

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ZIMMERMAN CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular 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, Merwin and Michels. Also present were Administrator Piasecki, and Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Michels/Brisbin unanimous to approve the agenda with the addition of a presentation from ISD 728 Supt. Bezek about the upcoming levy referendum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mathison/Michels unanimous to approve the meeting minutes of the September 8, 2014 Regular Meeting of the City Council as presented

CONSENT AGENDA

Merwin/Michels unanimous to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Approve the payment of claims (check #36442 - #26492) in the amount of \$39,021.76 as presented.
- b. Accept invoice #169527, authorizing payment to Bolton & Menk in the amount of \$11,620.80 (ck #36496) for Project Management Services related to the Lift Station #7 Replacement Project, for the month of August 2014, as recommended by staff.
- c. Authorize payment to ABM Equipment Supply in the amount of \$8,310.75, (ck #36495) for repairs to the VAC Truck, as identified on invoice #0140922-IN, with funds to be taken from the Sewer Fund, as recommended by the Public Works Director.

OPEN FORUM

There was no one present to address the Council during open forum.

PARK BOARD REPORT

Tim Sevcik, Park Board Chair, presented the report for the September 10, 2014 Park Board Meeting. Sevcik stated that a resident appeared during the Open Forum portion of their agenda to relay a concern regarding the wetland area near his home. After discussion with City staff, it was suggested that the DNR would be the appropriate jurisdiction to assist with his concerns. The Park Board has been reviewing amenities available in park areas throughout the City. The Board is currently researching the cost of installing bike racks in some parks. They are also looking into the installation of signage for Marturano Meadows Park, Maefield Park and the Randy Johnson field. Eventually they would like all park signage to be a standard design. Brief discussion was held regarding the potential relocation of flagpoles from Shady Elm Park to the City Park. The Ballfield Lighting Dedication took place on Saturday evening and was well attended. Frisbee Golf is a heavily used amenity in town and has been well received by the community.

Mathison/Michels unanimous to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2014 Park Board meeting as presented.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Patrol Captain Bob Stangler, Sherburne County Sheriff's Department, provided an overview of activities for the month of August, 2014. The department received 346 calls for service, including 87 traffic stops with 38 offenses charged by citation, as opposed 406 calls for service in the same time period in 2013 and 383 calls in 2012. Stangler reported that August was a quiet month. Five thefts were reported and the Department has been following up on several thefts dating back to July. Stangler also reported that the Department has recovered the

flags that were stolen from various locations in town earlier this spring. Residents were reminded to make sure homes and vehicles are locked during the day now that school is back in session and discussion was held regarding laws relating to school bus safety.

Council agreed by unanimous consensus to accept the Law Enforcement Report for July, 2014, as presented.

Mayor Earenfight declared a recess at 7:15 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 7: 19 p.m.

PRESENTATION **ISD #728 Referendum – Dr. Mark Bezek, Superintendent**

Dr. Mark Bezek, Superintendent, ISD 728, was present to address the Council regarding the upcoming bond/levy referendum which will be on the November 4 ballot. Dr. Bezek distributed a brochure detailing the upcoming referendum election and the financial impact to residents and businesses. The School Board is proposing two questions on the ballot which, if approved, would increase the operating levy for the District and approve new bonding money to build new and upgrade existing educational spaces throughout the District. Question 1 would raise approximately \$5.9 million, or \$409 per pupil to operate new learning spaces, hire teachers to reduce class sizes and improve technology throughout the district. Question 2 will ask for approval for new bonding money that will be used to make classroom and facility improvements and upgrades at Zimmerman, Elk River and Rogers High Schools, as well build a new elementary school in Otsego and build additions at elementary schools in Zimmerman and Rogers, along with security enhancements and other building improvements at all schools district-wide.

This funding is being sought because most schools district-wide have exceeded capacity. The School Board strongly supports the improvements as outlined. Bezek stated that tax impact of both these levies on a \$250,000 home would be an annual increase of \$42. Commercial properties would see a decrease in school district taxes. If both levies fail, the District will have to institute a new lease levy, which will cost twice as much and would only allow 2 projects to be completed primarily in south part of district. This option would not address space, technology or security needs across the district.

Discussion was also held regarding funding equity for districts. Bezek reported that in comparison to other school districts throughout the state, ISD #728 receives significantly less funding from the state. He continued that part of the inequity happens because Metro districts are much more property rich and commercial properties pay a larger percentage of the school taxes because there are simply more commercial properties.

Comments were heard from **Wendy Kowalski, 26412 Lake Avenue**, who questioned the length of the referendum for both questions. Bezek responded that the levy would last 10 years and the bond has a 20-year life.

FINANCE REPORT– presented by Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann

2015 Budget Process

Tillmann reported that the preliminary budget and levy must be certified to Sherburne County by September 30, 2014. Council reviewed the budget throughout the month of August and again at the September 8 meeting. No changes have been made since the September 8 meeting. Staff recommends Council approve the preliminary budget and levy as presented, allowing for review in greater detail over the months of October, November, and December before final certification in December, 2014.

RESOLUTION #14-09-02 **Brisbin/Merwin unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION #14-09-02 approving the proposed Preliminary General Fund Levy for taxes collectible in 2015 as follows: General Fund: \$1,122,378; Debt Service: \$69,000; Capital Expenditures: \$37,163, for a total levy amount of \$1,228,541 upon taxable property in the City of Zimmerman.**

RESOLUTION #14-09-03 **Brisbin/Michels unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION #14-09-03, approving the proposed 2015 Preliminary General Fund Budget as presented.**

Tillmann reported that Council must hold a public comment meeting prior to adopting the final 2015 General Fund Operational Budget. According to statute, this meeting must be held after November 24, 2014 and cannot begin before 6:00 p.m. The final budget must be adopted between November 25 and December 30, 2014. The public meeting date must be certified to the Auditor/Treasurer's Office by September 30. Staff recommends setting the public comment meeting for Monday, December 1, 2014 at or after 7:00 p.m., to coincide with Council's regular meeting schedule and allow staff time to make changes to the budget prior to final adoption.

Comments were heard from **Wendy Kowalski, 26412 Lake Avenue**, who questioned why the City Council would hold Zimmerman's public comment meeting on the same date as the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners. Tillmann stated that by holding it on December 1, Council can follow their regular meeting schedule and still allow time for staff to make changes and Council to have adequate time to review any changes prior to final adoption. By holding the meeting on a regular meeting night, it also saves the expense of holding a special meeting. Kowalski requested Council consider holding the meeting on a date separate from a regular Council meeting so residents who want to attend both the City and County meetings would be better able to.

RESOLUTION #14-09-04 **Brisbin/Michels unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION #14-09-04, setting the public comment meeting for the 2014 General Fund operational budget and levy for Monday, December 2, 2013, at 7:30 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter, pursuant to MS 275.065, subd 1 and 3.**

MAYOR/COUNCIL ITEMS

Upcoming Events

Mayor Earenfight noted the following:

- Farmer's Market – Tuesdays 3 – 6:30 p.m. – City Park
- The Ballfield Lighting Dedication on September 13 was well attended and Council received very positive feedback
- Passing the Bread Food Distribution – Saturday, October 25; 8 – 10 a.m. at Public Safety Building

Before adjourning, Mayor Earenfight asked for a moment of silence in honor of US military personnel and their families.

Brisbin/Michels unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Motion carried.

Approved this 6th day of October, 2014.

s/s Kary Tillmann, Clerk/Treasurer