

City of Finlayson-Planning and Zoning commission  
Finlayson City Hall  
Tuesday, July 9, 2024 6:30 PM

**Members present:** Dennis Liebelt, Nancy Liebelt, Jeff Flaws, Nate Konkell, Marge Haefner, Josette Koets, Norm Kester, Joe Okun Member absent: Bruce Pogatchnik.

**Others present:** Dave Auchter, Rick Palmer, Kim Schaefer, and Erin Hoxsie

**Called to Order:** at 6:30 PM by Chairman, Nate Konkell who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the June 3, 2024 minutes were read by Nancy Liebelt. Motion by Josette Koets to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Joe Okun. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** A motion by Jeff Flaws to take public comment before other agenda items were presented. Seconded by Josette Koets. Motion carried unanimously. Public stated they would wait until Building Permits were discussed.

**Council Rep/Mayor Update:** The City Council of Finlayson adapted the League of Cities Model (LCM) Policy that the Planning and Zoning Commission suggested with all suggested corrections made by the current planning and zoning commission.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Dave Auchter Update:** on the Blandin Foundation Grant that was received in the amount of \$20,000 of the \$45,000 applied for. Auchter referenced Penny Simonsen, Transportation Planner for the East Central Regional Dev Commission (ECRDC) as a resource or consultant for further grant opportunities, updated housing info, history, population trends, etc. And also asked if the Commission would like to consider other grants. The Commission would need to establish what is free or charged for ECRDC services. Simonsen could come to future meetings. Auchter discussed using the Blandin grant to help with costs of updating the comprehensive plan.

**Joe Okun, City Council member,** made a motion seconded by Norm Kester to discuss an open community meeting with comments from the community to review and update the comprehensive plan. A discussion was had and it was decided to rescind the motion. There wasn't enough guidance on how to proceed on the Comprehensive Plan because there were so many other questions since the old plan is 20 years old. Therefore, Okun rescinded his motions. No vote needed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Building Permits:** (Site Permits)

**First Site Permit** Dated: 6/11/2024 Ronny D. Roberts, R 38.0072.000. 1439 sq ft new building. 28 x 52 x 15. Slab, Friendship Homes Inc., Monticello, MN manufactured home, existing sewer,

existing driveway, contractor to be determined. Observation inspection done by Joe Okun.

Second Site Permit: Dated: July 9, 2024 Rick Palmer, R.38.0073.002 1248 sq feet new building 48'x26'x12', Brian Beck Construction contractor, no existing sewer, no existing water, 3 driveways?. Observation inspection done by \_\_\_\_\_

Motion by Nate Konkel to accept the two site permits, seconded by Norm Kester. Discussion was had about need for updated site permits to address maps, wetlands, roads, ditches, sewer proposals, well sites, easements, start dates, completion dates, parking lot designs, open space allotments, remodeling etc. Motion to accept the two site permits carried unanimously. Joe Okun and Nancy Liebelt to look at updating the site permits to aid contractors, owners, city and county officials in the process and to clarify what type of application it is: Residential, Commercial or Development.

**Blight Ordinance letter dated April 21, 2023**: Mcfarland Residence, 6485 Front Street, Finlayson, MN 55735 for blight, upkeep of a property related to maintaining the property, building, lawn, junk/garbage build up, etc. Discussion was had to develop a definition of "blight" for the ordinances. Joe will talk to Askov how they deal with these issues. Josette will ask Sandstone how they get their blight dealt with and do city wide clean-up. **Marge will** discuss with LeRoy Thurn, former mayor, what the city did about blight during his reign and who was the officials. Norm Kester volunteered to draft a letter with the city clerk about current blight conditions of the Mcfarland property, **give** updates, and what needs to be done continuing the paper trail about the property.

Motion was made by Joe Okun and seconded by Norm Kester to approve that the city clerk and Norm Kester draft a letter via the water bills and separate letters to those who do not have water bills about two public hearings on the blight conditions and provide education on the matter. Norm Kester volunteered to pay the postage estimated to be \$50. Motion carried unanimously.

**Abandoned Vehicle**: on Broadway Street, Finlayson. There is a possible lean on the car. Motion by Nancy Liebelt, seconded by Joe Okun, that the city clerk is to call the tow truck, have it hauled and impounded. This is not the jurisdiction of the Zoning and Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

**Methodist Church letter dated 6/17/2024** to neighboring property owners: confirmation of six (6) graves on church property, reminder of property boundaries, and improvements for memorial garden. Joe Okun motioned that this is the Methodist Church property and they can take whatever action they want to do on their property in reference to the letter. Seconded by Norm Kester. Motion carried unanimously.

**No additional questions/business/ public comments.**

**Motion by Josette Koets to adjourn at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Nate Konkel. Motion carried unanimously. Next meeting date: August 5, 2024 @ 6:30 pm (noted that several members have stated they will be out of town August 5, 2024) Respectfully submitted by Nancy Liebelt.**