

## Cedar county payroll

PAY DATE 2/09/2024

VENDOR	VENDOR TOTAL
Benefits Inc.	770.37
Phelps the Uniform Specialists	34.54
Cedar County Treasurer	76,468.29
Cedar County Treasurer	10,251.00
Cedar County Treasurer	530.93
Cedar County Treasurer	586.23
COUNTY TOTAL	88,641.36

WBT 9

## Cedar county board

**BOARD PROCEEDINGS**  
(FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES. FULL TEXT OF DAY'S MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AUDITOR'S OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE—WWW.CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV) TIPTON, IOWA  
February 13, 2024

The Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. February 13, 2024 with the following members present: Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Barnhart was present via phone and Bixler was absent. Members of the public were also present. The Board viewed correspondence from various agencies. Manure Management Annual Updates submitted.

It was noted the following Handwritten Disbursement was issued on 2/9/2024 to the Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #437756 for \$3,030.90 - self funded medical claims. Moved by Sup. Gaul seconded by Sup. Kaufmann to approve the agenda. Ayes: All

Absent: Bixler  
Chairperson Bell addressed the public for comments. Recorder Bahnsen informed the Board that the Recorder options are now available on new GIS website. Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Gaul to approve the Board Minutes of February 6, 2024. Ayes: All

Absent: Bixler  
Moved by Sup. Barnhart seconded by Sup. Kaufmann to approve Payroll Disbursements #196457-196603 for the period ending 2/3/24 and to be paid on 2/9/24. Ayes: All

Absent: Bixler  
Moved by Sup. Gaul seconded by Sup. Kaufmann to authorize IT Director Pierce to end the Silver Contract with Solutions and begin using Kaseya for Datto. Ayes: All

Absent: Bixler  
Moved by Sup. Barnhart seconded by Sup. Kaufmann to approve the amendment to the FY2024 Construction Program and STIP. Ayes: All

Absent: Bixler  
Moved by Sup. Gaul seconded by Sup. Kaufmann to approve the 2024 Maintenance Policy and Application of Dust Control. Ayes: All

Absent: Bixler  
Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Bell to approve and authorize Chairperson Bell to sign the Letter of Support for BIP Grant Application for the Cedar River Bridge near Rochester. Ayes: All

Absent: Bixler  
Finance Director Dauber met with the Board to discuss FY24/25 budget and funding. Dauber provided ending fund balances to the Board reflecting a 1% COLA for all non-union employees and moving one Deputy Sheriff from Rural Services to General Basic. General discussion was held which included budgeting, funding, inflation, staffing and non-essential and essential services provided. No decisions were made. Moved by Sup. Gaul seconded by Sup. Barnhart to adjourn at 10:40 a.m., to February 20, 2024. Ayes: All

## West Branch city council

(The following is a synopsis of the minutes of the West Branch City Council meeting. A video recording is available for inspection at westbranchiowa.org. The minutes are not approved until the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.)

West Branch, Iowa; City Council; February 20, 2024  
Council Chambers; Regular Meeting; 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Roger Laughlin called the West Branch City Council regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.  
Roll call: Council members present: Mike Horihan, Jerry Sexton, Tom Dean, Jodee Stoolman and Nick Goodweiler. City Staff present: City Administrator Adam Kofeod, City Clerk Leslie Brick, Library Director Jessie Schafer and Sergeant Cathy Steen. City Staff attending via Zoom: Finance Officer Heidi Van Auken and Public Works Director Matt Goodale.

**APPROVE THE AGENDA**  
Motion by Dean, second by Horihan to approve the agenda. Motion carried on a voice vote.

**APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**  
Approve the minutes from the February 5, 2024 City Council meeting.  
Approve the appointment of Ryan Foley to the Planning & Zoning Commission, term expiration 12/31/2024 (to fill a vacancy).

