

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 27, 2007, 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Riddle called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council members present were Mayor Jeremy Riddle and Councilors Paul Whitcomb, Dick Dobson, and Victoria Hallin. Councilor Lee Steinbrecher was absent. Staff present was Mark Karnowski, Tom Mismash, Brian Payne, and Ann Bien. Also present was City Attorney Damien Toven.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Under New Business:

- A. Purchase of Fire Truck Chassis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2007

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2007, AS WRITTEN. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 4; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Permits and Licenses: None

B. Personnel

1. Public Works Department

- a. Jason Baumunk, Step 3 Increase to \$18.50/hr. effective 10-12-07
- b. Todd Ross, Step 4 Increase to \$19.31/hr. effective 10-14-07

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 4; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OPEN FORUM

No one was present for Open Forum.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

A. Planning Commission

1. Rezoning Request

Karnowski reported John and Sharolyn Westling own approximately 52 acres north of the existing Industrial Park and east of the airport. They have requested this land be rezoned from C-1 Conservation to MN-1 Industrial. Since this is a manmade wetland, wetlands do not have to be exchanged.

DOBSON MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE #607, AN ORDINANCE ZONING LAND WITHIN THE CITY OF PRINCETON. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Hallin asked if DNR needs to be notified. Karnowski replied they were notified of the public hearing.

ON THE VOTE: AYES - 4; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Lot Split for Westlings

Karnowski explained the Westlings have requested a lot split of their 52 acres into two parcels. One parcel of approximately 35 acres will remain for future potential development and the other parcel of approximately 17 will be sold to Sylva Corporation for expansion and development. The Westlings have agreed to consider a park dedication of trail easement along the easterly portion of this site.

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #07-52, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOT SPLIT FOR JOHN AND SHAROLYN WESTLING. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Dobson asked if this would help or hinder any future north south road. Karnowski stated not hinder as far as wetlands were concerned. Additionally, it would difficult to prove a benefit to adjacent properties if the property is a wetland, but if the property is developable, it may be easier to assess.

ON THE VOTE: AYES - 4; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Lot Split for Beatties and Roberts

Karnowski reported Robert and Roseann Beattie own a shed which is partially located on their neighbor's property. In order to correct this problem, the neighbors, Jeremie and Monica Roberts have agreed to sell 14' of Lot 8, Block 2, Cater's Addition to the Beatties (owners of Lot 7, Block 2, Cater's Addition). Since this type of lot split can be handled with an Administrative Lot Split, Community Development Director Jay Blake completed the paperwork and no Council action was needed.

4. Conditional Use Permit for Pat Fitzpatrick

Karnowski reported Patrick Fitzpatrick, 503 Rum River Drive North, has applied for a conditional use permit to allow the sale of 13 additional vehicles to the west of his building and five spaces to the east and extended hours. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on September 20, 2007, and approved five additional spaces on the paved area of his lot and extended hours of 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. However, the Planning Commission did not approve the 13 spaces unless the surface was to be paved. Hallin asked if the ordinance required blacktop. Karnowski stated he did not know if it specifically stated that, but the concern is drainage and contaminants.

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Mille Lacs Co. Dunn Bridge Memo

Karnowski reported the Mille Lacs County Highway Department has determined the structure of the Dunn bridge is not only functionally obsolete, but it apparently is structurally deficient as well. Mille Lacs County Highway Engineer, Bruce Cochran, suggests that the cost of the replacement could exceed \$6 million. He also alludes to the fact that Princeton is approaching the milestone 5,000 population, which would make Princeton a highway "state-aid" city and qualify it for an annual stipend to maintain a designated state-aid highway system.

Karnowski stated he has discussed the state-aid issue with Cochran and both agree that it is doubtful if the City would designate any county roads as part of the City's state-aid system. Currently a portion of 21st Avenue (between 1st Street and TH95) is on the County's state-aid system and the City has agreed that, when the City reaches 5,000 population, the County may remove the state-aid designation of that street. At that point, the City will then determine whether it should be part of it's own state-aid system and may so designate it.

Engineer Cochran has informed Karnowski his proposal to replace the bridge would include using pre-cast components to expedite the replacement process. Cochran has also suggested that his proposal may include an attempt to restore the decorative bridge archways that have given the City some identity. Cochran also talked about a 5-lane bridge with 3 northbound lanes (including turn lanes) and two southbound lanes plus a sidewalk/bikepath. Cochran is interested in having the work done sooner rather than later.

Karnowski recommended 21st Avenue South be completed prior to any bridge work to give an alternate route from the industrial park to Hwy. 95. Dobson stated he would like to see 13th Avenue North at Rum River Drive be opened up first because the West Branch Street intersection is extremely dangerous. Karnowski agreed, stating it may be more important to get 13th Avenue completed before the signaling at 21st Avenue.

B. East Central Arts Council Vacancy

Karnowski reported there is a vacancy on the East Central Arts Council and gave a brief description of their primary functions. Any one interested should contact the ECRDC by November 1, 2007.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance #606, Amendment to Fee Schedule (final)

Ordinance #606 was introduced at the September 13, 2007, meeting. The ordinance establishes fees for skid steer and compressor work and Princeton area topographical data. No changes have been made since it was introduced.

