

(The following is a synopsis of the minutes of the West Branch City Council meeting. The full text of the minutes is available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. The minutes are not approved until the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.)

**West Branch, Iowa
Council Chambers**

**City Council Work Session
Immediately Following the December 17, 2012 Regular City Council Meeting**

December 17, 2012

Mayor Don Kessler opened the Work session at 8:27 p.m. by welcoming the following City staff: City Administrator Matt Muckler, City Attorney Kevin Olson, Public Works Director Matt Goodale, Police Chief Mike Horihan, Fire Chief Administrator Dick Stoolman, Park & Rec Director Melissa Russell, Library Director Nick Shimmin and City Engineer Dave Schechinger.

Council members: Jordan Ellyson, Colton Miller, Jim Oaks and Mark Worrell. Absent: Dan O'Neil.

City Council Budget Work Session #1

Muckler reviewed the 2012 City Council Goals. Miller stated that the Hames Family have had grant opportunities for construction of a bridge, but would be interested in the City of West Branch partnering on the project to provide engineering on the project. Worrell stated that the bridge would also be worthy of funding in light of the new dog park. Oaks suggested that the Council consider signage and/or traffic markings on North Downey where it intersects with the Hoover Trail to provide for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists that use this crossing. Muckler stated that point repairs on the sewer system would be completed prior to June 1, 2013. Oaks suggested that staff research the cost of a camera system for sewers. Muckler discussed fund types and FY12 Expenditures by function. Ellyson and Worrell expressed interest in future discussions with the School Board on options for crossing guards. Ellyson requested more information on a crossing on Main Street at Scott and/or Pedersen. Oaks exited at 8:55 p.m. Discussions of FY12 revenue and property tax distribution were postponed until January 7, 2013. Discussion took place on the emergency levy, the updated FY14 proposed budget timeline and the new budget forms. About 36% of Cedar County West Branch residents' property taxes go to the City. The School District receives 42% and other taxing districts receive the balance. 357 of the 659 cities at the \$8.10 limit use the emergency levy and those funds can be used for any purpose. Worrell and Ellyson stated that the new budget forms which are available due to the financial software upgrade are user friendly and an improvement over the forms provided by the old system.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Worrell to adjourn. Second by Miller. Motion passed by voice vote. City Council Work Session adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Don Kessler, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Matt Muckler, City Clerk