

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET, MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2004

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, Chad Lucas

Absent: None

Other officers present: City Manager William Gascoigne, Clerk/Treasurer Jane Tennant, Police Chief Rodger Williams, and City Attorney Christine Juarez

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION BY CLARK, SECOND BY LUCAS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 1, 2004.

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

No – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY FRECHETTE, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE MINUTES OF THE GAP MEETINGS HELD MARCH 4, 2004, THE FEBRUARY TREASURER’S REPORT AND THE FEBRUARY POLICE REPORT.

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

No – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY LUCAS, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO DENY THE PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS REQUEST FROM LESLIE MOE.

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

No – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY CLARK, SECOND BY LUCAS, TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE WEST BRANCH CREATIVE ARTS ASSOCIATION TO USE IRONS PARK ON AUGUST 14 AND 15 FOR THE 25TH ANNUAL VICTORIAN ART FAIR.

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

No – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

Bonnie Zoia, EDC Director, was present to review some of the projects she has orchestrated that were a direct benefit to the City of West Branch.

MOTION BY LUCAS, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE CITY’S PAYMENT TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000.

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

No – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

Council Member Lucas reported on the Ogemaw Hills Recreation Committee. He noted that they are getting ready for their summer projects and they are putting together a letter asking for financial assistance.

* * * * *

Manager Gascoigne noted that the MML Legislative Conference is scheduled for March 24 and anyone interested in attending should let him know.

* * * * *

Manager Gascoigne reported that Spicer Group is asking for an additional \$3,000 to complete the water reliability study. He stated that the problem arose when they tried to manipulate the City’s GIS files with their water CAD files. He informed the Council that he has asked Spicer Group to halt all work and will contact their representative to see about getting this reduced.

* * * * *

Manager Gascoigne informed Council that someone is interested in purchasing the house at 127 S. Second St. and moving it to a different location. Mr. Gascoigne reviewed the bidding process for the sale of municipal property and, with this in mind, he noted that if the Council decided to sell this house it would delay the S. Second St. parking project. It was the consensus of the Council to keep the project on track and not cause it to be delayed.

* * * * *

MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY EHINGER, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE FEBRUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

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

No – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY LUCAS, SECOND BY EHINGER, TO APPROVE THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$71,926.41.

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

No – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

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

RESOLUTION 04-06

WHEREAS, the City of West Branch Recreation Plan calls for the construction of the Riverwalk in the City of West Branch, and

WHEREAS, the public has consistently demonstrated their strong support for the Riverwalk through usage, donations, and at public hearings held prior to each related grant application since 1994, and

WHEREAS, City Council held a public hearing on Monday, March 1, 2004 in the Council Chamber at the City Hall to receive additional input regarding the proposed 2004 grant application for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund or Land and Water Conservation Fund, and

WHEREAS, the project contemplated by the 2004 grant application would complete the eight-phase project originally set forth in the 1994 Rivertrail Master Plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Branch City Council hereby authorizes the following:

- 1. The submission of the grant application for funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund or Land and Water Conservation Fund, and**
- 2. The commitment of up to \$137,967 to match funds received from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and**
- 3. The signatures of Mayor Todd Thompson, City Manager Bill Gascoigne and/or City Executive Assistant Michelle Frechette on all documents required for the submission of the grant application and the acceptance of the grant award should said application be approved.**

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

No – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

Attorney Juarez updated Council on the building at 417 W. Houghton Ave. and the ongoing correspondence with the owner, Tony DeVecht. Manager Gascoigne reviewed his conversation with MEDC representative, Larry Roggenbuck. Discussion followed on this project and the amendment to the escrow and employment agreement.

MOTION BY ERVANS, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE ESCROW AGREEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT MODIFICATION AS PRESENTED FOR 417 W. HOUGHTON AVE. AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN ALL PAPERWORK PERTAINING TO THE MODIFICATION.

Yes – Clark, Ehinger, Ervans, Frechette, Jackson

No – Lucas, Thompson

Motion carried

* * * * *

Council reviewed the bids on Project #039-MEDC as follows:

Northern Window & Door – Rose City	\$21,940
Sekely Construction – Rose City	\$24,684

MOTION BY THOMPSON, SECOND BY LUCAS, TO AWARD THE BID ON PROJECT #039-MEDC TO NORTHERN WINDOW & DOOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,940.

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

No – None

Motion carried

* * * * *

MOTION BY FRECHETTE, SECOND BY CLARK, TO ADJOURN AT 7:52 P.M.

Todd Thompson, Mayor

Jane Tennant, Clerk

Approved: April 5, 2004