

Wednesday January 14, 2026
St. Louis, MI

A regular meeting of the St. Louis Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman Doepker at 5:30 P.M.

Present: Doepker, Giles, Kelly, Echtinaw, Whitford, Horvat, Messer, Palmer
Absent:

Also Present: Josh Leppien, Asst. City Manager, and Gary Smith, Pine River Task Force

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Doepker.

Motion was made by Palmer, supported by Horvat, to approve the minutes from December 10, 2025. All ayes. Motion carried.

Chairman Doepker opened the public hearing for the Proposed Gratiot Countywide Master Plan at 5:33 P.M. Gary Smith requested additional information on the definition of Energy Park, and the scope of potential redevelopment plans for the former Velsicol site. Smith opposed substantial industrial uses and promoted recreational uses on the site. Discussion regarding site limitations and opportunities occurred. Chairman Doepker closed the Public Hearing at 6:10 P.M.

Motion was made by Palmer, supported by Echtinaw, to adopt Resolution 2026-01 to Approve the Countywide Master Plan. A roll call vote took place:

AYE: Palmer, Echtinaw, Giles, Kelly, Whitford, Horvat, Messer, Doepker

NAY: None

The resolution passed.

Kurt Giles advised the Planning Commission members that Donna Kelley did not renew her term on the Commission, recognizing her years of service with appreciation.

There were no public comments at this time.

Motion made by Echtinaw, supported by Horvat to adjourn at 6:16 P.M. All ayes. Motion carried.

Josh Leppien
Acting Recording Secretary