Approve the appointment of Deb Watson to the Library Board of Trustees.  
Approve a Class C Retail Alcohol License, with Outdoor Service for Eldr LLC. (dba Little Lights on the Lane), 2 Ember Lane, West Branch  
Approve the November 2023 Monthly Financial Report

Approve Claims for February 20, 2024. EXPENDITURES - 2/20/2024  
AERO RENTAL-BOOM LIFT RENTAL-LIGHTS-559.00  
ALLIANT ENERGY-ALLIANT ENERGY-13,323.52  
AMAZON.COM-VARIOUS ITEMS-LIBRARY-544.58

ANTHONY TATMAN-MMPI-2 EVALUATION - POLICE -150.00  
BAKER & TAYLOR-BOOKS-430.03  
BARNHART'S CUSTOM SERVICES-SNOW REMOVAL CEDAR JOHNSON-2,200.00  
BOUND TREE MEDICAL-MEDICAL SUPPLIES-FIRE-547.96  
BOWERS CUSTOM SERVICES-SAND TO MIX WITH SALT-500.00  
BOWERS, CASANDRA-KINDER T-BALL REFUND-15.00

BROWN'S WEST BRANCH-VEHICLE SERVICE-POLICE-1,179.95  
CAPITAL ONE-VARIOUS ITEMS-LIBRARY-66.46  
CEDAR CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE-PATROL RESERVES-3,535.00  
CEDAR COUNTY COOPERATIVE-FUEL-PW-3,147.53  
CULLIGAN WATER TECH-WATER SOFTENER SERVICE-30.49  
DES MOINES STAMP MFG-SELF-INKING STAMP-POLICE-41.00  
FIVE STAR SHOP SERVICE-EQUIPMENT - FIRE-1,459.65  
FROESE, AMANDA-KINDER T-BALL REFUND-15.00

HAWKINS-CHEMICALS-2,970.28  
HENNING, JOELLE-KINDER T-BALL REFUND-15.00  
IA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY-MMPI-2 EVAL POLICE-150.00  
KANOPY-ON DEMAND VIDEO SERVICE-11.00  
KIESLER POLICE SUPPLY-EQUIPMENT-POLICE-485.00  
KLEVEN, AMBER-157/2ND

BASKETBALL REFUND-50.00  
KOFEOED, ADAM-BLDG INCENTIVE PAYMENT-1,000.00

LEAF CAPITAL FUNDING-COPIER LEASE-LIBRARY-142.02  
LINN COUNTY R.E.C.-STREET LIGHTS-292.16  
LRS HOLDINGS-TRASH & RECYCLING JAN 2024-22,935.75  
LYNCH'S PLUMBING-SERVICE BOILER- FIRE-140.00

MERCY IOWA CITY PHYSICIANS-DRUG TEST FEE-POLICE-44.00  
MIDWEST FRAME & AXLE-PLOW CUTTING EDGES-1,297.42  
MOPPY MO'S-CLEANING SERVICES-CITY, TH, LIBRARY-857.50  
OLSON, KEVIN-LEGAL SERVICES-FEB 2024-1,500.00

PIP PRINTING & MARKETING-PRINTING FOR CITY, FIRE-364.14  
PROTECT YOUTH SPORTS-BACKGROUND CHECKS-PD, P&R-39.95  
QC ANALYTICAL SERVICES-LAB ANALYSIS-1,108.00  
QUILL-OFFICE SUPPLIES-CITY OFFICE-19.44  
STATE HYGIENIC LAB-LAB ANALYSIS-43.50

US BANK CORPORATE CARD-CREDIT CARD PURCHASES-2,903.27  
WEST BRANCH TIMES-LEGAL PUBLICATIONS-502.46  
WEX BANK-VEHICLE FUEL-790.66  
TOTAL--65,406.72  
PAYROLL-WAGES, TAXES, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - 2/16/2024  
48,768.22

PAID BETWEEN MEETINGS  
CARDCONNECT-CREDIT CARD FEES-157.25  
SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 1-29-2024-1,546.42  
SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 2-5-2024-15.75  
SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 2-12-2024-85.50  
VARIOUS VENDORS-UB  
REFUNDS-79.26  
VARIOUS VENDORS-UB

REFUNDS-374.05  
TOTAL--2,258.23  
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES---116,433.17  
FUND TOTALS  
001 GENERAL FUND-61,252.79  
022 CIVIC CENTER-1,077.94  
031 LIBRARY-6,331.94  
110 ROAD USE TAX-12,398.00  
112 TRUST AND AGENCY-10,852.47  
600 WATER FUND-15,393.41  
610 SEWER FUND-8,637.13  
740 STORM WATER UTILITY-489.49  
GRAND FUND TOTAL---116,433.17  
REVENUE-FISCAL YEAR 2024  
FUND NOVEMBER

