

**THE MEETING OF THE PRINCETON EDA BOARD HELD ON MARCH 17, 2011,
AT 6:00 P.M., AT THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Paul Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:12 P.M. (Meeting was delayed to meet the requirements for a quorum) Members present were Thom Walker, Grady Clark, Ben Hanson, Cindy Riddle, and Victoria Hallin. Staff present were Jay Blake and Mary Lou DeWitt.

Absent was Charles Snustead.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 17, 2011
WALKER MOVED, SECOND BY HALLIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 17, 2011. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Purchase Agreement for 308 9th Avenue South

This property site is owned by the City of Princeton and has been used as an outdoor skating rink with a warming house. For a number of years the rink has not been flooded in the winter because of the reduced budget funds. The City has decided to sell the two lots on this site for housing and to create tax dollars. The City Council has approved the sale of one lot to East Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity for the amount of \$1,250. This is the amount the City paid to have a survey done at the site.

Blake said there is no deadline to have the purchase agreement done by. Habitat has a home that is being built for them at a University and will be placed on the lot. This is the inside lot they Habitat will be obtaining and they will tear down the warming house. For procedural purpose only, the EDA Board needs to approve the sale of the lot to East Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity. The other lot, the City Council would like to put on open market for a year and see if someone would want to purchase it. If it does not sell, then maybe the City will look at Habitat obtaining this lot also. Habitat has put an ad in the Union Eagle Newspaper but they have not had any applicants yet.

Clark asked if the house by Mark Park that the City purchased could be moved here.

Blake said no, it was not in good enough shape.

HALLIN MOVED, SECOND BY WALKER TO APPROVE THE SALE OF LOT FIVE, BLOCK TWO, MURRAY'S ADDITION, LOCATED AT 308 9TH AVENUE SOUTH TO EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$1,250. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

B. USDA Rural Development Grants

The USDA Rural Development has posted grants that are available. Blake looked into them, but does not have any businesses that want to expand right now for these grants. Sylva Corp. could be a possibility down the road.

OLD BUSINESS: None

MISCELLANEOUS:

A. EDA Balance Sheet

The EDA Board had no comments.

B. Verbal Report

The 2010 Census Data Report is out. The city grew in population by 750 in a ten year period. Total population for City of Princeton is 4698. Blake commented that it will be interesting to see what the numbers are for rental properties in the city. If it were over 50% rental it would be very problematic.

The City Council authorized a Feasibility Report for the West Branch area. The water pressure needs to be addressed. Discussion on road reconstruction and 13th Avenue North will be looked into also. North Elementary School is proposing an addition where the portable classrooms will be removed. The School District is coming to the Planning Commission for a Conditional Use Permit.

A Youth Center opened at Family Pathways. The article regarding the Rural Taxing District Ordinance is in the Princeton Union Eagle newspaper. The City Council modified the ordinance and there are seven or eight parcels that would qualify for this district. To qualify for this ordinance the parcel would have to have been annexed into the City in the last ten years. Not all will probably apply. Applications will be available for this. The City will no longer pay back the township taxes for an eight year period. The ordinance is set up where after two years, the City would receive a 100% of the taxes. There were mediations last Friday with Greg Anderson regarding detachment of his 5.74 acres west of town that he had purchased in 2009. The City and Mr. Anderson had come to a tentative agreement and this agreement will go to the City Council for a closed session.

Hy-Tech Automotive will be on the EDA Agenda next month to request a loan from the Revolving Loan Fund. The EDA Board was given a handout of what Wayne Nelson will be

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requesting as a loan from the Revolving Loan Fund to purchase additional business equipment. Mr. Nelson will be present at the EDA Board meeting on April 21, 2011, to answer questions.

C. City Council and Planning Commission Minutes for February, 2011

The EDA Board had no comments.

WALKER MOVED, SECOND BY HANSON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 6 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:04 P.M.

ATTEST:

Paul Whitcomb, President

Mary Lou DeWitt, Comm. Dev. Assistant