Mayor Brad Schumacher called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council members present were, Jack Edmonds, Jenny Gerold, Jules Zimmer and Jeff Reynolds. Others present: City Administrator Robert Barbian, Finance Director Steve Jackson, Police Chief Todd Frederick, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Community Development Specialist Stephanie Hillesheim, Clerk Shawna Jenkins, Liquor Store Manager Nancy Campbell, Fire Chief Ron Lawrence, and Attorney Damien Toven.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

Staff advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

J GEROLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH NO CHANGES. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

A. Regular Meeting minutes of January 9, 2020

REYNOLDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2020. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Permits and Licenses
   1. Annual Mobile Food Unit License for Firehouse BBQ

   ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE ANNUAL MOBILE FOOD UNIT LICENSE FOR FIREHOUSE BBQ. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

   2. Solicitor permits for Custom Remodelers – 3 month license for Anthony Armstrong, Toby Haluptzok, Benjamin Polsfuss & Madison Fohrenkamm
      a. Benjamin Dufresne pending police background check

   ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE SOLICITORS LICENSES FOR ANTHONY ARMSTRONG, TOBY HALUPTZOK, BENJAMIN POLSFUSS & MADISON FOHRENKAMM FROM CUSTOM REMODELERS. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Personnel

C. Donations
   1. Resolution 20-07 accept donation from Princeton Twice New Clothing for Fire
   2. Resolution 20-08 accept donation from Princeton Twice New Clothing for Police

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS 20-07 AND 20-08. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**OPEN FORUM**

Kevin Gerrard started off by thanking Bob Gerold from removing the snow from the sidewalk, and the Chief Frederick for making sure the graffiti was removed from a property near his place.

He did want to bring up a concern about the PUC meeting yesterday. He did arrive a bit late to the open forum, but he had his hand up and was not allowed to speak.

J Gerold said at the meeting that she would like to improve the communication between the
City and the PUC. She suggested having someone from the PUC attend the City Council meetings, but that suggestion did not seem to be supported. He said if the PUC chooses to be separate from the City, they should be treated as such and bring some competition into the City.

He reported that a comment was made that there was good communication prior to Mayor Schumacher being elected.

In terms of his previous concerns about the Community Garden and the Civic Betterment Group, he would like to open a dialog with them, but will not go into that further tonight.

PRESENTATIONS / SPEAKERS – None

PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

FYI – REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE AND BOARDS / COMMITTEES

A. PUC Agenda packet for January 22, 2020

Schumacher stated that he agrees with J Gerold that it would be nice for someone from the PUC to attend the Council meetings. J Gerold said she had requested that someone attend the study session monthly, and for the new Electric Superintendent Ryan Grant to attend to the Manager’s Meetings at City Hall.

Schumacher stated he would like to see a Council member attend the manager’s meetings as well. Barbian said the Manager meetings are for the department heads, and he would want to run it past them to discuss their thoughts on that.

B. Fire Advisory Minutes of January 7, 2020

J Gerold has a change under #7, and would like the motion to show that she removed herself from the discussion and abstained from voting on that item due to the possible conflict of interest. Barbian will make that correction.

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance 788 – Amend age to purchase Tobacco Products – FIRST READING

Jenkins advised that the FDA just passed a law that increased the legal age to purchase Tobacco from age 18 to 21 years of age. Ordinance 788 amends the City’s code to read 21 years of age to match that of the FDA’s requirement.

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 788. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Resolution 20-09 – AIR Grant

Hillesheim reported that in support of the efforts of Flight Expo, Inc. and the efforts of Sharon Sandberg, City staff have been working to guide the application to the MN DEED Airport Infrastructure Renewal Grant program. In review of the operational goals of Flight Expo, staff
is very supportive and currently awaiting a draft application to make a determination on the application submittal. Should the application not be ready in 2020 an application in 2021 would be appropriate.

