

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ZIMMERMAN CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 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, Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann, and Public Works Director Horvath.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mathison/Brisbin unanimous to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brisbin/Merwin unanimous to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2014 Regular Meeting of the City Council as presented

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Approve the payment of claims (check #36545 - #36577) in the amount of \$20,154.62 and electronic payments (e-check #1086 - #1090) in the amount of \$30,671.29 as presented.
- b. Approve payment to Hawkins, Inc., in the amount of \$5,815.00 (ck #36578) for bulk chemicals to be used at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, as identified on Invoice #3649100, with funds to be paid from the SBR budget in the Sewer Fund, as indicated by the Public Works Director.
- c. Authorize payment to the Zimmerman/Livonia Fire District in the amount of \$66,604.00 (ck #36581), as final payment for 2014 Fire Protection Services, as recommended by staff.
- d. Approve payment to the Zimmerman/Livonia Fire Relief Association in the amount of \$64,426.19 (ck #36580), for 2014 Fire State Aid, as identified by the Minnesota Department of Revenue.
- e. Approve the purchase of a 2010 Ford F-150 4x2 extended cab pickup truck from the Minnesota Department of Transportation at a cost of \$13,000 plus tax, title and license, and authorize payment to the Minnesota Department of Transportation in the amount of \$13,000 (ck #36579) for the purchase of said truck, with funds to be taken from the Street Department budget (101-43100-580), as recommended by staff.
- f. Adopt **RESOLUTION #14-10-05**, approving the request of the Zimmerman Chamber of Commerce for an Exempt Permit to conduct lawful gambling at a raffle to be held at the Zimmerman Evangelical Free Church, 25620 – 4th Street West, on December 11, 2014.

OPEN FORUM

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

PARK BOARD REPORT

Tim Sevcik, Park Board Chair, presented the October 2014 Park Board report. Sevcik reviewed the sign design for three parks, Marturano Meadows, Maefield Park, and Randy Johnson Fields #1 and #2. Signs will be made similar to the identification signs at Horvath Park and the Hockey Rink. Addresses are included for safety purposes. The Park Board suggested using cedar instead of redwood to reduce the cost to approximately \$1,900 each.

Mathison/Merwin unanimous to authorize the purchase of three park identification signs (Marturano Meadows, Maefield Park and Randy Johnson Fields) from Vinyl Graphics, in the amount of \$1,900 each, with funds to be taken from the Park Fund, as recommended by the Park Board.

Discussion was held regarding the new identification sign at Firefighter's Park. Sevcik stated that the Fire Department ordered the sign before the Park Board approached the membership about updating to sign to something similar to what is being used at other parks.

Sevcik reported that the Park Board has been exploring grant opportunities through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for park improvements and land acquisition. Most grants require a local financial match. At this time, the Park Board feels the fund balance in the Park Fund is too low to feasibly apply for and support grants of that nature. In the future, the City should consider other financing sources, such as a general fund levy, capital improvement dollars, or increased user fees, to fund projects.

Brisbin/Mathison unanimous to accept the minutes of the October 8, 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 October, 2014. The department received 343 calls for service, including 86 traffic stops with 37 offenses charged by citation, as opposed 413 calls for service in the same time period in 2013 and 320 calls in 2012. Six burglaries were reported, however only 3 proved to actually be burglaries. Six thefts were reported, with three being from motor vehicles that were unsecured at the time the thefts occurred.

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

Mayor Earenfight declared a recess at 7:26 p.m. to convene a meeting of the City Economic Development Authority. The regular meeting was reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

TIF #7 DECERTIFICATION AND 2014/2015 CASH FLOW ANALYSIS

Jim Casserly, Monroe, Moxness Berg and Greg Johnson, Sevenich, Butler, Gerlach and Brazil, LTD, Financial Consultants

Financial Consultants Jim Casserly, Monroe, Moxness Berg, and Greg Johnson, Sevenich, Butler, Gerlach and Brazil, LTD, were present to provide an overview of activities related to the pending decertification of TIF District #7 and a cash flow analysis of the City's 2014/2015 financial activities. Casserly recapped EDA action, recommending the City decertify TIF District #7 prior to year-end 2014. Casserly added that if the City adopted the resolution presented, everything the EDA is recommending would be achieved.

Comments were heard from **Wendy Kowalski, 26412 Lake Avenue, Zimmerman**, who questioned the statutory authority that allows the EDA to take a loan. Casserly responded that any City enterprise fund can provide loans to an EDA for an economic development purpose. It is an interfund loan between two independent bodies. The authority to borrow money is contained in the statute dealing with the Economic Development Authority Act and also generally in MS 469. Since Casserly has been the City's Financial Consultant, the City has done this at least three times, most recently in 2009.

