MINUTES OF A STUDY SESSION MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON JUNE 14, 2011 4:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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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, Dick Dobson and Thom Walker. Staff present was Administrator Mark Karnowski, Finance Director Steve Jackson, Community Developer Carie Fuhrman, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Police Chief Brian Payne and City Clerk Katie Hunter. Also present: City Attorneys Damien Toven and Dick Schieffer.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

The Council added a revised Resolution 12-41 under Tab G. Also, Councilor Dobson wished to add an update on a plaque that the Visionary Committee received at the Distinguished Services Banquet under Miscellaneous.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 24, 2012 AND THE STUDY SESSION/AIRPORT BOARD MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2012

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 24, 2012 AND THE STUDY SESSION/AIRPORT BOARD MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2012. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

It was noted by Hunter that there was a small change in the May 24, 2012 minutes. On page 3 of the minutes under Princeton Firework Fund Donation Request, the group "Lion's Club" was corrected to read "American Legion".

ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permits and Licenses:

1. Kenneth Velier selling Georgia peaches June 21, 12:00 – 1:30p and on July 19, 2012 from 9:00 am – 10:30 am at Merlin's Family Restaurant

B. Personnel

1. Liquor Store – Matt England Step 3 Increase $11.57 to $12.39 effective 6/18/2012

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OPEN FORUM

No one was present for Open Forum.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

A. Housing & Redevelopment Authority Opening
   1. Resignation of Ernest Sanborn – term runs through 12-31-13

HALLIN MOTIONED TO ACCEPT ERNEST SANBORN'S RESIGNATION ON THE HOUSING

AND REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND DIRECTED STAFF TO TAKE THE STEPS TO PUBLISH THE OPENING AND APPOINT A NEW MEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Fire Advisory Board Minutes of June 5, 2012

C. Public Utilities Commission Minutes of March 28 and April 25, 2012

D. Planning Commission Board Minutes May 21, 2012

The above minutes were reviewed with no further comment from the City Council.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. 12-41 Resolution Accepting Civic Center Rehabilitation Donations

Karnowski explained that Resolution 12-41 was updated with an additional donation for a new grand total of $1804.25. Allen and Maureen Gould donated $50.00, the Princeton Used Clothing Center donated $500.00, the Princeton Fire Relief Association donated $1200.00 and a total of $54.25 was donated from unanimous individuals at the Princeton Chamber Street Fair on June 9, 2012. All donations will go toward the Princeton Civic Center rehabilitation.

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-41 ACCEPTING DONATIONS FROM VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS FOR THE CIVIC CENTER REHABILITATION. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION.

Hallin thanked the organizations that donated. The Council also thanked Doug and Deb Farm, who were present at the meeting, as well as Carie Fuhrman and Paul Whitcomb for sitting at the Street Fair at the Civic Center booth.

ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. 12-42 Resolution Accepting Donation from Windstream

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 12-42 ACCEPTING A DONATION FROM WINDSTREAM FOR THE PRINCETON FIREWORKS FUND. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Ordinance #686 Fee Schedule on Vendor Permits

Karnowski updated the City Council with the current Princeton City General Ordinances which allow for only two types of permits for vendors/transient merchants:

1. $30 for 5 consecutive days, once throughout the year
2. $250 for an annual permit

There have been requests this year from vendors who wish to sell twice in the year on two different weekends. Currently, that request would fall under the $250 annual fee/permit category. One of those vendors, Willow Fruit, has applied to sell Georgia Peaches in the Merlin's Restaurant parking lot for two dates this summer for one and a half hours each day.

Ordinance 686 has proposed to add an additional option. For a fee of $50.00 a vendor can obtain a permit to sell his/her product five (5) times in any three (3) month period.

WALKER MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 686 WHICH ADDS A FEE OPTION FOR VENDOR PERMITS. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Ordinance #687 Zoning Ordinance Update – Final Reading

Fuhrman reminded the council that in September 2010, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and recommended approval of numerous amendments to the Zoning Ordinance after months of working with Tina Goodroad from Bonestroo. The City Council reviewed the amendments on October 14th and 28th, 2010. On November 18th, 2010, the City Council held the final reading and adopted Ordinance 658 amending the Zoning Ordinance. It appears that in the development of the formal Ordinance 658, portions of the amendments recommended for approval by the Planning Commission were unintentionally left out of the Ordinance, including changes to the Industrial Districts and Subdivision Ordinance. The changes to the Industrial Districts were reviewed in an initial reading by the Council on October 14, 2010, but were not formally adopted when Ordinance 658 was adopted on November 18, 2010.

