

*(The following is a synopsis of the minutes of the West Branch City Council meeting. A video recording is available for inspection on the City of West Branch Website at [westbranchiowa.org/city-of-west-branch/mayor-city-council/meetings/](http://westbranchiowa.org/city-of-west-branch/mayor-city-council/meetings/). The minutes are not approved until the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.)*

**West Branch, Iowa  
Council Chambers**

**City Council  
Special Meeting**

**December 2, 2020  
6:00 p.m.**

*An Electronic Meeting (pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.8) of the City Council of the City of West Branch, Cedar County, IA was held on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. because a meeting in person was impossible or impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of Council Members, Staff and the Public presented by COVID-19.*

Mayor Roger Laughlin called the West Branch City Council meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Roll call: Council members present: Colton Miller, Tom Dean, Jerry Sexton, Jodee Stoolman and Nick Goodweiler. City Staff: City Administrator Redmond Jones II, Finance Officer Gordon Edgar and Public Works Director Matt Goodale. City Staff attending via Zoom: Deputy Clerk Leslie Brick, Park & Recreation Director Melissa Russell and Library Director Nick Shimmin.

### **CIP Workshop – East Side Infrastructure (Water and Streets)**

Laughlin opened the special meeting and said that recently he met with Stoolman, Dean, Goodale, Moss and Jones to discuss concerns regarding east side infrastructure needs which he learned is about ten years behind schedule. East side is defined as North 4<sup>th</sup> Street to North 6<sup>th</sup> Street and East Main, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> to E. Orange Street. Laughlin said that much of the area has four-inch water main which does not provide adequate fire protection. Laughlin called the meeting to have Goodale explain the deficiencies to the Council and start preparing a project schedule and how the city can fund the much needed improvements. Goodale explained that although this has been a concern since he started ten years ago, other City projects always pushed this one to the back burner. Goodale said trying to complete the project in a couple of years is unrealistic given the amount of water main to be upgraded, but over a five year period would be doable. Goodale said that some of the concrete work, such as street patches needed after the mains are replaced could be done in-house by his staff which would help in some cost savings. He added that the recent staff addition will help his department get more things done in-house. When asked what he thought the cost might be to make the improvements, Goodale responded that it may be around one million dollars for all of the critical areas, but that those were just estimates. Jones said he and Edgar had investigated some preliminary funding options, but that they were in the very early stages of the process. The Council discussed some possible funding ideas such as an SRF loan, or the possibility of raising water rates. The Council concluded that this project was a critical need and directed staff to prepare a construction timeline and funding options that they could consider during budget discussions.

The Council briefly discussed the Greenview connection but decided to discuss further at the goal setting meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Sexton said he was able to more information on the Lone Tree Wellness Center. Sexton said the Lone Tree School District partnered with the City in a 28E Agreement in the cost of construction. Sexton added that membership fees are collected to help cover the cost of maintenance.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Goodweiler, second by Miller. Motion carried on a voice vote. City Council meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

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Roger Laughlin, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Brick, Deputy City Clerk