

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MARCH 22, 2012, 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 Paul Whitcomb, Victoria Hallin and Thom Walker. Members absent: Dick Dobson. Staff present was Administrator Mark Karnowski, Finance Director Steve Jackson, Police Chief Brian Payne, Public Works Director Bob Gerold and Liquor Store Manager Nancy Campbell. Also present: City Attorneys Damien Toven and Dick Schieffer.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS – Councilor Hallin requested time to update the Council on her lobbying trip to the State Capitol.

CONSIDERATION OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2012

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2012 AS PRESENTED. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permits and Licenses:

1. Liquor License for Golf Course: Effective April 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012.
2. Princeton Moose Lodge Consumption & Display Permit Renewal
3. “Big T’s Mini Donuts” permit for Rum River Festival Parade, June 7, 2012

B. Personnel

1. Municipal Liquor Store

- a. Jacyln Chudzik Resignation (effective March 5, 2012)
- b. Hiring of Andrew Schroer as P.T. Clerk (effective March 16, 2012 @ \$9.93/hr.)
- c. Hiring of Marilyn Trunk as P.T. Clerk (effective March 16, 2012 @ \$9.93/hr.)

C. Donations/Designations - none

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

OPEN FORUM

A. Monsanto Presentation: Mike Jackson, representing the Monsanto Company, approached the Council to award the Princeton Fire & Rescue Department with a \$2,500 contribution on behalf of Brian Orton. Monsanto annually selects a customer and contributes to a charity of their choice. The Ortons requested that the contribution go to the PFRD because making the Fire Department stronger is good for the entire area. Chief Roxbury noted that the money will go toward the purchase of a 6-wheeler that will be used for fighting grass fires in the rural areas. Mayor Riddle thanked Monsanto and a photo was taken to commemorate the event.

B. Chuck Nagel – Mr. Nagel commented on the Orderly Annexation item on the agenda and said that using a facilitator was a great idea but recommended that the selection of a particular facilitator be coordinated between the Township and the City rather than being selected by just the city.

C. Debbie George – Ms. George approached the Council to comment that she was having a difficult time finding an affordable place to rent in Princeton. Further, she complained that the deposit policy of the PUC was unreasonable and out of line with other utilities’ policies. She also chastised the city for not creating more job opportunities.

In response, Councilor Hallin noted that the city is still working on assisting the organization that’s building East Birch Estates. When that project is completed, there will be additional affordable rental property available in the city.

Mayor Riddle noted that, according to the Sherburne County Assessor's Office comments at last year's Board of Adjustment Hearing. Based on those comments, Riddle agreed that there wasn't much industrial or commercial growth going on anywhere but at least that which was going on in Sherburne County is going on in Princeton. He also mentioned the forthcoming groundbreaking for the Wal-Mart that will provide both additional jobs and tax base.

The Council advised that Council Member Dobson was unable to attend the meeting that night but that George might contact Council Member Dobson, who is the Council liaison to the PUC, and discuss her PUC issues with him.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - There were no Public Hearings set for the meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES - None

PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Chamber of Commerce "Thank You"

The City Council reviewed a letter signed by the entire Princeton Chamber Board of Directors thanking the Council for their support of the local business community by the city's \$10,000 contribution to the Chamber.

B. Jaycees Facilities' Use Agreement

Karnowski advised that, with the cancellation of the multi-party agreement relating to the use of the ballfields in Mark Park, that the city was entering into individual agreements with the various entities. The Facilities Use Agreement between the city and the Jaycees covered the Jaycee's use of the concession stand. The Council was advised that the Jaycees had already approved and signed the agreement. The staff recommendation was to approve the agreement as presented.

WHITCOMB MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE FACILITIES USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE JAYCEES AS PRESENTED. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

C. Princeton Wine & Spirits Grant Request (Pearl Crisis Center) -

Rita Danielson, from the Pearl Crisis Center, approached the Council to explain that the Pearl Crisis Center supports survivors of domestic and sexual violence through direct services, prevention and communications. She requested that the Council authorized the liquor store to contribute 6 bottles of wine and 6 bottles of non-alcoholic beverages for the Pearl Crisis Center's Spring Fashion Show and Business Expo. Danielson noted that about one-third of the Crisis Center's clients are from Princeton.

Councilor Whitcomb noted that the organization is not located within the 55371 zip code and, therefore (according to the grant funding rules) is ineligible to receive grant funding. That said, Mayor Riddle and Councilman Hallin agreed to make personal contributions to the cause.

WHITCOMB MOTIONED TO DENY THE GRANT REQUEST BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE REQUEST DID NOT MEET THE PRE-ESTABLISHED GRANT FUNDING CRITERIA. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance 682 - Fee Schedule & Nuisance Ordinance Amendments

Karnowski advised that the proposed ordinance accomplished the following three "housekeeping" measures:

1. It deletes obsolete language from the WAC & SAC section of the ordinance that related to the property in or near Rivertown Crossing and expired in 2010.
2. It adds Plan Check Fee language that was formerly contained in the State Building Code but was not in the City Ordinances. The plan check fee was not being adjusted.
3. It added the term "Food Vendors" in the heading of Chapter 670 relating to the regulation of peddlers, hawkers, solicitors, transient merchants and food vendors in the city.

Karnowski advised that, since none of the items were controversial, they could be adopted without a first reading.

