

**MINUTES OF THE ZIMMERMAN CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER The Zimmerman City Council met as the Committee of the Whole at City Hall on Monday, March 10, 2025. Mayor Dahl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

ORDER OF DISCUSSION

- MN Paid Family Leave Law – Staff provided an overview of the MN Paid Family Leave Law enacted in 2023 with an effective date of January 1, 2026. The law provides job protection and payments to covered employees who take a leave of absence for a qualifying condition or extended medical leave. The program will be funded by premium contributions from MN employers and employees remitted to the State on a quarterly basis. Discussion centered on the program implementation and what the financial impacts to the City and its employees would be. Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann was directed to contact the League of Minnesota Cities for additional information, specifically if this topic would be addressed at the annual LMC Conference in June. More information on the program and implementation will be provided as it becomes available.
- City Council Department Budget – Council reviewed the line-item budget related to Council activities and expenses (101-41110). Discussion centered on expenses categorized under each line item and if there was a more appropriate department or expense line to record certain expenses. Tillmann will provide a description of budget items as requested.
- City Council Code of Conduct and Rules of Procedure – At the January COW meeting, Council discussed a City Council Code of Conduct and Rules of Procedure. Chapter 2 of the City Code regulates City Council activities, and the draft documents presented further define and identify expected Council behaviors and processes and procedures for how City Council meetings would be run. Staff will edit the documents as directed for future review by the Council before adoption.
- Regulation of Recreational Vehicles – On March 3, 2025, Council and staff received correspondence from a resident requesting the City consider adopting an ordinance related to the regulation and licensure of recreational vehicles (ATV's, golf carts, etc.) to operate on City streets. Currently MN law does not allow for the use of vehicles such as these on roadways. After extensive discussion, the Council consensus was to not defer from State law. Staff will ask Captain Broich to address this topic as part of his regular monthly update in April 2025.
- CSAH 4 Pedestrian Safety – Discussion was held regarding pedestrian safety on CSAH 4, specifically how pedestrian traffic will be addressed as part of the reconstruction of the road and addition of roundabouts in 2025. Council requested information from the Sherburne County Engineer and/or Public Works staff at a future COW meeting to address concerns. Discussion was also held regarding the speed limit on CSAH 4 as motorists approach City limits from the west. Member Wells would like to see the speed limit reduced prior to the City/Township border. Staff will contact Sherburne County Public Works to discuss.

- Council again discussed consideration of an ordinance related to organized garbage collection, with Member Farber reiterating that he has received a number of complaints about the amount of garbage haulers allowed in the City and the number of garbage trucks on City streets on a daily basis. Staff advised that the City Attorney is working on a proposed ordinance, and an RFP will be presented to Council for review in the near future.

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

- Staff and Council discussed project priorities, with staff advising the following items are currently in process:
 - Organized Garbage Collection
 - Civil Prosecution for Code Violations – Since Sherburne County is no longer prosecuting Code violations, the City is exploring the possibility of working with a local law firm to process.
 - Cannabis Regulations – A public hearing will be held in front of the Planning Commission on Wednesday, March 26 regarding an amendment to the City’s Zoning Ordinance to allow for Cannabis operations. Member Farber would also like staff to investigate a municipal retail cannabis store, like the City of Elk River’s plans for retail cannabis sales.
 - Fire District Joint Powers Agreement – the current agreement expires in July 2025.
 - Handicapped Parking – Staff and Council have recently received complaints about businesses and other areas with limited or no handicapped parking. Staff will discuss enforcement with the Building Inspector and will engage the County while planning is underway for the reconstruction of CSAH 4.
 - Codification of City Codes

Mayor Dahl adjourned the workshop at 8:44 p.m.

Approved this 17th day of March, 2025.

s/s Kary Tillmann, City Clerk/Treasurer