

To: City Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: January 29, 2016 Weekly Council Update

Additional Budget Meeting Needed: As it is likely that budget deliberations will not be completed at the Tuesday February 2, 2016 City Council Meeting, an additional budget work session will likely be necessary prior to the February 16, 2016 City Council Meeting. The City Council will be able to discuss the additional City Council Work Session date at the February 2nd Work Session.

Get WARM at the Library: Since it's still cold and wintery outside, the West Branch Public Library has a number of programs going on throughout February. First, as we tend to do every February, throughout the month the library is conducting the Winter Adult Reading Month (WARM). All adults are welcome to register at the library with the goal to read two books during the month. When a reading record is returned to the library, participants are entered into a drawing for a prize as of yet to be decided. Also in February will be two more movie nights. A Family Movie Night will be held on February 27th with a movie for all ages. Another Library... After Hours movie night will be held on February 12th, a movie for ages 21+. Details on both movies are easily available on the library's front page, www.wbpl.org.

Ford F-550 Ready to Roll: The new snow plow has been outfitted with a sander, plow, and box and was delivered back to West Branch today. The truck will be available for our next snow event.

Planning and Zoning Update: Chair John Fuller was re-elected by the Planning & Zoning Commission and Ryan Bowers was elected as Vice-Chair at their meeting on Tuesday evening. Representatives from KLM Investments and Lynch Plumbing appeared before the Planning and Zoning Commission. Both groups announced to the Commission that they would be seeking approvals for both rezoning requests and preliminary plats in the near future. City Engineer Dave Schechinger presented an update to the Commission on upcoming City infrastructure projects and discussed the potential to adopt residential plot plans, which may include the addition of grading requirements, MLO's and topsoil requirements on individual building lots.

KLM will be seeking approval for a new phase that will include twenty-two lots and connect to Sullivan Street and Ridge View Drive. The Planning & Zoning Commission has added a special meeting to their schedule on Tuesday February 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Brad Larson stated that KLM would like to rezone eight lots from Residence R-1 (Single Family District) to Residence R-2 (Two Family District). Larson stated that they hope to have something for the Commission to review further at the meeting on March 22nd. Larson stated that the request for zoning was due to KLM's desire to provide new zero lot line housing for under \$200,000.

Lynch Plumbing, Inc. would like to develop Lynch Heights, which would be an extension of Ohrt Street to Main Street. Wayne Lynch stated that their proposal includes eighteen lots and that their request would include rezoning all eighteen lots from Residence R-1 (Single Family District) to Residence R-2 (Two Family District). Wayne stated that their desire was to provide affordable housing opportunities and that they would like to move forward with construction as soon as possible.

4th Annual Dessert Auction Fundraiser: Main Street West Branch will hold their annual Dessert Auction Fundraiser on Saturday February 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brick Arch Winery. Both individual tickets and tables are available. Please contact Executive Director Kevin Rogers at mainstreetwb@Lcom.net or (319) 643-7100 for more information.

Library Community Survey: The West Branch Public Library is working on a new five-year plan as required by the state. To better meet the needs and interests of the community, the library is issuing another community survey to its users throughout the month of February. Topics include primarily how the community use the library, how people find out about upcoming events and services, and how Paper copies will be available through several locations around town including the library and city office as well as being distributed through the February 4th West Branch Times. An electronic version of the survey is also available at wbpl.org/survey2016. Completed paper copies can be returned to the library or city office.

Boil Order Lifted: A boil order that was issued earlier this week for several homes in Greenview was lifted this morning. The boil order was originally issued for 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 19, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51 Greenview. No other area residents were affected. A crack was discovered on a six-inch water main on Wednesday. Lynch's Excavating attempted to make a repair under pressure on Wednesday afternoon, but the water main burst when it was uncovered, necessitating a boil order. Affected residents were provided with a notice that the boil order was lifted at approximately 10:30 a.m. this morning.

League Update on Fireworks and Notice to Bidders: The League of Cities provided an update on two pieces of legislation today: one on the legalization of fireworks and another bill that would revise notification requirements on public projects. The League updates are provided below:

Fireworks

A bill that would legalize the sale and use of novelty and consumer fireworks in Iowa, [SF508](#), passed out of a Senate subcommittee on Wednesday morning. The subcommittee adopted a strike after amendment that takes into account the work that was done last year and includes favorable local-control oriented language allowing a city or county to prohibit or limit the use of fireworks by ordinance. The legislation had been scheduled for discussion in the full Senate State Government Committee, but it was deferred during the meeting. Currently it is a simple misdemeanor to sell or use fireworks in the state of Iowa.

Notice to Bidders

Thank you to those of you who reached out to us on the procedural impacts of [SSB3040](#). The identical House version, [HSB542](#), would also change the notification requirement for a public owner that is undertaking a public improvement from four days to 20 days. Through your help the League worked with the supporters of the bill to draft an amendment that will not require separate notification for bid letting and for the public hearing. This amendment will be attached through the subcommittee in the House and likely moved through the House State Government Committee early next week to avoid the legislative funnel. Please contact dustinmiller@iowaleague.org for more information on the proposed amendment.

HF 595 for Affordable Housing: House File 595, a bill that would create the manufactured housing program fund was passed by the Iowa House 94-4 last year. The bill is still eligible for debate in the Iowa Senate this year. HF595 would set up a revolving loan fund for the purchase of manufactured housing to be sited in lease communities, such as West Branch Village Mobile Home Community. Elected officials are encouraged to support this legislation aimed at providing affordable housing.

Certified Local Government Designation: The West Branch Preservation Commission met on Thursday January 28th. Lou Picek was re-elected as the Chair of the Commission. The group discussed the continued pursuit of the Certified Local Government (CLG) designation. Commission members voted to move forward with the development of a new Chapter 26 “West Branch Preservation Commission” that would conform with CLG requirements.

2016 Pet Tags Now Available: All cats and dogs over four months of age residing within the city limits must be registered annually with the City of West Branch. Tags for 2016 are now available at City Office. Current rabies vaccination papers are required at the time of registration. The fee for registering pets is \$5.00 per animal. A \$5.00 late penalty fee will be applied if an animal is registered after Jan. 31, 2016. The Annual Pet Registration Form is also available on the City website.

Upcoming City Meetings & Events: Please see the Calendar of Events on the City Website at <http://westbranchiowa.org/home> for a complete list of all upcoming events. There are several Council, Board and Commission Meetings and other events currently scheduled:

- Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, February 2nd, after reg. mtg.**
- Wednesday, February 3rd, 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, February 5th at 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 9th at 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 10th, 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 11th, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, February 12th at 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, February 13th at 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, February 15th
- Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m.**
- Wednesday, February 17th, 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 18th, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, February 19th at 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 24th, 2:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, February 25th, 6:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, February 25th, 7:00 p.m.**
- Friday, February 26th at 10:00 a.m.

Pajama Storytime at the Library
City Council Meeting
City Council Work Session
Afterschool Program at the Library
Preschool Storytime at the Library
Animal Control Commission Meeting
Pajama Storytime at the Library
Afterschool Program at the Library
Library Board of Trustees Meeting
Preschool Storytime at the Library
Main Street Dessert Auction Fundraiser
Presidents Day Holiday
Pajama Storytime at the Library
City Council Meeting
Afterschool Program at the Library
Park & Recreation Commission Meeting
Preschool Storytime at the Library
Pajama Storytime at the Library
Afterschool Program at the Library
Joint Work Session w/School Board
City Council Work Session
Preschool Storytime at the Library

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.