

## City of Finlayson Planning & Zoning Commission

Finlayson City Hall  
Monday, January 6, 2025

**Members Present:** Nate Konkol, Jeff Flaws, Dennis Liebelt, Josette Koets, Dave Auchter

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

**Call to Order:** Nate Konkol called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm & led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Previous Minutes:** Josette Koets read the minutes from the December 2, 2024 meeting. Motion by Dennis L., seconded by Jeff F. to accept as read. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Council Rep/Mayor Update:**

- The parking & road easement situation on Broadways Street is still under discussion.
- The blighted property on Hwy. 18 will be expensive to legally address at this time. It is suggested that when it goes into tax-forfeiture and is auctioned, there be a provision with the county that clean-up of the property will be mandatory.
- Expired building permit issue was resolved

**Building permits:** none

**Public Comment:** none

### **Old Business:**

Mayor Dave and Bruce Pogatchnik met with Ed Melzark regarding working with Finlayson as a Zoning Administrator. This would also include blight duties. He would work on an hourly basis, follow the duties already in place for a Zoning Administrator and would also attend Council meetings. Bruce has tried several times to contact Rum River Contracting; they have not been available.

### **Action items/Motion:**

Josette Koets made a motion to recommend to the City Council to hire Ed Melzark as the Zoning Administrator for the city of Finlayson to be paid through the current budgeted amount the city has allotted for such a position (\$7500) and updated building permit fees. Seconded by Dennis Liebelt, all members approved.

### **New Business:**

Penny Simonson gave an update on the survey sent to residents and businesses in December. 192 sent, 67 returned so far. A follow-up postcard will be sent to addresses. Follow-up discussions with the P & Z group related to what respondents want to see in a future Finlayson

with many wanting more commercial/industrial, which may relate to having more employment opportunities. We will work towards planning a community event to inform and include the public of the direction and possibilities the city holds.

Discussion was also related to future improvements that businesses/public entities might capitalize on when MNDOT has its next large highway project.

Future workshop meetings for the P & Z were scheduled for Jan.27, Feb.24, March 24, April 28, May 19 from 1-2:30 pm.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:25 pm

**Next group meeting:** Jan. 27, 1:00 pm

**Next regular meeting:** Feb. 3, 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Josette Koets