This mistake was noticed by the City Attorney and Community Development Director when going through the Zoning Ordinance a few weeks ago. The City Attorney has advised that the final reading of those amendments that were missed should be held and officially adopted in the attached Ordinance 687. (Please note that the Planning Commission's recommended changes to the Subdivision Ordinance that were not brought forward to the City Council back in 2010 will be brought to the Council at a later date for their initial and final reading as well).

A summary of the changes to the Industrial Zoning Districts found in Ordinance 687 and include permitted uses by adding provisions for exterior storage for equipment and service trades; manufacturing uses; and wholesale businesses. For conditional uses, by adding provisions for exterior storage for any use in which over 50% of the site would be used for uncovered outside storage and heavy equipment contractors that require outside storage of equipment and construction materials and Adding provisions for retail sales as an accessory use; and removing mini-storage as a CUP. For interim uses, the change would move Churches from a permitted use to an IUP; and move ready mix and asphalt plants, stockpiling of sand, gravel, and fill dirt, and daycares from a CUP to an IUP; and remove retail sales as an accessory use from IUP as it is already a CUP. Those listed above are all changes to MN-1.

As for changes to MN-2, under conditional uses, the change would allow any conditional use in the MN-1 District as a CUP in MN-2. Under interim uses, the change would move salvage yards from CUP to IUP; add concrete and asphalt plants as an IUP; and remove retail sales as an accessory use from IUP.

HALLIN MOTIONED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 687, A ZONING ORDINANCE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13 (MN-1 INDUSTRIAL) AND SECTION 14 (MN-2 INDUSTRIAL) OF CHAPTER V (ZONING DISTRICTS) OF TITLE 11 (ZONING) OF THE PRINCETON CODE OF ORDINANCES AMENDING THE PERMITTED USES, CONDITIONAL USES, INTERIM USES, AND PROHIBITED USES WITHIN THE INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICTS, WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION.

Dobson asked if these changes did NOT include anybody that is currently operating these businesses. Would these people be grandfathered in? Fuhrman deferred that question to City Attorney Schieffer. Schieffer said it would be the same as when it was adopted one year ago. Residents, who had the use prior to the final reading of the ordinance one year ago, could continue to use it as a non conforming use.

ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Ordinance #688 Car Wash Sewer

Karnowski reminded the council that a few weeks ago, car wash owner Larry Cross had come to a City Council meeting to explain his concerns about the current city sewer billing practices. His concern was that the process the city uses to set the sewer rate works well for residential properties and many commercial properties that water their lawns and/or use water to wash cars or do other outside tasks in the summer months when some of the water used does not go into the sanitary sewer.

Cross explained that, for his business, the opposite is true of his car wash business. Cross produced records showing that his car wash's water usage is highest in the winter and lower during the summer months. Cross contended that means he pays a higher sewer payment than he should.

The Council requested staff to review the problem and see if there was an adjustment warranted.

Since Mr. Cross's presentation and before the newspaper account of his concerns was published, Karnowski said that the city received a phone call from a second city car wash owner, Hofman Oil, expressing the same concerns.

After some review, it has been determined that it would be fairly easy to adjust the computer billing software to allow for the sewer usage for car washes to be the same as their water usage for the billing month.

Ordinance #688 codifies that process. In addition, it also addresses the billing past practices the city has used for years but, apparently got omitted when the ordinances were last re-codified. Karnowski added that the ordinance draft was there for the council's consideration, criticism, or questions.

DOBSON MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 688, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CH. 910 (CHARGES) OF TITLE 9 (SEWER AND WATER) OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON SETTING A RATE FOR CAR WASHES OPERATING WITHIN THE CITY OF PRINCETON. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

<u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u>

A. RAILROAD TIF FUNDS

Karnowski said that the money left over from a Tax Increment Finance District could be used for anything. At a Council Study Session a couple months ago, a list of various ideas was given to the council to put the money towards. Since that time, there have been presentations from the Princeton Area Visionary Committee who is working on amphithea-

tre project, from the Mille Lacs County Historical Society who wishes to reduce their street assessment levied against them several years ago, and also Councilor Whitcomb suggested some of the funds to be used to help reconstruct the Princeton Civic Center.

