

City of Finlayson Planning and Zoning Commission
Finlayson City Hall
Monday, November 4, 2024 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Dave Auchter, Dennis Liebelt, Nancy Liebelt, Bruce Pogatchnik, Josette Koets, Marge Haefner, Norm Kester, Nate Konkel.

Member absent: Excused-Jeff Flaws

Visitor: Penny Simonsen, East Central Regional Development Commission (ECRDC)

6:00 p.m. Light supper was provided

6:25 p.m. Penny started with a conversation about a visitor survey. She suggested QR codes, post cards, fliers, sponsors, upcoming events, options, tabulating results, and using grants funds to gather visitor information. Next, she explained why visitor surveys work for tourism, business impact, brings in higher paying tech jobs, improves Pine Co and seeing what visitors are interested in and why they return to the Finlayson area.

Call to Order: Nate Konkel led the Pledge of Allegiance and meeting starting at 6:40 p.m.

Reading of previous minutes: Nancy Liebelt read the minutes of the Oct 7, 2024 meeting. Motion by Koets to accept the minutes as read, seconded by D. Liebelt. Motion carried unanimously.

Reading of work group minutes: Nancy Liebelt read the minutes of the work group from October 28, 2024. Motion by Koets and seconded by N Liebelt to accept the minutes as read. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Rep/Mayor Updates: Mayor Dave Auchter updated us that the City of Finlayson has made a resolution to use the Pine County Cannibals ordinances. Finlayson can opt in/out, there is no cost, no responsibility to register and maintain cannibus retail information. Ordinances/rules, at this time, are being developed by the State of MN.

Norm Kester led the group in a discussion about the **effect and impact of processing cannibus** on ground water quality. Konkel requested Kester to draft a letter to the State Cannibus Office about concerns for sustaining ground water quality, effects on the work force, and how it could effect small towns like Finlayson.

Auchter discussed the tax forfeiture, abandonment, and blight status on property east of Finlayson (2326 Highway 18). Tax Forfeiture might be in 2025-2026, possible \$4,000-\$7,000 of attorney fees to start other proceedings, has the city put a lean on property to recover costs at time of tax forfeiture. Discussion was held about acreage, 2-3 years of taxes, demo, what if someone else purchases it. Currently waiting for more information from the county.

Auchter introduced a recent **complaint received** from a current home owner and other concerns in regard to ownership of roads, building of more homes by a contractor from Finlayson in the "development area". There is confusion and concern about a new home being built next to the current home owner, gravel/fill being hauled in, and no permit for the new site. Auchter stated that the City of Finlayson council has turned this matter and other concerns over to the city attorney, the contractor and his lawyer. Auchter stated that previous councils had not followed ordinances and current councils wanted a point of understanding. Who owns the road? Conveyance? Road associations, grading, home owner associations, development map? Liebelt asked if there is a development map on file with Pine

County. Mayor Auchter stated there is no such map to his knowledge.

Mayor Auchter next informed us about parking at the Finlayson Municipal. Kester has signed documents to allow parking obtained at the time he purchased his property. There is a current lease agreement with Kester and the city to allow parking.

Addition to agenda: Motion by Nate Konkel to add Penny Simonsen to the agenda to discuss visitor survey and other general goals. Seconded by Koets, Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment-Building Permit Requests: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was had about the general goals of the comprehensive plan. Penny recorded all the changes to the document discussed. After a lot of work, Penny suggested doing most of the draft work in the work group meetings and bringing the draft work back to the general meeting for finalization.

NEXT WORK GROUP MEETING: NOVEMBER 18, 2024 at Finlayson City Hall from 1-2:30 p.m.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: DECEMBER 2, 2024 at Finlayson City Hall 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by N Liebelt, seconded by D Liebelt. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Respectfully submitted by Nancy Liebelt