001 GENERAL FUND-156,038.89  
022 CIVIC CENTER-1,565.07  
031 LIBRARY-1,307.31  
036 TORT LIABILITY-3,163.44  
110 ROAD USE TAX-27,772.37  
112 TRUST & AGENCY-15,720.70  
119 EMERGENCY TAX FUND-1,699.95  
121 LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX-28,236.55  
125 TIF-17,428.43  
126 TIF LMI MEADOWS PT 4-712.00  
226 DEBT SERVICE-13,271.87  
300 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE-3,244.56  
500 CEMETERY PERPETUAL FUND-600.00  
600 WATER FUND-82,750.90  
610 SEWER FUND-87,375.45  
740 STORM WATER UTILITY-6,066.75  
TOTAL--446,954.24

Motion by Dean, second by Horihan to approve the Consent agenda. AYES: Dean, Horihan, Sexton, Stoolman, Goodweiler. NAYS: None. Motion carried.  
PRESENTATIONS / communications / open forum  
Anthony Cappel, representing Main Street West Branch addressed the Council reminding them that Main Street West Branch is a partner to the city and shares many of the same goals to work cooperatively with the City. Cappel spoke about the Community Visioning project that both organizations participat-

ed in last year to improve the downtown for residents and tourists in hopes of renewing interest in keeping the project moving forward.  
PUBLIC HEARING / NON-CONSENT AGENDA  
Public Hearing - Phase 2 Eastside Water Main Replacement Project. Laughlin opened the public hearing at 7:06 p.m. There were no public comments. Laughlin closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.  
Resolution 2024-11 - Accept and award the contract for the Phase 2 East Side Water Main Replacement Project to Midwest Underground Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$840,277.00 / Move to action.

Of the seven companies that submitted bids for the project, Eric Gould of Veenstra & Kimm said that Midwest Underground Contractors Inc. based out of Walford, Iowa was the apparent low bidder. Midwest Underground Contractors submitted a bid for both project scopes; Scope 1 - open cut trenches and Scope 2 - directional boring. Gould said the Engineer's estimate cost for the project for Scope 2 was \$1,150,000.00 Midwest Underground Contractors submitted a bid for scope 2 in the amount of \$840,277.00 which is approximately 26.9% below the Engineer's estimate cost of the project. Gould said Veenstra & Kimm believes that Midwest Underground Contractors Inc., has sufficient experience and resources to complete the project within the contract time and recommends that the City accept the construction contract for Scope 2 with the bid amount of \$840,277.00.

Motion by Dean, second by Sexton to approve Resolution 2024-11. AYES: Dean, Sexton, Stoolman, Goodweiler, Horihan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.  
Resolution 2024-12 - Approving Pay Estimate Number 7 in the amount of \$40,000 to Lynch Excavating Inc. for the East Side Water Main Replacement Project. / Move to action.  
Eric Gould of Veenstra & Kimm said that the project is substantially complete with only spring seeding remaining. Gould said Lynch has requested a partial release of the retainage for the project. Motion by Sexton, second by Dean to approve Resolution 2024-12. AYES: Sexton, Dean, Horihan, Goodweiler, Stoolman. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Resolution 2024-13 - Approving Pay Estimate Number 16 in the amount of \$62,781.19 to Boomerang Corp. for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Project. / Move to action.  
Motion by Sexton, second by Horihan to approve Resolution 2024-13. AYES: Sexton, Horihan, Goodweiler, Stoolman, Dean. NAYS: None. Motion carried.  
Resolution 2024-14 - Approving invoice #33192 in the amount of \$4,970.00 to Impact7G Inc. for the Wapsi Creek Widening - SRF Sponsored Project. / Move to action.  
Motion by Sexton, second by Dean to

approve Resolution 2024-14. AYES: Sexton, Dean, Stoolman, Goodweiler, Horihan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.  
Resolution 2024-15 - Establishing an allocation policy for Local Hotel and Motel Tax Revenues. / Move to action.  
**SEE LEGALS, P7**

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## Seasonal Employment Opportunities

Duties may include:

- \*Nurse truck driving
- \*Shop helper
- \*Farm Deliveries
- \*Loading trucks

Must be at least 18 and have a good driving record.

Pre-employment drug testing is required.



**To apply call Tipton**  
**Liqui-Grow at:**  
**563-886-3200 for an interview**  
**Or email wburke@liqui-grow.com**

## Full-Time Remote Administrative Assistant - West Branch, IA

The Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit land trust that permanently protects land to grow healthy food through the use of conservation easements and land donations. Launched in 2015, SILT now protects over 1200 acres across 16 farms in Iowa.

