

AUGUST 27, 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 Walton at 7:00 p.m. Upon a roll call, Council members Bacon, Chase, Dye, Rademacher, Walton, Webb were present. Palmer was absent and excused. Clerk Smith and DPW Superintendent Friend were also present.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Bacon moved Planning Commission Resignation to Communications and added the notice from Benzie County Planning to Communications. Chase added Schedule the Audit Presentation to the first item under Old Business.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – None.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion by Dye, support by Webb to approve the Consent Agenda including the 8/08/24 Work Session minutes and bills totaling \$17,169.08. Several large invoices were reviewed. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Dye, 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 July were distributed.

COMMUNICATIONS – Letter from Rodney and Louann Barnes commending DPW Tech Reutter, a resignation from Planning Commissioner Margaret Ellibee, and an invitation to comment on the Benzie County Master Plan update were all read aloud.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – DPW report was received and included in the packet. Friend commented on the status of the well house roof, work on signs and the DSMI (material inventory of water system) report for EGLE. Zoning Inspector report was received.

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Dye reported on the Parks Committee and some statistics on revenues and costs compared to the same period last year. Bacon reported on the Master Plan Committee and upcoming meetings. Chase reported on new office progress. A quote for electrical updates needed to meet the current code was reviewed. **Motion by Chase, support by Rademacher to approve a quote not to exceed \$1700. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.** Personnel and Water Committees will be meeting soon. Streets Administrator report was received.

OLD BUSINESS

SCHEDULE AUDIT PRESENTATION – Motion by Bacon, support by Chase to schedule the Audit presentation for Sept. 24, 2024 at 7 p.m. Upon a voice vote, **MOTION PASSED.**

SCHEDULE WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING – Motion by Rademacher, support by Dye to schedule the public hearing on Water Rates following the Audit presentation on Sept. 24, 2024. Upon a voice vote, **MOTION PASSED.**

SCHEDULE PARKS ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING – Motion by Dye, support by Rademacher to schedule the Parks Ordinance Public Hearing following the Water Rate hearing on Sept. 24, 2024. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

SCHEDULE SIGN ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING – Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to schedule the Public Hearing on the Sign Ordinance to follow the Parks Ordinance hearing on 9-24-24. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS

REQUEST PLANNING COMMISSION APPLICATIONS – There was discussion of the policy approved by Council and the process recently used for filling vacancies. Bacon requested the Council discuss the important local segments included in the policy. Discussion included whether the vacancy should be posted on the website with or without a description of the qualifications being sought by Council. There was consensus that the topic be moved to the September Work Session.

BEAUTIFICATION PRESENTATION REQUEST – There was consensus that they report on their efforts at the September Work Session under Committee Reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Diana Oberschulte invited everyone to a Village candidate forum at Lion's Park on Sept. 10, 2024 at 6 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT –None.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:14 p.m.

Derith Smith Empire Village Clerk

These are draft minutes for approval at the September 12, 2024, Council meeting.