

April 11, 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 7:01 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 – Bacon added Request from ABCD Group as #2 under Old 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 – Linda Young commented on Short Term Rental Committee letters. Paul Skinner commented on the Mass Gathering Ordinance. Ella Skrocki commented on short term vs long term rentals in Empire. Terry Bacon commented on the charge to Short Term Rental Committee. Karen Baja commented on Short Term Rental Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS – Letters regarding Short Term Rentals from Tamara & David Kroll; Tank, Dezelski, Pohlod, Cogan & Weaver Family Trust; Bill & Mary Blacquire; Roy Sonnema & Debra DeWitt; Jay Hoekstra; & Mary Sharry were received and included in packet. Letter regarding Village Council and Planning Commission service to community from the Cooks, Peplinskis and Stepaneks was received and included in packet. Letters regarding Short Term Rentals were received from John Ludlow and Mary Sharry and included as a handout. All nine letters were read aloud by Council members.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – Palmer reported the boat ramp will be installed next week and street cleaning is being completed. She read from a written report regarding responses from council to public.

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Bacon reported on four proposals for sidewalk repairs and parking designation at Shalda Park. Walton reported on Personnel Committee report regarding shirts and protective equipment for employees, updates to job descriptions. Dye reported on Short Term Rental Committee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVE MINUTES: Regular Meeting 3/26/24 – Motion by Dye, support by Walton to approve the minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

ABCD GROUP REQUEST – Bacon reported they are planning a community event on April 27th at the Township Hall. Rod Barnes reminded the council of the previous presentations by this Group, including a World Café. A cost amount will be available for consideration at the April Regular meeting.

SHORT TERM RENTAL REVIEW – Bacon read from a handout entitled "STR Registration Ordinance - How Did We Get Here?". Dye read a history 2019-24 of Short-Term Rental Actions which was included in the packet.

RULES OF PROCEDURE – Palmer reviewed suggested changes beginning at 6.12. Discussion of documentation included in packet continued and will begin at 11.5 at the next work session.

VILLAGE OFFICE UPDATE – The property survey was reviewed indicating no recorded easement on property. There was discussion of the options for driveway access to the adjacent property to the south. **Motion by Rademacher, support by Bacon to extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m. On a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.** Discussion continued including which issues on the inspection list could be addressed before purchase. A list of possible costs was reviewed. There was support for bringing the plumbing up to code. The discussion returned to the possibilities for addressing the driveway for the adjacent property. **Motion by Rademacher, support by Walton to move forward with the purchase agreement of the Field Trip building.** There was discussion of how the purchase cost would be spread among funds (65% General, 5% each Local and Major Streets, 10% Water, 15% Equipment) and that the monies are available for a cash purchase. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Chase, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher, Walton, Webb. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

MASS GATHERING ORDINANCE REVIEW – There was discussion of changes to the ordinance that had been reviewed, but not adopted in 2023. There was consensus that any changes to the ordinance be considered at a future public hearing to be scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS – Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to move all the New Business on this agenda to the Regular Meeting on April 23rd. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

BEACH AND FRONT STREET STRIPING; VILLAGE COUNCIL COMPUTER PURCHASE; 2024 ROAD CLOSURE APPLICATION; STORMWATER RUN-OFF AT LAKE AND NIAGARA PROPOSALS – All items moved to April 23rd agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Terry Bacon commented on proposed Public Comment on any topic. Karen Baja commented on Work Sessions.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – Webb commented on the vote for the purchase agreement. Rademacher commented on the Disaster Preparedness committee. Chase commented on Environmental Study. Walton commented on the clarifications provided on the Short-Term Rental committee.

ADJOURNMENT at 9:42 p.m.

Derith Smith

Empire Village Clerk

These minutes were approved at the April 23, 2024, Regular Council meeting.