

**MINUTES OF THE ZIMMERMAN CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER The Zimmerman City Council met as the Committee of the Whole at City Hall on Monday, June 9, 2025. Mayor Dahl called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

AGENDA APPROVAL **Wells/Earenfight unanimous to approve the agenda with the following addition:**

- **Municipal Recycling Board/Operation of City Compost Site.**

ORDER OF DISCUSSION

- Lake Fremont Navigation Channel – In August 2024, staff received an estimate from Lake Weed Removal, Inc., to cut navigation channels through the weeds in DNR specified areas in Lake Fremont. The estimate is for 5 days of work at a cost of \$2,500 per day, for a total cost of \$12,500. Council approved a project to be completed in Summer 2025. Staff has applied for a permit from the DNR and is currently waiting on receipt of said permit, which would be issued after a successful in-person site visit to the lake by the DNR. Updates will be provided as they are available.
- Discussion was held regarding a potential 2025 crack filling project in and around Morrison Addition, as well as 269th Avenue, 5th Avenue North, 8th Avenue North and Main Street. Cracks are starting to appear in these streets and will require filling in the near future. Engineer Cook acquired a quote for the work at the direction of staff and is waiting on another quote for review and consideration. Council agreed to review quotes for the project at a future meeting once Engineer Cook has the second quote.
- Outdoor Parking Standards in Residential Districts – At the July 7 Council meeting, Council reviewed the preliminary and final plat of “The Homes At Fremont”. Extensive discussion was held during the Planning Commission’s June 25, 2025 Public Hearing, as well as at the Council about outside storage on residential properties within City limits. Council directed staff to begin drafting standards for outside storage for consideration at a future Council meeting.
- 2026 Budget – Staff presented a preliminary 2026 General Fund Budget at the July 7 Council meeting. Council discussed the vacant Maintenance Technician position as well as re-advertising for the City Planner position, both of which are included in the 2026 budget. The 2026 budget will continue to be a regular Council agenda item until final adoption in December 2025.
- Proposed Revisions to Sherburne County Tobacco Ordinance – Sherburne County Commissioner Brad Schumacher delivered a draft of proposed updates to the current Sherburne County tobacco regulations. Council asked staff to arrange for Commissioner Schumacher to attend a future COW meeting to provide additional information once the County is farther through the process.
- Council Items
 - Council requested staff begin updating the ordinance related to ATV and UTV use within City limits.

- Council requested an update on the placement of an honorary bench for Briana Polhocky, ZHS graduate and the first female TOPGUN pilot instructor. Staff will connect with the American Legion to determine what action is being taken.
- Council request Staff schedule recognition for the Zimmerman Community Club for their efforts in organizing and executing the 2025 Wild West Days event.
- Municipal Recycling Board Update – Public Works Director Koehler provide an overview of the June meeting for the Municipal yard waste (compost) sites in Sherburne County. Staff from the Cities of Becker, Big Lake, Elk River, and Zimmerman met with Sherburne County Planning and Zoning staff to discuss issues common to the four sites. Sherburne County funds most operations at each site through SCORE Grant allocations. The four sites have seen an increase in the amount of commercial wood waste entering the sites, with 30 – 60% of yard waste being from commercial businesses. The program was created to provide areas for residents to dispose of yard waste, not to subsidize commercial yard and tree waste. The County requested the group evaluate current practices and consider solutions to eliminate commercial disposal of yard and tree waste. Practical solutions include prohibiting disposal by commercial businesses and deactivating all compost cards, requiring card holders to request new access cards in 2026. Council expressed a desire to discontinue accepting yard waste from commercial businesses since Sherburne County has arranged for commercial waste to be accepted at the Vonco Landfill for a fee. Koehler will relay the Council’s comments to the group and will report back to Council after the August meeting.
- Staff provided an update on the Highway 169 overpass project. Sherburne County has published a call for bids, and the pre-bid meeting was held on July 8. A public open house is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12 at Station #1 Event Center. More details to come.

Earenfight/Wells unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Approved this 21st day of July, 2025.

s/s Kary Tillmann, City Clerk/Treasurer