

(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.)

**City Council Joint Work Session with the West Branch
Community School District Board of Directors**

**West Branch, Iowa
Council Chambers**

**January 5, 2017
6:30 p.m.**

West Branch Mayor Roger Laughlin opened the West Branch City Council Joint Work Session with the West Branch Community School District Board of Directors at 6:30 p.m. by welcoming the audience and the following School District and City staff: Superintendent Kevin Hatfield and City Administrator Matt Muckler. School Board members: Mike Colbert, Mike Owen, Keith Schultes, Julie Sexton and Jodi Yeggy. Council members: Jordan Ellyson, Colton Miller, Brian Pierce, and Mary Beth Stevenson. Council Member Tim Shields was absent.

Superintendent Kevin Hatfield - School Facilities Update

Superintendent Hatfield provided an update on the West Branch Community School District Master Facilities Plan and Bond Referendum information. Hatfield described the dozens of posted, open meetings that have taken place as part of the School Improvement Advisory (SIAC) and Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC), School Board Work Sessions, community member input meetings and school tours that have taken place since 2012. All of the input gathered in these meetings, as well as the data from 117 stakeholder surveys, provided the basis for the Master Facilities Plan and bond referendum. The plan focuses on a two-building design focused on safety, 21st Century teaching and learning, and extra-curricular and programming benefits. It also addresses needs in the areas of parking and fine arts support, including a 700-seat community and district performing arts auditorium and an expanded elementary music room. The bond referendum is for \$19,110,000. The District will also borrow against its Physical Plant and Education Levy (PPEL) and Sales and Services Infrastructure Levy (1 cent Levy) to complete the project. The current levy for the School District is in the bottom quartile of nearby school districts. Board Member Yeggy mentioned that the calculation tax increases for agricultural land is different than residential property. Yeggy suggested that Board Member Schultes would be a great resource for community members that might have questions about taxes on agricultural land. Hatfield also distributed informational brochures on the project and bond referendum.

City Administrator Matt Muckler - City Development Update

City Administrator Muckler provided an update on housing development in the Meadows Subdivision – Phase I, the Cookson Subdivision, the Meadows Subdivisions – Phase II, the Lynch Heights Subdivision, and the proposed multi-family development on Hilltop Drive. Muckler also presented information on various commercial development including the Downtown East Redevelopment Project, the new Casey's stores, the new Croell Redi-Mix Concrete Plant, and the Meadows Subdivision – Phase 3 Project. Board Member Owen expressed concern about the lack of parking that was proposed by the developer on the Hilltop Drive multi-family project. Muckler also provided an update on park projects, the Main Street Sidewalk – Phase 3 Project, and Main Street Sidewalks and Intersection Improvements Projects.

Mayor Roger Laughlin – I-80 Widening Project

Mayor Laughlin provided an update on IDOT's plans to widen I-80 from two lanes to three lanes from Iowa City to exit 259. The project is planned for 2020. The City has met with IDOT and requested that local bridges remain open, especially the bridges at Lower West Branch Road and Wapsi Road.

Police Officer Cathy Steen – School Resource Officer Update

Officer Steen provided an update on her work thus far with the School Resource Officer Program. The strategy to bridge the gap between law enforcement and students has been very successful. Officer Steen is eating lunch with students, playing on the playground with them, and providing educational opportunities for the students. Board Member Yeggy thanked Officer Steen for presenting Junior Achievement financial literacy training to the third grade classes. Board Member Schultes talked about how Officer Steen was planning on attending an upcoming

third-grade girls basketball game and how her work within the school day has led to invitations from students for Officer Steen to attend their extra-curricular events. Board Member Colbert asked about contact with teachers and faculty. Board Member Sexton stated that it was nice for parents to have Officer Steen as a resource as well.

Other Business

Councilperson Stevenson asked that the School Board consider improvements to the school campus on North Poplar Street on the east side of the Little Rose Bowl and running in front of the West Branch Public Library and near the bus barn. Stevenson stated that the road was in need of improvements. There is a lot of bus, car and foot traffic in the area as well. School Board President Mike Colbert stated that these needs would be considered in the future.

Councilperson Pierce asked if there had been any talks about safety improvements on Oliphant Street during home football games on Friday evenings in the fall. Pierce stated that he was concerned about cars driving down Oliphant while there is a lot of foot traffic during the games. Superintendent Hatfield stated that closing the street after a certain time until the end of the game has been considered.

Motion by Pierce, second by Stevenson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed on voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Roger Laughlin, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Matt Muckler, City Administrator/Clerk