

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ZIMMERMAN CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012**

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 Kowalski, Laney and Mathison. Member Brisbin was excused absent. Also present were Administrator Piasecki, and Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mathison/Kowalski unanimous to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- **Request to install irrigation and trees – Administrator’s Report**
- **Public Announcements – Mayor/Council Items**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Kowalski requested a change to page 2 of the minutes under 2013 Budget Process as follows:

Member Kowalski ~~wished~~ proposed to amend the motion to include the Water and Sewer Fund budgets in the levy amount. Member Mathison did not wish to amend his motion.

Laney/Mathison to approve the meeting minutes of the September 10, 2012 Regular Meeting as amended.

CONSENT AGENDA

Laney/Kowalski unanimous to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Approve the payment of claims (check #34497 - #34537) in the amount of \$30,212.36 as presented and electronic payments (e-check #815 - #818) in the amount of \$27,160.71, as presented.
- b. Accept the City Investment/Funds Report for August 2012 as presented.
- c. Accept the Monthly Budget Report for August 2012 as presented.
- d. Accept Invoice #150083 authorizing payment to Bolton & Menk in the amount of \$31,066.00 (ck #34538) for Project Management Services related to the CSAH 4 Improvement Project, for services provided for the month of July, 2012, as recommended by staff.
- e. Accept Invoice #150087 authorizing payment to Bolton & Menk in the amount of \$13,571.50 (ck #34538) for Project Management Services related to the Fremont Avenue Water Main Replacement project, for services provided for the month of July, 2012, as recommended by staff.
- f. Approve payment to Hawkins, Inc. in the amount of \$6,214.78 for bulk chemicals to be used at the Wastewater Treatment Plant as identified on Invoice #3382107, with funds to be paid from the SBR budget in the Sewer Fund, as indicated by the Public Works Director.
- g. Approve payment to Larsco Water Treatment Equipment, in the amount of \$5,452.35 for a metering pump as identified on Invoice #26981, with funds to be paid from the Water Fund, as indicated by the Public Works Director.

OPEN FORUM

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

PRESENTATION

ISD #728 Referendum – Dr. Mark Bezek, Superintendent

Dr. Mark Bezek, Superintendent, ISD 728, was present to address the Council regarding a number of issues concerning the Zimmerman community within the boundaries of the Elk River School District.

Dr. Bezek distributed a brochure detailing the 2012-2017 Strategic Plan for ISD 728. This new plan is the culmination of 3 years of work involving Board members, staff and community members. Some items identified in the plan are already in process, but will take a number of years to fully complete.

The second item Dr. Bezek addressed is an upcoming community meeting to discuss the possible construction of an auditorium for Zimmerman High School. A community meeting will be held on Thursday, September 27 at 7 p.m. at the Zimmerman High School. The meeting is open to the public and will explore options relating to this type of facility in the community. A similar meeting is being held in Rogers this week.

The third item addressed by Dr. Bezek is the 2013 – 2014 School District Budget and Levy, and upcoming referendum election. The School Board is proposing to renew the existing excess levy referendum in the amount of \$386 per pupil scheduled to expire after taxes payable 2013. The proposed revenue referendum authorization would be applicable for 10 years, beginning with taxes payable in 2014, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. Bezek continued that if this renewal referendum was defeated, it will eliminate \$5.75 million from the budget. If the excess levy is passed, it will not create any new taxes.

The school board is also proposing to institute a new levy in the amount of \$400 per pupil, to be used to provide free all-day, every day kindergarten, provide curriculum and technology for classrooms, and support ongoing operating expenses. The proposed revenue referendum authorization would also be applicable for 10 years, beginning with taxes payable 2013, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. The increase to personal property taxes on a home valued at \$150,000 would be approximately \$14 per month.

Bezek reported that in comparison to other school districts throughout the state, ISD #728 receives significantly less funding from the state than other districts. Funding comparisons were shared with the Council. The difference between ISD #728 (\$698 per pupil) and the highest funded district in Minnesota (\$1,946 per pupil) is \$1,248 per student.

PARK BOARD REPORT -- Presented by Tom Wilkinson, Park Board Chair

Wilkinson reported that residents in Pioneer Ponds are interested in donating funds to purchase trees for the Park in that development. Donations will be accepted at City Hall. The Park Board will also be looking for volunteers to assist with planting trees once purchased.

Kowalski/Laney unanimous to accept the resignation of Park Board member Emily Rotz and declare a vacancy for the remainder of the term, as recommended by the Park Board.

Kowalski/Laney unanimous to appoint Ron Mathison to fill the Park Board seat vacated by Emily Rotz, effective immediately through January 31, 2014, as recommended by the Park Board.

Laney/Kowalski unanimous to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2012 Park Board Meeting as presented.

FINANCE REPORT -- presented by Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann

2013 Budget Update

Tillmann reported that as part of the 2013 budget, staff is currently soliciting premium quotes for the City's health insurance benefit. Currently the insurance plan will renew on October 1, for a period of three months. Whichever new plan is selected will be effective January 1. The City's agent is confident that by soliciting quotes at this time, there will be a reduction in premium costs. Quotes should be available for discussion with Council at the October 8 COW meeting. No action taken.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – presented by Administrator Piasecki

Installation of Irrigation System and Boulevard Trees

As part of the reconstruction planning for the CSAH 4 Reconstruction, staff had considered a landscape plan for the surplus boulevard area between 2nd Street and 3rd Street East. During the planning stages, there were concerns relating to timing of the project, areas necessary for staging, and potential cost, so staff requested that only a water service line be installed to provide irrigation in the future.

The boulevard area is a little over 10,000 square feet in area and is prominently displayed to the traveling public. Staff believes it should be maintained as a lawn area with approximately 6 decorative dwarf trees. Irrigation is necessary to grow and maintain the proposed lawn and trees. Irrigation can be installed for approximately \$2,100, with trees available for purchase at a reasonable price from a local nursery. Staff recommends Council approval of the expenditure for irrigation and trees at a cost of approximately \$2,500. The area is located in TIF District #8, and adequate TIF fund balances are available to cover the cost.

Mathison/Laney unanimous to approve installation of an irrigation system and dwarf decorative trees on City owned boulevard located on the south side of CSAH 4 and between 2nd Street and 3rd Street East, at a cost of approximately \$2500, with funds to be paid out of TIF District #1, #2 and #8.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ITEMS

Council highlighted the following upcoming events:

- ISD 728 Community Meeting regarding Auditorium – September 27, 7 p.m., Zimmerman High School
- Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge Fall Festival – September 29
- Passing the Bread will hold a Food Distribution event on October 27 at the Sherburne County Public Safety Building
- State/Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Member Laney offered a public apology for comments he made recently pertaining to salaries of City employees.

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

Kowalski/Mathison unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Approved this 1st day of October, 2012.

Kary Tillmann, Clerk/Treasurer