MILLE LACS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Penny Quast with the Mille Lacs County Historical Society spoke about their request for TIF Funds.

Members of the mille Lacs County Historical Society were present to again request payment of the Depot Museum's $62,257 street assessment from the $325,000 surplus in the city's Railroad TIF Fund.

The Great Northern Depot is a unique building as it is a combination of Queen Anne and Dutch styles. It is the only one left of this design, and it was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. The other two depots are located in Bellingham, Washington which burned in 1924, and in Litchfield, Minnesota which was razed. Therefore, restoration of this building is of the utmost importance to the Historical Society and a great effort to accomplish obtaining legacy grants, Quast added.

There are only volunteers to help keep this historic Depot Museum open and they struggle to meet expenses. There will never be enough funding for the assessment to be paid. It is a great financial burden just to pay the annual interest, Quast said. Quast concluded by saying that the Society appreciated the Council's consideration of their request to eliminate the street assessment.

Hallin mentioned to Quast that in 1996 Pioneer Vicki was created and now Councilor Hallin volunteers in other communities. Hallin always mentions the Princeton Depot as the original Historical Society.

Quast said there have been several people taking professional photos at the Depot and others interested in taking more when they hear about the photos. There currently is a 17-year old Boy Scout that has started a project with photos and information. Quast is helping out, but it would take five of her to finish the project. Several others have contacted Quast asking for genealogy research help. In fact, more recently, a woman was looking for information on a Samuel Ross who died in 1881 but was supposedly one of the fathers of this town. Hours of love and support have been poured into the depot, Quast concluded.

Penny said that the Depot has a project going to put a new roof on the complete building. October is the deadline for the roof and work will begin in November. Quast said the society would like to complete the roof and restore the building to look like it did in 1902.

Karnowski said that in the Council's packets was a Resolution adopted in 2007 that had deferred the Mille Lacs County Historical Society assessment; the principal portion. Mille Lacs County Historical Society is currently required to make the interest payment only.

Hallin said she would like to see part of the funds to go toward the Mille Lacs County Historical Society since that building is part of the railroad in which these funds come from. This building is a historical building; Hallin went on to say, and gives unique characteristics to our area. The Mille Lacs County Historical Society is such an asset to our community and supported by volunteers.

Riddle noted that Dick Schieffer's memo stated that under Statute §138.053, it authorizes a City to appropriate money ("in an amount not to exceed 0.02418 percent of [its] taxable market value derived from *ad valorem* taxes on property or other revenues") to be paid to a county historical society if that society is "affiliated with and approved by the Minnesota Historical Society". Assuming such affiliation and approval has been given; the City can appropriate money to be used to pay Depot property special assessments. Riddle said he would like to get a calculator first and figure out the taxable market value.

Karnowski added that the Mille Lacs County Historical Society is indeed affiliated with the state. Schieffer said that with some changes that the legislator made recently with replacing the Homestead Market Value Credit with Homestead Market Value Exclusion, they did not clean up all of the statutes that relate to taxable market value. It would take a little calculation under the current law since the homestead credit was replaced by reduction in homestead credit. Because of these changes, Schieffer said he was not sure whether those numbers were readily available for each city.

Hallin asked if the guidelines still hold true if the donation is not done annually. Scheiffer said that the word 'annually' just indicates you can do it every year if you want to. Riddle said that calling it a onetime donation would not exempt the city from the statute.

The Council asked Jackson what the total amount owed by the Historical Society was. Jackson said there were three different parcels that were assessed. A 2003 assessment will be paid off with a payment of $113.56. There was a 2008 assessment having a balance of $4,811.73 with a principal and interest payment of $644.80. Lastly, a 2008 assessment of $57,446.03 with an interest only payment due of $3280.18. One option for the council could be to pay the interest only payment of $3280.18 thereafter for the next ten years.

Riddle advised staff to find out what the calculation would be for the 0.02418 percent of taxable market value for the city.

Walker noted that the Historical Society will only be paying interest for another ten years, until 2022.

Hallin said she would like to see the debt completely wiped out.

Karnowski mentioned that when the City Council voted on deferring the principal in 2007, the idea behind the resolution was that the city be reimbursed for expenditures. The city, in essence, is asking for reimbursement for the interest.

