

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
JULY 24, 2014 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Paul Whitcomb called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council members present were, Thom Walker, Dick Dobson, and Jules Zimmer. Staff present, Administrator Mark Karnowski, Police Chief Brian Payne, Police Sergeant Joe Backlund, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Clerk Shawna Jenkins, Engineer Mike Nielson, and Attorney Dick Schieffer. Absent was Victoria Hallin, Finance Director Steve Jackson and Community Development Director Carie Fuhrman.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

None

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2014

WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2014. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permits and Licenses

- 1. Princeton Lion's Raffle – K Bob Restaurant on October 20, 2014
- 2. Non Intoxicating License for Finish Line Café – Mille Lacs County Fair

B. Personnel

- 1. Public Works – Dan Peirce Step 3 Increase to \$21.88 effective 8-1-14

C. Donations / Designations

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OPEN FORUM

Mark Herzing said he is running for Mille Lacs county attorney. He is running because this county's budget is double what other local counties spend. He points out that costs are rising, but effectiveness is not. The 2012 report of Offenders Sentenced per arrest shows Mille Lacs County at only 8.3%. Morrison County is at 40% with the average at about 15.6%. Mille Lacs is the lowest and about half the average. It could be a high number of plea bargains, but he feels it should be looked into further. He is running for the office to talk about these issues and discuss the budget. He invited everyone to stop and talk with him at the block party tomorrow.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Fairview Northland 5K route request

Karnowski reported that Fairview is holding a 5K run on September 20, 2014 and are requesting approval of the route they have chosen. The proposed route will include 9th Ave South, 2nd street, 11th Ave South and Old County Road 18 South.

Whitcomb asked if Payne had a chance to review the route. Payne said he had and he likes the proposed route.

WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED ROUTE FOR THE FAIRVIEW NORTHLAND 5K TO BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2014. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Reconsideration of Computer bid

Karnowski reported that at the July 10th Council meeting, the Council concurred with the recommendation of the EDA to approve an expenditure of \$2,465 to clean up the hard drives of the computers recovered from the former Rum River Health Services operations and award the contract for the work to TDT. The City received two bids for that work, one from TDT and one from F1 Computer Experts.

Because the EDA meeting where that recommendation was determined adjourned just minutes before the Council meeting, there was no time for staff to provide a memo regarding the issue. The Council, therefore, was not made aware of the details for the bids received nor the fact that the EDA apparently based their decision on TDT's previous work experience at the Public Safety Building and not on the bid price alone.

When Mayor Whitcomb later learned that F1 Computer Expert's bid (\$1,914) was about \$500 lower than TDT's bid, he directed staff to put the issue back on the agenda for further Council discussion.

If the Council opts to award the contract based on the low bid, then the Council could adopt a motion to rescind the previous motion awarding the contract to F1 Computer Experts of Princeton for \$1,914 as bid.

Walker said the EDA had a lengthy discussion on who to choose for this contract. The end goal is to sell these computers and that was a big part of the discussion and decision. TDT has a record of refurbishing and selling computers. With that, it was a 6 to nothing vote with one person abstaining. He had Clerk Jenkins print out an email chain that showed F1 Computer's response to the decision. He is still comfortable with the decision that was made.

Whitcomb said F1 is based in Princeton and their bid was almost \$500 less. He is sure that they can do the same and will be able to refurbish and sell the computers. Zimmer said he does like that they are a local business and have a lower price, but he is a little concerned with their response. Whitcomb said he understands that and feels the emails were likely sent in anger.

Dobson said he likes to support the local businesses, and it is a slightly lower bid. He has had some experience with both outfits and he has nothing negative to say about either of them. Although, he was not real happy with some of the comments made in the emails.

Schieffer said it will take 2 motions. One to reconsider, then another to award it to F1.

ZIMMER MOVED TO RECONSIDER THE MOTION AWARDING THE CONTRACT TO TDT COMPUTERS. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE: 3:1, WALKER OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED.

