

**MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON JULY 3, 2008, AT 4:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Jeremy Riddle called the meeting to order. Council members present were Jeremy Riddle and Councilors Paul Whitcomb, Lee Steinbrecher, and Victoria Hallin. Councilor Dick Dobson was absent. Staff present was Mark Karnowski, Steve Jackson, and Ann Bien. Also present were Chad Hausman and Ron Bray from WSB and Mille Lacs County Commissioner Jack Edmonds.

BRIDGE/INTERSECTION DISCUSSION

Chad Hausman and Ron Bray, engineers from WSB, were present. Bray reported about 50-60 people attended the open house. He stated from the citizen surveys completed, it showed they wanted the project completed in one year. He also stated after people watched the video, they changed their mind about not wanting a roundabout. Hallin stated business owners on the west side of town preferred one construction season and Edmonds stated only one person he talked to was against the roundabout.

Hausman informed the Council that the people he talked to wanted one lane open on Hwy. for travel during construction. Bray stated that could happen but it could add 6-8 weeks to the project since it would be like building two bridges. The Council agreed with keeping one lane open since it would alleviate some safety issues with police, fire, and ambulance.

Karnowski stated it was reported at the Fire Advisory Board meeting last night that Wyanett Township is going to build a fire station and would like the City to use it as a substation. The problem would be manning the facility during the day. Dalbo would have to be contracted with to also provide fire services.

Karnowski asked how much power the City has with the decision to keep a lane open. Bray answered the City has quite a bit with municipal consent. Hausman added one benefit would be that one contractor could be used for both bridges and crews could stay on site with coordinating construction of the two bridges. Hausman also stated non-peak driving times will allow faster travel, but during peak times, drivers may find the detour faster. Bray suggested there could be a truck detour.

STEINBRECHER MOVED TO ENDORSE A ROUNDABOUT INTERSECTION AT HWY. 95 AND RUM RIVER DRIVE. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

HALLIN MOVED TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION WITHIN ONE YEAR. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

STEINBRECHER MOVED TO REQUEST ONE LANE OF HWY. 95 REMAIN OPEN DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Karnowski asked if there were monies left over from the federal grant for Hwy. 95 which could be used to connect West Branch Street to Hwy. 95 at 13th Avenue North. Hausman stated he has asked but could not get an answer today.

Karnowski also asked if there was still a program where there was money for access control and suggested if so, the city could try to work with MNDOT to obtain cooperative agreements to get 13th Avenue North completed.

Hausman thought State money could be used to match Federal funds.

Edmonds asked if there has been any communication with 13th Avenue North residents. Karnowski stated there have been a few calls and several rumors. He stated he explained to the callers that at this time the only consideration is to connect West Branch to Hwy. 95 at 13th Avenue with no improvements to 13th Avenue. However, in a longer range plan, 13th Avenue could be widened and improved. He stated there is a 66' wide easement, but maybe only 44' would be paved.

Hausman stated the next step is for MNDOT to approve the plan and then it comes back to the City for approval.

ORDINANCE 619, REZONING LAND

Karnowski informed the Council the City Attorney revised his recommendation regarding the number of votes needed to rezone property, stating that only a majority was required. Since the property owner intends to apply for an interim use permit once the property is rezoned, it is being brought back today to not delay the application process another month.

STEINBRECHER MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #619, AN ORDINANCE ZONING LAND WITHIN THE CITY OF PRINCETON. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Hallin stated she was concerned with the closeness of his recycling facility to potential future residential development. Her concerns included the number of vehicles being stored, the grass height, and ground contamination. Steinbrecher stated the Planning Commission specifically stated there could be no vehicles and their intent was for recycling of appliances only.

JULY 24TH MEETING DATE

Karnowski asked the Council if they wished to reschedule their meeting on the 24th because of the Chamber of Commerce's annual pork chop event. He suggested July 29th because he is unable to attend a meeting on the 22nd and 31st.

WHITCOMB MOVED TO MOVE THE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 24TH TO JULY 29TH AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no further business, STEINBRECHER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:20 P.M. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Bien, Deputy City Clerk

ATTEST:

Jeremy Riddle, Mayor