

**MINUTES OF A STUDY SESSION OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON FEBRUARY 1, 2007, AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Jeremy Riddle called the meeting to order. Council members present were Mayor Jeremy Riddle and Councilors Paul Whitcomb, Dick Dobson, Victoria Hallin, and Lee Steinbrecher. Staff present was Steve Jackson, Jay Blake, and Ann Bien. Also present were Dave Thompson, Hank Findell, and Connie Wangen, PUC.

Thompson presented ideas where the Public Utilities Commission and City Council can work better together.

ENGINEER

Thompson suggested one engineer be hired by the City and PUC. The Council agreed to take a good look to see if this would be viable. Having one engineer would be better for communication of projects and help reduce engineering costs. Steinbrecher brought up an inspector has been talked about. Thompson stated they use their crew for most of their inspections, including 65-70% of sewer connections. He stated he thinks it would be a good idea to look at hiring a project manager, stating they get charged every time they call the engineer. Karnowski stated the City does not get charged for most phone calls, but it can lead to other projects. Thompson stated he believes the economy will be picking up and construction will begin.

The PUC paid \$400,000 for engineering costs in 2006, but that includes engineering for a new generator. The City paid around \$140,000.

Karnowski agreed someone on staff might help reduce some costs, but an outside firm will be needed for some items, i.e. storm water management. He stated some equipment will have to be purchased if someone is hired. He suggested the two entities agree on one engineering firm or go out for RFPs and then look into additional staff.

STEINBRECHER MOVED TO PUT OUT AN RFP TO SEH AND WSB TO PROVIDE JOINT ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CITY AND PUC. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Findell liked the idea of a Request for Proposal. Jackson asked about an electric engineer. Thompson thought they could find their own electric engineer.

ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW WELL AND TREATMENT PLANT

Thompson reported they are moving forward, and the wells have been approved. He stated they purchased the needed property to install a new well. He stated Jeff Hammer requested a swap of land and his property to be annexed. Distinctive Door may be also requesting the same. He has talked to the Baldwin Township Board regarding this issue. It is scheduled to out for bids late April, early May, with substantial completion by September or October.

EQUAL PLAYING FIELD FOR ALL UTILITIES

Thompson explained the City's Industrial Park is served by Connexus and East Central also has part of the north part of the City. He stated the PUC makes payments in lieu of taxes to the city but other entities do not. Karnowski suggested franchise fees but thought there could only be 5% on electric. Thompson explained how they bill vs. Connexus, etc.

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Dobson asked about garbage and franchise fees. Thompson stated that is different. He stated Ace gives city residents a much lower rate than townships. Steinbrecher asked questions about other cities having only one hauler. Thompson explained there are some cities who only have one hauler and some go out for bid every few years.

Thompson further reported some city buildings are not being metered for water. He also asked why the PUC pays for sewer and the City does not pay for water. He stated one area not metered is Mark Park and the City Public Works shop is another. He explained they could get in trouble with the DNR if they don't meet their requirements. The Council and staff agreed the City areas should be metered. Thompson stated he thinks the Commission would be willing to look at special rate. He stated another issue is with the Fire Department filling pools and their training.

WAC CHARGES

Thompson stated the disbursement of WAC charges from City Hall has gotten better. He stated one issue is when the City forgive fees to customers and PUC is not notified. Karnowski stated he was not aware of any WAC or SAC charges forgiven and it is not Council policy to forgive these fees.

WIRELESS INTERNET

Thompson reported wireless internet has been approved by companies who Jay Blake is working with. Thompson stated he has no problem with this. He stated the PUC should be considered part of city if benefits are exchanged. There may be a franchise fee for wireless internet.

STREET LIGHTING

There was talk about continuing to do street lighting in new projects. Steinbrecher asked if all poles should be the same decorative design. So far developments are not the same – residential vs. commercial. A street assessment could cover the cost of decorations.

FEE FOR DIFFERENT PROJECTS

Franchise fees and street light assessments were discussed above.

DEVELOPERS MEETINGS

Thompson asked that not so many meetings be cancelled. He stated he has projects to work on but the developer's meetings are cancelled.

DOBSON MOVED TO MEET WITH THE PUC COMMISSION AND STAFF EVERY SIX MONTHS. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Riddle suggested the PUC be put on agenda every other month for an update,

There being no further business, HALLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:30 STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Bien
Deputy City Clerk

ATTEST:

Jeremy Riddle, Mayor