

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON  
MARCH 13, 2008, 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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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 Dick Dobson, Victoria Hallin, Lee Steinbrecher, and Paul Whitcomb. Staff present was Steve Jackson, Brian Payne, Joe Backlund, Bob Gerold, and Ann Bien. Also present was City Attorney Damien Toven.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

Under Requests:

- C. Request from Princeton Visionary Committee
- D. Request from Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)

Under New Business:

- B. 2008 Salary Increase for Supervisors and Non-Union Employees

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28 AND STUDY SESSION OF MARCH 6, 2008**

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2008, AND STUDY SESSION OF MARCH 6, 2008, AS WRITTEN. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Permits and Licenses**

- 1. Princeton Moose Lodge – Consumption and Display Permit

**B. Personnel**

- 1. Liquor Store
  - a. Aaron Cook – Resignation effective 03-08-08
  - b. Danelle Latimer – Resignation effective 03-21-08

**C. Donations/Designations**

DOBSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; 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. **Draft Minutes of February 19, 2008**  
The above minutes were reviewed.

**B. EDA**

- 1. **Draft Minutes of February 21, 2008**  
The above minutes were reviewed.

**C. Public Utilities Commission**

- 1. **Minutes of January 23 and February 15, 2008**  
The above minutes were reviewed.

## **PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Request for Donation for Fundraiser**

Todd Benson explained Eddie Kingsley was diagnosed with bladder cancer and a fundraiser is scheduled to help offset his expenses. They requested the City donate a case of wine or \$50-\$100. He stated Ed has been a long time resident of the City and has served on the City's Park Board for several years.

Jackson agreed Ed has been active with Mark Park, but he was not sure it was appropriate for the City to donate for a single individual. He explained usually donations are for groups in the community. Dobson asked if it would be more appropriate if it was stated Ed's past commitment to the City's parks was taken into consideration. City Attorney Toven stated he was fairly sure the City could not legally give to a single donation, and although it would come from liquor funds, it was not a good precedent. If the Council decided to give something, it should not be money. Steinbrecher stated he viewed the liquor store the same as any other business, and from his perspective his company donates to various organizations and causes. Part of the donations are for public relations and advertising. He thought product could be donated as a form of advertising. Dobson agreed, stating also that Ed was being considered because of his past service to the City.

Whitcomb pointed out that this could be setting a precedent for all current and past members of various City boards. Hallin agreed, and was concerned with stepping out of bounds and being audited. Dobson stated that after hearing the concerns of two of the council members and the attorney, he agreed a donation might cause future concerns.

DOBSON MOVED TO DENY THE REQUEST FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE KINGSLEYS BENEFIT. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES – 4 (RIDDLE, DOBSON, HALLIN, WHITCOMB); NAYS – 1 (STEINBRECHER). THE MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Riddle requested Benson to contact his business for a donation, as did other council members.

### **B. Communication from Mille Lacs County Assessor's Office**

Jackson reported the Mille Lacs County Assessor's Office is holding an informational meeting for elected officials to discuss the 2008 assessment year in light of the current housing market on March 20, 2008. Dobson and Hallin stated they would try to attend the meeting since they have attended the Truth in Taxation training.

### **C. Request from Princeton Visionary Committee**

Jackson informed the Council the Princeton Area Visionary Committee (PAVC) has asked the City to host their webpage. Staff concerns include the fact that the PAVC is not an official committee of the City, although staff and city council have participated in the bi-monthly meetings. Second, similar requests could come from other similar organizations. Jackson stated he and Blake think it is appropriate and a good fit. The only problem would be if they took up more space than anticipated.

Riddle asked if there was a cost to the City and Jackson answered no. Dobson asked if the Chamber could host it, but Jackson thought they might be limited to a smaller amount of space on the web.

Whitcomb asked if there were any concerns with a virus coming to our site. Jackson stated we are protected quite well since the site is hosted through Gov Office and not at the City. Also, they would only have access to their space.

The Council asked if the amount of space should be limited. Jackson suggested the limit could be 1/5 of the total space the City has. He explained pictures take up the most space, and text is minimal.

Staff also recommended a policy be developed to determine if a web site would be hosted by the City. Stipulations could include:

1. Any organization wanting to have a page hosted on the City web site must have City Council, Mayor, and/or City staff involved in the organization; and
2. The organization's main objective must be for the general benefit of the City and its citizens; and
3. The City has the authority to limit the amount of web space provided to the organization; and
4. The City shall limit access to only the organization's section of the web site; and
5. The City can request that the page be removed from the City's web site without notice for space or content reasons; and
6. The web page must clearly state that the organization is not an official committee of the city of Princeton and the City is not responsible for the content.

Steinbrecher clarified the intent is for the 1/5 to be used by any combination of groups.

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CITY HOSTING THE PRINCETON VISIONARY COMMITTEE' WEB SITE WITH THE SIX STIPULATIONS AND USING NO MORE THAN 1/5 OF THE CITY'S SPACE. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**D. Request from Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA)**

Duane Kruse explained the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) is hosting dance on March 29, 2008, at his hangar located at 1101 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. They are asking to place a 4' X 8' sandwich type sign advertising the dance in the parking lot of the old liquor store for one week prior to the event.

DOBSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION PLACING A SIGN NOT TO EXCEED 4' x 8' IN THE PARKING LOT AT 602 RUM RIVER DRIVE SOUTH FROM MARCH 19-29, 2008. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Public Works – Purchase of Plow Truck**

Gerold explained the Public Works Department is scheduled to replace their 1979 Ford plow truck. He has found through the State bid list a Sterling chassis for \$66,479 at Boyer

Trucks and the hydraulics, box, plows, and sander at J-Craft for \$79,770.80. The Capital Improvement Program contains \$152,000 for this purchase. The new truck will be similar to the last truck purchased by the department so all their employees will be familiar with its use. The '79 will be a back up at the airport.

STEINBRECHER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A STERLING CHASSIS FROM BOYER TRUCKS FOR \$66,479.00 AND THE HYDRAULICS, BOX, PLOWS, AND SANDER FROM J-CRAFT FOR \$79,770.80 PLUS APPROPRIATE TAXES. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**B. 2008 Salary Increase for Supervisors and Non-Union Employees**

Jackson explained staff is recommending the same salary adjustment for the supervisors and non-union employees as was approved for the AFSCME union employees, that being a COLA increase of 2.4% plus a 1% increase; the City will pay 100% for single coverage medical insurance and the first \$938 for family medical insurance; and the City will pay the first \$20.64 for single dental coverage and the first \$50.30 for family dental coverage.

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED SALARY AND INSURANCE ADJUSTMENTS - A COLA INCREASE OF 2.4% PLUS A 1% INCREASE; THE CITY WILL PAY 100% FOR SINGLE COVERAGE MEDICAL INSURANCE AND THE FIRST \$938 FOR FAMILY MEDICAL INSURANCE; AND THE CITY WILL PAY THE FIRST \$20.64 FOR SINGLE DENTAL COVERAGE AND THE FIRST \$50.30 FOR FAMILY DENTAL COVERAGE. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** None

**BILL LIST – \$254,910.46**

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE MANUAL CHECKS NUMBERING 58333 FOR A TOTAL OF \$86,319.27 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST, WHICH WILL BE CHECKS NUMBERING 58385-58448, FOR A TOTAL OF \$168,591.19, AS SHOWN ON THE BILL LIST. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no further business, DOBSON MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:32 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:

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Jeremy Riddle, Mayor