MINUTES OF A STUDY SESSION OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON OCTOBER 3 2019 4:30 P.M.

Mayor Brad Schumacher called the meeting to order. Council members present was Jack Edmonds, Jenny Gerold, Jules Zimmer and Jeff Reynolds. Staff present, Administrator Robert Barbian, Finance Director Steve Jackson, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Police Chief Todd Frederick, Community Development Specialist Stephanie Hillesheim, Clerk Shawna Jenkins, Wastewater Plant Manager Chris Klinghagen, Liquor Store Manager Nancy Campbell and Fire Chief Ron Lawrence.

OnBoard Passageways online Training

Trent Wright with Onboard Passageways provided a brief training session on the new Agenda system.

Fire Relief Association

Firefighter Chad Heitschmidt presented the Fire Relief Association history, current numbers and a proposal to increase the yearly benefit to retiring firefighters.

SCHUMACHER MOVED TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION UNTIL OCTOBER 10TH AT 7PM SYSTEM. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Princeton Fire – Wyanett Township

Barbian reported what the minutes read about Wyanett requesting $6,000 to $7,000 per year due to the substation they provide to the department. He added that Wyanett Dennis Haubenschild stopped and discussed the idea with staff. J Gerold added that most of the Townships have agreed with the plan with the exception of Wyanett. The first amount they proposed to pay was $50,000, which is about a third of what they each Township has been asked to pay. Staff has responded that they could remain with the City for 3 years for that $50,000, and then determine what they would like to do when those 3 years are up. Wyanett did not agree to that. One of the Princeton Firefighters that lives in the Township has expressed his concern about losing that substation. He asked how would the Council feel about discounting the $6000-7000 per year because of the substation.

Barbian stated that the account will be short if that amount is deducted per year, so that would need to come out of the fire Departments operating costs for the year. J Gerold added that since Dalbo also uses part of the building for the substation, they should be paying a portion of the costs as well.

J Gerold said she wanted to bring these concerns to the Council, as since this has come up, Lawrence and herself have already been approached by two other Townships asking what kind of deal they can get.

A decision does not need to be made tonight. J Gerold added that the council has until December to decide.

Zimmer asked if Wyanett does drop out, does PFRD still provide mutual aid. Lawrence said yes, however they could be billed if it was getting out of hand.

Schumacher questioned how mutual aid is requested. Lawrence responded that the responded department would have to request mutual aid. Zimmer stated that we should make Wyanett aware that there could be charges in mutual aid situations. Jackson asked who
would be billed. Lawrence replied that he will check to see if it is the Township or the Home-
owner.

Schumacher commented that $6,000 - $7,000 per year for the use of the building may not be
a bad idea. He suggested a joint powers agreement, and if purchasing half the property
would be an option, so there would something to show for that $60,000 cost over that 10
year period.

Edmonds stated that he feels it would be fair to pay a fee to use part of that building, but Dalbo
should pay as well.

Reynolds asked how much value we are getting with the substation. Lawrence replied that it
does lower the ISO rating. If that substation was not usable by the department, the ISO rat-
ing could go to a 9, possibly a 10.

Zimmer questioned whose idea it was to build the substation. Lawrence responded that Wy-
anett did, when the bridge was going to be under repair, as they kept some fire equipment
there due to the detour because of the bridge replacement.

Barbian added that even $6,000 – 7,000 per year will affect the operating budget, as will
them pulling out of the Fire district.

Schumacher suggested the Council do some thinking and come up with a solution by the
November 7th Study Session.

Zimmer stated that as of right now, he is leaning towards holding our ground right now by al-
lowing them to pay the 50,000 and let them stay in for 3 years, and then revisit. Reynolds
added that we are getting a value from that substation. Zimmer agreed, but that he would
not be in favor of providing them payment for its use if Dalbo does not also participate, or if it
causes other Townships to be asking for special considerations.

**Citizen’s Academy – November 7**

Schumacher stated Clerk Jenkins had seen this and thought it may be something to consid-
er. Due to several needing to leave for a meeting, this will be on the November Study Ses-
son.

**Resolution 19-47 – approving MnDOT Agreement 1035467, State Project A4802-28**

Barbian stated that this is the standard state Airport grant that is done yearly.

REYNOLDS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 19-47. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MO-
TION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**6th Avenue Parking Lot** – discuss at November Study Session
County Board Letter

Barbian provided a draft letter that he would like to send to the County regarding the snow plowing on County Roads.

Zimmer said he likes that it is a 2-year agreement, and a flat amount.

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE EDITED VERSION THAT WAS UPLOADED TODAY. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Frederick and Zimmer left the meeting at 5:44pm to attend the meeting at Mille Lacs County.

Schumacher had some questions about the Fire Relief presentation. He asked Heitschmidt if there is a list of the ages of the Departments Firefighters. Heitschmidt responded that an older firefighter will show as a higher liability, as they usually have more years of service, which equates to a higher retirement amount. Heitschmidt added that firefighters cannot draw their retirement until after the age of 50.

The members did vote for an increase of $400 per year of service, and would like to have the numbers available to PERA the middle of November.

Schumacher asked the other council members if they would like to discuss this at the next meeting, or the November Study Session. His thought is to just approve $100 increase right now, until we know what happens with Wyanett Township and the 2020 election. Heitschmidt agrees that the market is very volatile right now.

Adjournment

J GEROLD MOVED TO ADJOURN THE STUDY SESSION AT 6:22PM. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted,

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Shawna Jenkins Tadych
City Clerk

ATTEST:

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Brad Schumacher, Mayor