

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ZIMMERMAN CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 5, 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, and Wells. Member Farber was excused absent. Also present were Administrator Piasecki and Clerk/Treasurer Tillmann.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Earenfight/Bondhus unanimous to approve the agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Approve the minutes of the April 21, 2025 Regular Meeting of the City Council as presented.
- b. Approve the payment of claims (check #47182 - #47214) in the amount of \$50,180.23 and electronic payments (e-check #3092e - #3096e) in the amount of \$53,577.08 as presented.
- c. Approve the Building Permit Surcharge Report for April 2025 as presented.
- d. Approve the application for a Mobile Food Truck for the period of May 5 – December 31, 2025, for Taqueria Katina Inc., 870 Central Avenue North, Milaca, MN 56353.

OPEN FORUM

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

FIRE PROTECTION REPORT

Fire Chief Ryan Maloney presented the Fire Department Activity Report for the month April 2025. During the month of April, there were 7 medical calls, 2 gas leaks, 2 motor vehicle accidents with injuries, a carbon monoxide alarm, 2 fire alarms, 2 person in distress calls, 3 grass fires, 2 vehicle fires, and the department provided assistance to the Elk River Fire Department on a house fire. The Department conducted a prescribed burn near the stormwater pond in between the DNR building and ZBG/Angeno's on Fremont Avenue. Fire Academy graduation was held on April 9 and 2 ZLFD firefighters were among the graduating class. The Department has two vacancies due to recent retirements. No action taken.

Station #1 Event Center Update

Cindy Hunnicutt, Event Center Coordinator, provided an update of activities for Station #1 Event Center. Hunnicutt was granted permission by the Fire Board to purchase another beer cooler for the bar area, which allows her to keep all beer in the bar instead of in warm storage. She has had to turn away 7 potential weddings due to already being booked for other events on duplicate dates. The wedding this past weekend was a success. No action taken.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Patrol Captain Ryan Broich, Sherburne County Sheriff's Department, provided an overview of law enforcement activities for the month of April 2025. The department received 445 calls for service, including 146 traffic stops with 21 offenses charged by citation, not including long-form complaints or in-custody arrests. During the same period in 2024, there were 405 calls for service, with 420 calls in 2023. Overall, it was a quiet month, with very few incidents reported. Deputies responded to two theft complaints, 4 vehicle crashes, took 2 property damage complaints and apprehended two suspects who fled from officers.

Council asked Captain Broich if a County Patrol Deputy could occasionally be positioned at the intersection of Main Street and Fremont Avenue to encourage drivers to stop at the stop sign.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Purchase of Stump Grinder

Public Works staff wishes to purchase a stump grinder for use with the City's Bobcat ToolCat and skid loader. This stump grinder would be used for removal of stumps in parks, right of ways, and stormwater detention basins. Staff periodically rents a stump grinder when projects and/or needs arise. Two (2) quotes for similar grinders from 2 manufacturers have been received and were provided to Council for review. Lano Equipment, Inc., quoted a price of \$10,372.66, with the second quote from Midwest Machinery for similar equipment totaling \$12,485.00.

Earenfight/Wells unanimous to accept quote #MO1157358 from Lano Equipment, Inc., authorizing the purchase of a Bobcat SG 60 Stump Grinder, in the amount of \$10,372.66, to be paid from the 2025 Street Department Capital Equipment line item budget (101-43100-580), as requested and as recommended by staff. Motion carried.

Mill and Overlay Project Proposal -- Pioneer Ponds Development

Staff has been discussing current and future road projects for planning purposes. As Council is aware, the next 2 construction seasons will be extremely busy in the city, with the CSAH 4 roundabout (RAB) projects and TH 169 interchange construction. Given the City's level of involvement and financial participation in the RAB and TH 169 projects, it is not feasible to undertake another large-scale street and utility reconstruction, such as another phase of reconstruction around Lake Fremont. However, a 2025 resurfacing project could be considered using the annual levy for capital improvements.

Pioneer Ponds is a residential development located south of city hall, consisting of 6 phases built from 1992-1999, with approximately 1-¾ mile of bituminous streets ranging in age from 26 – 33 years old. These streets are the oldest paved surfaces in the City south of CSAH 4. After reviewing the street conditions with City Engineer Cook, staff believes this neighborhood is a candidate for a mill and overlay project, after having previously been chip sealed. Spring 2025 construction bids have been extremely competitive and coming in under engineer estimates. Based upon this very recent bid history, Engineer Cook estimates the cost for a mill and overlay project, including engineering expenses, to be \$425,000. Council is not obligated to award a bid if pricing is not acceptable or feasible.

Discussion was held regarding potential timing and detour conflicts related to schedule construction on County Road 4 this summer. Member Wells also requested a copy of the City's street survey.

