

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON  
MARCH 25, 2010, 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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Acting Mayor Paul Whitcomb called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council members present were Victoria Hallin, Dick Dobson and Lee Steinbrecher. Mayor Jeremy Riddle was absent. Staff present was Administrator Mark Karnowski, Community Developer Jay Blake, Fire Chief Jim Roxbury, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Police Chief Brian Payne, City Engineer Mike Nielson and City Clerk Katie Hunter. Also present: City Attorneys Damien Toven and Dick Scheiffer.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

It was the consensus of the Council to add the following items to the agenda:

**4. Consent Agenda**

A. Permits and Licenses

3. Princeton Golf Course On-Sale 3.2/Sunday Liquor License effective April 1-December 31, 2010 at a reduced rate of \$2025.00. Contingent upon background check coming back clear

**12. Miscellaneous**

- A. Rum River Recreation and Resources Board Agreement

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2010**

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2010 AS WRITTEN. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Permits and Licenses**

1. Pyrotechnic Display Fireworks fat the Mille Lacs County Fairgrounds for July 4, 2010. Start time of 10:15.
2. Annual Solicitor Permit for Andrew Beilke with Edward Jones Investments. Effective March 26, 1020 through December 31, 2010.
3. Princeton Golf Course On-Sale Intoxicating/Sunday Liquor License effective April 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 at a reduced rate of \$2025.00. Contingent upon completing a background check.

**B. Personnel**

**C. Donations/Designations:**

STEINBRECHER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

**OPEN FORUM**

**Award Ceremony for Life Saving Incident by Police Chief Payne**

Payne explained that two officers on Police Department and five people from the city helped save a pedestrian, Ben Wood, in a car wreck that occurred on February 8, 2010. Wood had rolled his vehicle over and it became packed with snow which resulted in suffocation. Five pedestrians rolled the vehicle back onto its wheels. Wood was blue and unconscious when he was pulled him from the wreck. To make a long story short, Wood is here with us tonight!

Payne explained that the Certificates of Award are from the Princeton Police Department and from the Law Enforcement Liason, Tom Kummrow, for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Payne introduced Ben Wood. Wood stated that naturally, he was very happy to be here and glad that the ceremony was even taking place. Wood said he was pretty sure he was facing death and he kept thinking who he would leave behind; especially his wife. Wood woke up in Emergency Room and at that time, had learned what had happened. He said these individuals came together and delivered a performance that was overwhelming. It shows what kind of community this is.

Payne handed each of the following an award: Joseph D. Hodge, Nicholas J. Nowak, Richard F. Palmer, Jason E. Sanford and John C. Wiedewitsch. The two officers on scene were Erik Minks and Todd Fredericks.

Payne also commended the Princeton Fire Department for doing an amazing job at keeping the scene safe.

Dobson commented that for the Police Officers, although it's their duty, it takes a special officer that goes over and above.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS 7:10 PM**

#### **Road and Utility Improvements Public Hearing Northland Drive**

Neilson explained that the proposed project will be constructed in two phases. The first phase will be from the Hospital to Vertiflow Lane. The second phase will be from Vertiflow Lane to 5<sup>th</sup> Street South.

The sewer will have to be replaced with the first phase. It is undersized and consists old clay pipe. In addition, the watermain loop will be extended. It will improve water quality and provide higher flows in the area. The sanitary sewer will not have to be replaced; which reduces the cost by \$124,000. The first alternative is called an urban section; including curb and gutter on both sides of the road way and a storm sewer pipe. The main purpose is for getting water away so it doesn't saturate the gravel; which may deteriorate the road faster. The existing part of Northland Drive is 48 feet wide. With the urban section, the road would be narrowed down to 40 feet past the Hospital and North on Old 18. There would be a sidewalk on the east side of the roadway and continuing north. All driveways would include an apron.

Neilson explained that the rural section includes ditches. Currently the street is 28 feet wide and would be widened by 2 feet on either side. Instead of a gravel shoulder; there would be a bituminous service for big trucks and trailers coming through. Required ditches would be added to get the water away from pavement. The cost is cheaper for the rural section.

Nielson explained that Phase 1 Alternate 1 sits at \$772,500 with \$507,300 being assessed. The Watermain and sewer improvements would be paid for completely by the city at a total of \$205,200.

