

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MAY 26, 2011, 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Jeremy Riddle called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present were Paul Whitcomb and Thom Walker. Councilor Victoria Hallin and Dick Dobson were absent. Staff present was Administrator Mark Karnowski, Finance Director Steve Jackson, Police Chief Brian Payne, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, and City Clerk Katie Hunter. City Attorney Dick Schieffer and Attorney Damien Toven were also present.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

The following items were either updated or added to the agenda:

The May 12, 2011 minutes were updated
Under Permits and Licenses John S. Pendergast Transient/Solicitor License
Under Ordinances and Resolutions, a new version of the Ordinance #664 – Park Dedication Fee Amendment (second reading)

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 12, 2011

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2011. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS).

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permits and Licenses:

1. Boy Scouts Transient Merchant
2. Gerald B. Johnson Transient/Solicitor License
3. Gerald K. Schroeder Transient/Solicitor License
4. John S. Pendergast Transient/Solicitor License

B. Personnel – none

C. Donations/Designations

- a. VFW Auxiliary Donation

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS).

OPEN FORUM

John Rose – 800 9th Avenue South – Mr. Rose said he was concerned with a home next door to him that, in his opinion, should be condemned. Rose said that the city has been dealing with the property for years now and have not gotten anywhere with cleaning it up.

Schieffer said that there is a difference between a condemned home in which the home is unfit for human habitation and where court proceedings must take place and a home that is just vacant and an ‘eye sore’. Schieffer went on to explain that the reason some of the city’s dealings with the property have taken a while is because it was found that the owner’s representative was not legit; so all of the paperwork thus far was not valid. The City is in the process of clearing this problem up.

Rose added that he feels the property is unfit for human habitation and unsafe. There are animals crawling in and out of the home, the home smells, and windows that are broken. Schieffer acknowledged that it should be torn down and property cleaned up. But, the funds would be coming from the Minnesota Housing Agency and at this time, the city is not sure if funds are

available. Schieffer added that he also acknowledges that it has been way too long and the clean-up should have been done long ago, but it costs money to acquire property. If the city cleans the property up and the costs are assessed to the property, usually assessed costs should equal or be more than the worth of the property. But, in this case, the property is only worth about one thousand dollars, so it wouldn't be worth the work and cost.

Schieffer said there may be a way to require the clean-up under the hazardous building law, if the property is unfit for human habitation. Schieffer said he will keep in touch with the Roses.

Mr. Rose's other issue was with the section of roadway that comes off of Rum River Drive that leads up to 9th Avenue. The city used to maintain it and about five years ago it stopped getting plowed, swept or seal coated. The city had vacated that section of roadway, but once it's vacated, who is responsible for the paving because it's crumbling? The Mayor said it is possible that the road was vacated long ago and the city just continued to maintain the road long after the vacation.

Gerold said the Public Works still maintains 8th Avenue but was under the impression the road by Casey's was vacated. Karnowski said in the eight years he has been with the city, the City Council has not vacated a road. In most cases, a road is vacated at the land owner's request, the Mayor added. Staff will look into the history the road and let the Rose's know.

Lori Rose - 800 9th Avenue North - Mrs. Rose said next to the home her husband discussed is an old gas station and next to that an old tractor place that something needs to be done with. Kids go to the back of the old gas station and drink and smoke pot. These two commercial properties have been vacant for at least thirteen or fourteen years.

The Mayor said he will have staff look into what it would cost to clean the properties up. Schieffer said the city has the authority under the hazardous building law to require that the properties need to be rebuilt. Schieffer said it would have to determine if it's a danger to the public. Neither is habited. The City Building Inspector would have to determine if the properties were inhabitable, but the Police Department would need to take care of the kids smoking dope.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – there were no public hearings scheduled for the evening.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

The following minutes were reviewed by the council with no comments:

- A. Draft Parks & Rec Board Minutes of May 23, 2011 – No Minutes, Lack of Quorum
- B. Draft Fire Advisory Board Minutes of May 3, 2011
- C. Draft Airport Advisory Board Minutes of May 9, 2011

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Request for Street Closer

Karnowski said the VFW has requested the street closure of 2nd between Rum River Drive and the alley west of the VFW to put a band there. Karnowski stated it arrived after he put the packet together, so he hasn't had the chance to speak with the Chief of Police.

Payne said ordinances prohibit the consumption of alcohol on the street but has no objection to blocking off the street as it will not affect emergency vehicles. He said it would be even harder to watch for underage drinkers.

