

# **Empire Township Planning Commission Minutes**

**September 20, 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, Jenni Faulkner, Charles Seipel-Teng, and liaison Jamie Elvestad.

Jenni Faulkner provided an update on some recent applications that have been received. Applications for zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan amendments application have been submitted by Enebek Construction for a property up on 160th Street. We are currently receiving comments from adjacent jurisdictions on the comprehensive plan amendment. Once those are received, a public hearing will be scheduled.

A final plat from DNH Empire has been received and is being reviewed. It has also been scheduled for consideration by the Dakota County Plat Commission, with final approval expected on October 18th. Along with the final plat application, DNH Empire has submitted a zoning request application for the area east of County Road 81.

CUP applications have been submitted by Nitti Sanitation and Dahn Construction. Both applications are being reviewed and once review is complete, a public hearing will be scheduled. Dave Domack with Nitti Sanitation was present and indicated that they are hoping to start groundwork on their project this fall.

The Planning Commission reviewed a memo from Clerk Seipel-Teng regarding incorporation. It was reported that parcels in the OAA with the City of Farmington have been annexed into Farmington as of August 31st. Empire is working with the City of Farmington to provide information to the affected property owners.

The next step in the incorporation process will be to hold a special election for City Council and Mayor. This election will take place on February 14, 2023. Candidate filing will be January 17 through January 31st. Mayor will be for a two-year term and Council will be for two at a two-year term and two at a four-year term.

After the election, Town Board will canvass the results then the Council and Mayor can be sworn in and at that time, Empire will officially become a city.

Charles Seipel-Teng indicated that he is working with the League of Minnesota Cities to determine what additional ordinances will need to be in place once Empire becomes a city.

The Planning Commission would like to hold a joint meeting with the Empire Town Board to discuss incorporation at their regular October 4th meeting.

Jenni Faulkner reported that the Town Board reviewed the comments from the Planning Commission regarding the golf cart ordinance. The Town Board indicated that they might look at golf cart regulations in the AG District.

Jamie Elvestad noted that over this winter, the Planning Commission should look at regulations regarding hoop buildings and storage containers.

Jared Sachs reported that he attended the September 13th meeting of the Dakota County Commissioners regarding the proposed Highway 52 and 66 interchange. Dakota County Transportation indicated that they want to try to make a recommendation on the interchange plan by the end of this year.

Jared Sachs also attended an open house regarding nitrate levels for ground water in the Hastings DWSMA. Jared stated that the current proposed voluntary measures to reduce nitrate levels involves dedicating 9% of farmland to permanent vegetation. He had concerns that these voluntary measures may one day become mandatory and that this will negatively impact farmers in our area.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.