MINUTES OF A STUDY SESSION OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2018 4:30 P.M.

Mayor Paul Whitcomb called the meeting to order. Council members present was Thom Walker, Jack Edmonds, 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, Fire Chief Ron Lawrence and Engineer Andy Brotzler.

**Princeton Public Utility Electric Rates**

Connie Wangen provided the Council some comparisons with an Xcel Energy and Princeton Public Utilities with the exact same kilowatts of electric used. While Xcel energy shows a $.105820 kWh for summer rates and $.090320 kWh for winter, once you add in their additional fees, it increases the per kWh to $.16 per kWh, making it more expensive then Princeton Public Utilities current rate of $.148 kWh. Xcel Energy has also requested approval to raise their rates, which will be about 8.28 percent spread across four years.

Wangen reported that she also spoke with Rate expert who looked at both the PPU and Xcel rates. Using average residential usage, the 4% decrease for Princeton Public Utilities and the expected Xcel increase, an average residential bill per year will be $1,137 with Princeton Public Utilities and $1,209 with Xcel. For Commercial, it is $11,017 with Princeton Public Utilities, and $11,630 with Xcel. For Industrial, $207,764 with Princeton Public Utilities, and $210,649 for Xcel Energy.

**Resolution 18-64 – Great Northern Trail Real Estate Acquisition**

Brotzler advised that there are some easements needed for the Great Northern Trail. Patty Kukowski, right of way agent with Sherburne County continue to negotiate regarding the purchase and donation of easements. The majority of property owners have indicated they will be donating the easements. One property owner has expressed support for the project, but they are in the process of selling the property. Because that sale is in process, they are not able to work out an easement at this time.

Barbian added that 2 property owners have already signed the documents.

This resolution will start the appraisal process. Brotzler said the bids cannot be advertised for until all the right of way acquisitions are completed.

Edmonds asked if an easement donation would be a tax deduction for the property owners. Brotzler responded that he believes it would be, but would be something to check with their tax attorney.

Brotzler said they have also been having some additional discussions on an alternate route if there are any right of way issues.

**Snowplowing and clearance of County Routes**

Barbian updated the Council that there has been a discussion with County Administrator Pat Oman and Public Works Kevin Schultz. The county originally was going to plow the roads, and pay the City $75 per hour, up to $4500 to remove the snow.

Jackson added they were not anticipating a proposal to do the plowing, so Gerold was not at the meeting.
Gerold said he spoke with Schultz and it appears the County would start here, and make one pass before heading to the other areas of the County. Therefore, it would not be the same type of service the downtown is accustomed to.

Barbian said the County states they do the same in the City of Milaca. He thinks that would do some cleanup throughout the day, it would be similar to how it is done now. If the city did not also plow those routes, there would be a lot of complaints. Zimmer stated it is not the County that would be receiving the complaints, it would be City Hall.

Gerold said the difference between Milaca and Princeton is their Central Avenue is not their main business district.

Gerold reported that cleaning up snow for an event would run about $1,700+ using the current fee schedule, so the maximum of $4,500 would not last long.

Frederick added that currently the Police and Public Works work together to get cars moved to aid in plowing. If the County did not come early enough, that would be an additional issue, especially when people are parked for breakfast at K-Bob quite early.

Zimmer asked if they couldn’t negotiate the current $4,150 they city receives and Public Works could continue to do the plowing.

Whitcomb said he feels it is best to tell the county that their solution is not going to work.

**Squad Car – Digital Ally Replacement / Purchase**

Frederick advised that the Princeton Police received notification from Digital Ally that a squad camera that was sent in for repairs, is unable to be repaired due to the age of the camera (11 years) as well as other issues. A new camera will cost $3,995.00 with a $500.00 dollar credit if we turn the old camera in to Digital Ally. While the camera was with Digital Ally the k9 lost its mic in a swamp while tracking a suspect. I would like council approval to purchase a new camera and a replacement mic for the k9 squad with revenue made from the sale of the old police Tahoe. The total cost of the camera and mic will be no more than $3995.00. The amount of the sale for the Tahoe was $4,275.00.

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A CAMERA AND MIC, NOT TO EXCEED $3995.00. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Adjournment**

ZIMMER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE STUDY SESSION AT 5:38PM. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully Submitted,

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Shawna Jenkins
City Clerk

ATTEST:

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Paul Whitcomb, Mayor