

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET, MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2005

Mayor Todd Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Todd Thompson, Council Members Gregory Clark, William Ehinger, Kim Ervans, Paul Frechette, Russell Jackson, and Chad Lucas

Absent: None

Other officers present: City Manager William Gascoigne, Clerk/Treasurer Jane Tennant, Sergeant Steve Morris, Housing Director Stacy Alley, Attorney Edward Crawford, County Commissioner Bev Scott

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Manager Gascoigne stated he received a request from the Chamber of Commerce asking Councils approval for the following 2005 events:

- June 11 – Arts & Crafts Fair
- June 30 – July 5 – Voyageur Encampments in Irons Park with food vendors, retail vendors, and mock battles
- July 1 – 4 – Heritage Days
- July 15 – Show Off Your Iron
- July 15 – 17 – HOG Rally
- August and September – Saturday Farmer’s Market
- October 15 – Fall Festival, Halloween Fantasy Park
- December 3 – Christmas Parade

Steve Leonard, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, was present. He stated he would like permission to discharge firearms in the park for the mock battles during the Voyageur Encampment. Manager Gascoigne stated he would need to review the ordinances to see if this is permitted.

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MOTION BY CLARK, SECOND BY FRECHETTE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 10, 2005.

Yes – Clark, Ehinger, Ervans, Frechette, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson

No – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY EHINGER, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE MINUTES OF THE OGE MAW FIRE BOARD MEETINGS HELD OCTOBER 19, 2004 AND DECEMBER 20, 2004 AND TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE DECEMBER TREASURER’S REPORT.

Yes – Clark, Ehinger, Ervans, Frechette, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson

No – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY LUCAS, SECOND BY CLARK, TO APPROVE THE BANNER APPLICATION FROM THE WEST BRANCH CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE TO PLACE A BANNER ACROSS HOUGHTON AVENUE FROM JUNE 20, 2005 TO JULY 5, 2005.

Yes – Clark, Ehinger, Ervans, Frechette, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson

No – None

Motion carried

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Council reviewed the peddlers and solicitors request from Mariam O-Mari to sell on screen advertising. Manager Gascoigne stated that Ms. O-Mari is selling ads for Bob Baehr the owner of the West Branch Cinema. He informed the Council that these ads are played prior to the movies. Mayor Thompson noted that the application was incomplete and that the date for soliciting was past.

MOTION BY THOMPSON, SECOND BY CLARK, TO APPROVE THE PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS APPLICATION FROM MARIAM O-MARI TO SELL ON SCREEN ADVERTISING AND TO CONTACT BOB BAEHR INFORMING HIM THAT WHEN HE HIRES A COMPANY TO PERFORM THIS WORK THE COMPANY MUST RECEIVE A PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS PERMIT PRIOR TO ANY DOOR TO DOOR SALES.

Yes – Clark, Ehinger, Ervans, Frechette, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson

No – None

Motion carried

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Deb Heisler was present on behalf of the Miss Victorian Scholarship Program. She asked Council to help support this program as they have in the past.

MOTION BY CLARK, SECOND BY LUCAS, TO SUPPORT THE MISS VICTORIAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500.

Yes – Clark, Ehinger, Ervans, Frechette, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson

No – None

Motion carried

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Mayor Thompson commended the Police Department and Department of Public Works for the good job they've done during the recent storms.

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Manager Gascoigne asked that residents be conscientious where their vehicles are and move them if they see the snow plows.

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County Commissioner Scott reported on the Commissioners organizational meetings, committee appointments, change in meeting dates, the Under Sheriff position, police union contract settlement, Building and Zoning Department, and the budget committee.

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Housing Director Alley gave an update on the new elderly housing project. She reported that the State has approved all the paperwork that has been submitted up until this point so now she can submit an application.

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MOTION BY LUCAS, SECOND BY CLARK, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Yes – Clark, Ehinger, Ervans, Frechette, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson

No – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY LUCAS, SECOND BY THOMPSON, TO APPROVE THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,428.98.

Yes – Clark, Ehinger, Ervans, Frechette, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson

No – None

Motion carried

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Manager Gascoigne stated that since N. First St. is funded with State money the State requires the City to have inspectors on site. Wilcox Professional Services have done the design and he would recommend that Council accept their lump sum fee in the amount of \$17,185 for construction engineering services on N. First St.

MOTION BY THOMPSON, SECOND BY JACKTON, TO ACCEPT THE LUMP SUM AMOUNT OF \$17,185 FROM WILCOX PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES ON THE N. FIRST ST. PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING MANAGER GASCOIGNE TO SIGN THE DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THIS SERVICE.

Yes – Clark, Ehinger, Ervans, Frechette, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson

No – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY CLARK, SECOND BY LUCAS, TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

RESOLUTION #05-02

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch has committed a site for affordable housing for present and future projects, and

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch is committed to a new affordable housing project to assist in fulfilling the need, and

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch is committed to offering affordable housing to area elderly residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the West Branch City Council approves their commitment to provide affordable housing in the City of West Branch.

Yes – Clark, Ehinger, Ervans, Frechette, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson

No – None

Motion carried

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MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY LUCAS, TO EXTEND THE LETTER OF INTENT TO MEHELICH HOUSING PARTNERS, LLC AND HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT, LLC FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS WITH THE EXPIRATION DATE OF JUNE 30, 2005 AND AUTHORIZING MANAGER GASCOIGNE TO SIGN SAID EXTENSION.

Yes – Clark, Ehinger, Ervans, Frechette, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson

No – None

Motion carried

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Mr. Leonard reminded everyone about the Winter Ball on February 19.

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MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY CLARK, TO ADJOURN AT 7:30 P.M.

Todd Thompson, Mayor

Jane Tennant, Clerk

Approved: February 7, 2005