

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP
OF THE ZIMMERMAN CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER The Zimmerman City Council met in a workshop session at the Zimmerman City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. at City Hall by Mayor Stay.

ROLL CALL Present: Mayor Stay, Council Members Bondhus, Dahl, Frederick, and Whiting. Also present was Administrator Piasecki, Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann and Public Works Director Koehler.

AGENDA APPROVAL **Whiting/Frederick unanimous to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion regarding potential annexation/merger with Livonia Township.**

ORDER OF DISCUSSION

Code Update – Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) Regulations

The Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) regulatory section of City Code does not meet current MPCA standards. Staff has been working with the City Attorney to prepare a code update to address the issue. This update could include new City Code which is as restrictive as State and County codes, or the City could simply adopt Sherburne County's SSTS standards by reference. SSTS regulation and permitting could also be deferred to the Sherburne County Zoning Office.

Based on recent discussions with Livonia Township regarding annexation or merger, City staff feels it is best, at this time, to adopt Sherburne County's regulations by reference. Staff will then use the County's standards to administer the permitting and management of septic systems. If the City and Township come to an agreement on a merger, staff anticipates SSTS regulations being incorporated into a new or amended City Code.

After discussion with Council, staff was directed to prepare documentation for consideration and approval at either Council meeting in February 2022.

Annexation/Merger with Livonia Township

City staff has received a draft annexation agreement prepared by the Livonia Township Attorney, which would include the annexation of Township property south of Zimmerman city limits to the northern border of the City of Elk River. The draft agreement is currently being reviewed by the City's Attorney. Attorney Mattick would like to discuss the proposed agreement with Council in a workshop session if Council is amenable, to outline the process of annexation/merger and identify areas of benefit and concern for the City.

Council directed Staff to schedule a workshop session with Attorney Mattick for Monday, January 31, 2022.

City Fire Hall Property

The MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry Division has been considering reconstruction of their current site north of City Hall. Due to the Fire Department relocating to the new building, the DNR has expressed an interest in leasing or purchasing and renovating the City's current Fire Hall for their operation. Staff has been working with the DNR for the past 6 months as they've reviewed and inspected the property and facilities to determine if it meets their needs. The DNR has also completed an appraisal of the property and wishes to further discuss the purchase of the 1.26-acre property from the City. Staff has also discussed the City purchasing the existing DNR property for year-round storage of City Public Works equipment. Public Works Director Koehler would like to view the DNR property to determine if it could meet the City's equipment storage needs.

Council directed staff to continue discussions with the DNR regarding the sale and acquisition of the City Fire

Hall property and the DNR property north of City Hall. More information will be provided to Council as it becomes available.

Mayor Stay adjourned the workshop at 6:53 p.m.

Approved this 24th day of January, 2022.

s/s Kary Tillmann, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved 01/24/2022