

**MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION/BOARD OF REVIEW OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON AUGUST 2, 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 Mark Karnowski, Steve Jackson, and Ann Bien. Also present was PUC General Manager Dave Thompson, Administrative Assistant Connie Wangen, and PUC Commissioners Hank Findell and Ed Juntilla.

CONSIDER MNDOT AERONAUTICS GRANT OFFER

Karnowski reported the City has received a grant offer in the amount of \$50,758 to make minor revisions to the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) to include the hangar property formerly owned by Westling, the Kruse property, and other previously discussed adjustments.

HALLIN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE GRANT OFFER OF \$50,758 FROM MNDOT AERONAUTICS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CITY ATTORNEY TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION.

Karnowski added the ALP has to be adjusted before the money is received.

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

DISCUSSION WITH PUC REGARDING CITY GARBAGE SERVICE

Karnowski explained that since the PUC is considering getting out of the garbage hauling business, staff thought it might be a good time for the Council and PUC to sit down and discuss the future of garbage service for the City.

Juntilla explained they were studying getting out of the garbage business, stating that although they are making a profit at this time, if they keep losing customers it will not continue to be. He stated he thinks one provider/franchise is good for the City and customers. He stated he also likes that all households will be paying for the service.

Thompson stated last year they broke even, but they have trucks that need to be replaced, which could result in raising their price. He stated they do not have hidden fees like a recycling charge and gas surcharge like the other haulers have. He stated he feels there has to be a five year commitment to the PUC or it will not work for them. If they stay in the garbage hauling business, it will take at least a \$1 million expenditure to upgrade their trucks.

Steinbrecher asked if they will add more employees if they go to automated trucks. Thompson stated they will have to add one employee, they currently have two.

Steinbrecher stated the City has grown substantially since the PUC was the sole provider, so one concern is the PUC prepared to provide the service to a much larger base than it had in the past.

Wangen stated they figure there are 1,500 residential customers in the city, not including apartments. Thompson stated automated trucks can handle 900 customers per day, so staff feels they can do garbage pickup in two days, with two days for recycling and one day free for extra services. He stated staff has been talking, but have not taken it to their commission yet

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Hallin asked if the PUC does both cans and orange bags. Thompson stated yes, and they will keep both. The orange bag users will be given a 33 gallon can to put their orange bags in so they can be picked up automatically. Karnowski stated another provider suggested another option would be subcontracting the recycling. Thompson stated right now there is money in recycling so they would want to keep that service. Wangen added they would have to see how much another company would charge because right now the PUC does not charge for recycling.

Karnowski stated he would first want to meet with the PUC and the other providers to have everyone look over the Request for Proposal (RFP) so no one is eliminated because of the way the RFP is worded. Juntilla added performance standards need to be included.

Findell asked how the City would handle increases from the company. Karnowski stated the company would set out in their proposal possible annual increases and other charges, such as a fuel surcharge. Thompson suggested the Council can require justification to increase fees, stating dumping rates can increase in the middle of the year without notification.

Dobson asked if the PUC goes to automation, what happens when customers set out more than can. Thompson replied customers can purchase stickers to place on the extra cans. Juntilla stated if a customer consistently sets out more than one can, Ace gives them another can and charges for two cans. Wangen stated they have also contacted customers who consistently have extra bags to suggest they go to the two can rate. Thompson explained there are options for different situations. He stated another consideration is appliance recycling, which they offer and the other haulers do not.

Riddle asked if we want to hold an open house and send out RFPs. He stated he assumes all proposals can be rejected. Steinbrecher stated he thinks the Council will get mixed opinions from an open house and the Council should be careful making decision on that. He stated he thinks the City should just out for an RFP. Hallin stated she thinks an open house will allow people to give their opinions. Karnowski suggested the Council meet with the haulers first to structure the RFP. He stated information could be included in the city newsletter and an open house could be held. Steinbrecher stated he thinks input is good, but there is always a danger when 5-6 people think they are representing 2,000 and give input. Often times things are said out of emotion and if the Council makes a decision contrary to what those 5-6 people say, it could be thought the Council is going against the citizens.

Findell asked if the City can just give a franchise without going through an RFP. Karnowski thought it may be able to, but public response may be contrary. Hallin stated she was not comfortable with that. Dobson stated he thinks local government has to give the public a chance to ask questions, not ask what they want city to do but to answer questions why city is doing this.

Karnowski pointed out he included a included "clean up" day in the draft agreement, although the City does not currently provide one like the townships. He thought, however, if everyone is charged for garbage pickup, everyone should use the service and let it collect it in yards and buildings.

DOBSON MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO CONTACT CURRENT HAULERS AND SET UP A MEETING TO DISCUSS WHAT SHOULD BE IN AN RFP. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Findell asked what happens if the City decides to remain status quo. Thompson stated he thought the PUC would still look at getting out. He stated they have to purchase a truck and they cannot make a profit with buying trucks.

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Dobson stated he likes the orange bags, especially for senior citizens. Karnowski stated that would have to be required from other providers. He also stated the RFP could include that the company has to have an office and presence in the City.

CONTRACT WITH RICHARD "SKEETER" LANE

STEINBRECHER MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2007 CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PRINCETON AND RICHARD "SKEETER" LANE. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL TO NOT USE TAX DOLLARS TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB. The Council agreed long discussions need to be held.

There being no further business, STEINBRECHER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:30 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