West Branch Times

## Cedar county payroll

PAY DATE 3/07/2025 VENDOR VENDOR TOTAL Benefits Inc.
Phelps the Uniform Specialists 890.74 33.88 Cedar County Treasurer Cedar County Treasurer 77.809.37 Cedar County Treasurer Cedar County Treasurer 641.99 COUNTY TOTAL

#### 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)

March 11, 2025 Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. March 11, 2025 with following members present: Bixler, Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Barnhart absent. Minutes reported by Deputy Auditor Hamdorf. Members of

Board viewed correspondence from various agencies. Manure Management Annual Updates

public were also present.

following Handwritten noted Disbursement issued on 3/7/2025 to Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: # 441611 for \$13,814.14-self funded medical claims. Moved by Gaul seconded by Bixler to approve agenda. Ayes: All

Absent: Barnhart Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. There were none. Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve Board Minutes of March 4,

Ayes: All Absent: Barnhart Moved by Gaul seconded by Bixler to approve Payroll Disbursements #200658-200798 for period ending 3/1/25 and to

be paid on 3/7/25. Ayes: All Absent: Barnhart Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to renew a 12-month Class C retail

Alcohol License with outdoor service for Cedar County Fair Association. Ayes: All Absent: Barnhart Board reported on Outreach/Committee

Meetings they attended. Moved by Bixler seconded by Gaul to set levy for Pioneer Cemetery to \$20,000 for FY25/26.

Aves: All Absent: Barnhart Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Gaul

to appoint Matt Bowers, Kent Stuart, Glen Hay, Kim Harmel, Marisa Stout and William Moomey to Eminent Domain Ayes: All Absent: Barnhart

At 9:00 a.m. Board of Supervisors, convened as a 1st Tier Canvass Board to canvass votes cast in Bennett Community School Special Election and Libson Community School Special Election of March 5, 2025. Auditor Welch met with Board. Present were Supervisors: Gaul. Bixler, Kaufmann and Chairperson Bell Thereupon results from several precincts were opened and examined with results duly entered in Official Canvass Book and attested to by Board and Cedar County Auditor. results were as follows:

Bennett Community School District-Director at Large-To Fill A Vacancy lan Bjurstrom received sixty-two (62)

Bennett Community School Public Measure DM For Public Measure DM, there were: Seventy (70) votes Against Public Measure DM, there were

Eleven (11) votes TOTAL--Eighty-one (81) votes Community School Public

For Public Measure NC, there were:

Thirty-seven (37) votes Against Public Measure DM, there were:

Eleven (11) votes TOTAL--Forty-eight (48) votes

At 9:15 Board held a public hearing for review/consideration/action on following petition: Darrell and Jody Yutesler 2217 Hoover Hwy, Lowden, IA (Owner)
- Requesting a change in zoning from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Suburban Residential for purpose of allowing construction of a single-family dwelling on property located on Parcel B in SE¼, NW¼, Section 11, T-81N, R-1 W, in Springfield Township, Said petition is to rezone an existing 6.2 acres m/1 lot. Environmental & Zoning Director LaRue, Jody Yutesler and Engineer Fangman were present. No written or verbal objec-

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve requesting a change in zoning from A-1 Agricultural District to R-1 Suburban Residential for purpose of allowing construction of a single-family dwelling on property located on Parcel B in SE1/4, NW1/4, Section 11, T-81N, R-1 W, in Springfield Township and waive seconded hearing. Aves: All

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve an updated Business Associate Agreement with Heritage Area

Agency on Aging. Absent: Barnhart

Moved by Bixler seconded by Gaul to approve final payment for STP-S-C016(117)-5E-16 and BROS-C016(116)-5F-16. Ayes: All

Absent: Barnhart Discussion held on Ordinance to adopt a moratorium on development and construction of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) pipe-

lines in Cedar County, IA. Kaufmann said that him and Barnhart are working with Attorney Carl Salmons. Consensus of Board to set public hearing dates and schedule Salmons to attend a public hearing to answer any questions from Moved by Bixler seconded by Gaul to

set public hearing dates for 3/25/2025. 4/1/2025 and 4/8/2025 at 9:30 a.m. for following Ordinance to Adopt a Moratorium on Development and Construction of Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Pipelines in Cedar

Absent: Barnhart Moved by Bixler seconded by Gaul to adjourn at 10:19 a.m., to March 18, 2025. Absent: Barnhart

Jon Bell, Chairperson

# **Legal Notice**

Public Notice CITY OF WEST BRANCH, IOWA ELECTRIC FRANCHISE ORDINANCE NO. 823

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Chapter 380 of the Code of Iowa, of final passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 823 by the City Council of the City of West Branch, Iowa on March 17, 2025, a summary of which follows:

An Ordinance granting to Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative, its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive twentyfive-year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate an electric system in the City of West Branch, Iowa and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to

the Office of the City Clerk, 110 N. Poplar St., West Branch, Iowa, or is available for public inspection by contacting the City Clerk at 319-643-5888 during regular

