

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ZIMMERMAN CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025**

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 Dahl.

Blake Doten, Boy Scout Troop 91, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance alongside his Troop Leader Randy Doten. Blake is in the process of completing the Boy Scout “Citizenship in the Community” Badge. Council thanked Blake for his attendance and participation in tonight’s meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Dahl, Council Members Earenfight, Farber, and Wells. Member Bondhus was excused absent. Also present were Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann, and Public Works Director Koehler.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Wells/Earenfight unanimous to approve the agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Farber/Earenfight unanimous to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- a. Approve the January 6, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes of the City Council as presented.
- b. Approve the January 13, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as presented.
- c. Approve the payment of claims (check #46914 - #46971) in the amount of \$70,577.19 and electronic payments (e-checks #3025e – #3036e) in the amount of \$111,663.10, as presented.
- d. Authorize payment in the amount of \$5,625.00 (ck #46973) to Hawkins, Inc., for bulk chemicals to be used at the Wastewater Treatment Plant as identified on Invoice #6949847, with funds to be paid from the SBR Budget in the Sewer Fund as indicated by the Public Works Director.
- e. Accept the October 2024 Budget/Investment/Funds Report as presented.
- f. Accept the November 2024 Budget/Investment/Funds Report as presented.
- g. Adopt **RESOLUTION #2025-01-06**, approving the Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling for the Santiago Lions for a gambling event to be held February 16, 2025, at the Station #1 Event Center, 26140 – 136th Street NW, Zimmerman, MN 55398.
- h. Approve the license application to operate Bingo for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2025, for the Kriesel Jacobson American Legion Post #560 – 12674 Fremont Avenue, Zimmerman, MN 55398.
- i. Approve license applications to operate as a Garbage & Refuse Collector within City limits for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2025 for the following:
 - Ace Solid Waste, Inc. – 6601 McKinley Street NW, Ramsey, MN 55303
 - Allied Waste/Republic Services – 700 – 40th Avenue NE, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
 - Jim’s Mille Lacs Disposal, Inc., -- PO Box 275, 190 – 2nd Avenue NE, Milaca, MN 56353
 - LePage & Sons – 23602 University Avenue NW, Bethel, MN 55005
 - VanderPoel Disposal – PO Box 212, Milaca, MN 56353
 - Waste Management of MN, 1505 – 11th Avenue NE, Cambridge, MN 55008
- j. Approve the license application/registration to operate as a Sewer and Water Installer within City limits for the period of January 1 – December 31, 2025 for the following:
 - CW Houle, Inc. – 1300 W County Road I, Shoreview, MN 55126
 - Metro General Services – 5790 Quam Avenue NE, St. Michael, MN 55376
 - ML Schendizielos & Sons, Inc. – 7760 Front Street, Clear Lake, MN 55319
 - Rick’s Plumbing -- 1701 - 221st Avenue NW, Cedar, MN 55011.

- k. Approve the license application for a Solicitor for the period of January 28, 2024 – January 27, 2025, for a mobile ice cream truck for Michelle Remick, dba Brain Freeze Ice Cream, 16087 – 225th Avenue NW, Big Lake, MN 55309.

OPEN FORUM

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

2024 COUNTY ATTORNEY'S UPDATE

Kathleen Heaney, Sherburne County Attorney, was present to provide an update of activities and services provided by the Sherburne County Attorney's Office (CAO) through the prosecution contract for the City. Council also heard from Dawn Nyhus who leads the County Attorney's Office Civil Division and is the secondary contact for Heaney's Office. Heaney stated that she and her staff enjoy a cooperative relationship with the City of Zimmerman and the Sherburne County Sheriff's Department and appreciates the opportunity to work on behalf of the City of Zimmerman. In 2024, one-third of the City's fine revenue collected, totaling \$4,726.77, was turned back to the CAO for prosecution services for petty, misdemeanor, and gross misdemeanors in the City. The CAO filed 284 criminal traffic cases, which is an increase from 2023. Petty, misdemeanor, and gross misdemeanor cases for Zimmerman have increased, and the CAO's office has also seen an increase in cases going to trial and outcomes being appealed.

No action taken.

2024 LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Ben Zawacki, Commander, Sherburne County Sheriff's Department, presented an annual report of activities and services provided by the Sherburne County Sheriff's Department for 2024. This is an overview of the reports Captain Broich provided monthly to the Council throughout the past year. The Sheriff's Department has provided contracted law enforcement services for the City of Zimmerman for more than 20 years and enjoys a solid partnership with the City. In 2024, Sheriff's Deputies made 5,337 contacts in the City, including traffic complaints, security checks, accidents, medical related incidents, fires, assaults, burglaries, drug related incidents and conducted many types of investigations. This compares to 5,661 contacts in 2023 and 6,325 contacts in 2022.

