

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes September 3, 2019

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

Present were: Tom Kaldunski, Trent Larson, Jared Sachs, Chris Williamson, Bob Bjerke, Charles Seipel, Jane Kansier and liaison Ed Gerten.

The Planning Commission reviewed information pertaining to an Application for Assemblage of Large Numbers of People that was sent to the Township by Dakota County. The application was being made by Skyview Ranch LLC for an event to take place at 2413 210th Street E on October 26, 2019. It is anticipated that the maximum number of people attending the event will be 700-800. The Planning Commission inquired as to why an application was not made to the Township, however it looks like the application submitted to the County would cover all of the questions that the Township would have about the event. The Planning Commission recommended that it be confirmed in the event application that traffic will be directed by the Dakota County Sheriff's Department. The permit should also indicate that the conditions of Empire Township Ordinance 230-A, an ordinance relating to large assemblies, be followed by the applicant.

Tom Kaldunski made a motion to recommend approval of the Application for Assemblage of Large Numbers of People for Skyview Ranch LLC., provided that the provisions of Ordinance No. 230-A are followed. Seconded by Trent Larson. Motion carried 5-0.

It was reported that there was an inquiry about the possibility of purchasing property for industrial development near the railroad tracks in the northwest portion of the Township. This property is not zoned for industrial development in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. There are also no immediate plans to bring water and sewer infrastructure to the site. The property would also need public road access.

It was reported that the public hearing for a variance application by Tech-Bloc is scheduled for the next Planning Commission Meeting, on September 17th. The variance application is for the placement of an additional sign along 170th Street. The Planning Commission discussed the zoning ordinance requirements for the placement of signs. Specifically, the Planning Commission inquired about amending the zoning ordinance to allow for the placement of additional signage on a single property if the signs are separated by a distance of 330 feet. Jane Kansier reported that this would be a possibility; however the amendment would require a public hearing.

The owner of Glenhaven Events Center stopped by to inform the Planning Commission of his long term plans for the events center site. It is likely that the proposed plans will require an amendment to the CUP for the Events Center property.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.