Dobson said he agreed with Hallin and would like to see that some TIF money goes toward the Historical Society because the society is a real asset to the city. Dobson said he also agreed with the Mayor's statement that he would like to see what the acceptable donation amounts would be with the statute in mind that the City Attorney provided.

Walker brought up the point that if the Historical Society ever ceased to exist and was sold, if the City completely paid off the assessment, then the assessment would not transfer to the new owner. No one would ever pay the assessment. Although, Walker said he can see the hardship that the Historical Society has. Mayor riddle said he understood where Walker was coming from with the fear that the Historical Society ever had to be sold. Riddle suggested an escrow account being set up with the $3700 check.

Hallin said that just the $3280.18 each year is very hard for the Historical Society to come up with.

The Council consensus was to have staff get back to them with the exact numbers based on the Minnesota State Statute §138.053 as to what exactly can be donated to the Historical Society.

CIVIC CENTER REHABILITATION

Whitcomb reminded the council that there was $250,000 in the CIP for the Civic Center rehabilitation. That was taken away because a lack of LGA. The committee is requesting just ten (10) percent of what was in the CIP; $25,000, in order to get the project started. So far, there has been $2800 in donations given for the Civic Center project. Lists of people that are willing to go to work have signed up at the Street Fair. Because this is a city building with history and heritage, Whitcomb added that he believes this is a worthy project. Hallin added that she would like to see money be used to help keep buildings that already exist and have historical value.

Dobson agreed that the Civic Center was a worthwhile project and the Council is aware of the community support. Dobson went on to say that he is unsure of taking a large chunk of money and piecing it out one at a time. Dobson said he feels that once a decision is made on where to divvy the funds, there are going to be a lot more people knocking on the door asking for donations. They are all good causes, but Dobson said he would like to donate to two or three different projects when parceling out the money.

Riddle said from a statutory standpoint, donations cannot be made (excluding the Historical Society). The Mayor said he did not foresee an influx of requests coming in.

Walker suggested paying a certain amount each year for a project out of the total $325,000 in TIF funds. That limits the city each year. Riddle said that the current City Council cannot bind future City Councils, so even if a motion was made to that extent, it wouldn't mean that another council couldn't spend it completely different.

Whitcomb added that a donation to the Civic Center would help to get the building back open to the public and bring money back into the City.

Walker said he was at a class reunion recently, and even though in a small town, they had a very nice community gathering place. There were plaques on the wall and everyone seemed to be looking for people they knew. It brought everyone 'home' again. Walker said he saw the importance of a community center in the Civic Center and would be willing to donate from the TIF funds.

Dobson said he believed the Civic Center Project should be given money now in order for the project to move along.

DOBSON MOVED TO PROVIDE FUNDING OF $25,000 TO THE CIVIC CENTER REHABILITATION PROJECT OUT OF THE TIF FUNDS. RIDDLE SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Council thanked the Farms and the entire committee for their work on the project.

PRINCETON AREA VISIONARY COMMITTEE AMPHITHEATRE PROJECT

Carol Ossell was present at the meeting on behalf of the Princeton Area Visionary Committee (PAVC) and the amphitheatre project. Ossell had a plan typed up of when the committee would like to see work be completed. WSB has given engineering estimates for the grading and water main relocation. Jed Larson Architect has been working on drawings. But, plans were given to Marv's True Value to provide a rough estimate of partial cost. Dan Howard of Howard Homes has also instructed Ossell to check with local craftsman to seek ideas and costs. Cost estimates will be opened at the next PAVC meeting on Monday, June 25 from WBC out of Princeton, Hjort Excavating out of Milaca, and Hydrocon out of North Branch. Ossell's memo stated August to have the watermain moved, September/October seating area in place with seeding done and stone blocks in place, with a musical performance in October. The committee hopes to have a temporary stage in the spring of 2013 until further grant funding comes through. There are several current grants pending from Shopko Corporation ($5,000), MDU Resources Foundation for 2013, and Knife River has given $1000 plus in kind services. Some possible grants to be written would be Walmart Corporation, Otto Bremer, and East Central Regional Arts Council. Ossell didn't have amounts on these grants.

Ossell mentioned that if the Mayor and council stepped forward with the "It Starts Here" program to promote filling the sixteen downtown storefronts, then promotion of Princeton's main street will bring tourism into the city.

Ossell said the amphitheatre has been a project for the PAVC for the past five years. The city would have ownership in the end and the community will reap the beauty and benefit.

