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**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
April 18, 2024**

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Raj Chawla, President; Amber Thibeault; Vice President; Marcus Certa,
Clerk; Andrew Brown, Elaine Haney.

ADMINISTRATION: Regina Mahony, City Manager;

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Dwyer, Claudine Safar, Kristen Shamis, Jason Struthers.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Councilor Chawla called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

2. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

None.

3. **APPROVE AGENDA**

None needed.

4. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

a. Comments from public on items not on the agenda

Craig Dwyer of 10 Taft Street said that there is a public easement that runs through both 10 and 8 Taft Street through the backyards and it is an easement where the public has access through both yards to get to Drury Drive. He said that this relates to high school students being allowed to cross the yards rather than cross Route 15 or go around the block to get to the high school. He said that this is why the yards must have gates rather than fences to provide access points through this easement. He also noted that his neighbor on Taft Street has livestock and that there is an overflow of water and livestock feces flowing into his yard from his neighbor's yard, and that it is also flowing into the public easement. He asked the City to look into this. He said that while the state has jurisdiction over his neighbor's livestock arrangement as an agricultural activity, the City has jurisdiction over its own easement, and he urged the City to look into this.

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

a. *Discussion and Consideration of an Executive Session to discuss pending or probable civil litigation
City Manager Mahony said that this issue is around a question of litigation and that there is not currently an active litigation at this time. She noted that however, there are confidential client-attorney communications around this, and that an executive session is necessary to discuss legal services.

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a. *An Executive Session may be needed to discuss pending or probable civil litigation

Councilor Chawla made a motion, seconded by Councilor Thibeault, that the City Council make the specific finding that general public knowledge of confidential attorney-client communications made for the purposes of providing professional legal services to the body would place the City at a substantial disadvantage. The motion passed 5-0.

Councilor Chawla made a motion, seconded by Councilor Thibeault, that the City Council enter into executive session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) to include the City Council, City Manager and City Attorney. The motion passed 5-0 at 1:06 PM.

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53 **Councilor Chawla made a motion, seconded by Councilor Certa, to exit executive session. The**
54 **motion passed 5-0 at 2:10 P.M.**

55 7. **ADJOURN**

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57 **Councilor Thibeault made a motion, seconded by Councilor Brown, to adjourn the meeting. The**
58 **motion passed 4-0 at 2:10 P.M.**

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60 Respectfully Submitted,

61 Amy Coonradt