

**MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2008, AT 4:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Jeremy Riddle called the meeting to order. Council members present were Jeremy Riddle and Councilors Paul Whitcomb, Dick Dobson, and Victoria Hallin. Councilor Lee Steinbrecher was absent. Staff present was Mark Karnowski, Steve Jackson, Jay Blake, Nancy Campbell, Jim Roxbury, and Ann Bien. Also present was City Attorney Dick Schieffer.

ARCADIAN HOMES

Schieffer reviewed Resolution #08-25, A Resolution Abating Nuisance Located at 101 through 123 West Branch Street. He explained that although the buildings have had sewer problems in the past, this is a new action because the buildings have mold and a sewer smell, the buildings have been broken into, and there is vandalism to the buildings. He stated other residents are complaining about the situation and are afraid of unauthorized residents moving in.

He explained that the City's Code of Ordinances allows for emergency action by the City to abate the nuisance by removing/cleaning up and nuisance and securing/boarding up the building. The cost for the work can then be assessed back to the property owner.

Blake added that he and Police Officer Todd Fredrick visited the site and found two buildings had a significant amount of damage from "squatters" and they support quick action by the Council.

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #08-25, A RESOLUTION ABATING NUISANCE LOCATED AT 101 THROUGH 123 WEST BRANCH STREET. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Karnowski informed the Council that in talking to Public Works Director Mismash, one unit has a refrigerator with food inside and no electricity; Mismash suggested the City take action to clean it out rather than just board up the building. He stated a long term concern is that the pipes haven't been drained and if it is boarded up and the temperature goes down, the pipes could break and severely damage the building.

The Council thought the water valve could be shut off, but it might not be necessary to drain the pipes. It was recommended that PUC be asked if that would be enough.

Dobson stated he thought it would be a mistake to start going beyond basic safety issues because the refrigerator belongs to somebody and the City cannot take all the responsibility to do what the homeowner should do.

It was recommended doing the minimum to prevent people from entering the building since that would be a safety issue. Also, if there is no customer, PUC can do what they need to do and no action would be needed by the Council.

Dobson stated he was concerned with kids getting into the apartment and getting into the refrigerator. Blake stated it was a new refrigerator which does not lock.

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

2009 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Jackson reviewed the proposed Capital Improvement Program for 2009 through 2014 and explained the requests. No Council action was needed at this time.

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Preliminary budget summary

Jackson then reviewed the preliminary 2009 budget. He explained the increase is less than the percentage which requires a truth in taxation public hearing. However, he suggested the Council certify possible dates for the hearing in case the situation changes.

Riddle stated he favored transferring liquor funds to cover the increase and not increase taxes as much.

Jackson also reported local government aid is not certain for this year nor next year.

A resolution approving the preliminary budget will be presented at the September 11th meeting.

There being no further business, WHITCOMB MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:00 P.M. HALLIN 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