The PAVC is asking for $90,000 of the TIF funds to help move the water main in order to begin construction on the amphitheatre.

Hallin asked if the PAVC had thought of the Initiative Foundation Grant. Ossell said the committee had. Dobson added that the project did not fit in the Initiative Foundation's guidelines, unfortunately.

Riddle was interested in the grants and the amounts. Ossell was unsure of MDU Resources grant amount. She said Knife River has another grant to apply for on top of the $1,000 already donated.

Ossell said it is not easy to gain dollars until individuals can see something happening. The City Council has the ability to make that happen, Ossell added. The watermain is old should be taken care of anyway.

Ossell asked Karnowski if Princeton Riverside Park was still on the DNR list for a fishing pier. Karnowski said they had asked if the city was still interested and he had told them we were. Since then, Karnowski has not heard back from the DNR. Ossell said perhaps if the DNR sees things happening at Riverside Park, they would be more inclined to begin the fishing pier. Ossell added in time, she foresees a canoe business, bike business, and more restaurants.

It was the Council's decision to wait until further cost estimates came through with the entire amphitheatre project before making any final decisions.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 3rd Street South Sewer Replacement – WSB Project 1480-21

Nielson addressed the City Council and reminded them that the Council had authorized a feasibility Study for the reconstruction of 3rd Street S. from Rum River Drive to 4th Avenue S.

This work resulted from the need to replace a three-fourths inch galvanized water line that serves three residential properties on 3rd Street South and one parcel on 4th Avenue South. This water line has previously broken with the last breakage occurring last winter. Nielson went on to add that the PUC requested to install an eight inch watermain to serve these residents which would have required removing approximately half of the street surfacing.

The feasibility report was to investigate the costs to reconstruct the entire roadway along with installing a new watermain.

The Public Works staff televised the existing twelve inch vitrified clay pipe to determine the condition of the in-place pipe. The televising revealed that the pipe was in fair condition and it was determined that this segment of pipe could be refurbished with a slip lining or trenchless technique at a future time. Trenchless sewer repairs are more expensive on a per foot basis but allow the repairs to be completed without digging up the street. It was our recommendation that we could delay spending money on sewer replacement at this time due to the current wastewater treatment plant expenditures and subsequent increases in sewer rates.

Since that discussion we have found out that the sanitary sewer manholes on this segment of sewer are constructed of brick. Nielson said he was unable to find the record drawing for this segment of sanitary sewer, however based on the record drawings that were available the age of this sewer appears to have been constructed between 1958 and 1964 making it 48-54 years old.

Due to the block manhole construction Nielson claimed that he was no longer comfortable leaving the existing sanitary sewer in place. Concerns include excavating near these block manholes and the potential for the ground shifting causing damage to the structures and for the long term integrity of these manholes. The City has repaired several block manholes with a spin cast mortar material, but Nielson said he felt that these repair methods are not long term solutions and are not the most cost effective method for the forty to fifty year life of the proposed roadway. We have recently experienced the high cost of repairing the section of the Smith Systems Road sewer at a cost of approximately $40,000.

This segment of sanitary sewer is the main collector line for the majority of the City and an unexpected failure would be difficult to repair and very expensive. The preliminary opinion of cost to replace this segment of sanitary sewer is approximately $120,000 including new sewer main, service lines and manholes. This sewer main line is considered a trunk sewer and not all of the cost directly benefits the adjacent property owners.

Hallin asked what the costs to the PUC would be and how much would the city pay. Nielson said the water main would be picked up by the PUC, a rough $41,200.

Dobson mentioned that if the city plans on doing a lot of work at the intersection of 4th

Street and 3rd Avenue South, would any of the costs be assessed to residents on 4th Street. Nielson said no. Most of this work would be considered maintenance.

Hallin asked about the sidewalks. Neilson said currently the street does not have sidewalks, but that a common thirty-four foot road width was being considered to allow for sidewalks. This also leaves room for low volume parking on both sides of the road.

Riddle asked where the sewer was located in the street. Nielson said it was right in the center of the street and is about 20-24 feet deep; therefore, it will take tearing apart the entire road to get at the sewer. Nielson stated that because the manholes are made of brick, he would hate to have a manhole collapse in just five to ten years under a brand new roadway.