Following is Background information on Flight Expo and the project:

Flight Expo, Inc. is a nonprofit organization located in Princeton, MN with a mission of promoting aviation through education and preservation of aircraft, special hands on events for the general public, ground school and other various tools. This is done by equipping and educating today’s and tomorrow’s generations with the tools they need to obtain their FAA aircraft and power plant certification and their FAA private and commercial pilot’s license. The program is developing a new generation of innovators by inspiring participants, especially young students, in aerospace technology, engineering and construction, through the aircraft restoration process.

Flight Expo Inc is addressing an upcoming shortage of mechanics, scientists and engineers and other aviation aspects in the United States. Flight expo motivates youth to learn to enjoy subjects in the field of technology. Aircraft construction and restoration provides an exciting opportunity to motivate today’s youth. With our hands-on training they learn how to apply STEM methods through Flight Expo’s Build a Plane program, which is in its 3rd year.

Funding would increase the ability of Flight Expo to expand and partner with the Jane Goodall Environmental Sciences Academy starting this spring. JGESAA is a project-based school, enrolling 100 students from 19 communities across central Minnesota. Students will now be able to use the Build-a-Plane program with credits for their high school diploma and graduating with an Aircraft and Powerplant mechanic license. Currently, Flight Expo, Inc. will have 2 students participating in the program, with the hopes of expanding into more students by next fall.

**Analysis:**
The project has been divided into phases. Phase 1 of the project is to use grant funding to help connect the property to city water and sewer and to make all necessary adjustments to incorporate the property into the airport as the project continues. Flight Expo, Inc. is in need of a larger space with taxiway access that is equipped to grow for future expansion.

City Staff have made Flight Expo, Inc. aware of the lengthy process of making adjustments to the Airport Layout Plan and other possible obstacles.

Flight Expo, Inc., aware of the time required, is moving forward with the project request.

**Recommendation:**
City staff requests the Council’s approval of Resolution 20-09 and permit staff to move forward with the application process as they see appropriate.

J Gerold mentioned the land usage issues that were discussed at a previous meeting and how they will be addressed in the grant application. Barbian said they have changed the application slightly, but if they cannot get the grant approved this year, they will try again next year.

REYNOLDS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-08. SCHUMACHER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PUC – Mayor Schumacher’s in Lieu of Property Tax Proposal

Schumacher said he has been working on this, and provided his suggestions. He would like the Council to review his suggestions and come up with ideas to help assist in covering the lost tax revenue. The taxpayers are subsidizing the PUC, and this will help. The figures he used in his proposal were numbers from Elk River and some other cities that have similar situations.

He would like to have this on for discussion for the February Study Session, and have the Council members come up with some suggestions and discuss those as a group.

J Gerold asked when it was last increased. Jackson thought it was 2007 to 2008 when it was increased to 52,500 per year.

Zimmer would like to see what other SMMPA members are contributing to their cities. He would like to know what properties does PUC owns or use, and what the taxes would be on those parcels, buildings, etc.

B. Request for Proposal – Design and Construction Engineering for Riverside-Riebe Project

Hillesheim advised that the City of Princeton has a received a grant in the amount of $220,000 to be used for improvements to the Riverside-Riebe Park project with an estimated project budget of $461,465. Due to the diligence and hard work this winter, the Fishing Pier is currently being constructed by the Public Works Department. The remaining projects will commence this spring with a project completion date of June 30, 2021.

Analysis:
The City of Princeton staff have been working to create an RFP for design and construction engineering services for the following improvements:

- pedestrian trails, cart-in campsites, Picnic/viewing areas, picnic shelter, vault toilet, boat ramp with floating dock, and parking lot rehabilitation.

The RFP outlines the project details.

Recommendation:
City staff recommend the council’s approval of the RFP for Design and Construction Engineering Services, with the submittal deadline of 8:00 a.m. February 6, 2020.

