

(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

**August 2, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Oaks opened the West Branch City Council meeting by welcoming the audience and the following City staff: City Administrator/Clerk Matt Muckler, Deputy City Clerk Dawn Brandt, Park & Recreation Director Melissa Russell, Fire Chief Kevin Stoolman, Crime Data Processor Gina Heick, Fire Chief Administrator Dick Stoolman, Library Director Nick Shimmin and Police Chief David Bloem.

Council members: Mark Worrell, David Johnson, Robert Sexton, Dan O'Neil, and Jim Oaks.

APPROVE AGENDA/CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Johnson and second by O'Neil to approve the agenda/consent agenda including the following items:

- a. Approve minutes from the July 21, 2010, City Council meeting.
- b. Approve Resolution 901, transferring \$5,600 monthly from the Water Fund to the Water Sinking Fund.
- c. Approve Resolution 902, setting salaries for FY11.
- d. Approve Class B Beer permit for West Branch Firefighters Inc. for Hooverfest.

Roll call vote – AYES: Johnson, O'Neil, Worrell, Sexton, Oaks. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS/OPEN FORUM

PUBLIC, DEPARTMENT HEADS, COMMISSIONS, CITY COUNCIL

Discuss and approve ballot language for the November 2, 2010 General Election asking for the authorization to impose a Local Option Sales Tax in the City of West Branch at the rate of one percent (1%) to be effective from July 1, 2011, until expiration on June 30, 2021 to allocate funds for the West Branch Fire Department, the West Branch Public Library and City of West Branch Parks. /Move to action.

The Fire Dept, Park & Recreation Dept. and the Library gave their ideas for spending the 1 percent sale tax money should it pass in November. Fire Chief Kevin Stoolman presented the Fire Department proposal; they want to build a \$300,000 addition with 16 foot walls and taller doors to accommodate the larger trucks. There would also be more room for storage. They would like to replace the roof which would cost about \$50,000. The current roof was installed wrong and is still leaking in some areas.

Library Director Nick Shimmin discussed the library long range plan of providing more Sunday operating hours, moving one clerk from part-time to full-time and additional library programming.

Park & Recreation Director Melissa Russell would plan to use the revenue toward improving the parks. Her number one priority would be adding more parking at the Lion's soccer field and adding more sand volleyball courts. Other ideas were additional playground equipment, a Frisbee golf course, splash pad, and tennis courts. She will meet with the Park & Recreation commission to discuss and prioritize the list.

Council member David Johnson said that picking one viable option will increase the odds to get the tax passed. He called the tax regressive and that he won't vote for it, but that doesn't mean the Community won't vote it.

Council member Worrell stated that in the past LOST attempts have failed because the City had added to many items to the list. He said we need to pick a solid plan that all will vote for and he thought that the Fire Department plan is the only one that stands a chance of passing because they have building plans and have begun the planning process. He did not feel that it would be a good idea to support the library with the tax as they were looking for mostly operating expenses. He thought that the Park and Rec department needed to be more specific with project priorities and costs, not just a wish list.

Motion by O'Neil and second by Johnson to table until the next meeting. Directing city staff to come back with firm numbers at the next Council meeting on August 16, 2010. Roll call vote – AYES: O'Neil, Johnson, Worrell, Sexton, Oaks. Motion carried.

Police Department – Approve hiring of part time officer Grant Stender. /Move to action.

Chief Bloem said that he would like to add another certified part-time officer to the pool of 30 hours that was previously approved. His current budget won't change. Currently there is only one part-time officer and he won't be working as much because he was promoted to a canine officer at his full time position.

Motion by Johnson and second by Sexton to approve hiring of Part-time Officer Grant Stender.

Roll call vote – AYES: Johnson, Sexton, Worrell, O'Neil, Oaks. Motion carried.

MAYOR

Appointments/Reappointments

REPORTS

Bill Schulte introduced himself to the Council; he is the new Cedar County Economic Development Commission Executive. He replaced Steve Lacinia.

Dave Schechinger, P.E., Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. gave an update on the wastewater stakeholder group.

Gina Heick presented the Police Department's July calls for service.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Johnson to adjourn. City Council meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

MAYOR PRO TEM JIM OAKS

ATTEST: _____
CITY CLERK MATT MUCKLER