

September 24, 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 Treasurer Acton were also present.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

WATER RATE INCREASE – Karen Baja asked if the increase will be sufficient for some time into the future. It was noted that the water rates will be evaluated annually.

BEACH PARK ORDINANCE NO. 150 – None.

ZONING ORDINANCE SECTION 3.12 SIGNS – Terry Bacon commented that Sec.3.12 (vii) includes language that is not located anywhere else in ordinance. He suggested a moratorium of enforcement of the current ordinance on temporary signs until the new ordinance takes effect. Karen Baja asked about illuminated signs.

Hearings were closed at 7:10 p.m.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Bacon removed Job Descriptions from the Consent Agenda. These were tabled until the October Work Session. Dye requested the Lot Combination from Cherry Republic be added to New Business.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – Terry Bacon commented on the Sign Ordinance.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by Dye, support by Rademacher to approve the Consent Agenda including the 9/12/24 Work Session minutes; bills totaling \$43,232.77 and the Trunk or Treat Street Closure. 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 August were received.

COMMUNICATIONS – Emails from Dr. Steve Young and Rod Barnes were received by some Council members.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – DPW report was received and included in the packet. There were several questions that will be passed along by Palmer regarding storm drain cleanout and new office crawl space cleanout. Palmer noted that the request from Cherry Republic to establish an Industrial Development District (IDD). She recommended this be placed on the October Work Session. Bacon reported several issues being addressed on streets: swale on Union, signs on Niagara and Lake.

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

OLD BUSINESS

WATER RATE INCREASE – RESOLUTION NO. 8 OF 2024 – Motion by Rademacher, support by Dye to approve the resolution. There was discussion of when the rates would be effective. The new rates will be reflected on the January 1, 2025 bill. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

BEACH PARK ORDINANCE NO. 150 – Motion by Dye, support by Rademacher to approve the ordinance with the changes and additions noted. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

ZONING ORDINANCE SECTION 3.12 SIGNS – Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to repeal the current Sign Ordinance and replace with this Ordinance. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

VILLAGE OFFICE CURBSIDE SIGN – Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to approve the purchase of the sign indicated and not to exceed \$600. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS

LOT COMBINATION REQUEST – CHERRY REPUBLIC – Motion by Dye, support by Rademacher to approve the lot combination (45-041-719-024-005 and 45-041-719-024-010) as requested. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nay: None. MOTION PASSED.

PRESENTATION – Richard Neihardt of Gabridge & Co. reviewed several sections of the audit for FY 2023-24. Questions from Council were also reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PRESENTATION- None.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – Bacon noted the website that contains all the information for the Master Plan is now up and working.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:25 p.m.

Derith Smith Empire Village Clerk

These draft minutes were approved at the October 10, 2024, Council meeting.