ZIMMER MOVED TO AWARD THE CONTRACT TO F1 COMPUTER EXPERTS OF PRINCETON. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE: 3:1, WALKER OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Cemetery Rules and Regulations Amendment

Karnowski reported Administration is recommending the following amendments to the cemetery rules and regulations to clarify what is allow for above ground makers and update the times in which marker settings are done. He spoke about the perpetual care, and how it does not come close to covering those charges.

Walker said he feels it's a good idea to have it spelled out clearly and he likes the amendments.

WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

8.2 No monuments **or above ground markers** will be allowed unless at least two **full size** cemetery lots are owned and only one monument **/ above ground marker** per two lots.

8.5 All markers, monuments, foundations, and cement will be set by the City of Princeton personnel at their convenience. All markers will be dropped off at a site designated by the City. Work orders must be completed at City Hall immediately. Markers are set from ~~approximately April 15th to October 15th~~ **twice per year, once in the spring and once in the fall**, weather permitting

DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Fire Prevention Project

Karnowski reported that Princeton Fire & Rescue is proposing to partner with the Baldwin Fire department to promote fire safety in the Princeton School District.

They are proposing to work with representatives from the Community Safety Net Company who will be contacting local businesses to sponsor the printing of fire prevention booklets to be distributed to the school district's 4th graders.

The business contacts are scheduled to start this coming Monday.

The PFRD and the Princeton Police Department have used this company in the past and have had very good responses from the public. The program is done at no cost to the fire department.

Staff is requesting that the City Council give the PFRD the authority to enter into an agreement to have the Safety Net Company raise the funds necessary for the program as described above.

If the Council agrees, a motion to that effect would be appreciated.

DOBSON MOVED TO GIVE THE PRINCETON FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT THE AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SAFETY NET COMPANY TO RAISE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR A FIRE PREVENTION PROJECT. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Zimmer questioned if the company keeps the additional funds above what is needed for the books. Staff thought that was correct, but they were not sure on that. Zimmer asked if we could work out an agreement that part of those funds stay in the community.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Violent Offender Apprehension Program

Karnowski reported that Mille Lacs County Sheriff Lindgren for a representative from Princeton to serve on his Violent Offender Apprehension Unit Advisory Group. A copy of that request was sent out to the Council Members last week.

Both Councilman Dobson and Councilman Zimmer have expressed an interest in serving. I've been advised that entities can have more than one representative.

Does the Council wish to designate both Council Members to serve?

Zimmer said he appreciates Dobson volunteering as well, but he feels 2 people from a community is overkill. He said he would be willing to be an alternate.

WHITCOMB MOVED TO APPOINT DICK DOBSON TO THE MILLE LACS COUNTY VIOLENT OFFENDER APPREHENSION UNIT ADVISORY GROUP, AND JULES ZIMMER AS AN ALTERNATE. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MISCELLANEOUS

Zimmer asked if there will be a group formed to review the Police Chief position. Karnowski said he suspects staff will receive two or maybe three applications, so each candidate should probably be interviewed. He suggested that he, the Mayor, Councilman Zimmer with his police background be on the Committee, as well as Julie Espe the School Superintendent. He is also thinking of getting someone in the field that is outside the area and not familiar with the candidates to sit in as well. Right now he is focusing on 2 different individuals that he is familiar with from the metro area.

Karnowski reported that he finally got a hold of Sylva. They will be re-opening on Monday August 4th. They were unable to accept leaves and branches because of the extensive rain and flooding we had this spring.

BILL LIST

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE BILL LIST WHICH INCLUDES THE MANUAL CHECKS AS LISTED ON THE MANUAL BILL LIST FOR A TOTAL OF \$128,753.92 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 70348 TO 70432 FOR A TOTAL OF \$256,217.57. DOBSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business:

DOBSON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:27 PM. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawna Jenkins
City Clerk
ATTEST:

Paul Whitcomb, Mayor