RESOLUTION #14-10-03 Michels/Brisbin unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION #14-10-03, relating to the Decertification of TIF District #7, transferring excess TIF District #7 funds (Fund 377) to the EDA Fund (Fund 228), and approving a \$150,000 loan to the Zimmerman Economic Development Authority as presented, and as recommended by staff and the Financial Consultants.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – presented by **Dave Horvath, Public Works Director**

Public Works Director Horvath read aloud his letter of resignation, identifying his last day of employment with the City as December 31, 2014.

Mathison/Michels unanimous to accept the resignation of Dave Horvath, Public Works Director, effective December 31, 2014.

FINANCE REPORT– presented by Kary Tillmann, Clerk/Treasurer

2014 Municipal Canvassing Board

Tillmann reported that Council must meet to canvass election results between the 3rd and 10th day following the Municipal General Election, which would be between Friday, November 7 and Friday, November 14, 2014. In years past, the Canvassing Board has convened the Monday after the Election, immediately prior to the COW meeting. At this time, it is unknown if Council will choose to hold a COW meeting on that date. Tillmann requested Council consider Wednesday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m. as the Canvassing Board Meeting.

Michels/Mathison unanimous to convene a meeting of the Municipal Canvassing Board on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Zimmerman City Hall, pursuant to MN Statutes 205.185, subd 3, to canvass results from the Municipal Election on November 4, 2014.

2014 Longevity Pay

Discussion was held regarding the granting of Longevity Pay to eligible employees for 2014. Annually, Council considers longevity payments to employees based on years of service to the City. Currently, there are 5 employees eligible for longevity, with a potential total payout of \$8,840.00. The impact on the General Fund is \$4,940, on the Water Fund is \$1,430 and the Sewer Fund is \$2,470. These amounts were included in the 2014 expenditure budget when it was approved last year. Staff was requesting discussion on whether Council would approve the payout of longevity for 2014. No action taken.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT– presented by Randy Piasecki, City Administrator

Blandin Broadband Community

Administrator Piasecki reviewed information received from Dan Weber, Sherburne County Economic Development Specialist, regarding a desire by Sherburne County to pursue Blandin Foundation grant assistance to develop broadband access within the County, including Cities within the County. The County will consider a resolution of support on the October 14, 2014 meeting agenda. The City of Becker has already adopted a resolution of support and the City of Big Lake will consider a similar resolution at their October 22, 2014 meeting.

The County and cities propose to apply for a Blandin Foundation Grant as a group to create and/or improve broadband access within the County. Broadband access to the County and its cities is a Strategic Goal of the County Economic Development Strategic Plan. Broadband increases the digital infrastructure, providing increased speed and efficiency of “internet-based” services and computer connections. Access would also give the County and cities the same or similar services provided in the metro area, making potential business relocations to the County/cities more enticing and attractive. City staff has been part of the group of local government staff associated with the development of the County Strategic Plan.

If successful, the county/city application would be 1 of 10 grants to be considered by Blandin, and could provide matching funds of up to \$100,000 to initiate a broadband service project. As is typical with many grants, matching funds would be required, which would be discussed and potentially shared by the participants. All actions regarding programs, financing, etc. would be posed to the Council prior to City participation. Staff requests Council consider a resolution supporting the efforts of the County and participating cities in applying for Blandin Foundation Broadband Designation.

Comments were heard from **Wendy Kowalski, 26412 Lake Avenue, Zimmerman**, questioning what impact there would be on current service providers when there is a team that gets together with an entity such as the government. She questioned the fairness of additional competition to other service providers. Piasecki stated that a broadband vendor would simply provide consumers with another option for service. Government is not

endorsing any one vendor or service and ultimately the customer would choose the service and provider they want, adding this is only the initial step in the process. The grant would fund further study of bringing broadband to our area.

RESOLUTION #14-10-04 Mathison/Merwin unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION #14-10-04, supporting the City of Zimmerman’s participation in the establishment of a Blandin Broadband Community.

Member Brisbin left the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ITEMS

Upcoming Events

Mayor Earenfight noted the following:

- Passing the Bread Food Distribution – Saturday, October 25; 8 – 10 a.m. at Public Safety Building. Setup is Friday at 8 a.m.
- Absentee Voting available now at the Sherburne County Auditor/Treasurer’s Office during regular business hours and also Saturday, November 1 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- State/Municipal General Election – Tuesday, November 4, 2014. Polls open 7 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Chamber of Commerce Celebrate the Season – Saturday, December 6, 2014

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

Merwin/Michels unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Motion carried.

Approved this 3rd day of November, 2014.

s/s Kary Tillmann, Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED 11/03/2014