

April 23, 2024 – EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

The Regular meeting was called to order at the Empire Township Hall and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Palmer at 7:01 p.m. Upon a roll call, Council members Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, and Webb were present. Clerk Smith was also present.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – None.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve the agenda. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – None.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve the Consent Agenda including minutes of the 4/11/2024 Work Session, Purchase of DPW Shirts, Galerucella Beetle order for Purple Loosestrife, and Garlic Mustard Bin. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED. Bacon requested the Legal Bills be pulled and several questions were addressed regarding where the costs were distributed and whether there may be a further need for legal review of the recent property purchase. Motion by Dye, support by Walton to approve the Bills totaling \$36,337.88. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – March Cash by Fund reports from the Clerk and Treasurer were received. Totals from each indicate that the general ledger and the bank statements agree.

COMMUNICATIONS – A letter from Rodney Barnes regarding the ABCD group was received. Letters from Louise Barnes, Linda Payment, regarding Short-Term Rentals were also received. All are posted on the website.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – The report from the DPW was reviewed and included in packet. Bacon asked if Friend could provide an explanation of the importance of double-walled tanks, why the reduced costs from vendors, estimated costs for electrical hook-up of tanks, and which vehicles use which gas. Dye reported the boat ramp has been installed and Palmer reported that a bear has been trapped near the village and two traps remain.

COUNCIL MEMBER / COMMITTEE REPORTS – Dye reported on the STR committee and Walton reported on the Personnel Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW VILLAGE OFFICE UPDATE – Palmer reported on the closing, that she has contacted 3 plumbers and 3 roofers, and that the survey has yet to be invoiced (approximately \$1200-1400). Village Office committee discussed a sign for the office that would be similar to the one at Shalda Park.

NEW BUSINESS

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT – Peter Schous reviewed the request from the property owner attorney and the review by the Village Attorney. There was discussion of the Planning Commission's rejection of the Village Attorney's opinion.

Schous indicated that the Planning Commission was hoping for a legal review for enforcement and felt the opinion took more of a planning approach. Special Use Permits and Site Plan review in the future were also discussed. **Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance 4.6. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

BEACH AND FRONT STREET STRIPING - The quote was reviewed by Bacon. **Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve the quote from Grand Traverse Sealcoating & Striping not to exceed \$5,700. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, and Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

VILLAGE COUNCIL COMPUTER PURCHASE – Palmer reviewed the idea of a laptop for the council to share. Chase offered a donated laptop. There was discussion of how the goals of conducting all village business conducted on village equipment; and building capacity. A variety of technology needs and having a plan were discussed. Walton moved that the issue be tabled until further information is obtained.

2024 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROAD CLOSURE REQUEST – **Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to approve the closure of Front St. request from Union to LaRue only on noon Friday, May 31st thru noon Sunday, June 2nd for the Asparagus Festival; closure of Wilco/Lake St. from Washington to Village limit 10 am thru 4 pm Friday, Sept. 20th and closure of Front St. Union to LaRue from 8 am until 6 pm on Saturday, Sept. 21st and closure of Lake St./Wilco from the junction of Pitch Apple Lane and the Village limit from 8 am to 6 pm on Saturday, Sept. 21st for the Empire Hill Climb; and closure of Front St. from Union to LaRue from noon Friday Oct.4th until noon Sunday Oct. 6th for the Empire Hops Festival.** It was noted that this is the same date as a planned marathon and that completed permit applications have not been received for any of the above events. The fee has been paid for the Asparagus Festival. **Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED with Chase and Rademacher voting Nay.**

STORMWATER RUN-OFF AT LAKE AND NIAGARA PROPOSALS – Bacon reviewed the proposals for drainage remediation. She recommends placing the decision on hold until the property owners have had their questions addressed.

SIDEWALK QUOTES - **Motion by Dye, support by Rademacher to approve the quote from TD Masonry and Concrete not to exceed \$20K and to haul the old concrete. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jun Heider commented on assessing technology needs beginning with why computers are needed.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – Chase requested that Paul Skinner contact the Lion’s Club as the Lion’s Club Park is used for parking for the marathon and the Hops Festival. She is concerned about the overlap and traffic/parking issues.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:10 p.m.

Derith Smith Empire Village Clerk

These minutes were approved at the May 9, 2024, Council meeting.