

OCTOBER 10, 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 added Time Sheet Issue under New Business.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – Rod Barnes commented on the Recycling Center.

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – Palmer reported on the Water System communication issue, the Hill Climb, Harvest Festival and the upcoming Trunk or Treat.

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Rademacher reported the Water Committee has met once and will meet again tomorrow. He also reported on the Wastewater Task Force meeting of this week. Chase reported the new office desks are scheduled to arrive next week and most cleaning has occurred. The sidewalk work has been completed and the contractor will be returning to complete some cleanup work. Bacon reported the sign for the office is complete and ready to be picked up.

OLD BUSINESS

SIGN ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT – A legal opinion from Attorney Figura was reviewed. There was consensus that political sign enforcement could be left alone until after the election and the new ordinance becomes effective.

PERSONNEL – JOB DESCRIPTIONS DISCUSSION – Several changes to the Treasurer Description were discussed and the Personnel Committee will be meeting to prepare final versions for the Regular meeting.

RECYCLING CENTER FENCE – There was consensus to add the purchase to the Motion on Required Actions for consideration. The prices and details of fence location were reviewed.

MOTIONS ON REQUIRED ACTIONS-

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE 9/24/24 REGULAR MEETING – **Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to approve these minutes. Upon a voice votes MOTION PASSED.**

CONSUMERS ENERGY RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF FEE – **Motion by Webb, support by Dye to approve the Resolution and payment of the \$8.00 fee. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

PURCHASE STEAM CLEANER FOR DPW GARAGE – **Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve the purchase at \$600 and approval of time for pickup. ROLL**

CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

APPROVE FINAL PAYMENT TO RENOVARE: Motion by Bacon, support by Dye to approve the final payment of \$10K to Renovare. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTIONS – Walton recommended that the corrections as discussed be made and returned for Council approval at the Regular meeting.

RECYCLING CENTER FENCE – Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve this expense not to exceed \$6K. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: Dye. MOTION PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS

RAP GRANT OPPORTUNITIES – There was discussion of possible projects and whether they might be eligible. Palmer will contact Renovare about possibilities.

PARKS COMMITTEE REQUEST TO MEET – There was consensus by Council to approve the committee having a meeting.

CHERRY REPUBLIC REQUEST FOR AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT – There was discussion of the impacts both pro and con on Village residents specifically, rather than the region (employment). Discussion included how many additional semi trips would happen on a residential street and the wear and tear on the pavement; safety of bike and pedestrian traffic on that road; the impact on tax revenue and funding for new pavement. There was discussion about the new Master Plan and properties identified for future development and saving abatements for developments that enhance the Village. There was consensus that a letter be sent to Cherry Republic indicating this is not something the Village would like to pursue at this time. Smith will draft a response.

TIME SHEET ISSUE – Palmer asked for an interpretation of the Personnel Policy regarding Bereavement. Bacon commented that overriding a policy presents an auditing issue when they are charged with verifying administration by the Clerk. Discussion included premium paid for emergencies outside regular hours. The Personnel Committee will address new language for Bereavement to be included in a policy update.

PUBLIC COMMENT– None.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – None.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:40 p.m.

Derith Smith

Empire Village Clerk

These are draft minutes to be approved at the October 22 2024, Regular Council meeting.