

February 8, 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 Walton at 7:00 p.m. Upon a roll call members Bacon, Chase, Dye, Rademacher, Walton, Webb were present. President Palmer and Clerk Smith were absent and excused.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Bacon added Budget Public Hearing notice under New Business.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – None.

COMMUNICATIONS – Letter from Val Dalton regarding President Pro tem, letters regarding Short-Term Rentals from Carl Spina, Carol Purcell and Roland Woodring, Dave Taghon, Bill Blacquiery, Matt Cauchy, a letter regarding alley access from Mary Sharry and Bill Dickinson, and a letter regarding the septage ordinance from Paul Bertrand were read aloud.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – None

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Personnel Committee reported that the DPW position has been accepted by Joseph Reutter who will receive all benefits described in the personnel policy. Dye noted that the STR Committee held a meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVE 1-23-24 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – **Motion by Dye, support by Rademacher to approve the minutes. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

NEW BUSINESS

APPLICATION FOR PROPERTY LINE ADJUSTMENT #041-450-001-00 AND #041-450-007-00 – Zoning Administrator Hall reviewed the history and differences between a land division and boundary line adjustments. He recommends the Village's Land Division Ordinance be updated. While he initially denied approval of this application, upon further research he now recommends approval. **Motion by Rademacher, supported by Bacon to approve the application for property line adjustments between 041-450-001-00 and 041-450-007-00 be approved contingent on the recording of the new legal descriptions. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

BUDGET FY 2024-25 – Discussion included the increases in Attorney Fees, sidewalk improvements, Parks repair and maintenance, Beautification, repairs and maintenance on the existing office, Water Fund capital outlay, bond principal and interest payments, wages and salaries. Areas to be discussed at next meeting included number of storm-drain cleanouts, banners and professional services. There was discussion of the Personnel Committee recommendations for appointed officials, seasonal, part-time and full-time employees. **Motion by Bacon, supported by Dye to schedule a Public Hearing on the 2024-25 Fiscal Year Budget for 7:00 p.m. on February 28, 2024, prior to the regular meeting. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – Rodney Barnes volunteered his experience as a career Human Resource professional to assist the village in addressing all personnel issues. Tina Dunphy asked that Short-Term Rental owners be better informed on the discussions regarding such. She feels the proposed restrictions could be dangerous. Luanne Barnes suggested that the website contains all the minutes and information regarding Short-Term Rentals. Karen Stenberger asked if a Short-Term Ordinance currently exists.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – Dye indicated that an STR Ordinance does not currently exist. The special committee has been discussing possibilities and will make recommendations to the Village Council who would make any decisions. Bacon clarified that the Village Council would hold a public hearing before making any decisions regarding those recommendations. Walton expressed her gratitude to all who attended the meeting. She is proud to be a council member and feels fortunate to live in a community that cares about each other regardless of differences of opinions.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:37 p.m.

Derith Smith

Empire Village Clerk

These are draft minutes for approval at the February 20, 2023, Regular Council meeting.