Phase 2 Alternate 1 is a proposed \$556,300 with \$483,100 assessed. Again with storm

sewer and watermain being split 50/50.

Phase 2 Alternate 2 with rural ditches and no sidewalk comes in at a price of \$401,400. The grand total of Alternate 1 is \$1,328,300 and the grand total of Alternate 2 is \$934,100. The difference between the alternate projects is \$394,700. Nielson explained that some of the costs are shown higher but because of the lagging economy, construction costs are coming in lower at a 20-30 percent decreased rate.

Steinbrecher asked when the assessments come out from the County, are the residents required to pay those immediately. Nielson stated that there are several options that the residents have in paying off assessments. The assessments will show up on the tax statements the year after; in this case probably the 2011 tax roll; and that is when the first payment will be due. Then the resident will have 15 or 20 annual installments. The resident does have the option of paying everything up front to avoid interest cost or to pay the assessment off after 10 years, for example, to avoid last 10 years of interest.

### **Public Comments**

Dan Engblom, the owner of Airway Products located at 803 South Old Highway 18 in Princeton, was present.

Engblom explained that he would be assessed (under Phase 1, Alternate 1) a total of \$32,391.00, in which a portion of that is for the water main. Airway Products is already connected to the water main coming from the other direction. Nielson stated that the new water main would be a benefit to every property as added pressure for fire protection. Engblom said his sprinkler system works fine, his toilets flush, and he has water flow and does not need a new water main, so why should he have to pay for one? Engblom mentioned that he is currently up to code.

Engblom said that the city wants to accommodate safety by fixing the sharp curve. But, if two added driveways from Airway Products need to exit/enter on the curve, that will not improve safety, according to Engblom. Nielson said that Airway Products may get another 33 feet added to the property from a grassy area that will not be needed by the city any longer.

Engblom stated that Airway Products will not benefit in any other way from this road improvement unless the extra 33 feet of property is gifted to the company.

Nielson went on to add that with the new roadway, there is a benefit for the busy hospital and buses that come in and out.

Engblom also asked what would happen to the light pole once the road is restructured. Nielson said that could be relocated to the west side of the road.

Engblom reminded the council that six years ago he stood in front of this body was when Smith System was rezoned for the go-cart track and paintball game area that didn't last. Six years ago he spoke against that decision. Again, Engblom, is speaking against this. Airway Products has already had to lay off 30 employees. Engblom pleaded for the council not to add any more financial stress. He also noted that he has had his business since 1970, running it quietly and has never asked the city for anything.

Engblom concluded that the this road is only being put in for Trident Development.

Jeff and Karie Kerfeld, of 509 Old C.R. 18 South, were also present.

Jeff stated that his family opposes due to bad economic times and lowered appraised values of homes.

Resident Robert Lind also spoke against the road improvement, saying his property is worth half of what it was three years ago.

Jack Edmonds suggested doing the curb and gutter on only the residential side to save costs.

Nielson stated that the pipe would still have to be ran the entire length of the street and a lot of the cost is in the digging.

Karie Kerfeld stated that she has lived at 509 Old C.R. 18 South since she was two years old and she doesn't want to lose this house. She found it very unfair that the city can assess  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the cost of what her house is worth.

Steinbrecher asked Nielson if Phase 1 could be completed without Phase 2 being completed. The major benefit to Trident is mostly in Phase 1, anyway. In addition, can Phase 2 be added at a later date?

The only issue Nielson could see with continuing the project in the future would be that the seal coating would only last another three or four years.

DOBSON MOTIONED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:45 PM. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

Steinbrecher said his concern was the assessment on residential side; including the hockey arena, knowing that they are struggling financially and the city would only add more burden. Steinbrecher suggested authorizing the start of Phase 1 but to wait on Phase 2. In addition, to work out a negotiation with Mr. Engblom. Whitcomb stated that he would have to agree with Steinbrecher. Hallin and Dobson agreed to forgo Phase 1 if it's possible to move ahead without starting Phase 2 at this point.

Blake said he understands the council's concerns and suggested extended Phase 1 up to the entrance of the hockey arena, but not into the residential area. The city anticipates a lot of traffic flow into hockey arena. Steinbrecher asked how the hockey association would be effected. It would reduce their assessment dramatically because Phase 2 was a significant amount of the assessment. None of the residents would be assessed.

