

City of West  
Branch  
Office of the  
City  
Administrator

To: City Council  
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator  
Date: November 10, 2014  
Weekly Council Update

**Park Ballot Initiatives:** Voters approved \$1.8 million in Park Funds at the polls on November 4<sup>th</sup> by approving a ten-year extension to the local option sales tax (LOST). While over 57% of the voters also supported a \$4 million park bond, the bond failed as it needed 60% to pass.

Over 60% of registered voters in West Branch participated in the November 4<sup>th</sup> election. Out of 915 West Branch voters, 507 voted for the LOST and 524 voted for the park bond. The LOST, which only required a simple majority, passed with 55.4% of the vote. While the park bond actually had stronger support, at 57.3%, that measure failed because it needed 60% approval to pass. The park bond failed by only 25 votes.

Moving forward, the Park & Recreation Commission will make recommendations and the City Council will make the decisions on appropriating the \$1.8 million in LOST funds for park improvements. These funds will be collected over a ten-year period and cannot be used for any purpose other than City of West Branch park improvements. Our next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

**Annual Financial Reporting:** City Administrator Matt Muckler and Deputy City Clerk Dawn Brandt have been working to compile three reports for consideration of the City Council at the upcoming meeting on Monday November 17<sup>th</sup>: 1) Annual Financial Report, 2) Annual Urban Renewal Report, and 3) TIF Indebtedness Certification.

**Friends of the Library Book Sale:** The Friends of the West Branch Public Library will be holding a book sale this coming weekend on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The sale will again be held in the children's area of the West Branch Public Library and have books of almost every kind. As an added bonus, all children who attend will be able to select a free children's book to take home. The sale will run during normal library hours: 10am-2pm on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> and Noon-4pm on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Upcoming Board and Commission Meetings:** Five of the six City Boards and Commissions will meet in November. All meetings will take place in the Council Chambers, with the exception of the Library Board of Trustees Meeting, which will be held in the Community Room at the WBPL. Dates and times follow:

- Tuesday November 11th at 6:30 p.m.                      Animal Control Commission
- Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.                      Library Board of Trustees
- Tuesday November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.                      Preservation Commission
- Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.                      Parks & Rec Commission
- Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.                      Planning & Zoning Commission

**Parks & Rec Update:** The Annual Halloween Chili Supper and Costume Contest held on October 31<sup>st</sup> at the West Branch Fire Station was well attended with over 240 participants. This annual event is sponsored by the West Branch Park and Recreation commission, however it is made possible with the support of their partners, including the West Branch Public Library, West Branch Police Department, West Branch Fire Department, and West Branch Animal Control Commission.

PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Youth basketball is halfway through the season. Games and practices are held on Saturday mornings at Hoover Gym in the month of November. Basketball has around 50 participants this season.

The youth running group wrapped up the season last weekend by participating in the Food Run in Coralville. Most of the children participated in the 5K and several had parents or other family members run with them. There were a total of 17 children that attended the weekly running group and several volunteers that really helped the program be successful.

**Wiener Dog Escapes from Dog Park:** A dachshund briefly escaped from the dog park last week. Thanks to some help from community volunteers and Public Works staff, additional fill was placed along the fence to keep dogs in the park. A gap in the fence was also filled to prevent smaller dogs from escaping from the park.

**Veteran's Day:** City Offices, the Park & Recreation Department and the West Branch Public Library will be closed tomorrow November 11<sup>th</sup> in observance of Veteran's Day. Trash pick-up will take place on our regular day this week – Friday.

Please note that we will also be closed on Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday November 28<sup>th</sup> for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Trash will be picked up on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

**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.**