

**City of West  
Branch  
Office of the  
City  
Administrator**

To: Mayor and Council  
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator  
Date: May 13, 2011 Weekly Council Update

- **Meadows Subdivision Work Session:** A Work Session will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday May 16, 2011 to discuss the Meadows Subdivision. A subdivider's agreement, preliminary plat and two variance requests (street width and street grade) will be on the May 16, 2011 Council Agenda for your consideration.
- **State Legislative Session Update:** The Legislative session continued this week despite the fact that lawmakers per diems ended after the 110<sup>th</sup> day, which was April 29. Each chamber is maintaining a sporadic schedule of debate, this week debating one day apiece. Budgets and property taxes are items that remain on the table for negotiations. The State budget must be completed by June 30th, to avoid a July 1st state government shutdown.
- **Property Tax Update:** The Iowa League of Cities has been in contact with cities across Iowa expressing concerns with property tax legislation that is being considered by the State Legislature. The original proposal would have imposed a rollback to 60 percent on commercial and industrial property valuations, phased in at eight percent a year for five years. A new amendment added in the House would apply the rollback to 60 percent immediately to new commercial and industrial properties, as defined under the bill. The bill includes "intent to backfill" provisions for five fiscal years through 2017, but no actual appropriations or process for distribution of the backfill. Criticism of the bill has focused on the claim that property tax burdens would shift from commercial and industrial taxpayers to residential taxpayers. The Iowa League of Cities has projected that passage of this legislation would increase the total percentage of property taxes paid by West Branch residents from 55.3% to 66.5%. The League projects that the residential levy would increase from \$12.04/thousand of assessed value to \$15.16/thousand of assessed value by fiscal year 2018.
- **Elgin Pelican Demonstration:** Public Works staff received a demonstration and test-drove a new Elgin Pelican Streetsweeper with Trans Iowa Equipment. Staff gave the new Pelican rave reviews.

**The information provided is one-way communication and should not be discussed among you as this would be a violation of the open meeting law.**