

## **Empire City Council Meeting Minutes February 28, 2023**

The first meeting of the Empire City Council was called to order by Mayor Trent Larson at 7:50 PM.

**Present were:** Mayor Trent Larson; Council Members, Eric Hanson, Danny Rubio, Marla Vagts; Charles Seipel-Teng; Jerod Waltman; Jenni Faulkner and Brad Fisher. Council Member Elect, Tom Kaldunski, was absent.

**Agenda:** Marla Vagts made a motion to approve the agenda. Danny Rubio seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**Resolution 2023-2B:** The City Council reviewed draft Resolution 2023-2B and recommended that Eric Hanson be added to the Resolution as Acting Mayor. Danny Rubio made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-2B, Appointments to Certain Offices and Positions. Marla Vagts seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**Treasurer Report:** The treasurer's report showed a General Fund Account balance of \$38,381.18 plus investments and an Escrow Account balance of \$8,309.65 plus investments. The report included the Profit & Loss/ Budget Comparison as of 2/28/2023.

Eric Hanson made a motion to approve the financial report. Marla Vagts seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**Visitors:**

None.

**Committee Reports**

**Maintenance / Sewer and Water / Road and Bridges**

Jerod Waltman reported that staff has been very busy with snow removal. Currently staff is hauling snow out of the cul-de-sacs and hopes to be trimming trees soon.

**Deputy Sheriff:**

Deputy Hanah Martin reported that winter parking complaints have gone down recently with more residents moving their vehicles during a snowfall.

**Park & Recreation:**

It was reported that the Park & Rec. Committee has met with the developer for Deer Creek as well as a landscape architect with Bolton & Menk to select playground equipment options for the proposed park associated with the development. The landscape architect is finalizing cost estimates. Flood resistant trees are being ordered for the area by the frisbee golf course. Jerod Waltman has created a plan for the tree plantings.

**Engineering:**

Brad Fisher reported that he is working on final inspections at the DNH Development site.

**Planning:**

Jenni Faulkner presented a memo on the draft Shoreland Ordinance (Ordinance No. 470). This ordinance will replace the Dakota County Shoreland Ordinance as required because of incorporation of the City of Empire. The ordinance has been reviewed by the Planning Commission and recommended for approval. Marla Vagts made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 470, City of Empire Shoreland Ordinance and a summary publication thereof. Danny Rubio seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Danny Rubio made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 400-Q, Amending the City of Empire Zoning Ordinance to incorporate reference to the new shoreland ordinance. Marla Vagts seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Charles Seipel-Teng presented a draft ordinance amendment regulating seasonal parking requirements. The draft ordinance includes definitions of street and vehicle, adds language about requiring no parking on streets until the streets have been plowed curb to curb in the event of a snow accumulation of three inches or more, and adds language about vehicle towing. The draft ordinance will be brought back to the Planning Commission for a public hearing.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

The City Council reviewed draft City of Empire Ordinance No. 110, relating to City Council Meetings. City Council meetings will begin at 7:00 PM.

Eric Hanson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 110, Establishing a Time and Place for City Council Meetings, and a summary publication thereof. Marla Vagts seconded.

Motion passed 4-0.

Marla Vagts made a motion to adopt Ordinance No 290, An Ordinance Requiring Solid Waste Collection. Danny Rubio seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

The City Council reviewed the draft liquor ordinance. It was recommended to amend the draft to permit beer and alcohol at City Parks, in addition to wine and 3.2 percent beer. Discussion was held regarding the use of beer and alcohol at youth sporting events. It was recommended that if this becomes an issue, it can be revisited.

Eric Hanson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 285, Regulating Possession, Sale and Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor and Summary Publication Thereof, with the recommended changes to Section 5, Consumption in Public Places; and a summary publication thereof. Marla Vagts seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Marla Vagts made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 515; Amending the City of Empire Fee Schedule and a summary publication thereof. The amendment sets fees for liquor licensing permits. Eric Hanson seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Danny Rubio made a motion to adopt the 2023 City Council Committee List as follows:

Streets: Trent, Tom

Water: Trent, Eric

Fire: Trent, Eric

Law Enforcement: Trent, Danny

Solid Waste: Trent, Tom

Liquor: Trent, Marla

Storm Sewer: Trent, Danny

Parks and Recreation: Eric, Danny

Personnel: Trent, Eric

Planning & Zoning: Marla, Tom

Vermilion Highlands: Charles, Marla, Trent

Eric Hanson seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Marla Vagts made a motion to appoint the following to the City of Empire Planning Commission and respective terms:

Jared Sachs, Chair (12/31/2025); Doug Clark (12/31/2024), Julie Stulz (12/31/2024); Elizabeth Haas (12/31/2025); Gina Maunu (12/31/2023).

And the following to the City of Empire Park & Rec. Committee:

Mike Carey, Chair (12/31/2023); Josh Lindgren (12/31/2023); Tanya Borchardt (12/31/2024); Nicole Bower (12/31/2025); Kacie Fahey (12/31/2025); Mark Page (12/31/2024)

Danny Rubio seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

**FYI:**

The City Council reviewed a list of terms and acronyms; a “save the date” for the spring DCTOA Meeting; and information on the upcoming presentation of the draft financial management plan.

Eric Hanson made a motion to adjourn. Marla Vagts seconded.

The City Council Meeting ended at 8:45 PM.

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Trent Larson, Mayor

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Charles Seipel-Teng, Clerk – Administrator