

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
JULY 9, 2009, 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Jeremy Riddle called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council members present were Mayor Jeremy Riddle, Councilors Paul Whitcomb, Dick Dobson, Victoria Hallin, and Lee Steinbrecher. Staff present was Mark Karnowski, Steve Jackson, Jay Blake, Bob Gerold, and Brian Payne. Consultants present included Attorneys Dick Schieffer and Damien Toven and Engineer Mike Nielson (WSB).

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL TO ADD THE FOLLOWING ITEM TO THE AGENDA:

Under Consent Agenda, Contributions:

- A. Trent's Auto contribution

Under Petitions, Requests and Communications:

- A. Sherburne County Alcohol Compliance Check

Under New Business:

- F. Authorization for U of M Grant Application
- G. Airport mower grant application

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2009

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 25, 2009, AS WRITTEN. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permits and Licenses

- 1. Approve American Legion Auxiliary Bingo Permit for August 8, 2009

B. Personnel: None

C. Donations/Designations:

- 1. \$100 contribution from Trent's Auto

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OPEN FORUM

No one was present for Open Forum.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

A. PUC Board Meeting

- 1. Minutes of April 22, 2009 and May 27, 2009 - reviewed without comment.

B. Airport Advisory Board

- 1. Minutes of June 1, 2009 – reviewed without comment.

C. Fire Advisory Board

- 1. Minutes of June 2, 2009 – reviewed without comment.

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Sherburne County Alcohol Compliance Checks

The Council reviewed a letter from Sherburne County advising that they did an alcohol compliance check on Coborns, Pamida and Super America. All three license holders passed..

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance #634, Foreclosure Registration & Maintenance (first reading)

Attorney Schieffer advised the Council that the purpose of the ordinance is to allow the city to get advance notice when a property goes into foreclosure. He also noted that the timeframe the property owner has to secure the home has been changed from 6 to 12 days.

Jay Blake noted that the proposed ordinance is a compilation of what other, larger cities are doing to monitor housing foreclosures in their city. Blake said that registration will help the city track the property owners via the database that will be created. Blake added that the current vacancy rate in the city is down because several of the less expensive houses have been purchased.

Both Mayor Riddle and Dobson suggested that the ordinance may be hard to enforce. Blake agreed but noted that he will be notifying the foreclosure banks he has been working with for the past couple of years about the new ordinance in an attempt to gain compliance.

Dobson also asked if the city gets a list from the PUC when they are notified of a foreclosure. Blake advised that we do and that we also get a listing from Sherburne County, but not Mille Lacs County (they don't currently monitor foreclosures). Blake further advised that we will be sharing the information we acquire with the PUC.

Schieffer advised that there is a need for legislation that would require County Recorders to track foreclosures and then share their list with the cities on a timely basis.

Karnowski advised that he is on the LMC's Improving Service Delivery Legislative Policy Committee and will bring Schieffer's recommendation to that group next week.

DOBSON MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE #634, AN ORDINANCE DEALING WITH HOUSING FORECLOSURE REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE AS A FIRST READING. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Special Meeting (airport bids)

The Council reviewed a staff memo suggesting that they call a special meeting at 4 PM, Wednesday, July 29th to consider bids for the airport runway pavement repair project.

Both Dobson and Hallin indicated they could not attend as they would be at the CGMC annual conference. Steinbrecher also noted that he could not be in attendance. Accordingly a different date was selected.

WHITCOMB MOVED TO CALL A SPECIAL MEETING FOR FRIDAY, JULY 31 TO CONSIDER THE BIDS FOR THE AIRPORT RUNWAY PAVEMENT REPAIR PROJECT. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Ordinance #633, Garage Sale Signage (first reading)

The Council reviewed a staff memo outlining a proposed ordinance to allow the placement of garage sale signs in the public right-of-way so long as those signs included the name of the sale holder, the exact address of the sale and the dates of the sale.

Hallin suggested that the ordinance also include the timeframe the sale would take place. Hallin also correctly pointed out that the city would also need to amend the city's fee ordinance to include the proposed administrative fine for not retrieving garage sale signs after the sale is over.

Riddle asked PAC member Toven if the Chamber could include information in the advertising for next year's "Community Garage Sale" of the signage requirements.

Toven responded that they were already planning on doing so.

RIDDLE MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE #633 DEALING WITH GARAGE SALE SIGNAGE AS A FIRST READING. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Crystal Court Improvements

The Council reviewed a staff memo and a letter from Jeff Hammer requesting that the city waive the Water Access Charge (WAC) and Sewer Access Charge (SAC) fees for Hammer's 8-unit expansion of the Crystal Court apartments as well as waiving one-half of the building permit fees for the project.

Karnowski advised the Council that, the Council could adjust the SAC charges, but the WAC charges were under the purview of the Public Utilities Commission. Further, that he had checked the city records and they indicated that the School District paid full SAC charges when they built their new schools and did not, a prohibited by city ordinance, transfer any of the WAC & SAC credits from the old school building (now Crystal Court). Karnowski noted that the number of SAC charges assigned to the old school exceeded the SAC charges needed for the apartment use. Therefore, the addition of 8 more apartments would not require the payment of additional SAC charges. No Council action was required on that issue.

