

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WEST BRANCH CITY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF CITY HALL, 121 NORTH FOURTH STREET, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2004

Mayor Todd Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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

Absent: Council Members Gregory Clark and Paul Frechette

Other officers present: City Manager William Gascoigne, Clerk/Treasurer Jane Tennant, Police Chief Rodger Williams, City Attorney Edward Crawford, and County Commissioner Beverly Scott

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Clerk/Treasurer Tennant requested a sidewalk sale permit for October 9 to hold a Centennial fundraiser. Council asked that Mrs. Tennant contact the merchants and inform them of this event.

**MOTION BY THOMPSON, SECOND BY JACKSON, TO APPROVE THE SIDEWALK SALE PERMIT FOR THE WEST BRANCH CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE FOR OCTOBER 9, 2004.**

**Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson**

**No – None**

**Absent – Clark, Frechette**

**Motion carried**

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Darris Richards addressed the Council and stated he was running for re-election as Prosecuting Attorney.

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**MOTION BY LUCAS, SECOND BY THOMPSON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AND SUMMARY OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 7, 2004.**

**Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson**

**No – None**

**Absent – Clark, Frechette**

**Motion carried**

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**MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY THOMPSON, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUGUST POLICE REPORT.**

**Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson**

**No – None**

**Absent – Clark, Frechette**

**Motion carried**

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Manager Gascoigne presented Council with an agreement with the Michigan Rural Water Association to perform smoke testing on our sanitary sewer system starting October 4. He recommended that Council authorize his signature on this document.

**MOTION BY THOMPSON, SECOND BY ERVANS, AUTHORIZING MANAGER GASCOIGNE TO SIGN THE TRAINING AGREEMENT, DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY, AND AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY WITH MICHIGAN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION TO CONDUCT SMOKE TESTING.**

**Yes – Ehinger Ervans, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson**

**No – None**

**Absent – Clark, Frechette**

**Motion carried**

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Council Member Ehinger asked to be excused from the Council meetings in October.

**MOTION BY LUCAS, SECOND BY THOMPSON, TO EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBER EHINGER FROM THE OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

**Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson**

**No – None**

**Absent – Clark, Frechette**

**Motion carried**

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County Commissioner Scott reported the Truth in Taxation public hearing, ORV Ordinance public hearing, new law stating a school board member must be a County Planning member, flu shot schedule, departments submission of 2005 budget requests, insurance review, Emergency Management plans, and County Commissioners benefits.

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**MOTION BY JACKSON, SECOND BY LUCAS, TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUGUST FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**

**Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson**

**No – None**

**Absent – Clark, Frechette**

**Motion carried**

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Council Member Lucas asked that Council look at rescheduling their second meeting in November.

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**MOTION BY LUCAS, SECOND BY THOMPSON, TO APPROVE THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$93,131.44.**

**Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson**

**No – None**

**Absent – Clark, Frechette**

**Motion carried**

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Manager Gascoigne informed Council that Tony DeVecht, owner of 417 W. Houghton Ave., has requested a job creation extension. Manager Gascoigne gave a brief history of this property and stated that any extension must be granted to the City through MEDC. Mr. Gascoigne stated that he is scheduled to meet with the MEDC representative for this area on Friday and also with Mr.

DeVecht. Mr. Gascoigne noted that if either the City does not grant the extension or MEDC the State of Michigan would call the money back. He further noted that if the State calls the money back the City would have to collect the money from Mr. DeVecht for any jobs that were not created under the agreement and Mr. Gascoigne stated he feels that would be a very timely and costly endeavor. Mr. Gascoigne informed the Council that Mr. DeVecht is in lease negotiations with several businesses to fill the building. Attorney Crawford agreed that as long as the extension did not cost the City any money it would be good to offer it to Mr. DeVecht.

**MOTION BY LUCAS, SECOND BY ERVANS, AUTHORIZING MANAGER GASCOIGNE AND ATTORNEY CRAWFORD TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH TONY DEVECHT AND MEDC TO EXTEND THE JOB CREATION DEADLINE.**

**Yes – Ehinger, Ervans, Jackson, Lucas, Thompson**

**No – None**

**Absent – Clark, Frechette**

**Motion carried**

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Council Member Jackson gave an update on the construction and improvements at the West Branch Community Airport.

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**MOTION BY THOMPSON, SECOND BY LUCAS, TO ADJOURN AT 7:30 P.M.**

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**Todd Thompson, Mayor**

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**Jane Tennant, Clerk**

**Approved: October 4, 2004**