

(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 Meeting

**July 8, 2013
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Worrell opened the West Branch City Council meeting by welcoming the audience and the following City staff: City Administrator Matt Muckler, City Attorney Kevin Olson, Deputy City Clerk Dawn Brandt, Police Chief Mike Horihan, Library Director Nick Shimmin, Park & Recreation Director Melissa Russell and Sergeant John Hanna. Council members: Jordan Ellyson, Colton Miller, Dick Stoolman, Mary Beth Stevenson. Absent: Jim Oaks.

APPROVE AGENDA/CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approve minutes from the June 24, 2013 City Council Meeting.
- b) Approve claims.
- c) Approve purchase of replacement police sedan for the 2006 Dodge Charger.
- d) Approve destruction of records with Document Destruction & Recycling Services listed on Records Destruction Form per the Record Retention Manual for Iowa Cities.
- e) Approve transfer of \$29,542.00 from Emergency Fund to General Fund.
- f) Approve revised Fire Department payroll for July 1, 2013, in the amount of \$31,855.00.

Muckler stated there were no claims to be approved at this meeting.

Motion by Miller to approve the agenda and consent agenda items a-f, second by Ellyson. AYES: Miller, Ellyson, Stoolman, Stevenson. Absent: Oaks. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/OPEN FORUM - NONE

PUBLIC, DEPARTMENT HEADS, COMMISSIONS, CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Mark Worrell – Recognition of Chassis Engineering

Worrell said that this recognition will be deferred until the next City Council meeting.

West Branch Preservation Commission & Main Street West Branch Recommendations for Town Hall Renovations

West Branch Preservation commission member Lou Picek said that the commission recommendations are to maintain the historical accuracy of the building exterior, focus on accessibility issues and have the building put on the historical register. Lane Shields member of the committee is working on documenting the architecture and history of the building. Stevenson said that it is important to improve accessibility for voting and other events held in the building. Worrell would like to keep the interior updates within the heritage period style. Council agreed to start moving forward with placing the building on the historical register with hopes that this might open up grant opportunities.

First Reading of Ordinance 713, amending Chapter 65 “Stop or Yield Required.”/Move to action.

Stevenson said that there is support from the community for a stop sign to be permanently placed on Oliphant Street at the intersection of Main Street to put children's safety first. Miller and Ellyson agreed that there was no closure on this issue and they would like it brought back for a vote. Stoolman said that the curbs and crossing in that area need to be fixed before a permanent stop sign is put there. Worrell said that we need to designate a crossing and make it right and safe. John Fuller said that there are other options like flashing lights or delineated pavement that is a different color to make people aware that it is a crossing. Miller feels that the most cost effective would be to provide a safe crossing with a stop sign and not provide a crossing guard.

Motion by Ellyson to approve Ordinance 713, second by Miller. AYES: Ellyson, Miller, Stevenson. NAYS: Stoolman. Absent: Oaks. Motion carried.

Resolution 1128, fixing a date for a public hearing on proposal to enter into a General Obligation Property Acquisition Loan Agreement and borrow money in a principal amount not to exceed \$400,000./Move to action.

Muckler stated this resolution addresses the financial issue and provides for a public hearing at the July 22 Council meeting. Council discussed approving a purchase agreement with PV Properties, LLC, in the amount of \$375,000 to acquire approximately 22 acres in Pedersen Valley for use as a community recreation area.

Worrell and other council members said the conversations they have had have been in support of the park development. The issue of increased traffic in the neighborhood was a primary concern heard by Worrell.

Stoolman said he received some calls from citizens against the purchase. He expressed concerns with how the pipeline easement will affect building on the property.

Some concerns have also been raised about how much of the property is located in a flood plain.

Motion by Stevenson to approve Resolution 1128, second by Ellyson. AYES: Stevenson, Ellyson, Miller. NAYS: Stoolman. Absent: Oaks. Motion carried.

CITY STAFF REPORTS

Library Director Nick Shimmin – Summer Reading Program

Shimmin said that the Library is about six weeks into the summer reading program. The purpose of the program is to provide a gap between school years. The reading program is open for all age groups, adults and children. There are currently 281 children, 59 teens and 87 adults signed up. There are many special events coming up this month on Tuesdays: July 9 – Cedar County Conservation, July 16 – Science Center of Iowa and July 30 – National Park Service.

COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Mark Worrell – Discussion of Resolution 1129, approving a purchase agreement with PV Properties LLC for approximately twenty-two acres of land in the amount of \$375,000.

Worrell said the idea of a recreation area has been talked about for years, without a specific location available. Ellyson said the Pedersen Valley site, including the existence of the pipeline easements, had been looked at multiple times. Ellyson asked for the community to have faith in the Council to make a good decision on the purchase of the land. They have discussed this several times and feel that this is a good purchase for the City's future.

Worrell announced that we are looking for a new videographer to replace Shanelle as she is now working at the City Office. We will be advertising for this contract position.

Council discussed several other items, 6th street repair, a cap that is broke off in the area of 5th and East Main Street. Muckler gave an update on the the Lift station project.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ellyson, second by Miller. Motion carried on a voice vote. City Council meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mark Worrell, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Dawn Brandt, Deputy City Clerk