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #606, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EXHIBIT E, FEE SCHEDULE OF THE PRINCETON CODE OF ORDINANCES. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 4; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Resolution #07-51, Premise Permit for PYHA

Karnowski explained this is a renewal of the Princeton Youth Hockey Association's premise permit to allow gambling at 511 Ice Arena Drive.

DOBSON MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #07-51, A RESOLUTION APPROVING PREMISE PERMIT APPLICATION FOR PRINCETON YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOC. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION.

Hallin stated that after careful consideration, she questions why pull-tabs would want to be sold at a youth activity and she did not think it was a good precedence. She stated she thought we were teaching our children something we should not want to teach them and she was strictly against gambling in front of youth.

Dobson explained the proceeds go to purchase ice time and maintenance of the building. Without the funds, many children would not be able to play hockey. He also explained how hard it is to find locations to sell from.

Hallin stated she thought the long term impact on seeing pull-tabs being sold would be detrimental and thought they could sell other places.

Discussion continued on the pros and cons of selling pull-tabs and what locations should be approved.

Dobson called for the vote.

ON THE VOTE: AYES – RIDDLE, WHITCOMB, DOBSON; NAYS – HALLIN. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Riddle stated he voted in favor because it was a renewal and suggested they find another location to sell pull-tabs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Insurance Renewal (Additional Information)

Karnowski presented a handout with additional information regarding the City's insurance renewal. He explained the coverage limit is "per occurrence", but there are some exceptions.

B. WAC and SAC Policy – Revision II

Karnowski reviewed the proposed WAC and SAC policy with revisions to items 4 and 5. Item 4 states, "WAC/SAC credits may not be sold or otherwise traded between private property owners. WAC/SAC credits may be transferred within structures having the same PIN number." Item 5 states, "If a building is demolished, the number of WAC/SAC units either paid or "grandparented" in remains available for use on that property if and when the property is re-developed in the future. WAC/SAC credits "grandparented" on vacant lots may be credited to an adjacent property owner if said vacant parcel merges or combines with the property owned by the adjacent property owner.

Hallin questioned #4, if one building only has one pin number. Karnowski answered yes, and gave that example of Sherburne bank will have two separate businesses on one lot, but will end up with two PIN numbers; whereas a current building on the south end of town has 3 businesses within one building so it only has one PIN number.

Karnowski explained this is not to be approved as an ordinance, but rather as a policy, so changes can be made as needed and quicker.

HALLIN MOVED TO ADOPT THE SAC AND WAC POLICY AS PRESENTED. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Whitcomb asked if this was approved by the Public Utilities Commission. Karnowski stated he had left a message with General Manager Dave Thompson, but has not hear back. Dobson stated they did not discuss it at their last meeting.

HALLIN MOVED TO AMEND HER MOTION TO INCLUDE CONTINGENT UPON PUC APPROVAL. DOBSON SECONDED THE FRIENDLY AMENDMENT.

ON THE VOTE: AYES - 4; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

Karnowski reported a trading partner for phosphorous limits has been found and it doesn't appear there will be any cost involved. He stated the current discussion with the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) indicates they are willing to work with the City on a phosphorus "trade" at no dollar cost to the city for the WWTP's first five (5) year permitting period. As a condition of the "free" trade during the first five year permit cycle, MCES suggested they would trade point-source P credits to the City in exchange for the City providing future non-point source phosphorus reduction projects in the Upper Mississippi River Basin or at least until a TMDL is adopted. The City is interested in locating projects in the Rum River watershed (which is in the critical Upper Mississippi River Basin).

He stated the main stumbling block is there is a potential that the TMDL would require further phosphorous reductions or trades, even in the middle of a permit cycle. However, this approach gives us the advantage of five years of no cost phosphorous discharge and time to locate and be part of non-point source phosphorous reduction projects that will benefit the environment both in and around the Princeton area and in the Mississippi River Basin on a more permanent basis. There appears to be agreement can be made

NEW BUSINESS

A. Purchase of New Fire Truck Chassis

Karnowski reported the Fire Department's Executive Board was advised that the City can purchase a 2007 6-passenger Dodge Ram pickup truck for \$25,374 through the State's Contract Purchasing Program. Since it's a 2007 close-out vehicle, the truck is available at that price for only a short period of time. The original MSRP for that vehicle is \$34,125 and the original state contract price was \$33,260. The vehicle would replace the department's oldest grass rig, a 1986 Chevy. The Fire Advisory Board has discussed the purchase of this type of vehicle and directed the Chief to get firm price's for this month's meeting. The cost to modify the vehicle for use as a combination first responder/grass rig is currently being calculated and is proposed to be covered by the budgeted 2008 CIP funds.

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE 2007 DODGE RAM 3500 PICKUP TRUCK FOR \$25,374 CONTINGENT UPON CONCURRENCE BY THE FIRE ADVISORY BOARD. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 4; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MISCELLANEOUS: None

BILL LIST – \$605,746.69

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE MANUAL CHECKS NUMBERING 57367-57369 AND 57475 FOR A TOTAL OF \$\$141,422.31 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST ND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST, WHICH WILL BE CHECKS NUMBERING 57476-57540, FOR A TOTAL OF \$464,324.38 AS SHOWN ON THE BILL LIST. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 4; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no further business, WHITCOMB MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:50 P.M. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 4; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Bien
Deputy City Clerk

ATTEST:

Jeremy Riddle, Mayor