

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OF THE ZIMMERMAN CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Zimmerman City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall by Mayor Earenfight, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL Present: Mayor Earenfight, Council Members Brisbin, Mathison, Nathe, and Smith. Also present was Administrator Piasecki, Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann, Public Works Director Johnson and Fire Chief Maloney.

AGENDA APPROVAL **Brisbin/Nathe unanimous to approve the agenda as presented.**

OPEN FORUM There was no one present to address the Council during Open Forum.

ORDER OF DISCUSSION

Fire Department Building

Fire Chief Maloney was present to discuss space needs of the Fire Department. Maloney stated that the current department has outgrown the existing Fire Department building and would like to discuss potential future expansion or construction plans with the City Council. He asked Council to consider the possibility of a joint building for the Department and City Offices, potentially with a community center or rental space included.

Maloney continued that the building was constructed in 1980 when the City's population was 1,100 people. Today, the District serves approximately 15,000 people within the service area. The department is at full capacity with 33 members. Currently, there is not adequate parking for trainings and calls if all members are present, and they have an informal agreement with Windstream to utilize their parking lot after hours. The Department recently remodeled the building interior to improve the meeting room, and that space is also at capacity.

Maloney stated that ideally the Department would prefer to stay in a location central to the City with access directly onto County Road 4. Staff identified several vacant properties in the general vicinity that could serve the Department adequately. Council requested Chief Maloney contact the City of Rogers for information regarding the cost to construct their building with adjoining community space. Staff will also consult the City Attorney regarding the viability of using the Marturano Property for a joint city building.

Project Updates

- 2016 Street Improvements – The Public Hearing is scheduled for May 16th during the Council meeting. Staff held an informational meeting earlier in the day with several residents asking questions about the projects and potential assessments. Piasecki reported that Financial Consultant believes the City will be able to use funds from TIF District #9 to fund a portion of the project. Bids for the Street Preservation project were opened on two weeks ago and the City Engineer will have a recommendation for completion of the project at the May 16 Council meeting.
- Fremont Drive Realignment – Sherburne County will open bids for the project on May 26 with acceptance of the bids before the City Council sometime in June.
- Staff will be bringing a recommendation to Council on the rehabilitation of Lift Station #1. The lift station is about 22 years old and it is getting more and more difficult to find parts to repair and upgrade the machine. A full rehabilitation is estimated at about \$150,000.
- Staff will be presenting Council with options on the purchase of a snow plow in the near future. The Public Works Department is currently evaluating to fleet to determine which vehicles if any should be retired.

- At the end of 2015, Council directed staff to evaluate the employee compensation to determine how to address employees that have hit their salary grade maximum. After looking at the organization structure and compensation plan, staff believes that the city's wages are comparable to similar cities. It would be inappropriate to make an exception to the current pay plan for one employee when there are others that will be reaching the same situation in one or two years. Staff reminded Council that a recently retired employee was at the maximum for his salary grade for nearly 6 years and there was never an exception made for him. If Council wishes to address the compensation plan, staff recommends that all positions be re-evaluated.

COMMUNICATIONS & MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Mayor Earenfight noted the following events and activities:

- May 16 -- Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Sherburne County Public Works Building (Zimmerman)
- May 26 – 30 -- Wild West Days
- May 30 – Memorial Day Holiday – City Offices Closed
- June 4 – Zimmerman Farmer's Market (Tuesdays until October) – City Park
- June 18 – Zimmerman/Livonia Fire District Golf Tournament – Princeton Golf Course
- June 24 -- Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament – Princeton Golf Course

Brisbin/Smith unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Approved this 11th day of July, 2016.

s/s Kary Tillmann, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved 07/11/2016