/s/ Roger Laughlin, Mayor Attest: Leslie Brick, City Clerk Published in the West Branch Times on March 27, 2025. WBT 13

## **Legal Notice**

CITY OF WEST BRANCH, IOWA ELECTRIC FRANCHISE ORDINANCE NO. 824

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Chapter 380 of the Code of Iowa, of final passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 824 by the City Council of the City of West Branch, Iowa on March 17, 2025, a summary of which follows:

An Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 533, and granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate an electric system in the City of WEST Branch, Iowa and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the City. Said Ordinance in its entirety is on file in

the Office of the City Clerk, 110 N. Poplar St., West Branch, Iowa, or is available for public inspection by contacting the City Clerk at 319-643-5888 during regular

/s/ Roger Laughlin, Mayor Attest: Leslie Brick, City Clerk Published in the West Branch Times on March 27, 2025

## **Legal Notice**

CITY OF WEST BRANCH, IOWA GAS FRANCHISE ORDINANCE NO. 825

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Chapter 380 of the Code of lowa, of final passage and adoption of Ordinance No. 824 by the City Council of the City of West Branch, Iowa on March 17, 2025, a summary of which follows:

An Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 695, and granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate an electric system in the City of WEST Branch, Iowa and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to

Said Ordinance in its entirety is on file in the Office of the City Clerk, 110 N. Poplar St., West Branch, Iowa, or is available for public inspection by contacting the City Clerk at 319-643-5888 during regular

/s/ Roger Laughlin, Mayor Attest: Leslie Brick, City Clerk Published in the West Branch Times on March 27, 2025. **WBT 13** 

## **Legal Notice**

PUBLIC NOTICE OF STORM WATER DISCHARGE Manatt's, Inc. plans to submit a Notice of Relocation to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to maintain its NPDES General Permit No. 3, "Storm Water Discharge Associated With Industrial Activity From Asphalt Plants. Concrete Batch Plants, Rock Crushing Plants, And Construction Sand And Gravel Facilities" The storm water discharge will be from a Portable Concrete Plant located in T79N, Sec 17, R4W; Cedar County. Storm water will be discharged from 1 point source(s) and will be discharged to the follow ing streams: unnamed Tributary to West Branch Wapsinonoc Creek Comments may be submitted to the Storm Water Discharge Coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034. The public may review the Notice of Intent from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the above address after it has Friday, at the above address and been received by the department.

WBT 13

### **West Branch city** council

(The following is a synopsis of the min-utes 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

West Branch, Iowa; City Council; March 17, 2025

Council Chambers; Regular Meeting; Mayor Pro Tem Tom Dean called the West Branch City Council regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call: Council members present; Tom Dean, Colton Miller, Mike Horihan, Tom Dean, Jerry Sexton.

Absent: Mayor Roger Laughlin City Staff present: City Administrator Adam Kofoed, City Clerk Leslie Brick, Public Works Director Matt Goodale,

and Library Director Jessie Schafer Attending via Zoom: Finance Officer Heidi Van Auken, Deputy Clerk Jessica Brown and City Engineer Dave Schechinger. APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion by Miller, second by Sexton to approve the agenda. Motion carried on a voice vote.
APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA Approve minutes from the March 3, 2025 City Council meeting. Claims for March 17, 2025.

EXPENDITURES - 3/17/2025 ALLIANT ENERGY-ALLIANT ENERGY-17.354.39 MAZON.COM-BOOKS, DVDS, PROG PRIZES-LIB-116.80

BAKER & TAYLOR-BOOKS-415.33
BANKERS ADVERTISING-NAME TAGS-LIBRARY--61.99 BOUND TREE MEDICAL-MED SUPPLIES-FIRE-211.64 CAPITAL ONE-BLDG & PROG SUPPLIES-LIB-79.86 CEDAR COUNTY RECORDER-RECORDING FEES-58.00
CJ COOPER & ASSOCIATES-DOT DRUG TESTING-PW-180.00 CULLIGAN WATER TECH-WATER SOFTENER SERVICE-73.98 ELECTRIC PUMP-WW PUMPS SERVICE CALL-1,487.25 FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREAU-CERT FEES FOR HAZMAT-FIRE-100.00 HAWKINS-CHEMICALS-3,586.64 IOWA ASSN. MUN. UTILITIES-

MEMBERSHIP DUES 25-26-939.00 IOWA CODIFICATION-JANUARY 2025 SUPPLEMENT-437.00 KANOPY-ON DEMAND VIDEO SERVICE-8.00 KIRKWOOD COMM. COLLEGE-BLS PROVIDER FEE-FIRE-216.00 LINN COUNTY R.E.C.-STREET

