

May 9, 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- Palmer removed both scheduled presentations and noted that both will be addressed under agenda items. Walton added a discussion of the proposal from Wade Trim. Bacon asked that agenda items Short Term Rental (STR) Next Steps Discussion and Rules of Procedure be removed. Palmer did not remove the STR and moved the ROP to June Work Session.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – Tina Taghon commented on the STR committee and the community issues. Steve Young commented on the increase in STRs. Bob Chase commented that the materials in the packet regarding STRs were not presented to ½ of the committee nor discussed by the entire committee. Karen Baja commented that STR regulation may not be necessary in a village of 1 square mile. Barbara Ludlow commented on the complaints they have made to the Sheriff regarding fireworks and noise at a STR. Terry Bacon commented that the Zoning Ordinance could define where STRs are an allowed use. Frank Clements commented on the process of the STR issue, the registration and ordinance.

COMMUNICATIONS – Emails regarding STRs were received from Terry Bacon and Frank Clements (available on the website). Bacon read a letter from Frank Clements regarding STRs.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – Palmer reviewed 2 plumbing quotes for the new office.

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Minutes of the Wastewater Task Force were received and reviewed by Rademacher. He also reviewed a Water Committee meeting held regarding water rates.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVE MINUTES: Regular Meeting 4/23/24 – **Motion by Bacon, supported by Rademacher to approve the minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.**

MASS GATHERING WAIVER FORM – Palmer reviewed the documentation. Walton asked for the rationale behind the \$1500 fee. DPW and cleanout of the infiltrator costs were discussed. A reduced fee by \$300-500 was discussed. There was consensus that the waiver application will be moved to the June work session.

RENOVARE FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE – Bacon reviewed the documentation she had provided. Discussion included the how to spend the remaining 10K of the contract, including shovel-ready plans for property, an investment for future grants or a master plan update. There was consensus to move forward with the community meeting on May 16, 2024.

SHORT TERM RENTAL NEXT STEPS DISCUSSION – Dye noted that the committee has not reached a consensus on a recommendation. Ford read the documentation she and Chase had

provided (posted as handout). Dye read from the documentation she and Walton had provided. Walton reviewed the recommendations provided from the previous Short Term Rental Committee. She read from a printed slide presentation (not provided). **Motion by Rademacher, support by Webb to continue the meeting until 9:30 p.m. Upon a voice vote with Bacon opposed, MOTION CARRIED.** Public forums were suggested. Accurate data, the efforts of the committee, and the community disparity were discussed. There was consensus that the committee feels they can come up with a recommendation for next steps.

NEW BUSINESS – Following items were moved to next meeting.

BEACH PARKING FEES –

PERSONNEL POLICY –

SOUTH BAR LAKE WATER TESTING -

PUBLIC COMMENT – Kim Para commented on issues they have had with STRs. Dave Kroll commented on the need of a STR ordinance. Tina Dunphy commented on notifying STR property owners when problems happen. Terry Bacon commented on the proposed STR Registration and Ordinance. Frank Clements commented on the STR Ordinance. Karen Baja commented on the Mass Gathering Ordinance.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – Bacon commented on the four residents that passed this week. Dye commented on committee meetings posted on website.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:59 p.m.

Derith Smith

Empire Village Clerk

These are draft minutes for approved at the May 28, 2024, Regular Council meeting.