Walker asked what the watering costs would be. Nielson estimated $15,000 to $20,000 in dewatering costs. Walker also asked what the duration of the construction would be. Nielson said about four days of for the sewer, block and manholes. Sewers would take another five days. The watermain about two days and about three to four weeks for the curb, gutter, and streets. A total of a two-month project from start to finish.

Dobson asked if the residents that live in the area would be able to gain access to their homes. Nielson said that usually the streets are closed in the evening so residents can drive in. In the daytime, there would be limited access and the residents could possibly use Rum River Drive or park off of 4th Street and walk. One property in particular would be inconvenienced, but Nielson said he believes it could be made passable most times during construction. The council asked if these were the residents that were affected by the initial break in the watermain last winter. Nielson said they were and that they were much more inconvenienced at that time without water. Hallin mentioned that one would think the residents would understand the construction work since they went through the trouble of the watermain break.

Nielson has spoken with some of the surrounding businesses and residents. A representative from U.S. Bank (210 Rum River Drive South) is in favor of the project; including the sidewalks. The DAC (304 South Rum River Drive) is concerned of the cost and loss of parking spaces. The resident in the middle of the block (301 4th Avenue South – Cynthia Huey) is not opposed of the project, but concerned about cost as well. The Council asked if U.S. Bank was concerned about their drive-up teller not being accessible. Nielson said they were not concerned about that and would prefer the parcel be cleaned up.

Walker said this sounds like the start of a long series of street replacements throughout the city. With the new Waste Water Treatment Plant going in this year, the funding is nonexistent, like the Mayor mentioned. The reason the sewer rates increased was to plan for replacements such as this, and right now, that fund is not built up. Walker would like to see the city work in a repairing cooperation with the PUC to stretch our dollars as much as possible.

Nielson said he was not looking for a commitment from the council, but that they may be willing to think about it, and work with the residents on their assessment portion and work with PUC to get costs set in stone. Nielson would prefer that the Council shut the idea down now before he puts any further work into the issue, if that is the view of the Council

Hallin would like to know exactly how much the PUC is responsible for out of the entire $349,000 amount.

Karnowski said Nielson and he have had long conversations about this issue and the Mayor hit the nail on the head. The new sewer rate was set in place for projects such as this. But, at this time, with the sewer rate having just been increased two months ago, the city would really have to struggle to find our share of the funding. Karnowski said that it seems the sewer line is in decent shape and even though it is a brick manhole, Karnowski said there are a lot of brick manholes still in the city. It is a tough project to accept when there is no funding.

Riddle would like to hear what Public Works Bob Gerold has to say one way or another. Riddle also suggested asking the PUC if they could wait 12 months before doing the repair. That way the sewer fund has time to build up. Nielson said the concept was to do all the work at once since the road would be ripped up anyway. The manhole was apparently supposed to be replaced in 1965 but wasn't. Also, there is only a fifty-fifty chance that the water will not break again this winter if the work is not complete; per Dave Thompson.

Dobson said he really appreciates issues like this brought to the council's attention ahead of time.

Riddle concluded by saying if the PUC would be willing to wait another 12-18 months, and the waterline doesn't break again, this would be the first project on the list when the sewer fund is built up enough again.

Nielson said he would forward that message to Thompson.

B. 4th Street South Drainage Issue

Nielson said that Public Works Director Bob Gerold was contacted by Patty Ross who lives at 306 4th Street S to review a drainage issue on her property and on 4th Street S.

Ms. Ross had been in contact with Tom Mismash, the previous Public Works Director, on several occasions as far back as 2002 regarding this drainage issue. According to Ms. Ross there previously was a pipe located in her yard that collected stormwater. She stated that the City removed or plugged this pipe several years ago and the drainage problem has existed since that time.

Nielson said he guessed that the catch basin inlet that previously existed and connected to the city sanitary sewer and was required to be disconnected by the MPCA. In addition, during larger rain events the storm sewer on 4th Avenue would not work adequately and water would overtop the centerline of 4th Avenue and would run down 4th Street South further compounding the flooding. Part of the problem on 4th Avenue seems to be that the existing catch basins become filled with leaves and other debris and become clogged. Gerold has indicated that the Public Works crews clean these catch basis but they regularly become clogged.

Ms. Ross's complaint is that the City should have made other provisions for draining the street when this pipe was disconnected.

