

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD HELD ON  
JANUARY 18, 2011, AT 7:00 P.M., AT THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Ben Hanson. Members present were Jack Edmonds and Dick Dobson. Staff present were Jay Blake and Mary Lou DeWitt. Absent was Dave Thompson.

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

Ben Hanson and Dick Dobson took the Oath of Office.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

HANSON MOVED, SECOND BY DOBSON TO NOMINATE DAVE THOMPSON AS CHAIRPERSON FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD. UPON THE CALL OF MOTION, THERE WERE 3 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

DOBSON MOVED, SECOND BY EDMONDS TO NOMINATE BEN HANSON AS VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD. UPON THE CALL OF MOTION, THERE WERE 3 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

HANSON MOVED, SECOND BY DOBSON TO NOMINATE JACK EDMONDS AS SECRETARY FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD. UPON THE CALL OF MOTION, THERE WERE 3 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON NOVEMBER 15, 2010**

EDMONDS MOVED, SECOND BY HANSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2010. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 3 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. Discharge of Firearms Ordinance, Continued Discussion**

This is continued discussion regarding an ordinance amending Chapter 625 of the City of Princeton's Ordinance, Discharge of Firearms. Blake said the purpose of this ordinance would be to give flexibility to those properties that are in the City limits, but in rural areas. There are a few areas that would qualify for this ordinance.

Edmonds commented that the City can be more restrictive than the State regulations, but not less restrictive. He would not like hand guns to be allowed in this ordinance.

Brian Payne, Police Chief, was present to give his advice on the ordinance. Payne said shotguns would be fine on the areas shown on the map.

Hanson asked if additional land were to be annexed into the City limits, could that land be added to this ordinance map.

Blake said yes. It can be adjusted at anytime. It can also be amended if a parcel were to be developed on. If the map were to be amended then the City would have to make the property owner aware of the change.

Hanson asked what if a property owner wanted their property to be included in this ordinance area.

Blake said the property owner could petition the City Council to amend the map.

Dobson and Hanson are both concerned that the wording in the Ordinance should be very specific that if the property were platted then that property would be removed from the map where this ordinance no longer would qualify.

Blake said he would talk to the City Attorney on this to have specific wording so no problems in the future come up.

Payne said the City should be consistent with the DNR regulations on shot gun and slug. No hand guns or rifles would be allowed. This ordinance would pertain to those properties that are indicated on the map provided. What should be allowed in the ordinance would be bow and arrow, cross bow, shot gun, slug, and muzzle loader.

Blake said it could be brought to the City Council in the future for scheduling permitted hunts on public property when needed to control animal populations. Blake will have the City Attorney prepare another draft of the Ordinance amending Chapter 625, Discharge of Firearms. In this would be an amendment to the Procedural Section, and the City Council can determine in the future if the map needs to be amended if there is a negative impact on public safety due to this ordinance in a specific area. Blake is asking the Planning Commission Board if they are okay with these amendments being completed and forwarded to the City Council for review at their January 27, 2011, meeting.

DOBSON MOVED, SECOND BY HANSON TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 625 OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON ORDINANCES, DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS. THE ORDINANCE WOULD PERTAIN TO THOSE PROPERTIES THAT ARE INDICATED ON THE MAP. A PROCEDURE SECTION OF HOW AND WHEN THE MAP COULD BE AMENDED WOULD BE INCLUDED. THE ALLOWED USE IS BOW AND ARROW, CROSS BOW, SHOT GUN, SLUG, AND MUZZLE LOADER. THIS ORDINANCE AMENDMENT WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE JANUARY 27, 2011, CITY COUNCIL MEETING. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 3 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **A. State Statute Amendments Relating to Variance Criteria**

The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled in 2010, that the statutes relating to the criteria for issuing variances is essentially being misused and it severely restricted the scope of all variances. It narrowly defined hardship to a point where no variance could meet the standards set by the

Supreme Court. The case resulted from a neighbor opposing the addition on to a non-conforming garage. With the potential of legal problems for many cities, the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association has drafted a bill that will be introduced to the legislature to redefine the term hardship to practical difficulties. This definition is used in numerous other states. Blake is asking the Planning Commission Board to make a motion to recommend to the City Council to adopt a resolution in support of the proposed bill.

DOBSON MOVED, SECOND BY HANSON TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED BILL THAT WILL BE INTRODUCED TO THE LEGISLATURE TO REDEFINE THE TERM HARDHIP TO PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 3 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **COMMUNICATION AND REPORTS:**

##### **A. Verbal Report**

Blake said that someone was interested in the Great Glacier building for a Butcher Shop, but the party has put that on hold for the time being. There are rumors that a bakery may be coming back to town. Glenn Metalcraft has their addition up and would like to have the EDA Board come for a tour at a later date. There is a Paint Shop in Glenn's building that had moved from another community.

Hanson would like the Class Five removed from Dunkley's land. This is from when Thunder Alley building was demolished and there is still stuff on the site that needs to be removed. It is way past the Conditional Use Permit required cleanup date. Blake said he will talk to Dunkley.

##### **B. City Council Minutes for December, 2010**

The Planning Commission Board had no comments.

##### **C. Board Vacancy Ad**

The EDA Board is encouraged to ask people they know if they would interest in either the EDA Board or the Planning Commission Board.

DOBSON MOVED, SECOND BY HANSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 3 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:57 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Ben Hanson, Vice Chairperson

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Mary Lou DeWitt, Comm. Dev. Assistant