### Job Description:

We are seeking a highly motivated individual for the full-time position of Administrative Assistant to the Operations and Communications Team. The candidate must be proficient in using Google Workspace, Adobe, have excellent written and virtual communication skills, and be willing to learn our donor software platform. The ideal candidate will also have a commitment to addressing the specific needs of underrepresented farmers in Iowa. Since local tasks are required, we are seeking an individual in the West Branch area.

**Start Tentative:** April 1, 2024

**Hours:** Approximately 40 hours per week

**Key Responsibilities:** Assist with office management and tasks, Create documents and presentations, Manage emails, Assist with accounts receivable and accounts payable, Manage donor database, Schedule and manage meetings, Assist staff with travel and registration for events, Occasional travel to meetings and events, Facilitate and maintain communication with donors  
**Qualifications:** Bachelor or Associates degree in Business or related field, Familiar with Google Workspace and Adobe, Strong interpersonal and relationship-building skills, Experience with donor relations a plus, Excellent written communication, Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a dynamic environment.

### Transportation Salary and Benefits:

This is a full-time position based in West Branch, Iowa. We offer a flexible, remote work schedule. An office space will be provided, if desired. Travel to SILT farms and events are expected. Annual salary range is \$34,000-\$45,000, depending on experience. SILT offers a generous PTO and holiday package.

### Diversity Commitment

The Sustainable Iowa Land Trust affirms the value of representation and diversity of staff and stakeholders, and aims to foster inclusive environments. SILT provides Equal Opportunity for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without unlawful discrimination on the basis of their race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, veteran status, or any other status protected by applicable state or federal law. We encourage individuals who are committed to these goals to apply.

### How to Apply

Submit a resume to breanna@silt.org with a cover letter explaining why you are the best candidate for this position. Include three references who are not related to you. Study SILT's website before applying. You will be expected to describe the organization's role on Iowa's landscape in the interview stage of the application process.

**Note:** This job description is subject to change based on the needs of the organization

approve Resolution 2024-14. AYES: Sexton, Dean, Stoolman, Goodweiler, Horihan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.  
Resolution 2024-15 - Establishing an allocation policy for Local Hotel and Motel Tax Revenues. / Move to action.  
**SEE LEGALS, P7**

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### Police

From Page 1

the Hope of Justice, a non-profit group “dedicated to special human trafficking investigations,” read the memo.

“This is a good choice,” Mayor Roger Laughlin said.

Kofoed agreed, saying that “everybody was satisfied” from the committees.

“It’s clear that Greg Hall was the best fit for the community,” the city administrator said.

Laughlin administered the oath of office to Hall as Hall’s wife and children, who attended the meeting, looked on.

Hall wore his WBPD uniform to the meeting.

“Gregory Hall has been a dedicated law enforcement professional for the past 14 years and will be a great asset as chief (of) the West Branch Police Department,” read a resolution passed by the council. “(He is) a high performing current police

officer.”

Kofoed’s memo states that Hall’s salary will increase by \$3,000 per year, to \$91,000, after successfully completing orientation.

West Branch Police Department briefly worked its way up to a five-person department before former Police Chief Mike Horihan retired in December 2020 and John Hanna replaced him.

Since then, the department struggled to find new staff as others went on to other roles. One candidate left after finishing his training and others dropped out of the running just before attending physical or psychological examinations.

Hanna resigned in December and Sgt. Cathy Steen served in an interim role overseeing the department and a handful of part-time officers from nearby law enforcement agencies.

“This is a long time coming,” Laughlin said, commending Kofoed for assembling the interview panels.



Mayor Roger Laughlin administers the oath of office Feb. 20 to new West Branch Police Chief Gregory Hall. Hall comes with 14 years of experience and three years investigating human trafficking. Gregory R. Norfleet/West Branch Times



### SkillsUSA travels to capitol

West Branch High School industrial technology instructor Randy Robertson, right, took several SkillsUSA student-officers to the Iowa Capitol on Feb. 6 for Career and Technical Education Day. February is CTE month, Robertson said, and the students talked to legislators about Career and Technical Student Organizations and Applied Science classes. “It was a great trip for our students and they learned a great deal,” Robertson said. Kristen Bandy, executive director of the Iowa Association for Career and Technical Education, thanked schools for taking part. “We have heard so many great stories on both the number of legislators you and your students met as well as some fantastic tours and even a luncheon that was provided for the students and legislators,” she wrote in an email to the schools, including WBHS. “It’s truly amazing to see the incredible things happening in CTE in Iowa!”

