

Empire Township Planning Commission, Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2021

The Empire Township Planning Commission was called to order by Trent Lason at 8:00 PM.

Present were: Tom Kaldunski, Trent Larson, Jared Sachs, Bob Bjerke, Doug Clark, Jane Kansier, Brad Fisher, Charles Seipel-Teng, and liaison Eric Hanson.

The notice for public hearing was read and the public hearing to consider adopting Ordinance No. 250-B, An Ordinance Regulating the Parking of Vehicles in the MXR District was opened.

Public comments from residents at 19276 Carmel Trail and 19275 Carmel Trail were read. Both comments were in support of adopting an ordinance that regulates parking in the public right of way. The comments cited concerns for traffic flow, safety, and aesthetics.

The proposed ordinance prohibits the long-term parking of vehicles, or anything that can be defined as a vehicle, in the public road right of way. Long-term parking is defined as anything parked in the right of way for more than 72 consecutive hours. Tom Kaldunski recommended that the ordinance include language to prohibit long-term parking in roadway easements as well.

Trent Larson recommended that the ordinance include language requiring trailers parked on the street to be attached to a power unit or secured by a wheel chock or by other means.

It was the consensus of the Commission that setting the definition of long-term parking at 72 hours makes sense as some residents may need a few days to load campers, etc. before they take off for the weekend.

Generally, work trucks can be parked on the street, except during the times that the seasonal parking ordinance is in effect, as these trucks are typically moved within a 72-hour period.

Trent Larson made a motion to close the public hearing. Bob Bjerke seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Trent Larson made a motion to recommend adopting Ordinance No. 250-B, with the addition of the language pertaining to roadway easements and the requirement that trailers have a connection to a power source or wheel chock. Bob Bjerke seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Planning Commission discussed possible amendments to the pool ordinance. They are interested in adjusting the fence height to 4 feet and making an exception for storable swimming pools. One option can be changing the ordinance to adopt the State pool code by

reference. A public hearing on the ordinance should be schedule for the first meeting in January.

Bob Bjerke reported that he would like to resign from the Planning Commission as he will be relocating to Texas. His last meeting will be November 16th. Mr. Bjerke said that he enjoyed his time on the Commission.

Tom Kaldunski made a motion to accept the resignation of Bob Bjerke from the Planning Commission effective after the November 16th meeting. Doug Clark seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

It was reported that a resident complaint has been received regarding an accessory structure located on the property at 20070 Chippendale Ave. The structure appears to be located in the front yard and may exceed the number of accessory structures permitted on this property in the MXR. The Planning Commission reviewed a photo of the structure and recommended that notice of zoning ordinance violation be sent to the property owner.

The Planning Commission Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.