J GEROLD MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE RFP FOR THE RIVERSIDE-RIEBE PARK PROJECT. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Mn DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application

Hillesheim advised that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages the CPL program to provide competitive matching grants from $5,000 up to $400,000 to local, regional, state, and national nonprofit organizations and government entities. Grants must re-
store, protect or enhance prairies, wetlands, forests, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. A 10% match of non-state funds is required for all grants. The match may be cash or in-kind resources. The amount and source of match must be identified at the time of application. Total project costs may not exceed $575,000. CPL is a reimbursement-based grant program.

The current method of treating biosolids at the Princeton Wastewater Treatment Plant involves planting *Phragmites Australis* into concrete and earthen lined beds and allowing the high rate of evapotranspiration associated with these plants to dewater the sewage sludge. Typically, *Phragmites* beds take 8-12 years with intermittent loading before the beds need to be emptied and reused. The highly dewatered biosolids are then removed and either landfilled, or land applied, to reuse the nutrients in the sludge.

Guidance on the use of *Phragmites* reed beds to dewater treated sewage sludge, also called biosolids, in wastewater treatment facilities has significantly changed since they were installed at the Princeton Waste Water Treatment Plant in 2012. The non-native Phragmites Australis reeds are now listed on the invasive species list and are likely to be moved to the ir-radiate list in the next few years.

The City of Princeton is being urged by both counties’ soil and water departments to begin the process of removing these reeds from the reed beds. After testing completed by the University of Minnesota Extension Service, it has been determined the reeds growing within the former holding pond are also the non-native reeds and prove the reeds are indeed spreading. Increasing the severity and complexity of the issue.

**Analysis:**
The City of Princeton staff, specifically Chris Klinghagen and Bob Gerold, have been researching the most effective, inexpensive and environmentally safe ways to handle the removal of these invasive reeds. The cost is estimated to be around $250,000, but could change dramatically depending on MPCA decisions regarding land application of the reeds or the requirement of transporting the sludge to the landfill. Quotes are currently being gathered to get an accurate picture of the total cost of the project.

Staff have been researching funding options to help supplement the CIP funding set aside for this project of $100,000. The funding from the MN DNR Conservation Legacy Partners Program is for the control of invasive species, with funded projects needing to be completed by June 30, 2023.

**Recommendation:**
City staff are requesting the Council’s approval to apply for the necessary funds to eradicate the invasive Phragmites Australis reed beds from the wastewater treatment plant.

**EDMONDS MOTIONED TO APPROVE STAFF TO APPLY FOR THE GRANT. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Discussion on Municipal Marijuana options if Recreational use is legalized

Schumacher stated he asked for this to be put on the agenda for discussion. Whether the council believes it will be legalized or not, it may be something to start looking into. He questioned whether it could be treated like municipal liquor where the city would be the only one selling it. Or, if the City can determine it would not be allowed to be sold in the city limits. Staff included 2 articles about legalized marijuana.
Toven would have to look into it. He assumes it would be treated as an adult business, so it would likely fall under similar laws and requirements. He can look at other states to see how they regulate it on the city level.

J Gerold added that she thinks it would be a good idea to have Attorney Toven look into this a little, as she feels it is bound to be legalized at some point.

Hillesheim stated she has received some inquiries about the medical marijuana and whether it is allowed in the City.

Zimmer said he would like to see it on a Study Session. We would want to hear from Social Services, Police Departments and other officials on how they view it.

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 $172,733.07 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 80591 TO 80653 FOR A TOTAL OF $275,046.37. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MISCELLANEOUS - none

*** CLOSED SESSION *** consideration of land purchase, Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3

REYNOLDS MOTIONED TO CLOSE THE MEETING AT 7:48. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION.

REYNOLDS MOVED TO OPEN THE MEETING AT 9:20, ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Toven reported that the City Council discussed the possible purchase of a parcel of land. Council discussed some provisions and directed staff to work out the details and make an offer on the parcel.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business:

REYNOLDS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:20PM. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted, ATTEST:

_____________________________ __________________________
Shawna Jenkins Tadych Brad Schumacher, Mayor
City Clerk