Zawacki also provided the following agency updates:

- The back-up Dispatch Center at the Zimmerman Public Safety Building will be fully operational in the near future
- The Department had a considerable number of long-term employees retire in 2024 and early 2025
- K9 Deputy Jax retired as of January 21, 2025 and K9 Deputy Bane will begin training with Deputy Carlson in March 2025
- The Emergency Response Unit has received recognition for tactical skills
- Department personnel continue to be heavily involved in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run as well as the Annual Night to Unite in various communities throughout the County and the "Shop with a Cop" program held annually each December

No action taken.

FINANCE REPORT – presented by **Kary Tillmann, Clerk/Treasurer**

LMCIT Liability Insurance Waiver

As part of the City's annual property and casualty insurance renewal, Council is asked to consider a waiver of the statutory liability limit from \$300,000 to \$1 million per person and occurrence and the purchase of excess liability insurance through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust. Previous Councils did waive the statutory liability limits for several years but reversed that decision in 2007. The City has not waived the statutory limits, nor purchased excess liability insurance, since that time.

Staff is currently working on the 2025 – 2026 insurance renewal with the City’s agent. In the past, Council acted on the waiver at the time the renewal is presented. This year again, LMCIT is asking for a Council decision prior to renewal, so any excess liability insurance purchased can be included in the premium amount from the onset instead of being billed afterwards.

Wells/Earenfight unanimous to not waive the statutory liability limits of municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes §466.04 for the liability insurance policy through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust, as recommended by staff and the City’s Insurance Agent. Motion carried.

Re-investment of City Funds

The City has several investments mature or be called in January and early February. Staff has been in contact with our regular brokers to provide a recommendation for reinvestment, based on current holdings and rates available for consideration.

Earenfight/Farber unanimous to approve the following re-investments, as requested and as recommended by staff:

- **\$58,000 with ICD Securities for 2 years at a rate of 4.15% with American National Bank of MN utilizing funds from the matured CD & MMkt Account to complete the transaction**
- **\$200,000 with ICD Securities for 2 years at a rate of 4.25% with Merrick Bank, utilizing funds from the matured CD to complete the transaction**
- **\$97,816.59 with First National Bank of Milaca for 6 months at a rate of 4.99%**
- **\$170,000 with FNE Companies for 2 years at a rate of 4.2% with Banc of California, utilizing funds from the matured CD (Workers FCU) to complete the transaction**
- **\$225,000 with FNE Companies for 3 years at a rate of 4.20% with Forbright Bank utilizing funds from the matured CD (Goldman Sachs) to complete the transaction.**

Motion carried.

Payment for Contracted Services – Professional Engineering – Bolton & Menk

Public Works Director Koehler reviewed three (3) invoices presented by Bolton & Menk for Engineering Services for the period of October 26 – November 22, 2024.

Wells/Farber unanimous to authorize payment to Bolton & Menk (ck #46972) as identified on the following invoices for the period of October 26 – November 22, 2024, as presented and as recommended by staff:

- **Invoice #350804 in the amount of \$5,120.50 for migration of GIS data from the Envision platform to ESRI ArcGIS**
- **Invoice #352664 in the amount of \$23,792.00 for project management related to the Lake Fremont Area Reconstruction**
- **Invoice #352675 in the amount of \$5,917.47 for construction management related to the 5th St W Tower/Water Treatment Plant**

Motion carried.

Interest in Lake Fremont Property Acquisition

A real estate agent representing a non-local owner of three parcels on the North side of Lake Fremont has contacted the City regarding interest in acquiring the parcels which lie in Livonia Township. The land total, per County tax records, is 7.37 acres. Two (2) of the parcels are immediately adjacent to and west of the 13-acre parcel acquired by the City in 2022. Acquisition of the parcels would create public ownership of 80% of the land lying on the north shore of the lake. At the City Administrator’s request, the realtor was meeting with the Livonia

Town Board to discuss the Township's interest in acquiring the property, either alone or in cooperation with the City.

Council expressed interest in acquiring the property either alone or jointly with the Township, pending the outcome of the Town Board's discussion at their January 27 Board meeting.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ITEMS

Mayor Dahl noted the following upcoming events:

- Winter Parking Regulations are in effect until May 1, 2025. No parking allowed on City streets between midnight and 8:00 a.m.
- February 13 – Labs to Lakes Kick-Off Meeting – 5 – 7:30 p.m. – Station #1 Event Center
- February 16 – ALS Benefit for Mike Brinwall (Baldwin Firefighter) – 12 – 4 p.m. – Station #1 Event Center
- February 17 -- President's Day Holiday – All City Offices closed
- February 22 – Passing the Bread Food Distribution – 9 – 11 a.m. – U MA Precision Machining – Member Earenfight provided 2024 statistical information about Passing the Bread. In 2024, 1,594 families and over 4,000 individuals were provided with over 105,000 pounds of food. Earenfight thanked volunteers, donors and the McChesney family for donating building space for Passing the Bread.

Before adjourning, Mayor Dahl asked for a moment of silence in honor of US military, emergency services and healthcare workers at home and abroad.

Earenfight/Farber unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried.

Approved this 3rd day of February 2025.

s/s Kary Tillmann, Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED 02/03/2025