LIGHTS-309.22 LRS HOLDINGS-TRASH & RECYCLING FEB 2025-18,684.75 MENARDS-PAINT SUPPLIES-MOPPY MO'S-JANITORIAL SERVICES

-857.50 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE-CITY CLEAN UP PERMIT FEE-100.00 OLSON, KEVIN D-LEGAL SERVICES-MARCH 2025-1,500.00 OVERDRIVE-DIGITAL & AUDIO

BOOKS-197.47 QUILL CORP-OFFICE SUPPLIES-CITY STEEN, CATHERINE-HOTEL, MEAL,

MILES REIMBURSE-516.16 STRYKER SALES CORP.-STRAP, STABILIZATION-FIRE-100.80 SUMMIT FIRE PROTECTION-RECHARGE-113.75 TYLER TECHNOLOGIES-TAX FILINGS

WEST BRANCH REPAIRS-FIRE TRUCK SERVICE-2,314.67 WEST BRANCH TIMES-LEGAL PUBLICATIONS-686.06 TOTAL--54,868.90 PAYROLL-WAGES, TAXES, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS-3/14/2025 56,916.05

PAID BETWEEN MEETINGS SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 3/10/2025-AT&T MOBILITY-WIRELESS SERVICE-210.04 ECONO SIGNS-CUBBY & BERANEK SIGNS-514.89

HARLESS, VERONICA-SR. FITNEES CLASSES-570.00 HI-LINE-PLANT REPAIR SUPPLIES-197.72 KNOX COMPANY-KNOX BOXES-LEAF CAPITAL FUNDING-COPIER LEASE-LIBRARY-142.02 LIBERTY COMMUNICATIONS-LIBERTY COMMUNICATIONS-1,589.50 PITNEY BOWES PURCHASE POWER-REPLENISH POSTAGE-LIBRARY-100.00

STATE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS-CHEMICALS-257.89 WEX BANK-VEHICLE FUEL-936.49 SISCO-FLEX CLAIMS 3/3/2025-3,269.27 METLIFE-INSURANCE PREMIUM-2,390.15

-18,672.83 TOTAL--29,875.97 GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES 141,660.92 **FUND TOTALS** 

001 GENERAL FUND-60,670.43 022 CIVIC CENTER-985.19 LIBRARY-6,752.39 ROAD USE TAX-5,965.92

112 TRUST AND AGENCY-28,522.62 600 WATER FUND-20,755.94 610 SEWER FUND-17,347.44 740 STORM WATER UTILITY-660.99 GRAND FUND TOTAL--141,660.92

Motion by Miller, second by Horihan to approve the Consent agenda. AYES: Miller, Horihan, Sexton, Stoolman, Dean NAYS: None. Motion carried.
PRESENTATIONS / communications / open forum

Bobby Sexton, 21 Greenview Dr., addressed the Council regarding the lack of street lights and speed zone signs in the Greenview Subdivision. Sexton voiced his concerns over resident and child safety in regards to the upcoming Cedar-Johnson Road Reconstruction project that will divert vehicular traffic from the Bickford and Cedar's Edge sub-

route. Sexton reminded the Council that the city annexed the Greenview Subdivision into city limits in 1976 (fifty years ago) and the City has not made any public improvements to the neighborhood such as concrete streets, curb

& gutter or sidewalks. Faye Goodspeed, 329 S. 1st Street, addressed the Council as a member of the newly formed Hoover's Hometown Days committee and asked the Council to pledge \$5000 of financial support to the 2025 annual event. Jessie Simon, Executive Director, Main Street West Branch 2024 Annual Report.

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months activities highlighting their many accomplishments and future goals. Simon thanked the countless volunteers, community members and businesses who play a vital role in the Main Street program.
PUBLIC HEARING / NON-CONSENT

Simon reported on the past twelve

**AGENDA** 

Public Hearing - on the plans, specifications, estimate of cost and form of contract; ordering bids and directing notice of the same; all for the Cedar-Johnson Road Reconstruction Project. Dean opened the public hearing at 7:32 p.m. There were no public comments

Dean closed the public hearing at 7:33 Motion to suspend the rules (Per Code

Section 380.3) and to combine the 2nd

and 3rd readings of Ordinance 823, 824 & 825. / Move to action. Miller stated that he normally would not approve of utilizing Code section 380.3, and further stated that with a current bill in the State House regarding eliminating cities ability to charge franchise fees in the future, Miller felt condensing the second and third readings are necessary

for this situation SEE **LEGALS, P7** 



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http://WWW.CSHOMESIOWA.COM THE DIFFERENCE IS "RESULTS"!

# **IOWA CITY & CEDAR RAPIDS MLS NEW LISTINGS**

208 INDIAN AV 208 INDIAN AVE,

MECHANICSVILLE, \$299,900

\*\*Acreage Alert 4.93 Acres \*\*
Enjoy beautiful sunsets & country
views. Recent upgrade
to fiber-optic internet. The solid
and spacious home has many
undates and more)



Great Investment opportunity!

Upstairs is a fantastic one-bedroom apartment for the business owner or lease for additional income. This area would be a great spot and Airbnb. Entire upstairs and downstairs have been completely stripped down to the studs new electrical, plumbing, sewer and water line opportunity.