HALLIN MOTIONED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 682 AS DRAFTED. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

B. VFW Donations

1. \$1,000 Donation to Civic Center – Resolution #12-22

The Council reviewed Resolution 12-22 which accepts a \$1000 contribution from the Princeton VFW for the renovation of the Civic Center.

WHITCOMB MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-22 ACCEPTING A \$1,000 CONTRIBUTION FROM THE PRINCETON VFW FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE PRINCETON CIVIC CENTER. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

2. \$1,000 Donation for Fireworks Display – Resolution #12-23

The Council reviewed Resolution 12-23 which accepts a \$1000 contribution from the Princeton VFW for the annual 4th of July Fireworks display.

HALLIN MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-23 ACCEPTING A \$1,000 CONTRIBUTION FROM THE PRINCETON VFW FOR THE ANNUAL 4th OF JULY FIREWORKS DISPLAY. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Partial Pay Estimate #8 to Rice Lake Construction (WWTP)

The City Council reviewed Partial Pay Estimate #8 from the Rice Lake Construction Group for work completed at the new Waste Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$647,437.94..

Walker asked if the pay estimate included the cost of the proposed change order that was submitted to line up the plant's outfall terminus with the outfall pipe.

Karnowski advised that the engineer, the plant contractor and the outfall line contractor were working that issue out and that, no, the cost was not included in the Pay Estimate and would not be included in any future pay request.

HALLIN MOTIONED TO APPROVE PARTIAL PAY ESTIMATE NO. 8 FOR \$647,437.94 TO RICE LAKE CONSTRUCTION FOR THE WWTP. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

B. Orderly Annexation

The Council reviewed a staff memo advising that the city had received a letter from Baldwin Township questioning whether the decision by the committee to negotiate an annexation agreement was shared by the balance of the Council.

The memo presented three options:

1. Maintain the status quo and notify Baldwin of that decision, or
2. Send a response advising the city will continue to discuss the issue leaving attorney's out of the discussion until the mechanics are agreed to, or
3. Have a facilitated discussion between the two bodies.

Councilor Walker advised that, as a member of the committee, he came in cold after the group had been working on an agreement for some time and had no idea regarding what Baldwin wanted. He said that, perhaps, using a facilitator might be a good idea. He said it would be tough to come to some agreement without one. Walker added that he did not want attorneys involved in the initial discussions.

Mayor Riddle, who was the other committee member, noted the process took such a long time because the people at the table changed often. He thought using a facilitator might cut out some of the negotiation time and speed things up. Riddle said reaching some agreement shouldn't be that hard to do. His preference is to have the agreement simple and easy to understand.

Whitcomb indicated he would support whatever direction the committee decided to take.

No official action was taken, but the consensus of the Council was to have Mayor Riddle and Councilor Walker visit with Baldwin and report back to the Council before May 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome Home Vietnam Vet's Day Proclamation – Resolution #12-24

The Council reviewed a proposed proclamation for "Welcome Home Vietnam Vet's Day" which is designated as March 30, 2012.

WHITCOMB MOTIONED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-24 PROCLAIMING MARCH 30, 2012 AS "WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY" IN PRINCETON. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

B. Fire Truck Rehab Consideration

The Council reviewed a memo advising that the PFRD Truck Committee had secured two quotes for re-habing PFRD tanker #9. The amount in the Capital Improvement Plan is \$60,000. The two quotes are from Centerline Tank and Trailer of Sauk Center for \$49,208.57 and Custom Fire of Osceola for \$64,500.00.

HALLIN MOTIONED TO AWARD THE PROJECT TO CENTERLINE TANK AND TRAILER FOR \$49,208.57. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

C. MN Department of Health Grant

The Council reviewed a memo noting that there may be Minnesota Department of Health grant funding to help the PUC and City identify individual wells and septic systems in the city and within the wellhead protection area. The request was for authorization to allow city staff to assist the PUC in applying for the grant. It was noted there would be no financial obligation for the city.

WALKER MOTIONED TO AUTHORIZE CITY STAFF TO ASSIST THE PUC IN APPLYING FOR STATE GRANT FUNDS TO HELP LOCATE PRIVATE WELLS AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS WITHIN THE WELLHEAD PROTECTION AREA. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

D. Non-Point WWTP Bid Results

Karnowski advised that the city had received three bids to do the non-point phosphorus projects related to the WWTP project and explained that the low bid was about \$120,000 below the engineer's estimate and about \$100,000 below the next lowest bidder.

Karnowski recommended that the Council table award until staff had a chance to meet with the apparent low bidder and get a level of comfort that the firm understands the scope of the job and is not planning on submitting any large change orders.

HALLIN MOTIONED TO TABLE AWARD OF THE BID. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Hallin advised that she recently went with a group from the CGMC to lobby on behalf of the city as it relates to supporting the "Angel Investment Program" bill for greater Minnesota as well as the proposed 5% increase in LGA for property tax relief. She explained that Princeton, between 2008 and 2011 lost \$617,854 in property tax relief (LGA) and \$829,112 in both LGA and Homestead Credit Aid during that same period.

BILL LIST – \$180,624.37

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE BILL LIST WHICH INCLUDED THE MANUAL CHECKS AS LISTED ON THE MANUAL BILL LIST FOR A TOTAL OF \$99,905.71 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 65800 TO 65870 FOR A TOTAL OF \$817,892.49. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business:

WHITCOMB MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:23 HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (4 AYES, 0 NAYS).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark H. Karnowski,
City Administrator

ATTEST:

Jeremy Riddle, Mayor