Photo provided by Randy Robertson/West Branch High School

## WBHS students heading to Career Fair

Kirkwood Community College’s Workplace Learning Connection (WLC), a work-based learning program for middle school and high school students, collaborated with regional business partners to host the Cedar County High School Career Fair on Wednesday, March 6, in the Mathews Building at the Cedar County Fairgrounds in Tipton.

The event will serve more than 315 students in grades 10-12 from Tipton, West Branch, and North Cedar high schools, giving them the chance to explore futures in healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, business, engineering, the trades, and many other in-demand career fields.

West Branch students will meet from 10:05 to 10:45 a.m. with representatives from 25 area

businesses scheduled to participate in the career fair. The representatives intend to connect with talented teenagers from their local communities. The fair also gives these businesses the chance to hand out applications for part-time or post-graduation opportunities.

The career fair is the largest Cedar County event out of several events organized by WLC on an annual basis. The goal is to help students with post-secondary planning and career exploration by showing them all the opportunities that are available right in their own backyards. Engaging area students plays a pivotal role in economic vitality, especially in more rural communities like Cedar County.

“The Cedar County Career Fair is such an

exciting event,” said WLC Director Kristine Bullock. “The fair gives students the opportunity to not only learn about different types of careers available, but also to open their eyes to all the amazing opportunities that are available right in Cedar County and the surrounding area. Businesses are excited to be involved because workforce shortages and pipeline development are top of mind for all industries right now. Getting in front of the next generation of workers is pivotal for continued success for these businesses.”

Peyton Braddock, a West Branch High School senior attended the fair last year, thinks the event was very helpful for students

“I found the fair extremely beneficial,” said

Braddock. “I am interested in radiation sciences but hadn’t found much information online up to that point. It was so helpful to have someone from the University of Iowa Radiation Science Program there and be able to talk to them and figure out information on my next steps. She gave me her card and we even set up a time to do a follow-up Zoom meeting to learn more about the field and the program! It was a great connection to make. Plus, I learned about some other local careers I hadn’t thought of.”

Business participant Taylor Swartz of P&K Midwest says the fair is a great way to reach potential future employees.

“The career fair was a really great experience,” said Swartz.

## BRIEFS

### Poppen helps UI Dance Marathon

Alexandra Poppen of West Branch was one of more than 1,100 current University of Iowa students who participated in the 30th annual student-led Dance Marathon which generated more than \$1.4 million for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital.

The final tally raised by the students was \$1,454,929, a total which pushed the amount of support generated by Dance Marathon over the course of its 30-year history to more than \$35 million. Poppen’s official registration type for DM30 was Leadership; DM30 was Poppen’s first year of participation in Dance Marathon.

Dance Marathon’s “Big Event” is the celebration of UI students’ year-round dedication to the children and families who have received treatment at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital. Dancers and Dance Marathon leadership fundraise for 365 days to reach their individual fundraising goal.

Dance Marathon works to create special projects to provide emotional and financial support to families treated at the UI Stead Family Children’s Hospital with an emphasis on pediatric cancer and bone marrow transplant patients. It committed \$5 million of support to the construction of the UI Stead Family Children’s Hospital where the 11th floor is named the University of Iowa Pediatric Oncology Unit. In addition, Dance Marathon pledged \$2.2 million to fund a Child Life Specialist Position to ensure patients are provided the emotional support they need.

Dance Marathon is the UI’s largest student organization. In addition to raising money, the event celebrates the lives of survivors and recognizes those lost.

### Winter heating bill help March 1 & 11

Community Action of Eastern Iowa will host two meetings for families who need help paying for winter heating bills.

Call 563-549-9375 to schedule an appointment. The first meeting runs from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, March 1. The second runs from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, March 11.

Both meetings take place at the West Branch Public Library conference room.

For more information, visit caeiowa.org and click on the “Get Help” tab at the top of the page.

## CAMPUS NEWS

- The following West Branch area students were among those named to the fall semester 2023 Dean’s List at Central College: Cael Fiderlein and Gavin Hierseman. To be named to the Dean’s List, students must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.
- Brett Striegel of West Branch received a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville at the close of the fall 2023 semester.

