

Empire Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2023

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

Present were: Trent Larson, Jared Sachs, Doug Clark, Jenni Faulkner, Brad Fisher, Charles Seipel-Teng, and liaison Jamie Elvestad. Tom Kaldunski was absent.

Jenni Faulkner presented a memo regarding proposed zoning ordinance language for outdoor storage. The memo recommended modifying section 6.09 for storage to be located no closer than the front lot line and screeded with buildings, walls, fencing, berms, plantings or combination; and only apply to HC and LI Districts. Fleet vehicles should be defined and addressed. It was the recommendation of the Planning Commission that these vehicles should be defined as commercial vehicles licensed or owned by the company. The long-term parking of these vehicles will be considered outdoor storage.

Jenni Faulkner presented a memo regarding the proposed Shoreland Ordinance. This ordinance will be needed to replace the Dakota County Shoreland Ordinance, once Empire incorporates. The draft ordinance follows the DNR guidelines. It was recommended that the proposed ordinance follow County guidelines, except minimum lot area should be listed at 2 acres, with a 35% maximum impervious surface.

The Planning Commission reviewed a draft ordinance for solid waste. This will need to replace the County's ordinance upon incorporation. The City of Empire can work under the County's tobacco ordinance for tobacco licensing. The proposed ordinance is basic and requires weekly garbage pickup at all properties by a hauler.

The proposed liquor ordinance covers on-sale and off-sale. Currently there is only one liquor license issued by Dakota County for Empire Township. The City of Empire will need to determine how it wants to handle public consumption of alcohol as many cities handle it differently. The proposed ordinances will be reviewed by the Township's attorney.

It was reported that the Township is applying for CBDG funds to update it's Parks Master Plan.

The Planning Commission reviewed a memo with updates from the Dakota County Highway Department on various upcoming County Highway projects.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.