Blake added that before the assessment hearing, he will get together with Mr. Engblom and discuss options.

Karnowski suggested the advantage of making a "Part B" of the bid process and reserve the right for the city to eliminate where they see fit. If that is written in as an original specification; it could reduce up to 25% of the project.

STEINBRECHER MOTIONED TO AUTHORIZE RESOLUTION 10-18 FOR PHASE ONE OF THE ROAD AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS ON NORTHLAND DRIVE, SMITH SYSTEMS ROAD AND OLD COUNTY ROAD 18. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

The City Council thanked the residents for attending the council meeting and sharing their thoughts.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES**

#### **A. Planning Commission**

1. Minutes of March 15, 2010
2. Final Plat Application Sterling Pointe Addition
3. Resolution #10-18 Approving Final Plat Sterling Pointe

Blake explained that Resolution #10-18 approves the final plat application for Sterling Pointe whereas the Planning Commission and City Council have approved this final plat. The resolution calls for the Mayor, City Administrator, Planning Commission Chairperson, Planning Commission Secretary and the City Attorney to sign the plat documents and record the plat with Mille Lacs County.

Hopefully the Developer's Agreement will be completed by the next City Council meeting.

DOBSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 10-18 AS WRITTEN. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

#### **B. Visionary Committee**

1. Minutes of February 22, 2010

#### **C. Public Utilities Commission**

1. Minutes of Regular Meeting January 27, 2010

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

#### **A. East Central Regional Library Donation Request**

Karnowski informed the City Council that the Princeton Friends of the Library do an eight-week program during the summer starting June 7, 2010 to help encourage kids to read during the summer months. They are requesting \$1300.00 to help pay for programming, supplies and incentives.

Jackson reported that the library's donation in 2009 was \$972.00. The City Council concurred that their earlier agreement was to reduce all donations by 25% this year due to Local Government Aid cuts.

STEINBRECHER MOTIONED TO FOLLOW SUITE WITH LAST YEAR'S DONATION AND REDUCE BY 25 PERCENT FOR A TOTAL OF \$729.00 FOR THE 2010 DONATION. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION.

Dobson commented that he understands how important this program is, but we have to be fair to the rest of the community. Hallin also commented on how much she understands that this program touches more than just residents and that reading is so very important over the summer for these children.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **A. Resolution #10-16 Tax Abatement for Tucs Equipment**

Blake explained that Resolution 10-16 should have been done 2 years ago for a tax abatement for Tucs Equipment. The city had an agreement with Tucs when we developed a JobZ at that time. The resolution was never brought back and that was Blake's error. In addition, the resolution must be corrected to show the next ten years as 2010 through 2019 (not 2020).

HALLIN MOTIONED TO APPROVE 10-16 WITH CHANGES. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

### **B. Resolution #10-17 MnDOT Bridge Agreement**

Karnowski stated that Resolution 10-17 sums up the state project with the Highway 95 bridge. The cost splits between the city, the county and the state. The county is picking up the costs of the Dunn Bridge, the State of Minnesota will pick up costs on Highway 95, and the city and the Public Utilities will take care of costs for local utility work and water main reorganization; as the state requires that any special lighting on the bridge be a local cost. In the past, the council has had discussions on what kind of decorative lighting to use on the new bridge. Lighting that is more expensive; but subject to rebates and are energy efficient. Neilson reviewed the documentation and it represents what we all agreed to. It is within dollars on each of the line items. In talking with Dobson, the PUC met yesterday and a resolution will be forthcoming to them clarifying; cost incurred for water and lighting. With those assurances, the recommendation from staff is to authorize this resolution.

DOBSON MOTIONED FOR STAFF TO SIGN NECESSARY AGREEMENTS AND APPROVE RESOLUTION 10-17. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

### **C. Ordinance #643 Rezoning Lot 1, Block 1, Sterling Pointe**

Blake explained that the Planning Commission approved the rezoning of the Sterling Pointe Addition months ago and it is consistent with city's comprehensive plan. The property will be rezoned to MOR (Medical Office Residential District).

STEINBRECHER MOTIONED TO PASS ORDINANCE #643. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Steinbrecher asked why some ordinance must have a first reading and others don't need one. Karnowski explained that some cities don't even do a two-step process, but he feels it is important to look some ordinance over twice so they are written just as the council wants them. There is some rationale not to delay ordinances such as fee changes.

