

AUGUST 10, 2023 – EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION

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, Walton, Webb, and Clerk Smith were present. Trustee Rademacher was absent and excused.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Dye added a Parks Committee report. Palmer removed the RFP for New Village Attorney until the September work session.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – None.

COMMUNICATIONS – Webb read an email from Carla Weinheimer. Announcements from Glen Lake Alumni Association and Consumer Energy Foundation were noted by Palmer.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Dye read the Short-term Rental Committee minutes. Bacon asked questions about the charge given to the committee by the Council and the data collection proposed and documented problems in Empire. Bacon felt the work already completed by Dye and Avis seems sufficient for the charge from the Council. Bacon reviewed the New/Renovated Village Office Committee meetings. The next one will be held on Monday, Aug. 14th at the Village Office.

OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE – PURPOSE AND INTENTION – Documentation provided in the packet was reviewed. The posting for members and the asset map were discussed. There was consensus that this be added to the Regular Meeting agenda.

STREET LIGHT PROCEDURE – Information provided was reviewed. The difference between a Council approved policy for reviewing requests and a procedural policy for staff implementation was discussed. Budgeting for lighting changes and holding a public hearing were also discussed. There was consensus this would be added to the Regular Meeting agenda.

RULES OF PROCEDURE – SECTION 4 – Proposed changes were discussed regarding votes needed for a closed session. There was consensus to continue the review,

SHALDA PARK RULES SIGN – Dye reviewed the proposed rules distributed as a Handout. The addition of yielding to those with mobility challenges on the trail was discussed. Price per word was also discussed. This will be added to the Regular meeting agenda for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF 7-25-23 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – Motion by Dye, support by Webb to approve the minutes of 7-25-23. Upon a voice vote, MOTION APPROVED. Palmer commented on the motion made at this meeting to post the Meet and Greet as a Special Meeting. Posting was changed as minutes would be required for such.

UPDATE RESOLUTION #4 – Resolution will be updated as No.6 of 2023 for consideration at the Regular Meeting. President Palmer will ask Undersheriff Kiessel to attend.

REVIEW EMPIRE HILL CLIMB MASS GATHERING APPLICATION – The County Emergency Plan and the Village Vendor and Sign applications were discussed. Palmer will ask Zoning Administrator for additional information and submittal of the fee has been requested.

BARBED-WIRE FENCE ADJOINING SHALDA PARK – Documentation provided was reviewed. There were questions regarding the pre-construction walk-thru attended by Dye and Palmer and whether a survey indicates that the fence is located on private property in the Township. Possible options for solutions were discussed including removal, replacement or repair of the existing fence or installation of new fence on Village property. Palmer will phone the property owner to discuss possible solutions and report results to Council.

SATURDAY SHARING WITH COUNCIL – Information provided was reviewed and discussed. The rules approved for the Meet and Greet should be applied to such events as well. This will be added to the Regular Meeting agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Karen Baja commented on public comment time limits, installing a fence on Village property at Shalda Park, encouraging public participation at study sessions, and Undersheriff attendance at Village meeting. Julie Barr wondered why there was a camera at Shalda Park and that unleashed dogs are frequent there. Ina Hacker enjoyed attending Saturday Coffee with Council meetings held in the past.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – Webb volunteered to get further details on the sign request. There was consensus it should be an agenda item. Smith asked when the handicap portajohn would be made accessible for wheelchair access. Bacon commented on how the Council addresses problems as a municipality instead of rehashing old issues. Solutions offered were included in notes she provided.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:40 p.m.

Derith Smith

Empire Village Clerk

These minutes were approved at the August 22, 2023, Regular Council meeting.