**ESTATE CONS** 

**FEATURED PROPERTIES** 



416 E 4TH ST, TIPTON, \$69,500

SUBDIVISIONS, LOTS, ACREAGES & COMMERCIAL



SUNRISE ESTATES PHASE 10 LOCA-TION! LOCATION! LOCATION! RARE BUILDING LOTS BORDERING CITY PARK, AQUATIC CENTER, BASEBALL DIAMONDS & SOCCER FIELDS. CITY OF TIPTON IS OFFERING 100% TAX ABATEMENT ON NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR 7 YEARS!!

LOT 1 - \$57,000 • LOT 2- \$57,000 • LOT 3 - \$58,000 LOT 4 - \$52,000 LOT 5 - \$58,000 • LOT 6 - \$59,000 • LOT 7 - \$59,900 LOT 8 - \$59,900 • LOT 9 - \$58,000



2 Lots E. 5th St., Tipton \$43,000



1007 PARKVIEW LN.,

FOR RENT

Corner - Commercial for office

for rent!! Great Cedar St



1692 Baker Ave. West Branch \$198,000 internet available for \$25/mo.

Location with windowfrontage!! Welcoming reception area. Large private office area. Shared kitchenette. High speed 5.2 Acres

WHAT ARE WE ABLE TO DO FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES THAT NO ONE ELSE IN TOWN DOES?

• 3 MLSs - IOWA CITY - CEDAR RAPIDS & QUAD CITIES • MEMBERS OF EASTERN IOWA COMMERCIAL MLS • UPGRADED EXPOSURE ON THE 3 LARGESTEST NATIONAL BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL WEBSITES - CREXI - LOOPNET & COSTAR • ON MULTIPLE OTHER COMMERCIAL & INVESTER BASED WEBSITES • HISTORY OF NETWORKING WITH MULTIPLE BUSINESSES AGENTS EXPERIENCED WITH COMMERCIAL SALES

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563-210-6792 CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS

**CITY NAME:** WEST BRANCH NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF WEST BRANCH - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY CITY#: 16-142 Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows: Meeting Date: 4/7/2025 Meeting Time: 06:30 PM Meeting Location: City Council Chambers 110 N. Poplar St. West Branch, IA 52358 At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.

City Website (if available)

City Telephone Number

RSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTAN

https://westbranchiowa.org/			(319) 643-5888
Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2024 - 2025	Budget Year Effective Property Tax 2025 - 2026	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax 2025 - 2026
Taxable Valuations for Non-Debt Service	185,278,586	200,138,403	200,138,403
Consolidated General Fund	1,529,897	1,529,897	1,604,466
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit	0	0	0
Aviation Authority	0	0	0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance	74,526	74,526	118,910
Support of Local Emergency Mgmt. Comm.	12,466	12,466	13,097
Unified Law Enforcement	0	0	0
Police & Fire Retirement	0	0	0
FICA & IPERS (If at General Fund Limit)	200,723	200,723	211,770
Other Employee Benefits	213,641	213,641	188,905
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)	99,369	99,369	135,093
Taxable Value for Debt Service	209,464,833	222,508,006	222,508,006
Debt Service	355,122	355,122	327,194
CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX	2,485,744	2,485,744	2,599,435
CITY REGULAR TAX RATE	13.19494	11.74524	12.82383
Taxable Value for City Ag Land	501,287	535,274	535,274
Ag Land	0	0	1,608
CITY AG LAND TAX RATE	0.00000	0.00000	3.00375
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed			
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000/\$110,000	Current Year Certified 2024/2025	Budget Year Proposed 2025/2026	Percent Change
City Regular Residential	611	669	9.49
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000/\$330,000	Current Year Certified 2024/2025	Budget Year Proposed 2025/2026	Percent Change

City Regular Commercial 2,699 2,990 10.78 Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and commercial properties

have the same rollback percentage through \$150,000 of actual/assessed valuation.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:

The tax rate comparison is not accurate, showing a 9.49 % increase. Assessments did not increase this year and our rate decreased from \$13.19 to \$12.69. A \$0.50 reduction equates to a \$24 decrease in taxes per \$100,000 assessed value. Please contact the city office for more information.

# Perspectives & News

THE GRUENHAGEN GAZETTE • STATE SENATOR KERRY GRUENHAGEN

# What do you think about raising speed limit to 60?

The tenth week of the legislative session was filled with debate in both chambers as we worked on bills to send to the House of Representatives for further discussion.

With the next legislative deadline approaching, we also began reviewing more House bills.

Throughout the week, the Senate passed several measures aimed at helping Iowans, addressing constituent concerns, and improving our state.

I had the honor of running Senate File 378 on the floor, which adjusts Iowa's default speed limit.

