

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ZIMMERMAN CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 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, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

AGENDA APPROVAL

Earenfight/Bondhus unanimous to approve the agenda with the following additions to the Finance Report:

- **Re-Investment of City Funds**
- **Lease Agreement for Postage Meter**

CONSENT AGENDA

Farber/Wells unanimous to approve the consent agenda except for item k. Application for Fireworks Sales for Funworks Fireworks, which was pulled for separate consideration, as follows:

- a. Approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025 Regular Meeting of the City Council as presented.
- b. Approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting as presented.
- c. Approve the payment of claims (check #47069 - #47103) in the amount of \$33,722.52, and electronic payments (e-check #3057e - #3067e) in the amount of \$62,468.17 as presented.
- d. Authorize payment to Abdo in the amount of \$20,880.00 (ck #47104), as partial payment for certified audit services for the year ended December 31, 2024, per the agreement on file in the City Clerk's Office.
- e. Approve the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) Property/Liability policy renewal as presented, authorizing premium payment in the amount of \$80,799.00 (ck #47105) to LMCIT as presented and as recommended by staff.
- f. Authorize payment to the Zimmerman/Livonia Fire District in the amount of \$97,922.20 (ck #47106) as identified on Invoice #22429 for the first-half payment for 2025 Fire Protection Services as recommended by staff.
- g. Adopt **RESOLUTION #2025-03-03** approving the write-off of outstanding water and sewer accounts with insignificant balances totaling (\$1.52) as requested and recommended by staff.
- h. Accept the February 2025 Budget/Investment/Funds Report as presented.
- i. Accept the Building Permit Summary Report of February 2025 as presented.
- j. Adopt **RESOLUTION #2025-03-04**, approving an application for exempt permit to conduct lawful gambling, as requested by the Zimmerman American Legion Post 560 Auxiliary Unit at an event to be held at the Kriesel-Jacobsen American Legion Post 560, 12674 Fremont Avenue, Zimmerman, MN 55398, on August 9, 2025.

Discussion was held regarding consent agenda k. Application for Fireworks Sales for Funworks Fireworks. Member Wells requested more details about the applicant and bond provided to the City. Staff reported that the application is for Exclusive Fireworks Sales only at the location on the application. The applicant has also provided a certificate of liability insurance in excess of the required bond amount to the City.

Wells/Farber unanimous to approve consent agenda item k. as follows:

- k. Approve the permit application for fireworks sales for Jim Kreml dba Funworks Fireworks, 24690 – 116th Street, Zimmerman, MN 55398, at the location of Angeno’s Pizza and Pasta/Zimmerman Bar & Grill, 13100 Fremont Avenue, Zimmerman, for the period of May 20 – July 15, 2025, as requested.

Motion carried.

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

EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION

Three employees celebrate milestone anniversaries with the City of Zimmerman in the month of March, 2025. **Jon Niebuhr, Maintenance Technician I**, will celebrate 5 years of employment on March 31. On March 9th, **Jay Stewart, Maintenance Technician II**, also celebrated 5 years of employment with the City. Public Works Director Koehler stated that both Niebuhr and Stewart have proven themselves to be incredibly valuable to the Public Works Department. City Hall **Finance Technician Teri Grote** celebrated her 20th anniversary with the City on March 1. Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann praised Grote’s longevity and demeanor, stating she is an asset to City operations.

All three employees were presented with a framed certificate by Mayor Dahl, acknowledging each anniversary. Councilmembers thanked Grote, Stewart, and Niebuhr for their service to the City.

FINANCE REPORT

2025/2026 Worker’s Compensation Insurance Renewal – League of MN Cities Insurance Trust

Worker’s Compensation Insurance through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) for the 2025-2026 coverage period. Tillmann reported that this year’s premium has dropped approximately \$12,000 from the previous year because the City’s experience modification factor (EMF), commonly referred to as the “experience mod” has dropped below 1.0 to .83. The experience mod is a rating that reflects the City’s worker’s compensation claims history compared to other LMCIT clients. An EMF below 1.0 means that the claims experience is better than average, resulting in lower premiums for the City.

Wells/Earenfight unanimous to approve the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust Worker’s Compensation policy renewal as presented and authorize premium payment in the amount of \$21,884.00 (ck #47105) to LMCIT as presented and as recommended by staff. Motion carried.

Re-Investment of City Funds

The City received word today that an investment with The Bank of Elk River will mature on March 27, 2025. The CD will automatically renew on April 3 unless the City notifies the bank to a change in terms. Since the maturity date falls in between Council meetings, staff is looking to re-invest with BOER for a longer term since the offered rate from the Bank and other brokers is close to the current rate.

Farber/Earenfight unanimous to approve the re-investment of \$249,763.74 with The Bank of Elk River for 15-months at a rate of 4.15% utilizing funds from the matured CD to complete the transaction as requested and recommended by staff. Motion carried.

Postage Meter Lease Agreement

The current lease agreement with American Mailing Machines (AMM) for the postage meter expires on March 31, 2025. AMM has provided a renewal agreement for a subsequent 63-month term and proposes installation of a new machine to replace the current one when the lease expires. Staff recommends acceptance of the proposal from American Mailing Machines.

Wells/Bondhus unanimous to approve the lease agreement with American Mailing Machines for a postage meter/ mailing machine with a weighing platform for use at City Hall for 63 months, at a MN Government Contract rate of \$184.99 per month for the life of the lease agreement, as recommended by staff. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Draft JPA for Cannabis Registration and Enforcement

City staff is continuing to work with both the City and County Attorneys regarding adoption of cannabis zoning and business regulations. The City anticipates delegating authority for cannabis licensing, regulation, and enforcement to Sherburne County through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), as discussed at previous Council meetings. This is the same delegation of authority the City has used for tobacco licensing and enforcement since 1997. Council discussed aspects of cannabis management, including signage for cannabis businesses, zoning, and expiration of the JPA.

Sherburne County has prepared a draft JPA delegating authority to the County, which has been reviewed by the City Attorney. The final JPA, City Cannabis Ordinance and Sherburne County’s Retail Ordinance #280 will be presented for Council consideration at an April Council meeting. No action taken.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ITEMS

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mayor Dahl noted the following:

- **March 22** -- Passing the Bread Food Distribution – 9 – 11 a.m.; UMA Precision Machining
- **March 22** – ISD 728 Marching Cadets Annual Winter Color Guard and Percussion Show – 1:00 p.m.; Elk River High School
- **April 14** – Local Board of Appeal & Equalization – 6:30 p.m.; Zimmerman City Hall

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

Farber/Wells unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried.

Approved this 7th day of April 2025.

s/s Kary Tillmann, Clerk/Treasurer