Nielson said that during the visit with Mr. Mismash in 2002 or 2003, Nielson had explained to Ms. Ross that the storm sewer on 4th Avenue was not deep enough to install a pipe to collect the water from the low point on 4th Street S. Nielson had suggested that either a new storm sewer would have to be installed on 4th Street South that would drain to the

River or that an infiltration system could be constructed to absorb a portion of the storm water.

Several years ago, the property owner constructed a berm about one foot high along the roadway to keep the water from running off the roadway onto her property. This has reduced the flooding in her yard, but has moved the flooding problem to the roadway where it is leading to deterioration of the street surfacing. This filling was done without a permit and should be removed to reduce the saturation of the pavement.

Nielson had some recommendations for the council to consider. First, the berm should be removed adjacent to the subject property to allow the stormwater to run back onto Ross's property, where it would pond and eventually infiltrate. This action should be taken by the property owner to restore the Right-of-Way to the previously existing condition. Second, an underground infiltration system should be constructed which would handle the smaller rain events. This alternative would require an easement on the Ross property. The costs of constructing a storm sewer should be investigated from the low point on 4th Street South that would drain to the east and discharge to the river bank. Lastly, 4th Avenue from Golf Club Road to 3rd Street S should be reconstructed to install a storm sewer with adequate depth and capacity to drain the 4th Street S. area.

Nielson said both the underground infiltration system and reconstructing 4th Avenue installing a storm sewer would benefit the property owners. Mr. Ross feels that it should be the City's responsibility to correct the problem at no cost the property owners because the previous drainage was eliminated in the past without alternate provisions being provided at that time.

Karnowski asked if the ally to the east has been vacated and could a rain garden in the alley work. Nielson suggested that option when Mismash was still with the city, but it was decided that the best location would be on the Ross property because that is the low spot. Karnowski asked if the rain garden would be less expensive than a storm sewer and Nielson said not necessarily. A recent one installed in Saint Cloud was about $50,000. Karnowski suggested a pipe to the river to save on costs.

Nielson said in speaking with Gerold, the least that should be completed is to remove the berm. Riddle said he agreed starting with that at this time so the home owner will not be stuck with an assessment for street repair if the water were to ruin the road.

Hallin asked about when the city potentially capped the pipe; did that happen before or after the Ross's moved in? Nielson said the background and history is not known well. Mismash is unable to be reached and Gerold is unsure of the history to verify the facts.

Riddle asked what the rough cost of a pipe led to the river would be. Nielson estimated $40 per foot and there are about 500 feet; so about $20,000.

Rick Johnson, owner of West Branch Construction, was present at the meeting and addressed the City Council. Johnson said he recalls capping the pipe perhaps twelve years ago. Johnson said that the pipe is still there even after being capped. In fact, Johnson said it did not take much to get up the hill to the city pump house.

Gerold could possibly jet the line and bring the water over the riverbank; which would be cheaper than a new pipe.

The concurrence of the City Council was that Bob Gerold, Mike Nielson and Rick Johnson could work together on correcting the issue.

HALLIN MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO REMOVE THE BURM AT 4TH STREET SOUTH. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Johnson added that he was present because of the Historical Society; conversed about earlier. Johnson brought up the suggestion of allowing township residents as members on the city boards and committees. They more inclined to help out. Dobson said that the only reason the city doesn't have anybody from the township on the Park Board, no one has applied. Hallin mentioned that there is a township representative on the EDA Board. Not all boards require that you live in city limits.

Johnson said that the township members are very concerned with the history of Princeton. They use the parks here and they see the importance of the history of the City of Princeton.

Karnowski suggested that perhaps at a Study Session down the road, the council could take a look at a meeting where the Townships and the Council get together to talk about the parks. Although, the 4R Board is already set up to do just that.

C. Chickens/Fowl in City Limits

Fuhrman said that Ashleigh Blasey of 414 7th Avenue South had submitted a memo requesting that chickens be allowed within City limits, subject to certain regulations. The memo was intended to provide a brief description of the current Zoning Ordinance and information from the League of Minnesota Cities on allowing chickens in city limits.

