

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 – 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 members Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, and Webb were present. Clerk Smith was also present.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Dye added the Beach Park Ordinance under Old Business.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – None.

COMMUNICATIONS – An email from Frank Clements regarding the Master Plan was read aloud.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – Palmer reported that Mika/Meyers have requested a Word format copy of the STR ordinances. There was discussion of an insurance letter of denial regarding a fence, and another regarding sprinkler heads located in Village right-of-way. There was discussion of members attending a Housing Summit. **Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to approve up to 2 members attending. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon. Nays: Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. MOTION DEFEATED.**

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – A written and verbal report was received from the Garden Club which maintains public planters and beds in the Village. (Included as handout). They requested the planters be replaced, either by purchase or construction by DPW staff. Rademacher reported that the Water Committee is working to update and may combine the numerous water ordinances. Dye reported on the Sleeping Bear Gateways Council annual meeting. Bacon reported on the Master Plan Committee and several street issues. Chase provided an update on the progress on the new office.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVE MINUTES: Regular Meeting 8/27/24 – Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to approve the minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

SIGN ORDINANCE – Bacon reviewed the changes to the ordinance made by the Planning Commission in response to Council questions. There was extensive discussion of many of the proposed changes, particularly the number of allowed signs per property.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS – There was discussion of the descriptions for the Clerk, DPW Superintendent and Treasurer. Changes were noted as using a consistent format for each position, numerous duties were deleted or assigned to others and several were added or clarified. There was consensus that these will be finalized for the Regular meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY RECOMMENDATIONS – Information from Bacon and Dye regarding the established policy were reviewed and discussed. There was discussion of whether or not to follow the Planning and Enabling Act in filling these positions and/or in posting the position.

Motion by Rademacher, support by Dye to extend the meeting until 9:30 p.m. Upon a voice vote with Bacon opposed, MOTION PASSED.

RECYCLING CENTER IMPROVEMENTS –Information from Bacon was reviewed and discussed. Bacon will work with the DPW to obtain quotes for a new fence. It was noted that GFL owns the camera and reviews when there is a complaint.

BEACH PARK ORDINANCE – Dye suggested wording to address boat trailer parking that could be added to aid in enforcement.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW VILLAGE OFFICE CURBSIDE SIGN – Bacon provided documentation regarding signs that was discussed. There was consensus this be placed on the Regular meeting agenda.

HALLOWEEN TRUNK AND TREAT STREET CLOSURE – There was consensus this request be placed on the consent agenda of the Regular meeting.

DISCUSSION REGARDING TWO WAY TRAFFIC ON NIAGARA AT THE BEACH – Webb reviewed the documentation he provided. There was discussion of placing 2 Way signs on Niagara St. as the road width does not meet the requirement for striping. The 15-mph speed limit was noted. It was requested that 2 Way signs be installed.

PUBLIC COMMENT – The Beautification Committee asked about next steps. Palmer noted that costs for building the new planters should be obtained.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:38 p.m.

Derith Smith

Empire Village Clerk

These minutes were approved at the September 24, 2024, Regular Council meeting.