Under current law, the default speed limit for roads and highways is 55 miles per hour unless otherwise stated

This bill increases the

82ND INDIVISIBLE GROUP

limit

Gruenhagen

mph, primarily affecting undivided, paved highways. The legislation also includes

provisions allowing government

entities to update speed limit signs efficiently using overlay materials instead of full replacements. Another step forward:

Senate File 311 reforms the civil service discipline process and prohibits the use of civilian review boards in Iowa.

This legislation ensures a fair and objective disciplinary process for civil service employees, including law enforcement offi-

Too often, civilian review boards have become platforms for political activism, depriving officers of due process.

This bill supports the professionals who work hard to keep our communities safe.

The Senate also passed Senate Joint Resolution 9, a proposed amendment to the Iowa Constitution aimed at protecting vulnerable victims in court proceedings.

This resolution allows children and adults with disabilities to testify outside the physical courtroom, a practice that was previously permitted but was overturned by a recent court decision

Iowa is currently the

only state that does not allow this option, and this amendment seeks to restore an important safeguard for victims who face the difficult process of testifying against their abusers.

In addition to legislative work, the Iowa Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) met last week to assess the state's budget outlook.

This meeting provided updated revenue projections, helping lawmakers shape the upcoming bud-

Since 2017, Republicans have prioritized responsible and sustainable budgeting. This approach has ensured steady increases in funding for K-12 educa-

Gruenhagen Page 8

# DEI

From Page 3

everyone a voice.

College affordability -This bill requires tuition rates for each academic year to be set on or before April 30th.

The bill also directs each regent university to offer at least one work-study program where a student earns their degree while working part-time and getting their tuition paid by their employer.

## K-12 education

Cell Phones in Schools

a more stringent policy and must contain medical exemptions for students who require it.

Improving Mathematics Instruction — This bill ensures that children struggling in math receive the personalized help they need by requiring schools to assess students in math three times per year from kindergarten through sixth

- This bill requires school districts to implement a policy that, at a minimum, prohibits the use of cell phones during instruction times.

Schools can implement

If a student is identi-

# Sweets

From Page 3

ning, organizing, and executing every detail.

Their hard work ensures that Sweets for Success continues to be a fun and vital fundraiser for Main Street West Branch.

Want to get involved? Here's how you can help: • Reserve a Table: Seating is available in groups of 2-10, and tickets must be purchased in

advance. · Donate a Dessert: If you love to bake, consider donating a homemade dessert! To help us plan, we ask that all dessert donations be confirmed by April 1 using a short form

on our website. • Volunteer: From set-

fied as high-risk, schools must implement personalized mathematics plans and interventions.

It will also equip teachers with evidence-based professional development.

Iowa Education Teacher Salaries — This provides language for the implementation of year two of the teacher salary increase bill we passed last session.

Last vear we passed a bill to increase the minimum teacher salary from \$33,500 to \$50,000 and ensure 12-year teachers make no less than \$62,000.

A request by the school in this bill also allows teachers who have retired to return to the classroom with a minimum salary of \$50,000 to be able to still collect their IPERS. Definition

Harassment and Bullying This bill defines bullying and harassment as repeated and targeting behavior that creates a hostile work environment.

This clear definition will allow bullying to be addressed consistently.

Again, all eight of these bills received bipartisan support.

You may contact Rep. Kaufmann at Bobby.Kaufmann@ legis.iowa.gov, 563-260-3355 or 1527 330th St. Wilton, IA, 52778

ting up to helping during the event, there are many ways to lend a hand.

You can find all the details and sign up at mainstreetwestbranch.org/ sweets.

Sweets for Success is more than just a fundraiser — it's a reflection of the incredible support and sense of community that make West Branch special.

Whether you're attending, bidding, baking, or volunteering, your participation helps ensure that our downtown remains a vibrant and welcoming place for residents and visitors alike.

Jessi Simon is the executive director for Main Street West Branch. You may contact her at 319-643-7100 or mainstreetwestbranch@gmail.com.

# Right or left? Stop fighting! We need to work together

There was a day, not so long ago, when we had room for everyone.

Live and let live, we

If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all. Now we go out of our

way to tell someone what

we think of them, and it's never good. People provoke one another with insults fed to them from unverifiable but entertaining "news"

with an agenda. Let's try agreeing that most people who voted for Trump aren't "stupid" or

sources or a politician

"uneducated" or "mean," as we've heard people say. In fact, a lot of them are pretty shell-shocked right

And let's try agreeing that the ones opposed to Trump aren't "overeducated elites" out to cut the boobs and gonads off of our kids or blow up Tesla dealerships (charge leveled at a recent listening post).

We all love our country. We all believe in our Constitution - the one that provides for equal rights, free speech and the rule of law.

We all want a better

future for our kids. Most of us believe that a good life includes good health, decent jobs and people we

Why has that good life escaped so many of us these last few decades?

Government policy driven by corporate interests have made of us afraid of losing everything we've worked for. And that fear keeps us at each other's throats and blaming the next guy over.

Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, George Soros, Warren Buffett and Elon Musk don't stay up at night wondering if their

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE City Counci

kids will have a decent job when they grow up. They never worry that cancer or a bad car crash will bankrupt them. Their parents don't have to live in understaffed, overcrowded nursing homes.

So why are we fighting each other instead of

Because those corporate guys - and the politicians from both parties who do their bidding want it this way. It's an old playbook.

Coalminers, meatpackers and many others in

Page 8 Indivisible

# **LEGALS**

#### Motion by Sexton, second by Miller, AYES: Sexton, Miller, Dean, Stoolman Horihan, NAYS: None, Motion carried 2nd Reading Ordinance 823 – Granting to Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative, its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive Twenty-Five-year Franchise to acquire, construct, erect maintain and operate an electric system in the City of West Branch, Iowa, and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee. / Move to action.

Motion by Miller, second by Sexton to approve the second reading of Ordinance 823. AYES: Miller, Se: Horihan, Stoolman, Dean. NAYS: None

3rd Reading Ordinance 823 Granting to Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative, its successors and assigns a non-exclusive Twenty-Five-year Franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate an electric system in the City of West Branch, Iowa, and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee. / Move to action.

Below is a summary of Ordinance 823. A full copy is available for inspection at the City Office

Ordinance 823 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO LINN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, A NON-EXCLUSIVE TWENTY-FIVE YEAR FRANCHISE TO ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT, ERECT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE AN ELECTRIC SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF WEST BRANCH, IOWA, AND TO FURNISH AND SELL ELECTRIC ENERGY TO THE CITY AND ITS INHABITANTS, AND REQUIRING SAID COMPANY TO PAY A FRANCHISE FEE. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST BRANCH, CEDAR COUNTY, IOWA: Section 1. Grant of Franchise. There is hereby granted to Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative, its successors and assigns (the "Company"), the right and franchise, from and after the effective date of this ordinance codified in this chapter, to acquire, construct, oper-Branch, Iowa (the "City"), as provided herein, the necessary facilities for the electricity for public and private use and to construct and maintain, over, upon, across and under the streets, highways avenues, alleys and bridges, the neces sarv facilities. fixtures and equipment for effective for twenty-five years beginning with the effective date of this ordinance Either party may exercise an option to re-evaluate or amend the franchise by providing the other party written notice or items that it desires to be re-evaluated no more than 180 days nor less than 90 of this franchise period. The purpose of this notice is to expedite discussions between the Company and the City and shall not be an exclusive list of the first party's issues. Upon delivery of such

notice, the City and Company shall meet

amendments. If the City and Company are unable to agree to amend the ordi-

nance and address other issues by the

to attempt to consider the proposed

end of the fifteenth year of the franchise period, either party may terminate the franchise agreement effective on the last day of the fifteenth year of the franchise period. If no written request to amend or terminate the franchise is delivered by either party to the other between 90 and 180 days prior to the end of the fifteenth year of the franchise period, the franchise will continue for another

Section 17. Notice. The City shall give the Company a minimum 6-months prior to the request to implement any adjustment in the percentage of franchise fee to be collected pursuant to Section 14 hereof. The City agrees to modify the level of franchise fees imposed only once in any 24-month period. When any such Ordinance increasing, decreasing, modifying or eliminating the franchise fee shall become effective, billings reflect-ing the change shall commence on an agreed upon date which is not less than ninety (90) days following written notice to the Company by certified mail. The Company shall not be required to imple ment such new percentage unless and until it determines that it has received appropriate official documentation of final action by the City Council. In no event may the percentage of franchise fee exceed the statutory amount authorized

by lowa law Passed and approved this 17th day of March, 2025 First Reading March 3,

2025 Second Reading: 2025 Third Reading:

Tom Dean, Mayor Pro Tem ATTEST:

2025

Leslie Brick, City Clerk Motion by Sexton, second by Miller to approve the third reading of Ordinance 823. AYES: Sexton, Miller, Stoolman, Dean Horihan, NAYS: None, Motion

2nd Reading Ordinance 824 – Repealing Ordinance No. 533, and granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its successors and assigns, a nonexclusive twenty-five-year franchise to operate an electric system in the City of West Branch, Iowa and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the City. / Move

Motion by Sexton, second by Stoolman

to approve the second reading of Ordinance 824. AYES: Sexton Stoolman, Dean, Horihan, Miller. NAYS None. Motion carried. 3rd Reading Ordinance 824 - Repealing Ordinance No. 533, and granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its successors and assigns, a nonexclusive twenty-five-year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate an electric system in the City of West Branch, Iowa and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the City. / Move

Below is a summary of Ordinance 824. A full copy is available for inspection at the City Office.
ORDINANCE NO. 824
AN ORDINANCE REPEALING

