

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON  
OCTOBER 22, 2009, 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 Councilors Paul Whitcomb, Lee Steinbrecher and Victoria Hallin. Councilor Dick Dobson was absent. Staff present was Mark Karnowski, Steve Jackson, Bob Gerold and Brian Payne. Also present: City Attorneys Dick Schieffer and Damien Toven.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

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

- 3. October 8, 2009 Minutes**  
The above minutes were adjusted and a new copy made for each councilmember.
- 7. Reports of Officers**
  - B. Park Board Minutes have been reviewed before
- 10. Unfinished Business**
  - B. Community Growth

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2009**

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2009 AS WRITTEN. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**OPEN FORUM** - NONE

**PUBLIC HEARINGS** - NONE

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

- A.** Fire Advisory – October 6, 2009
- B.** Airport Board Minutes October 5, 2009

The above minutes were reviewed by the council and no questions or concerns.

**PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**A. External Wood Burning Furnaces Ordinance First Reading**

Karnowski explained to the Council that other cities have recently had issues with property owners installing external wood burners. In residential areas, people are installing the wood burners within a 50 foot lot and neighbors are complaining about the smoke. It has also been found that wood burners can be hazardous to one's health, especially when the population of the City of Princeton consists of a compact space. Fire risks may also be a factor.

Karnowski stated that he at least wanted to bring it before the City Council to have them take a look at the proposed resolution to see if it is something they want to allow in the city or not. This ordinance would basically prohibit external wood burners in the city limits.

Riddle asked if any cities have found a way to have a minimum chimney height, where they allow the wood burners and find them to be acceptable. To the best of Karnowski's knowledge, there aren't any cities that are comparable to our size that allow them at all. Karnowski offered to If the council wants; Karnowski will ask if any cities have a different approach.

Steinbrecher struggled with the fact that the Council and City comes close to infringing on people's rights. There are homes in Princeton with wood burning fire places inside of their homes. Karnowski reassured that those types of fireplaces would not be covered under this ordinance.

Gerold stated there is one outdoor wood burner in town currently. Riddle suggested looking into the minimum lot size, furnace design, and chimney height. Some burners are marketed as practically smokeless. Steinbrecher stated the debris that comes with burning wood could be a problem, yet he believes the City should put some parameters on it so we're not infringing on the neighbor's rights.

Karnowski said he would do more research and bring back some options for the Council.

**B. Resolution #09-45 East Central Regional Library 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation**

Karnowski explained that the East Central Regional Library is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by hosting celebrations at each of their 14 branch libraries. Patrons, local city and county officials are invited. The Princeton Area Library will have their celebration on Saturday, November 21 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm with refreshments and the Ensminger Family Bluegrass Band.

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #09-45 A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL LIBRARY'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.

Councilor Hallin suggested posting this information on our City's website. The Council agreed.

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

**C. Resolution #09-46 Certifying Past Due Utility Billing**

Karnowski explained to the council that each year the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has past due accounts that need to be certified for collection through the appropriate County Auditor for collection with the 2010 property taxes.

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #09-46 A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING PAST-DUE UTILITY BILLING APPROPRIATE AUDITOR FOR COLLECTION WITH THE 2010 PROPERTY TAXES. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Resolution #09-47 Adopting the Municipal Airport Maintenance and Operation Agreement**

Karnowski explained to the council that every two years, the State of MN and the City enter into a contract whereas the State provides some funding to cut grass and plow snow. This agreement will remain in effect for the State fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

STEINBRECHER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #09-47 AS WRITTEN. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

### **B. Community Growth Options Survey**

Karnowski explained that 1000 Friends of Minnesota would like to solicit citizen input about issues related to growth in the Community Growth Options (CGO) Program; of which Princeton is one of ten. The questions are designated to gauge citizen interest in the issues and in participating in the process.

The documentation suggested the survey be put on the City website. Karnowski stated his concern with posting the survey on the webpage would be that in his experience with people who show up on websites, you don't never know where the people are from that are answering the questions. Karnowski suggested, as an alternative, to send the survey link out to contacts in our own email lists that we know and try to keep the response more limited. Another option would be to issue a news release in the local paper that would include the link to the survey. Karnowski reassured the Council that he was not trying to discourage the survey that he wanted to make sure people who use the survey are in the city. Steinbrecher stated that he liked the idea and the rest of the council agreed with emailing the survey as well as advertising the link in the paper.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Winkelman Hanger Lease Modification**

Karnowski stated that Roger Winkelman is refinancing the hanger he leases from Westling Hanger. Because the City had an agreement with him, some things need to be modified.

1. Have lease agreement reflect the name of the new creditor, in which the City Attorney has already reviewed lease.
2. Make sure lease agreement is secondary to primary creditor. Paul Dove is currently reviewing the lease to make sure everything is as it should be. All is subject to comments by the City Attorney Dick Schieffer.

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MODIFICATION OF THE WINKELMAN HANGER LEASE. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

**B. November and December Meeting Dates**

Karnowski explained that every year around this time, the Council has normally changed around the meeting dates in November and December due to the holiday season and budget meetings.

HALLIN MOTIONED TO APPROVE CLOSING OF CITY HALL ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 AND APPROVING THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT A POSSIBLE SPECIAL MEETING MAY BE HELD IN NOVEMBER IF NEEDED:

- BUDGET MEETINGS: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009 AND TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009
- NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETINGS: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009
- DECEMBER STUDY SESSION: REMAINS ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009
- DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETINGS: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2009 AND TUESDAY DECEMBER 22, 2009

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

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**BILL LIST – \$231,106.85**

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE BILL LIST WHICH INCLUDES THE MANUAL CHECKS AS LISTED ON THE MANUAL VOUCHER BILL LIST FOR A TOTAL OF \$90,572.60 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 61444 TO 61522 FOR OR A TOTAL OF \$140,534.25. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business:

STEINBRECHER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS) AT 7:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Hunter,  
City Clerk

ATTEST:

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Jeremy Riddle, Mayor