

November 14, 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.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Palmer added Short Term Rental and Planning Commission Appointment under New Business as #1 & #2 and the Appointments of Clerk and Treasurer under Old Business to #2 & #3.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – Bob Chase requested that all the questions sent to the attorney and a list of the conversations, with dates and names, regarding STRs be posted on website. Teresa Howes commented on the petition regarding reappointment of the Clerk and Treasurer. She also commented that the STRs issue was not on the posted agenda so the public is not aware that this would be discussed this evening. Ed Peplinski commented on the STR issue as being driven by State or Local government. Terry Bacon commented on the legal opinion received on STRs as the case used as support for his analysis was announced to be wrong by his own firm. Frank Clement thanked Palmer and Webb for their service, praised the new office facility, and commented on the draft STR ordinance received from attorney.

CONSENT AGENDA – Dye requested the bills be removed and discussed as 1st item under Old Business. **Motion by Dye, support by Walton to approve the 10/22/24 Regular Meeting minutes. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

FINANCIAL REPORTS – The Revenue and Expenditure reports and the Cash Balance by Fund reports thru October were received.

COMMUNICATIONS – A petition from 139 residents and property owners regarding the appointments of Clerk and Treasurer was received and read aloud by Bacon. A resignation from Planning Commission by Karen Baja was received and by Palmer. Palmer read letters of interest in being reappointed as Clerk and Treasurer from Smith and Acton.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – Palmer thanked Chris Webb for his service and congratulated those who were elected (Bacon, Chase, Skrocki, and Davis).

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Dye reviewed the minutes of the Parks committee. Rademacher reviewed the Wastewater Task Force meeting and hopes the final report and a presentation will be available for the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

AP BILLS – Dye questioned whether the payments to Gosling Czubak and Grobbel Environmental should be approved as there were some contract items yet to be received. Bacon noted that a meeting and missing items will be scheduled before early December. **Motion by**

Dye, support by Walton to approve the bills totaling \$21,061.33. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

CIP–Palmer noted that the last 2 versions be provided to committees for their budget requests.

CLERK APPOINTMENT – Palmer stated she will not nominate for Village Clerk and leave that to President Davis.

TREASURER APPOINTMENT- Palmer nominated Alacia Acton as Village Treasurer. **Motion by Dye, supported by Rademacher to appoint Acton as Treasurer for the next 2 years. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

SHORT-TERM RENTAL – **Motion by Walton, support by Dye to table until the December meeting. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – Palmer appointed Andrew Clement. There was a question of whether the vacancy had been posted for public interest. **Motion by Walton, support by Dye to appoint Andrew Clement to the Planning Commission.** There was discussion of whether this was transparent and followed policy for posting a vacancy. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Palmer, Walton. Nays: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Rademacher, Webb. MOTION DEFEATED.**

NEW BUSINESS

DOG WASTE BAG DISPENSERS- Dye reviewed the quotes for such dispensers. **Motion by Dye, support by Webb to order these at a cost not to exceed \$350. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

CEMENT PAD QUOTE FOR CHANGING ROOM AT BEACH – **Motion by Dye, support by Walton to approve the installation of a cement pad with a cost not to exceed \$4500. Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

WINDOW SHADES FOR NEW OFFICE – **Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to purchase 7 insulated shades for the new office with a cost not to exceed \$1000. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

MML TRAINING – **Motion by Dye, support by Bacon to approve \$95 for Ella Skrocki to register for the MML New Officials training. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mark Oberschmidt commented on the maintenance of the beach. He hopes that since the doubling of the parking fee, better attention should be paid. Terry Bacon commented on the legal analysis done by an attorney who may not be familiar with STRs and the Supreme Court decision on such. Tina Dunphy commented that she was grateful that the STR issue has been tabled as many people who are invested in the topic would like to attend those

discussions. Teresa Howe commented on FOIA requirements for retaining all emails (both personal and village) regarding village business.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – Bacon read a thank you to Sue Palmer and Chris Webb for their service. Dye also thanked Palmer and Webb for their service and welcomed Dan Davis. Webb expressed his thanks for being appointed to serve on both the Planning Commission and Village Council. Sue Palmer expressed gratitude for her service.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:16 p.m.

Derith Smith Empire Village Clerk

These minutes were approved at the December 12, 2024, Council meeting.