Mayor Paul Whitcomb called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council members present were, Thom Walker, Jack Edmonds, Jules Zimmer, and Jeff Reynolds. Others present: Administrator Robert Barbian, Finance Director Steve Jackson, Police Chief Todd Frederick, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Clerk Shawna Jenkins, Fire Chief Ron Lawrence, Engineer Andy Brotzler, and Attorney’s Damien Toven and Kelli Bourgeois.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2017

MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2017. SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permits and Licenses
B. Personnel
   1. Public Works Mihai Miu Step 1 increase to $15.28 effective 12-12-17
   2. Accept resignation of Probationary firefighter Toni Ickler
C. Donations/Designations

WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OPEN FORUM

PRESENTATIONS

A. Retirement of Firefighter Randy Cook after 28 years, 9 months service

Whitcomb and the Council thanked Cook for his 28 years and 9 months of service to the City of Princeton and surrounding area.

Cook was presented with a plaque commemorating his almost 29 years of service.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES


Barbian reported on what the Planning Commission discussed regarding the rezoning of the corner of Rum River and Smith Systems where the new Casey’s will be located. There are some changes still needed, so another public hearing will be held at the December Planning Commission meeting. The site will also be require a Variance.

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Wine and Spirits Grant Request for Princeton School’s “The Big Read” program
Barbian reported that the Princeton School district is requesting a Wine and Spirits Grant for $1,000 for their “the Big Read” program that includes 3,200 students, their families and the community at large. He spoke to Julia Espe today briefly on this project.

Zimmer asked if they had requested this in the past. Jackson and Walker thought that may have been a request from the Library.

Whitcomb said he is all in favor of trying to get people to read and involved, so is in favor of this request.

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE WINE AND SPIRITS GRANT REQUEST FOR THE BIG READ PROGRAM. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance 758 & Resolution 17-50 – zone Annexed Bell property to MN-1

Barbian advised that this is rezoning the newly annexed Bell property to MN-1.

WALKER MOVED TO TABLE RESOLUTION 17-50 ZONING THE NEWLY ANNEXED BELL PARCEL TO MN-1 UNTIL THE SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE 758. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EDMONDS MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 758. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Ordinance 759 & Resolution 17-51 – rezone right of way for cell tower

Barbian advised that there was a lot of discussion about this at the Planning Commission last night. The vote was 2 in favor and 1 against rezoning the right of way to allow for a cell tower.

Whitcomb stated he knows that the Public Hearing was held at the Planning commission, but appears to be some people at the meeting that would like to speak on this.

Craig Mitchel asked why neighbors were not notified. Barbian does not know if the requirement is 300 or 500 feet, but letters were sent to those in the required area and it would have been published in the newspaper as well.

Mitchel spoke about several studies he read online that these towers can create health issues, and cause property values decrease by about 20%. He does not feel there have been enough research on these towers and is not in favor of this project.

Calvin Cole, 702 5th street would like to see the required distance expanded when it came to controversial projects such as this.
Hostrawser lives at 603 5th Ave N and found out about the public hearing from his neighbor.

Sharon Cole has seen studies that show these towers can cause cancers within 8 years, so she is not in favor of this.

Mark Campbell, 605 5th Ave N. lives just across the street from the proposed location. He is not in favor of this project, nor are any of the neighbors that he has spoken to.

Whitcomb thanked everyone present that spoke.

Whitcomb asked Reynolds if anything he heard tonight changes the decision he made at the Planning Commission. Reynolds responded that AT&T did spend about 6 months looking at possible locations. It needs to be the north side and near the large buildings.

Walker stated he would like to make sure proper notifications were sent out. Barbian will check to confirm the distance requirements and that notifications were mailed out.

Reynolds said he believes there are cell towers on most of all the water towers and those are near residential areas.

Steve Stulz from AT&T stated that the water towers are full, and they are not tall enough for the AT&T and EMS antennas.

Edmonds asked if the water tower site was looked at. Stulz responded that Gerold took him around town and they looked at several sites. The antenna needs to be on the northeast side of town.

Edmonds stated that there is a lot of open land in the river bottom, and asked if that would be an option. Stulz said that wouldn’t work due to it being in the flood plain.

Craig Mitchel said he will find an attorney to fight this project.

Walker asked about strobe lights that are on the tower and if they would be a nuisance to the properties. Stulz responded that they would only be on the top of the tower.

Walker stated that he would like to confirm that property notification was sent out. Barbian reminded the Council that this is just a first reading, so it could be introduced tonight and that can be confirmed by staff.

Edmonds asked if they could refer this back to the Planning Commission for more discussion. Bourgeois responded that the Planning Commission closed their public hearing on this topic, the Council can introduce the ordinance and still do some more research prior to the next meeting.