ORDINANCE NO. 533, AND GRANTING COMPANY, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS A NON-EXCLUSIVE TO ACQUIRE, CONSTRUCT, ERECT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE AN OF WEST BRANCH, IOWA AND TO FURNISH AND SELL ELECTRIC ENERGY TO THE CITY AND ITS INHABITANTS, AND REQUIRING SAID COMPANY TO PAY A FRANCHISE FEE

of the City of WEST BRANCH, CEDAR County, Iowa, hereinafter referred to as the "City" Section 1. There is hereby granted to Interstate Power and Light Company, hereinafter referred to as the "Company its successors and assigns, the right and non-exclusive franchise to acquire, construct, reconstruct, erect, maintain, and operate in the City, works and plants for the manufacture and generation of electricity and a distribution system for electric light, heat and power and the right to erect and maintain the necessary poles, lines, wires, conduits and other appliances for the distribution of electric current along, under and upon the streets, alleys and public places in the

said City to supply individuals, corpora tions, communities, and municipalities both inside and outside of said City with electric light, heat and power for the period of twenty-five (25) years; also the March 17. right of eminent domain as provided in ection 364.2 of the Code of Iowa March 17, This franchise is limited to electrical service. No other services shall be

hereunder.

Section 15. This Ordinance sets forth and constitutes the entire agreement between the Company and the City with respect to the rights contained herein and may not be supplemented, super seded, modified or otherwise amended without the written approval and accep tance of the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall the City enact or maintain any Ordinance or place any limitations, either operation ally or through the assessment of fees other than those approved and accepted by the Company within this Ordinance, that create additional burdens upon the

provided to the public by the Company

and adopted by the West Branch City Council on the 17th day of March, 2025. First Reading: March 3, 2025 Second Reading: March 17, 2025 Third Reading:

Company, or which delay utility opera-

Tom Dean, Mayor Pro Tem Leslie Brick, City Clerk

Motion by Miller, second by Sexton to approve the third reading of Ordinance 824. AYES: Miller, Sexton, Stoolman, Dean, Horihan. NAYS: None. Motion

2nd Reading Ordinance 825 - Repealing Ordinance No. 695 and granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise to erect, construct, reconstruct, maintain, and operate plant and systems for the distribution of natural gas in the City of West Branch, lowa and to sell, distribute, and supply

natural gas to said City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the City. / Move Motion by Sexton, second by Stoolman

to approve the second reading of Ordinance 825 AVES: Sexton Stoolman, Dean, Horihan, Miller. NAYS None. Motion carried. 3rd Reading Ordinance 825 – Repealing Ordinance No. 695 and granting to Interstate Power and Light Company. its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise to erect, construct, reconstruct, maintain, and operate plant and systems for the distribution of natural gas in the City of West Branch, lowa and to sell, distribute, and supply natural gas to said City and its inhabit-

ants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the City. / Move

Below is a summary of Ordinance 825. A full copy is available for inspection at the City Office. ORDINANCE NO. 825 ORDINANCE NO. 695 AND GRANTING TO INTERSTATE POWER AND LIGHT AND ASSIGNS, A NON-EXCLUSIVE TWENTY-FIVE YEAR FRANCHISE TO ERECT, CONSTRUCT RECONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE PLANT AND SYSTEMS FOR GAS IN THE CITY OF WEST BRANCH. IOWA AND TO SELL, DISTRIBUTE, AND SUPPLY NATURAL GAS TO SAID CITY AND ITS INHABITANTS, AND REQUIRING SAID COMPANY TO PAY A FRANCHISE FEE TO THE CITY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE City Council

of the City of WEST BRANCH, CEDAR

County, Iowa, hereinafter referred to as the "City": Section 1. There is hereby granted to Interstate Power and Light Company, hereinafter referred to as the "Company," its successors and assigns, the right privilege and non-exclusive franchise for the term of twenty-five (25) years from and after the passage, adoption, approval and acceptance of this Ordinance, to lay down, maintain and operate the necessary pipes, mains and other conductors and appliances in, along and under the streets avenues, alleys and public places in the City as now or hereafter constituted, for the purpose of distributing, supplying and selling gas to said City and the residents thereof and to persons and corporations beyond the limits thereof; also the right of eminent domain as provided in Section 364.2 of the Code of Iowa. The term "gas" as used in this franchise shall be construed to mean natural gas only. This franchise is limited to natural gas ser

vice. No other services shall be provided to the public by the Company hereunder Section 13. This Ordinance sets forth and constitutes the entire agreement between the Company and the City with respect to the rights contained herein, and may not be supplemented, superseded, modified or otherwise amended without the approval and acceptance of the Company. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall the City enact or maintain any ordinance or place any limitations, either operationally or through the assessment of fees, that create additional burdens upon the Company, or which delay utility

adopted by the West Branch City Council

on the 17th day of March, 2025. First Reading: March 3, 2025 Second Reading: March 17, 2025 Third Reading: March 17, 2025 Third Reading:

Tom Dean, Mayor Pro Tem

Leslie Brick, City Clerk Motion by Sexton, second by Miller to approve the third reading of Ordinance 825. AYES: Sexton, Miller, Dean, Stoolman, Horihan. NAYS: None. Motion

Resolution 2025-28 - Approving Pay Estimate Number 7 in the amount of \$79,311.39 to Midwest Underground

Contractors Inc. for the Phase 2 Eastside Water Main Replacement Project. / Move Eric Gould of Veenstra & Kimm that the contractor will be coming back in the

spring to address settling and seeding issues from over the winter. Upon mpletion of that, the city will then accept the final pay estimate and release the retainage on the project. Motion by Sexton, second by Miller to approve Resolution 2025-28. AYES: Sexton, Miller, Stoolman, Horihan, Dean NAYS: None. Motion carried Resolution 2025-29 - Accepting the public improvements constructed in association with the Phase 2 Eastside Water Main Replacement Project. / Move to action. Motion by Miller, second by Dean to approve Resolution 2025-29. AYES: Miller, Dean, Stoolman, Horihan, Sexton. NAYS: None. Motion carried. Resolution 2025-30 - Amending the West Branch Employee Handbook (Amendment #4), / Move to action. Stoolman stated that she had no issue with the City observing Juneteenth as a

new holiday, but didn't feel that employees needed an "extra" day off, Sexton agreed with her. Miller suggested that in lieu of Juneteenth. that employee's "give-up" another pre-determined City holiday. Dean suggested tabling the item for more discussion and have the employees give their input. Kofoed expressed his opinion on the importance of the proposed holiday and resigned to let the Council make the final decision on what day the employee "gives up". Stoolman stated that employees get the day after Thanksgiving (Friday) off and it is not a "federal" holiday, so that day should be sacrificed in lieu of Juneteenth. Sexton made a motion to amend Resolution 2025-30 to add Juneteenth to the list of City holidays and remove the day after Thanksgiving

Motion by Sexton, second by Stoolman to approve (the revised) Resolution 2025-30. AYES: Sexton, Stoolman, Dean. NAYS: Miller and Horihan. Motion carried. Resolution 2025-31 - Authorizing early partial redemption of General Obligati Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2016A / Move to action.

Van Auken explained that the city reque ed an additional \$150,000 in TIF for FY24 that was to be used for an interfund loan. Van Auken found out after the fact, that an interfund loan was not needed. In speaking with the City's financial advisor, it was decided that the city could use those funds to pay down TIF debt rather than return it to the County.

Motion by Miller, second by Sexton to approve Resolution 2025-31. AYES: Miller, Sexton, Stoolman, Dean, Horihan. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Resolution 2025-32 - Resolution authoriz

ing partial early redemption of Taxable General Obligation Urban Renewal Bonds, Series 2016B, / Move to action Van Auken stated that an additional \$55,000 payment (from the excess TIF funds) will pay off this bond one year early

approve Resolution 2025-32. AYES: Sexton, Miller, Horihan, Stoolman, Dean NAYS: None. Motion carried. Resolution 2025-33 - Accepting a quote for tree felling in conjunction with the Cedar-Johnson Road Reconstruction Project. / Move to action.

Miller questioned the difference in quotes from the three companies. Gould of V&K confirmed that the low bidder is aware of the requirements for the work that needs Motion by Sexton, second by Dean to approve Resolution 2025-33. AYES: Sexton, Dean, Stoolman, Horihan, Miller. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Resolution 2025-34 - Accepting bids and awarding the construction contract for the Cedar-Johnson Road Reconstruction Project. / Move to action. Dean suggested that the Council table this agenda item pending direction from the City Attorney (who is on vacation). Dean said the item could be brought back to the

April 7th meeting. Motion by Dean, second by Miller to TABLE Resolution 2025-34. AYES: Dean, Miller, Stoolman, Horihan, Sexton, NAYS: None, Motion carried. Discussion - Nuisance Enforcement

Priorities Kofoed asked the Council for direction on nuisance priorities. Council discussed and provided their priorities to Kofoed to carry out.
CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT - No

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – Absen CITY ENGINEER REPORT Schechinger stated that Neuzil & Son's will start cutting down trees along Cedar Johnson Road as part of the project as a deadline of April 1st is required due to bat habitat. He also said that temporary ease ments have been delivered to affected property owners. Schechinger said that Meadows Part 6 is continuing to grade for the new subdivision and utility work has begun. Eric Gould, of V& K said he

will be resubmitting the final plans for the Wapsi Creek project to FEMA this Friday, and that he has been assured that the review is not expected to take ninety days STAFF REPORTS Library Director Jessie Schafer reported on the spring break activities at the library and said today had good attendance and

that more fun was planned for the remain-COMments from mayor and council mem-

Dean asked Public Works to investigate why no overnight parking signage was not replaced on N. Downey Street. Dean said in front of businesses early the mornings. adiournment

Motion to adjourn by Miller, second by Sexton. Motion carried on a voice vote. City Council meeting adjourned

Tom Dean, Mayor Pro Tem

Leslie Brick, City Clerk WBT 13