Scheiffer also added that there is no statutory requirement to have two readings on ordinances. Dobson added that this particular ordinance has already had the Planning Commission's approval and the Council is not blindsided because they were aware of the zoning change for Sterling Pointe.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

**D. Ordinance #644 Background Check – First Reading**

Karnowski explained that some law enforcement agencies are unwilling to do background checks unless the form signed by the individual matches the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's form. At this time, our form does not match the BCA's. Karnowski said that in case the BCA starts clamping down, then we will already have our background check authorization form in place.

DOBSON MOTIONED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE #644. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Dobson commented that he appreciates staff being ahead of the game.

Chief Payne added that the Police Department has not "shoveled anything under the door" by any means. But, the rewritten ordinance #644 just fits better.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

**E. Ordinance #645 Rezoning 1506 1<sup>st</sup> Street**

Blake explained that Ordinance #645 is rezoning for the Rum River Health Services which will relocate its facility to the 1506 1<sup>st</sup> Street site and open up a medical clinic.

The council questioned whether the property is now taxable. Blake stated that it was and before, it wasn't.

DOBSON MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 645. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Bridge Naming**

Blake explained that the city received two additional comments after the topic of renaming the bridge was last discussed. One comment was in support of Veteran's Memorial Bridge and the other was from the Reibe family, who was in favor of Riebe Bridge.

Hallin commented that she likes Veteran's Memorial Bridge. With what has been going on in our world, we should support men and women in service and the lives we have lost.

HALLIN MOTIONED TO APPROVE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BRIDGE; DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. NSP Contract Changes**

Blake explained in a nutshell that the city had to rename our Neighborhood Stabilization Program contract naming Lakes and Pines as a contractor.

The contract is consistent with all of the state and federal requirements.

HALIN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE NSP CONTRACT CHANGES. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

#### **B. Hiring of Splash Park Attendants**

Gerold explained that Lee Ann Hartigan, Manager of the Splash Park, is in the beginning stages of wanting to advertise for Splash Park attendants.

Hallin asked how many attendants will be hired. Gerold stated that there will be four part-time attendants hired.

STEINBRECHER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE ADVERTISING AND HIRING OF FOUR SPLASH PARK ATTENDANTS. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

#### **New Business**

##### **A. Rum River Recreation and Resources Board Agreement (RRRR)**

Dobson explained that the RRRR Board has come down to a form that Greenbush Township has already approved, as well as Princeton and Lavonia Townships. Wyanette Township had question on the 90-day notice. Schieffer explained that the 90-day rule is if the Board ever gets to the position of handling funds. At this time, the Board does not handle funds.

Dobson stated that he fully supports the agreement if the council wishes to adopt it. When every entity signs on, each will get a signature page.

Karnowski added that if the Board ever handles funds in the future, it would be good idea to have separate insurance policies.

STEINBRECHER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE RUM RIVER RECREATION AND RESOURCES BOARD AGREEMENT. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Hallin asked who would be in charge of maintaining the trails once built. Dobson explained that there hasn't yet been a lot of discussion on that, but most likely each township will be responsible for maintaining their own path.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

#### **Miscellaneous**

##### **A. Civic Center Improvements**

Steinbrecher informed the council that he has had few phone calls from a family and a general contractor who are offering to come and work on the Civic Center. The City should put together a list of improvements that we want to see done, without taking advantage of the folks, obviously.

**B. Local Government Aid**

Karnwoski added on somewhat of a related note, there is support in the House Representatives to reduce the LGA cuts. Nothing is in ink yet and it is unsure if the Governor will even sign, but it is good news nonetheless.

**C. Cable Commission Update**

Hallin explained to the Council that there are three cities that are opting out of the Cable Commission Joint Powers Agreement: Rush City, Isanti and Cambridge. Six cities and two Townships are staying in the agreement and will rewrite the agreement to more adaptable to this day in age.

**BILL LIST – \$87,678.65**

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE BILL LIST WHICH INCLUDES THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 62175 TO 62218 FOR A TOTAL OF \$87,678.65. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business:

STEINBRECHER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:40 PM. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Hunter  
City Clerk

ATTEST:

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Paul Whitcomb; Acting Mayor