

**EMPIRE VILLAGE PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023**

The Empire Village Planning Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, in the Empire Township Hall.

Schous opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL –Bacon, Chase, Collins, Deering, Ellibee, Schous, Stepanek present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Motion by Bacon, supported by Stepanek to approve May 2, 2023, regular meeting minutes as presented. AYES: 7, NO: 0. MOTION PASSED.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None.

TREASURERS REPORT – Chase summarized the planning commission revenue and expenditure report month ending 05/31/2023.

ZONING ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – The May 2023 Zoning Administrator Report was received.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE – Correspondence was received from Terry Bacon on the draft Sign Ordinance. Mr. Bacon also provided comment on the sign ordinance, enforcement, and U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sign Ordinance No. 142

Schous asked if it would be worthwhile to go through a professional planner to update the Ordinance. Stepanek had forwarded 3 example ordinances to the planning commission for consideration. **Motion by Bacon, supported by Deering to reimburse Stepanek for the ChatGPT upgrade, if needed. AYES: 7, NO: 0. MOTION PASSED. Motion by Deering, supported by Chase to form a planning commission sub-committee composed of Chase, Stepanek and Ellibee to work on the Sign Ordinance. AYES: 7, NO: 0. MOTION PASSED.** Collins encouraged the sub-committee to bring forward any important changes from the old draft. It was noted that this ordinance will be incorporated back into the Zoning Ordinance once completed.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Terry Bacon stated that sign ordinance does its job by simply existing and dissuading violations. Strict enforcement should be saved for when substantial harm may occur. He believes that the sign ordinance should be written and enforced with common sense and in an even, fair manner.

PLANNING COMMISISON MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS – Bacon shared that as the Street Administrator, she received may complaints about parking during the Asparagus Festival mass gathering event. Bacon reported that Village Council approved proposals for Grobbel Environmental and Gosling Czubak to work in conjunction to create a Stormwater/Sediment Control Plan for Wilco Road.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Alacia Acton, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved at the September 5, 2023, Village of Empire Planning Commission meeting.