RESOLUTION #25-05-01 Wells/Bondhus unanimous to adopt RESOLUTION #2025-05-01 authorizing the City Engineer to advertise for bids to mill and overlay the streets within the six (6) phases of the Pioneer Ponds development. Motion carried.

FINANCE REPORT – presented by Clerk/Treasurer Kary Tillmann

Re-Investment of City Funds

The City had two investments mature this past week. Staff has been in contact with regular brokers to provide a recommendation for reinvestment, based on current holdings and rates available for consideration.

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

- **\$195,000 with ICD Securities for 4 years at a rate of 4.35% with Bridgewater Bank MN, utilizing funds from the matured CD and the money market account to complete the transaction; and**

- **\$240,000 in US Treasury Bonds with UBS Financial for 4 years at a rate of 4.27% utilizing funds from the matured CD and the money market account to complete the transaction.**

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – presented by City Administrator Randy Piasecki

Ordinance No. 352 -- Regulating Food Trucks

Staff presented a draft ordinance related to the regulation of food trucks for Council review, consideration, and adoption. As food trucks are becoming more popular, it has been suggested the City enact more specific regulations and requirements, including proof of State licensing and insurance. It has also been requested that the City consider regulations to control/govern/restrict food trucks at specific City or Community events, such as youth athletic tournaments, Wild West Days, or other events.

If adopted, food truck operators would be required to obtain a city license prior to sales to the public on public or private property, unless that operator were hired by a citizen or business owner for private events. Food trucks exempt from City license requirements would be state licensed caterers, trucks operated by food/restaurant businesses within the City, and operators vending on church properties as part of church events.

After discussion at the April 21 Council meeting, the spacing requirements in Subd. 8 of the draft has been revised to prohibit food truck vending within 500 feet of the property line of any brick and mortar restaurant and prohibited within 500 feet of an event for which the City has issued a Special Event Permit (facility/park rental for youth baseball tournament, other park space rentals). Paragraph D also prohibits all food truck vending in the City over the Memorial Day weekend for Wild West Days, unless those trucks are part of the Special Permit/Wild West Days organization.

If adopted by the Council at this meeting, the draft ordinance would be effective after summary publication in the City’s legal newspaper, the Elk River Star News, on May 10, 2025.

Wells/Earenfight unanimous to adopt Ordinance No. 352 and Summary Ordinance No. 352 establishing license requirements and regulations for food trucks. Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 353 – Amendment to Mid-Continent Communications Franchise Agreement

The City renewed Mid-Continent Communications (Midco) cable franchise via Ordinance No. 327 on December 1, 2017. In February 2025, staff received notice from Midco requesting clarification regarding the franchise fees required in Ordinance No. 327 as they relate to an FCC order issued in 2019. That FCC Order determined that any free or discount cable services are franchise fees, and count toward the providers required franchise fee.

Per the previous franchise agreements, including the current provisions, Midco is to provide free cable service to specified city-owned properties and to public and private schools. All costs associated with these services are now deemed to be “fees” and will be deducted from the franchise fee paid to the City. Midco currently provides service to City Hall, the Zimmerman Fire Station, Westwood Elementary and the Sheriff’s substation. Midco will begin deducting charges for services to these locations, which total approximately 1/5 of the annual franchise revenue to the City, from the quarterly franchise fees paid to the City by Mid-Co.

Council reviewed the franchise terms and possible reduction in franchise fees at the April Committee of the Whole Meeting. At that time, staff was directed to proceed with an ordinance amendment to eliminate the free service provisions. Draft ordinance No. 353 amending the franchise agreement by deleting Subd. 2, Paragraph 9 was provided by Council review and action. If adopted by Council, the amendment would become effective upon publication in the Elk River Star News.

Earenfight/Bondhus unanimous to adopt Ordinance No. 353 amending the Franchise Agreement with Mid-Continent Communications. Motion carried.

MAYOR/COUNCIL ITEMS

Member Earenfight wished to discuss scheduling of events on the school district ballfields, expressing concern that the bleachers can't be used because the announcement booth is not finished, and the Legion Ball Team was told they can't use the field space due to construction. Staff will contact ISD #728 Community Education for clarification.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mayor Dahl noted the following:

- May 22 – 26 – Annual Wild West Days Celebration; City Park and surrounding streets
- May 26 – Memorial Day Holiday observed – All City offices closed
- May 31 – Passing the Bread Food Distribution – 9 – 11 a.m. at UMA Precision Machining
- July 19 – Zimmerman/Livonia Fire District Golf Scramble – Princeton Golf Course

Before adjourning, Mayor Dahl asked for a moment of silence in honor of US military personnel at home and abroad as well as emergency and healthcare workers serving in the community.

Bondhus/Earenfight unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Motion carried.

Approved this 19th day of May, 2025.

s/s Kary Tillmann, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved 05/19/2025