Zimmer said this is the first step in improving the emergency services communications. It sounds like from what Reynolds stated, there were other sites looked at, and service varies greatly depending on the sites, so this site was probably picked for the service it would provide to the necessary areas.

Cole asked if the Planning Commission had information regarding how this affects property values.
Edmonds asked if there needs to be a date specified if this was tabled. Bourgeois responded it does not need a date.

Walker said he is not opposed to putting a tower up, as he knows if there are not adequate towers, communications stop. We all have cell phones, so we are all submitted to various emissions.

WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 17-51. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

WALKER MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 759. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. TH95 and CR157 roundabout project award

Brotzler advised that Bids were opened for the TH 95 and CR 157 Roundabout project on October 31, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at Mille Lacs County Public Works. Five total bids were submitted and the low bidder was Knife River Corporation – North Central, Sauk Rapids, MN. The low bid by Knife River is $1,218,747.75 which is 3.49% lower than the engineer’s estimate of 1,262,612.55.

Below is a summary of the current funding for the project. The previous estimated local share provided to council was $477,870.

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<th>Est Cost</th>
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<th>State TH Matching Funds</th>
<th>TED (70%)</th>
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This project includes federal funding and requires civil rights requirements prior to awarding the contract. On November 7, 2017, the MnDOT Civil Rights office determined Knife River has met the appropriate requirements of the project. Mille Lacs County is the fiscal agent for the project. A special Mille Lacs County Board meeting is scheduled for November 29th to award the contract, and they are looking for concurrence from the City of Princeton for the award.

Barbian stated that he has seen quite a few discussions and memos on the project. He spoke to the County Administrator and Engineer and there appears to be some interest from them to assist in the local share.

Edmonds said at the last joint meeting, they determined that they would meet again once more final numbers are known.

Walker asked if the local road share grant was pulled permanently. Brotzler replied that the grant is not awarded until March 2018, and a project cannot be awarded prior to the grant, so staff was not able to make that one work.

Edmonds asked if there are any cost over-run contingencies. Brotzler said there is not any
included in the quote, so there is some risk it could come in a bit higher if any issues are encountered.

Barbian said this merely awards the contract, and the county has the control. However, the County would like a resolution showing approval of the bid.

WALKER MOVED TO AWARD THE TH95 & CR157 ROUNDABOUT PROJECT TO KNIFE RIVER CORPORATION FOR $1,415,436.00. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

A. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2018 survey

Walker reported that the Economic Development Authority went through this survey at their last meeting. EDA funds is being used for this survey, but would still like the Council to approve it.

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2018 SURVEY. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Park Land Purchase - Resolution 17-53

Barbian advised that the Park Board has indicated that they would like to purchase a piece of property that is adjacent to the Riebe Park property. This parcel is located south of the disk golf course and borders the Rum River to the south.

This parcel is very well suited to become a future campground for the city as it has what could become a beach and there will be ample space for a roadway and numerous sites.

The market value of the property is $6000. The owner, Gary Redmayne, has agreed to sell us the parcel, asking for $4000 in cash and an in-kind donation of $2000 to cover the cost associated with the closing.

Staff is requesting approval of Resolution 17-53 authorizing land purchase and authorization to expend Park Dedication fees for the purchase.

Zimmer added that the Park Board has been looking at this property for a while. An offer was made, and then a counter offer, and the final negotiated amount was $4000 + $2000 for closing costs. The Park Board approved that amount.

Walker asked if the property is in the flood plain. Gerold responded that some was, it is similar to the golf course. There is a lot of buckthorn back there that needs to be removed, so it will be a good winter project for public works.

Jackson confirmed that there are funds in the Park Land Dedication Fund to cover the cost.

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 17-53 AUTHORIZING THE PARK LAND PURCHASE OF $4000 IN CASH AND $2000 AN IN-KIND DONATION OF $2000 TO COVER
THE CLOSING COSTS, USING PARK DEDICATION FEES. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MISCELLANEOUS

Barbian reported that the remodeling of the council chambers is scheduled to begin tomorrow am.

Barbian advised that the November 29th budget meeting and the first meeting in December will need to be held at the public safety meeting. Jackson said the School district promised that the work will be complete by December 14th for the published Truth in Taxation meeting. They are estimating 3 weeks tops for the work to be completed.

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 $113,115.59 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 76531 TO 76583 FOR A TOTAL OF $121,501.98. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business:

ZIMMER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:09PM. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted, ATTEST:

_________________________ _________________________
Shawna Jenkins Paul Whitcomb, Mayor
City Clerk