it would be in the best interest of taxpayers to save the money and go with the lower bid.

MEMBER HASTY THEN WITHDREW HIS SUPPORT.

MOTION BY SCHAIBERGER, SECOND BY LAWRENCE, TO AWARD THE BID ON THE GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE TO MML AS PRESENTED AND GO BACK OUT FOR BID NEXT YEAR.

Yes – Ehinger, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – Ervans

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Manager Grace read a communication from the Michigan Senate to encourage Michigan communities to pursue innovative policies that promote economic development by attracting young STEAM professionals. She further noted that STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, arts, and math professionals.

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY ERVANS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD APRIL 18, 2016.

Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCAIBERGER, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 9, 2016, THE AIRPORT BOARD MEETINGS HELD FEBRUARY 16, 2016 AND MARCH 16, 2016, THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETINGS HELD DECEMBER 10, 2015 AND MARCH 20, 2016, THE MARCH POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT, AND THE OGEMAW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MEETING HELD APRIL 25, 2016.

Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Member Showalter noted that PA 269 which was basically a gag order against speaking on any election issues and was under a temporary injunction while it was being heard in court was ruled upon and the US. District Court has decided it unconstitutional and is now null and void.

Member Hasty asked if the payment for the American Legion rent was paid yet and if the Legion knows that it was approved. It was noted that the motion was to put that amount into our budget for next fiscal year because they already had someone donate money for their rent this year. It was also noted that the City was trying to get ahold of John Bennett to let him know that he can submit an invoice for their services any time after July 1, 2016.

Member Lawrence noted she attended the last Business after Hours which was at the Huron Community Bank and that currently they are just a loan center but they are working toward having a fully functional bank.

Member Schaiberger noted that the West Branch Music Boosters raised \$2,400 at their free concert.

Manager Grace noted that City Hall will be closed on Friday May 13 from noon to 4:30 pm in order to conduct City wide training as well as listen to some presentations. She also reminded Council about the joint meeting with the Planning Commission on May 10, 2016.

Manager Grace noted that she will be making some changes to the five year plan and for next year's road construction plans. She noted that because of some recent infrastructures problems that were discovered, she will be looking at doing a full reconstruction of Wright St. this year. She also noted that she will be looking into getting some roads reclassified from local to major streets by extending truck routes this year which would allow us to apply for grants to help with the funding next year. She also noted that there will be Federal money available in 2017-2018 for a road project on Fairview Road.

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MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO PAY THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,435.53

Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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A request from the American Legions was shared asking for permission to hold this year's Memorial Day parade. Manager Grace noted that she would like to contact the American Legion and see if the City could develop a committee to help the parade grow. It was the consensus of Council to have Manager Grace contact the American Legion and work with them to try and improve the Memorial Day parade.

MOTION BY SCHAIBERGER, SECOND BY EHINGER, TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AS SUBMITTED FROM THE WEST BRANCH AMERICAN LEGION.

Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Manager Grace submitted bids from Great Lakes Technology for new computers in City Hall due to the fact the current ones are extremely old and will have trouble running the new accounting software.

Member Showalter asked about getting a quote on a Mac computer as well.

Member Hasty asked if they would be able to afford it in the budget. Manager Grace noted that she would have it available in the technology contractual services of the budget.

MOTION BY SCHAIBERGER, SECOND BY EHINGER, TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE HP COMPUTERS AS PRESENTED AND NOT TO EXCEED \$4,366.80

Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Superintendent Jameson presented quotes to replace or repair the Fireman’s Memorial stone due to the fact that current one is not holding up. Member Ervans noted that he would take those quotes and present it to the Fire Board and see they would be interested in helping cover the cost of the new granite. He further noted that the City paid for the first one in full.

MOTION BY LUCAS, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO POSTPONE ANY DECISION ON THE FIREMAN’S MEMORIAL UNTIL THE PROPOSAL CAN BE PRESENTED TO THE FIRE BOARD TO SEE IF THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP WITH THE COST.

Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Manager Grace submitted a plan that the Children’s Museum came up with to add an outdoor exhibit at Irons Park which would add a scientific oriented outdoor exhibit and that they did have someone that is willing to donate money to pay for the exhibit but that they would need to have money to extend the current fencing and gate in the playground area.

It was the consensus of Council to have Manger Grace and the Children’s Museum look further into the idea and come back for approval when they have something definite.

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Manager Grace noted that because Council has a special joint meeting with the Planning Commission on May 10th that they may want to look into rescheduling the second meeting of the month so they are not so close to each other. She recommended moving it to May 24th.

MOTION BY SCHAIBERGER, SECOND BY SHOWALTER, TO MOVE THE SECOND COUNCIL MEETING FROM MAY 16TH TO MAY 24TH AT 6:00 PM.

Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY EHINGER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION ACCORDING TO SECTION 8D OF PUBLIC ACT 15.268, TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY UP TO THE TIME AN OPTION TO PURCHASE OR LEASE THAT REAL PROPERTY IS OBTAINED.

Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

MOTION BY SHOWALTER, SECOND BY SCHAIBERGER, TO GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION.

Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Hasty, Lawrence, Lucas, Schaiberger, Showalter

No – None

Absent – None

Motion carried

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Chief Walters noted that he is starting to look into having the onboard cameras replaced.

Superintendent Jameson noted that he put out the flags and will be putting the planters out shortly. He also noted that they will be starting work on the ADA sidewalks required by MDOT.

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Mayor William Ehinger adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm