

JULY 23, 2024 – EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at the Empire Township Hall and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Palmer at 7:00 p.m. Upon a roll call, Council members Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Clerk Smith and DPW Superintendent Friend were also present.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Palmer added Increase Plumbing Costs and removed bills from consent agenda, adding both to the agenda.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Motion by Dye support by Walton to approve the agenda as amended. Upon a voice vote, Bacon opposed. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – None.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by Dye, support by Bacon to approve the Consent Agenda including the 7/11/24 Work Session minutes. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Financial reports were received and indicated that the bank balances and the general ledger match by fund. Revenue & Expenditure reports thru June were distributed. They will be discussed at the August Work Session.

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

PRESENTATION – Kyle Bond of MI Rural Water Association presented a first draft report on current water rates and charges. Current CIP and budgets were included in calculations. Applying REUs to commercial Ready to Serve (RTS) was discussed. Installing a meter for each business or residence located in the same building was discussed. Several residents asked questions about current rates, RTS and/or usage by commercial and residential, an annual % increase was suggested. The Water Committee will try to meet and complete a recommendation for the August Work Session.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – DPW report was received and included in the packet. Friend also reported on the repairs for the pickup and the large truck, and reviewed the water loss report. Palmer thanked EACC for Anchor Days which seemed to go well; met with DPW staff; requested that Committee Chairs and Street Administrator issue a monthly report.

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Walton reported on the Personnel Committee's progress on job descriptions. Bacon reported on the Master Plan survey that is currently available online and in print. The educational and informational sessions will be posted upon time and location confirmations. Dye reported the Parks Committee will be meeting soon.

OLD BUSINESS

PARKING FEE IMPLEMENTATION - Motion by Dye, support by Walton to approve the Parking Fee implementation plan as described and included in packet. There was discussion of whether the figures used to support the increase were accurate. **Upon a voice vote, Chase and Rademacher opposed, MOTION PASSED.**

UPDATE ON OFFICE TRANSITION – The plumbing permit final inspection will be completed tomorrow. Installation of a counter, and wiring for refrigerator, etc. has not been completed. There was discussion of electrical and remodeling changes needed to make electrical outlets available rather than covered by retail shelving units that also take up usable floor space. Estimates to complete this work have yet to be received. Discussion included whether dressing room removal would require a licensed contractor and whether some work (not electrical) could be performed by DPW staff. A moving date goal was discussed at length. Council members will visit the office in groups to observe the list of concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

SIGN ORDINANCE - Several areas were questioned (flags in definitions, etc.) the numbering was adjusted, and questions were noted by Bacon for reconsideration by the Planning Commission before Council approval.

PLUMBING COSTS - Motion by Bacon, support Dye to approve plumbing costs not to exceed \$2100. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

BILL APPROVAL – Motion by Dye, support by Walton to approve the bills totaling \$28,437.00. Bacon reviewed bills from the auditor for \$7900 and Renovare for \$10K. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Karen Baja commented on professional behavior.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT –None.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:54 p.m.

Derith Smith Empire Village Clerk

These minutes were approved at the August 8, 2024, Council meeting.