

Empire Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2022

The Empire Township Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Tom Kaldunski at 8:00 PM.

Present were: Tom Kaldunski, Trent Larson, Jared Sachs, Doug Clark, Marla Vagts (via Zoom), Jane Kansier, Brad Fisher, Charles Seipel-Teng, and liaison Jamie Elvestad.

Marla Vagts was introduced and welcomed to the Planning Commission.

Charles Seipel-Teng read the notices for the two scheduled public hearings.

Public Hearing #1- A Hearing to Consider Proposed Empire Township Ordinance 250-B, An Ordinance Regulating Parking on Streets in the MXR District.

Jane Kansier reported that the ordinance includes definitions for "Street," "Vehicle" and "Commercial Vehicle". Long Term Parking, defined as more than 72 hours, is not permitted. Commercial Vehicles, defined as any bus, truck, truck tractor or tractor trailer combination which has a registered gross weight of 12,000 pounds or greater, are not permitted to be parked in the street.

No public comments on the proposed ordinance were received.

Trent Larson made a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance 250-B. Jared Sachs seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Trent Larson made a motion to recommend the adoption of Ordinance 250-B. Jared Sachs seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Hearing #2- A Hearing to Consider Amendment to Empire Township Ord. 460-A, Swimming Pool Ordinance.

Jane Kansier reported that the definition of "Swimming Pool, Private" has been changed to "Swimming Pool, Residential" and the definition of Swimming Pool, Public has been amended to include the phrase "regardless of whether a fee is charged for use", to be consistent with the Building Code.

The requirement for Security Fencing has been revised to reduce the height of security fencing from five feet to 48 inches (4 feet). This is consistent with Building Code.

New language is proposed to be added that allows the walls of an above-ground pool, at least 48 inches in height, to serve as the fence requirements, as long as the pool ladder or stairs can be secured, locked or removed to prevent access.

Empire Township Resident, Heather Azeltine, questioned if there should be something in the ordinance that requires, or omits the need for building permits to be issued for temporary above ground pools. The Planning Commission recommended that a building inspector be invited to attend the February 1st Planning Commission Meeting to discuss permitting requirements for pools.

Trent Larson made a motion to close the public hearing on the amendment to Ordinance 460-A. Tom Kaldunski seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Jared Sachs made a motion to continue discussion on the proposed ordinance amendment at the February 1st Planning Commission, after the Commission had a chance to talk with a building inspector. Doug Clark seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Planning Commission reviewed a proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment from the City of Lakeville for the rezoning of the Scannell Properties, near the Air Park. Jared Sachs made a motion to recommend No Comment on the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Tom Kaldunski seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The Planning Commission discussed the development of the UMore Property in Rosemount. It is expected that work on the development will start this spring and development will begin on the north end of the development, near County Road 42.

The developers of the Poplar Grove Farms property will be meeting with Township staff this week to review the drainage studies that have been completed for the site.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.