## LEGALS

From Page 6

Motion by Dean, second by Horihan to approve Resolution 2024-15. AYES: Dean, Horihan, Sexton, Stoolman, Goodweiler. NAYS: None. Motion carried. Resolution 2024-16 – Appointing Gregory Hall to the position of Police Chief for the City of West Branch and setting the annual salary for the position. / Move to action. Hall, a fourteen-year law enforcement veteran served in Jones County, Tipton, Durant, University Heights and West Branch (part-time) during his career. Hall was interviewed by three panels consisting of city council members, staff, law enforcement professionals and members of the public and was the committee’s top candidate to fill the role of Chief of Police. Hall will start his employment with the City in early March. Motion by Dean, second by Horihan to approve Resolution 2024-16. AYES: Dean, Horihan, Stoolman, Sexton,

Goodweiler. NAYS: None. Motion carried. Administer Oath of Office - Police Chief Greg Hall Mayor Laughlin performed the oath of office for Chief Hall. Discussion – Ending the West Branch Building Incentive Plan to fund a full-time Parks & Recreation Director Kofoed said that through individual discussions with council members, staff, residents and other community groups, the consensus is to discontinue tax rebates through the building incentive program. The program which began in 2015, enticed builders and new/current residents to invest in West Branch and build new homes. The incentive gave reduced building permits fees to the builders, waived certain infrastructure charges and a five-thousand-dollar tax rebate to the homeowner for a limited time. It’s apparent that the program did what it was intended to do, but is it worth eliminating a department of the city? Kofoed said sixty-thousand dollars is budgeted annually from the general fund for the tax rebates and by ending the program, that money could

be allocated to back to the Parks & Recreation department. Sexton said that he doesn’t feel that the position needs to be full-time. Kofoed said that increased programming will be expected to fill gaps with adult and senior age groups during the winter months when most of the children’s programs occur in the spring through fall. Kofoed said he has also learned that there are many park & recs grants available and that by reinstating a director position, applying for grants would be a requirement to help sustain some of the department needs. Sexton said he would support ending the tax rebate program, but said he is disappointed for those property owners who built homes expecting the incentive. Stoolman said she is in favor of bringing back a recreation department, but wanted to see how funding the police department will affect the general fund first. She also asked if there were still plans for increasing staff in the city office. Kofoed said that a shared park & recreation and deputy clerk position was discussed, but was determined to not be the best situation since the roles are very different and the utility billing

responsibilities have many daily and monthly deadlines which would interfere with the recreation duties. Discussion – Outsourcing concession sales at Cubby Park for 2024 Kofoed said he reached out to a couple of concession vendors who would be able to help with running the Cubby Park concession stand for the upcoming season due to the lack of a park & recreation director. He said one vendor is willing to take on the concession stand and in exchange the City would receive a portion of the sales. Kofoed said a contract between the two parties is being reviewed by legal and would be coming back to Council for consideration in the coming weeks. Sexton asked if the vendor would be offering concessions during park & rec activities or just tournaments. Kofoed said the final details had not been worked out yet with the vendor. The other members agreed that a vendor should take over this year and maybe consider it for future years as well with other community groups if all goes well. Discussion – Strategic Planning – Planning Projects for the future

More discussion took place on which to prioritize: Cedar-Johnson Road reconstruction or Main Street. The Council was split on the issue. Improving Cedar-Johnson Road would allow the city more growth to the west and also not affect interstate traffic detours for the duration of the I-80 widening project which is scheduled to be completed in 2027. Main Street (from Parkside Drive to the round-about) a heavily trafficked thoroughway is in dire need of repair from Thomas Drive to the round-about according to Public Works Director Matt Goodale. Goodale said the road is literally “falling apart”. Kofoed suggested Main Street through downtown be prioritized as there are grants available and would spur the community visioning of street scaping the downtown and Heritage Square area. After much discussion, Kofoed asked the Council for direction to give to the city engineer to start the planning and design phases of the proposed projects. The Council finally landed on 1) Cedar-Johnson Road, 2) West Main Street (from Thomas Drive to the round-about), 3) Main Street (downtown area and street

scaping). CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT Kofoed said he recently was notified that the Lower West Branch Road bridge that crosses the interstate just to the west of the city limits will be taken down during the week of March 4th. Kofoed said interstate traffic will be detoured through West Branch during the overnight lane closure. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – Absent CITY ENGINEER REPORT – Absent STAFF REPORTS – No reports COMMENTS from mayor and council members Laughlin noted that the new mobility lift had been installed at the Town Hall. Horihan thanked Sgt. Steen and incoming Chief Hall for their combined efforts in rebuilding the police department. adjournment Motion to adjourn by Dean, second by Sexton. Motion carried on a voice vote. City Council meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Roger Laughlin, Mayor ATTEST: Leslie Brick, City Clerk WB