As far as the building permit fee is concerned, Karnowski cautioned that a reduction of that fee might set a precedent that the city might regret in the future. He did note that, when the original Crystal Court project was begun in 2000, the city did forego the city portion of the building permit fee. Nevertheless, he understood the rationale behind that accommodation was to encourage the remodeling of the old school, an issue that is no longer valid now that Crystal Courts is a ongoing enterprise. Further, before any fee reduction could be considered, an application for a business subsidy would have to be submitted.

Dobson mused that, if the contractor hired local workers to do the work, then the city might undertake some financial participation as its own "stimulus package".

Attorney Schieffer added that such a request would also require a public hearing.

Dobson noted that he was not in favor of reducing the building permit fee and also wondered if the city should wait until after the PUC makes a decision on the WAC charge before moving on the request.

WHITCOMB MOVED TO DENY ANY REDUCTION IN THE BUILDING PERMIT FEE. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

A. TMDL Grant Resolution

The Council reviewed a staff memo advising that SEH's Heidi Peper has advised that Princeton is eligible for a 50% Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) grant through the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority. Under their grant program, the city can apply for up to 50% of TMDL related costs. There is \$8.8 million for the TMDL grant program to provide grants to assist with the cost of wastewater treatment or stormwater treatment projects necessary to meet waste load reduction requirements under TMDL implementation. The program is administered by the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority in cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Heidi Peper, of SEH is preparing an application for the grant and plans to get it submitted on behalf of the city prior to the deadline of July 31.

Peper is preparing a grant application on behalf of the city and advises that the City will need to sign a certification form and pass a resolution of support.

HALLIN MOVED TO ADOPT COUNCIL RESOLUTION #09-29 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF PRINCETON TO SUBMIT TMDL GRANT APPLICATION AND PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY AND TO AUTHORIZE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Northern Attitudes Street Closure Request

The Council reviewed a request from Northern Attitudes Bar and Grill to close 5th Avenue between 5th Street and 6th Street from 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM on Saturday, July 25th from to accommodate their Car & Bike Show. They also requested permission to borrow the necessary barricades and cones to effect the closing.

DOBSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUESTED JULY 25th STREET CLOSING AND EQUIPMENT BORROWING AS NOTED IN THE APPLICATION. STEINBRECHER SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. August Study Session Date

The Council reviewed a staff memo advising that SEH Engineer Tracy Ekola was hoping to give the Council an update on the WWTP at the August Study Session but that she was planning on going on vacation the day prior to the scheduled meeting (August 6th). Staff suggested that, if it works for the Council to meet on Tuesday, August 4th at 4:30 PM then Tracy could attend and still go on her family's vacation.

RIDDLE MOVED TO CHANGE THE DATE OF THE AUGUST STUDY SESSION FROM AUGUST 6th TO AUGUST 4th. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Consideration of Sylva Gift

The Council reviewed a memo advising that Sylva Corporation has offered to sell the city \$12,000 worth of wood chips for the Mark Park playground equipment as well as some additional padding for the park for the price included in this year's CIP (\$4,000). Because of the price differential, a resolution accepting the gift was in order. The Council expressed their thanks to Sylva for their generous gift.

STEINBRECHER MOVED TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 09-30 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A GIFT OF WOOD CHIPS AND OTHER SAFETY RELATED MATERIALS FROM THE SYLVA CORPORATION FOR USE IN THE PRINCETON CITY PARKS. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. John Olson Grant Funding Request

The Council reviewed a Princeton Wine & Spirits Grant Funding Request for the John P. Olson Benefit in Cambridge.

Staff advised that the request did not meet the city's criteria in that the city has not, in the past, contributed to any fundraisers to collect funds for personal medical expenses – including residents of the Princeton area.

DOBSON MOVED TO DENY THE OLSON CONTRIBUTION REQUEST. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. U of M Grant Application Authorization

Community Development Director Jay Blake advised the Council that there was a grant available through the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the U of M able to fund an intern (grad student) to study the eco-industrial development for the Princeton EDA. It would come at no cost to the city. Blake was requesting authorization to apply for the grant.

DOBSON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR A GRANT TO FUND AN INTERN FOR THE PRINCETON EDA'S ECO-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Airport Mower Grant Application Authorization

The Council reviewed a staff memo advising that the city had received an unexpected call from Gene Scott (MnDOT Aeronautics) advising that MnDOT has some state money available for CIP priorities. Because MnDOT needs to commit the funds on a fairly short schedule, they are offering the city a 2/3 grant for the mower deck the city had on its 2010 Airport CIP. The deck would be attached to the existing airport tractor.

Karnowski advised that he'd checked Bob Gerold who advised that he already has the results of the quotes in hand (at approximately \$33,000 plus the cost of adjusting the tractor to take the attachment). The city's share of the matching grant would be approximately \$11,000+, which Finance Director Steve Jackson says is in the CIP Budget.

DOBSON MOVED TO APPROVE APPLYING FOR THE MNDOT GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A MOWER DECK FOR THE AIRPORT. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: 5 AYES AND 0 NAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MISCELLANEOUS - None.

BILL LIST

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE MANUAL CHECKS AS LISTED ON THE MANUAL VOUCHER BILL LIST FOR A TOTAL OF \$88,933.97, AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 60934 – 61022 FOR A TOTAL OF \$699,080.07. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, WHITCOMB MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:54 P.M. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark H. Karnowski,
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Jeremy Riddle, Mayor