Fuhrman went on to add that currently, the raising of non-domestic livestock is only allowed in the A-1 and A-2 Zoning Districts in the City of Princeton. The raising of domestic animals is allowed in the Residential Districts. Princeton's Ordinance defines domestic and non-domestic animals as *"animals kept as pets, such as fish, dogs, cats, household birds, homing pigeons, and similar animals."* The Ordinance defines Animal, Non-domestic as *"animals which are kept outside the home for purposes of food or pleasure, such as livestock (cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, chickens), bees, birds (such as falcons, and wild and scrub pigeons), and similar animals."*

Fuhrman said that she checked with the League of Minnesota Cities and found an article that stated that chickens are becoming a more common issue in cities across the state and country. The urban chicken "movement" is often linked to the increased desire for people to be closer to their food sources. Urban chickens allow people to raise chickens at their homes to have access to fresh eggs on a regular basis. This is the small-scale keeping of chickens and is much different than a business that raises hens for eggs and meat. Those sorts of businesses are regulated differently than residents who want to keep a few chickens in their backyards. There are no state laws that address urban chickens or keeping of chickens in cities, so it is up to the city council to decide if it wants to regulate the keeping of chickens. The city may choose to allow, allow if a permit is obtained from the city, or prohibit urban chickens. The city can do this in a number of ways, including regulation under the general animal or farm animal ordinance or by passing an ordinance specific to keeping chickens. (Excerpt from article).

Fuhrman said that some common requirements, if the city chose to regulate the keeping of urban chickens, would be to allow only hens, limit that number, the person must maintain coops ran in a sanitary and humane condition, keep the chickens contained or under control, and locate coops a certain distance away from property lines and other structures. In conclusion, Fuhrman said the Zoning Ordinance would need to be amended to allow for these animals.

Fuhrman introduced Ashleigh Blasey of 414 7th Avenue South.

Blasey said that she has been a resident for five (5) years. Even though a package of eggs might say "cage free", that doesn't always mean they are free-roam. Happy chickens are able to run around.

Blasey went on to add that these animals will eat tics, slugs, small snakes and beetles. Their manure can be great for gardeners. A small backyard flock will not be smelly. Blasey said that they are also education for children to be able to collect the eggs. Now days, children don't know where their food comes from. Some adults don't know that you do not need a rooster to make an egg. Chickens are mammals; so they already have the eggs like humans.

Dobson said he appreciated the research that Blasey furnished and mentioned how it saved the council and staff time.

Riddle said he would be open to a draft ordinance with public comment.

Blasey said that her neighbors ask where her chickens are. They would have no problem with enclosed chickens. Quite a few have had chickens once upon a time. Again, they are not loud or smelly. Especially if you keep the number to six (6) and under. The coops are cute, similar to a child's playhouse.

Walker asked if a pilot program could be set up before altering an ordinance. Schieffer said that a permit that needs to be renewed is the same idea. In fact, the City of Milaca recently made chickens legal in city limits with that condition: an annual permit to be renewed by council. That way, if someone wasn't keeping to the terms of the ordinance, the permit could be denied.

Blasey added that the City of Ramsey recently approved chickens in city limits. The ordinance is pending. But, the City Council was so in favor of it, they actually increased the proposed five (5) hens to six (6) with an additional two (2) hen-increment per quarter acre.

Hallin said she would be interested in any problems that cities have possibly had with ordinances allowing chickens.

Dobson summed up that the general consensus from the Council was to look into this further. A draft ordinance should be presented to the Planning Commission and then to City Council.

Riddle suggested a "pilot program" to make sure people don't get out of hand.

Chief Payne added that from a law enforcement side of things, he grew up with 600 chickens and was raised on a farm. But, what if a chicken were to get lose? Would it be impounded and then euthanized if not picked up by the owner within five (5) days? Do the

vet clinics even accept chickens? Another issue to consider is that a stray dog or cat can be identified, but chickens cannot, added Payne.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dobson mentioned that at the Chamber's Distinguished Awards Banquet, the PAVC was presented a plaque for improving the life in the Princeton community.

BILL LIST – $1,535,429.48

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE BILL LIST WHICH INCLUDED THE MANUAL CHECKS AS LISTED ON THE MANUAL BILL LIST FOR A TOTAL OF $1,122,078.48 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 66190 TO 66282 FOR A TOTAL OF $313,351.00. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION.

The Council questioned the bill paid to Foremost Promotions for $510.72 for coloring books for the Police Department. Payne assured the council those funds came from a donation from the Princeton Used Clothing Center.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 AYES, 0 NAYS).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business:

WALKER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:00 PM HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5 AYES, 0 NAYS).

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Hunter
City Clerk

ATTEST:

_____
Jeremy Riddle, Mayor