Whitcomb asked if the VFW put a fence up and kept the drinking in a specific area if that would make it easier on the officers to watch for illegal activity. Payne said if there was a fence and an employee there checking people's identification.

The Council decided to table the item so staff has a chance to speak with representatives of the VFW.

WALKER MOTIONED TO TABLE THE ITEM AND DIRECT STAFF TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS).

B. Request for Civic Center Rental Arrangement

Princeton Bethel Church would like to use the Princeton Civic Center for summer outreach program. The Church is proposing that the adult carpenters volunteer to do repairs in exchange for all or some of the rental fees. Karnowski suggested meeting with the Church to find out more information and to what the parameters of the work they are willing to do. In addition, to get Gerold's opinion on the work that would need to be done to the building.

Whitcomb asked Karnowski to find out if the power equipment used for woodworking would be used inside and how much dust will it raise in the building.

MAYOR RIDDLE MOTIONED TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL STAFF FINDS MORE INFORMATION OUT. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS).

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance #664 – Park Dedication Fee Amendment (final reading)

Karnowski said that the Minnesota legislator, after pressure from developers, has outlined what a city can and cannot do with park dedication fees. The auditor commented that the city has not altered the ordinance to reflect that.

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 664. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Walker asked if the difference of the ordinance was in the packet. Karnowski said it points out what land can and cannot be taken into account. Schieffer recommended some new language.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS).

B. Ordinance #665 – Discharge of Firearms Amendment (first reading)

Karnowski said that the city's ordinances have not been updated in the section dealing with firearms. The penalty is now a gross misdemeanor or a felony. The old ordinance is just a misdemeanor.

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 665. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

The Mayor suggested checking to make sure the ordinance sections are listed correctly on the packet copy.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS.)

NEW BUSINESS

A. Hiring new Community Development Director/Zoning Admin.

Karnowski explained that the city has advertised for the Community Development Director position. We received 120 inquiries and 55 applications. Seven people were interviewed. Two of the candidates had second interviews. It seemed an unanimous decision between the hiring committee to hire Carrie Furman. Jackson, the Mayor, Whitcomb, and Karnowski were involved in the first interviews. The second set of interviews, staff invited Jordan Zeller with East Central Regional Development, Ginger Glenn and Dylan Howard; two people involved with development or the Industrial Park.

MAYOR RIDDLE MOVED TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF CARRIE FURMAN FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPER POSITION. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS.)

Karnowski swore Ms. Furman in.

B. **Public Works Mutual Aid Memo with Isanti and Cambridge**

Both the city of Cambridge and Isanti have requested that Princeton enter into a Mutual Aid agreement to provide assistance in the case of various emergencies that may occur in one of the communities. The type of assistance would include:

- Public Works personnel and equipment
- Fire and/or emergency medical services personnel and equipment
- Law enforcement personnel and equipment
- Utility personnel and equipment
- Other personnel and equipment as may be needed to effectively respond to a natural disaster or other emergency.

The city's agreement to participate certainly can't hurt. Still, between the MnWARN agreement the Council approve in March and the existing state mutual aid agreements, this type of agreement may be duplicative.

Schieffer had no comment.

WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH BOTH ISANTI AND CAMBRIDGE. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION.

It was noted that the agreement should go through 2016 if it is a five year term; 2011 through 2016.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS.)

C. **Airport Engineering Contract Amendment**

Karnowski reminded the council that 95% federal funding went toward a major crack sealing project at the airport last summer. There is a requirement that a closing report be done. The complexity is more than staff can do on our own. The airport engineer, Joel Dresel, was contacted and agreed to do the report for around \$7000.00. Again, 95% is covered by federal monies.

WALKER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE CITY AIRPORT ENGINEER TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED REPORT. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS.)

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Change of June 9, 2011 Council Meeting Date

Karnowski said the June 9 regular city council meeting is also the date of the city festival parade, which starts at 6:00 pm.

The Mayor suggested keeping the agenda light and bumping the time up to 4:30pm in order to get the bills approved.

MAYOR MOVED TO APPROVE BUMPING MEETING BACK TO 4:30 PM ON JUNE 9TH, 2011. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS.)

BILL LIST – \$273,458.52

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE BILL LIST WHICH INCLUDES THE MANUAL CHECKS AS LISTED ON THE MANUAL VOUCHER BILL LIST FOR A TOTAL OF \$102,726.16 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 64243 TO 64299 FOR A TOTAL OF \$170,732.36. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business:

RIDDLE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:38 PM. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (3 AYES, 0 NAYS).

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Hunter
City Clerk

ATTEST:

Jeremy Riddle, Mayor