

**MINUTES OF THE ZIMMERMAN CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER The Zimmerman City Council met as the Committee of the Whole at City Hall on Monday, September 15, 2025. Mayor Dahl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

AGENDA APPROVAL **The agenda was approved by consensus with the following change:**

- **Well No. 5 Change Order rescheduled to September 22, 2025 agenda**

ORDER OF DISCUSSION

- Proposed Street Improvement and Construction projects – Discussion was held regarding the timing of future City road improvement projects. At the direction of staff, Bolton & Menk is currently reviewing the feasibility of the reconstruction of 3rd Avenue North and 10th Street West in the Countryside Estates neighborhood, as well as working on a proposed design for the extension of 8th Avenue South to 2nd Street East. Both projects could be funded in part by the City’s Municipal State Aid Street (MSAS) allotment. The City has also been awarded a Federal STBG grant in the amount of \$815,000 for the 8th Avenue South extension project, which will be funded in 2028. Council is amenable to moving forward with both projects and directed staff to coordinate feasibility reports and initiate the bid process. Discussion was also held regarding the condition of 253rd Avenue in Livonia Township.
- Public Works Fleet Inventory and Vehicle Purchases – Public Works Director Koehler was present to discuss the City’s fleet of vehicles and a structured plan for rotating older vehicles out of the fleet. At this time, Koehler is looking at purchasing a new ¾ pickup truck and selling the truck currently used for meter readings due to age and condition. In addition, Koehler stated the Department will need to replace the sweeper in the next few years and rotate out an older mower. Council asked Koehler to put together a list of vehicles and equipment in priority order for replacement so they can be integrated into the City’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Council also directed staff to look into purchasing a more fuel-efficient vehicle/SUV to use for gathering meter readings and local City travel for staff.
- 2026 Budget – Discussion was held regarding 2026 budget items, including an increase to capital expenditures due to the number of capital projects currently in process and anticipated in the immediate future. Preliminary calculations show a budget increase of 3% and a levy increase of 4% for 2026. Staff answered additional questions related to specific departments and line items. Formal action to approve the budget and levies is scheduled for the September 22 Council meeting, with certification to the County Auditor/Treasurer by the September 30th deadline. Discussion was also held regarding the process and timing to consider an increase to Council wages.
- Other Items – Council discussed the following:
 - Dirt bikes being operated in town – Staff have received complaints of dirt bikes being operated on City streets and through the construction area during weekday construction activities.
 - Alcohol Compliance Checks – The City was notified by Sherburne County that one of the City’s liquor license holders recently failed an alcohol compliance check. Currently there are no penalties for license

holders when there is a failed compliance check. Council directed staff to work on an update to the Code to assess penalties for non-compliance, for consideration at a future meeting.

- City Planner Position – At the August COW meeting, Member Farber asked Council to consider utilizing a search firm to oversee the hiring process for a City Planner, since the position has been advertised multiple times without finding a suitable candidate. Staff will provide information on firms and services provided at the September 22 or October 6 meeting.
- Sherburne County Commissioner Brad Schumacher was present to provide an update on topics of interest, including an updated Sherburne County Tobacco Ordinance, the County’s 2026 preliminary budget and levy, a Labs to Lakes event on September 30th and a groundbreaking event for the TH 169 project. Schumacher also stated he would share the Council’s concerns related to dirt bikes with the Board.

Mayor Dahl adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Approved this 22nd day of September, 2025.

Kary Tillmann, City Clerk/Treasurer