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: City Administrator Robert Barbian, Finance Director Steve Jackson, Community Development Specialist Stephanie Hillesheim, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Clerk Shawna Jenkins, Wastewater Plant Manager Chris Klinghagen, Liquor Store Manager Nancy Campbell and Fire Chief Ron Lawrence. Absent was Police Chief Todd Frederick

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2018
B. Special Budget Study Session Minutes of November 27, 2018
C. Study Session Minutes of December 6, 2018

REYNOLDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018, THE SPECIAL BUDGET STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 27, 2018 AND THE STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2018. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permits and Licenses
B. Personnel
   1. Public Works Kyle Fawkes Step Increase effective 12/28/18
   2. Liquor Store Clerk Madison Seipel-Vaccari Resignation effective 11-30-18
   3. Liquor Store Clerk hiring – McKenszey Paveika-Pierce effective 12-12-18
C. Donations
   1. Resolution 18-69 – Accept donations for Shop with a Cop
   2. Resolution 18-72 – accepting donation from ML Corp Ventures for K9
D. Miscellaneous

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

PRESENTATION & PUBLIC HEARING

A. Truth in Taxation – 2019 Budget and Tax Levy – Resolution 18-71

Jackson presented an overview of the 2019 budget and tax levy.

WHITCOMB OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:19pm

EDMONDS MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:19. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION 18-71. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OPEN FORUM

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

A. EDA Board minutes of November 15, 2108
B. Planning Commission minutes of November 19, 2018
C. Fire Board minutes of November 5, 2018

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance 776 – amending exhibit A of Ordinance 775 – FINAL READING

Barbian advised that CenterPoint had some different rate classifications, so the exhibit needed to be amended to meet their rate classifications.

ZIMMER MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 776, AMENDING EXHIBIT A OF ORDINANCE 775. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Ordinance 777 – Fee Schedule Amendment – FIRST READING

Jenkins advised that this staff has completed the yearly review of the Fee Schedule. The Park Board is requesting a slight increase in the camping fees. Public Works Supervisor Tim Jensen called around to get comparison prices on cemetery fees and is recommending some increases there. Gerold is also recommending increases in many of the Public works line items.

ZIMMER MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 777. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Resolution 18-68 – Fire Relief Association

Lawrence reported that he did speak to PERA and clarified that once an amount is increased, it cannot be decreased. The Fire Relief Association would still like the Council to approve the increase.

Whitcomb said he has a hard time moving it up to $3,800 not knowing what the market is going to do. The fire department is worth the increase, but he is just unsure about what the market will do. He says he would be comfortable moving it to $3,600 for right now, and another increase could be done in another year. Walker said he just does not want to increase it too much.

Walker agreed with $3,400 for next year. Zimmer added that it appears from the handout, Princeton is right in the middle when comparing to other cities. He supports
an increase to $3,400, but we just don’t know what the future market will do over the next 5 years. Edmonds also agreed with an increase to $3,400.

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE AN INCREASE TO $3,400. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Resolution 18-70 – designating the polling place

Jenkins advised that the state now requires the polling place to be designated every year. Barry from the Depot did mention that the Historical Society Board felt that the City should be paying a fee to use the Depot. Staff has discussed other locations, with the Civic Center and Library being good options if the Council would like to change the polling location for the next election. The Council felt it would be too confusing to residents if the polling place was changed, and the Depot does have a nice big open area that works well for the election.

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 18-70 DESIGNATING THE POLLING PLACE AS THE DEPOT. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Resolution 18-73 – approving relocation of Fire Hydrant in Industrial Park

Barbian advised that this was discussed at the Study Session with a council consensus, but felt it should be an official approval via a Resolution.

WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 18-73 APPROVING THE RELOCATION OF A FIRE HYDRANT IN THE INDUSTRIAL PARK. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Ordinance 778 – Sidewalk snow removal – FIRST READING

Jenkins stated that City Hall recently received a call from a resident after they received the letter regarding sidewalk snow removal.

When looking at the ordinances that cover snow removal, staff decided it could be cleaned up and clarified.

Staff discussed it at the department head meeting and some great points were brought up.

While many cities use a set time, such as “12 hours after snow ends”, it may be tough to pinpoint exactly when the snow ended, especially if an officer just came on after a couple days off. This may also make it difficult to issue citations, without an exact time frame that the sidewalk needed to be cleared.

Staff is suggesting the changes shown in red on the drafted amendment. This will give a starting point (8am of the 1st day after the snow event ends) of the time frame residents and commercial properties needed to abide by. The letters in blue came
from the Cambridge ordinance, and we liked this wording as it allowed for the city to recoup more of the cost if city staff is required to clean anyone’s sidewalks.

In addition to the proposed ordinance language amendments, what would the council like to see? Frederick had spoke to Jenkins earlier, and feels 12 hours for Residential and 8 hours for Commercial would be suitable, as they do have that extra time with the time frame not starting until the next day.

Residential – **12 or 24 hours** from that 8am of the 1st day after
Commercial – **8 or 12 hours** from that 8am of the 1st day after

Whitcomb stated that he agrees that 8 hours for Commercial and 12 hours for Residential is suitable if the time starts at 8am the 1st day after the snow fall.

ZIMMER MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 778. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

a. Update on County Response to County Road Plowing

Barbian said he did receive a response from the County Administrator that they were not considering a change, so they will be plowing the County Roads in the City.

Edmonds said it is likely that no one will agree with him, but feels once the city reaches that $4,800 in snow removal that the county will reimburse us, that we stop removing that snow from the county road.

EDMONDS MOTIONED TO NOT CONTINUE REMOVING SNOW FROM STREETS ONCE THE AMOUNT OF $4,800 THAT WILL BE REPAID HAS BEEN MET. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION.

Zimmer said he would like to open discussions with the City’s our County Commissioner and ask that Commissioner to go to bat for the City. He would like to know how the City’s commissioner feels on this issue. Edmonds said the only commissioner that is backing the City is Timothy Wilhelm.

Zimmer questioned how this was came up. Barbian responded that during the sidewalk discussions, the agreement and amount that the County was paying the city were looked at. It was found that there has not been an increase in the amount in many years. At that time, the County said they would take over the plowing.

Edmonds stated he was told by the County that they had received a lot of complaints about the city’s plowing.

Barbian said if the council would like to engage the city’s representative, he can set something up. Zimmer responded that he would like that to be set up as soon as possible. Edmonds added that it doesn’t need to involve the entire Council, but would like it to include one or two council members along with staff.

Zimmer stated he would like to be one who sits in on that meeting.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2019 Licenses

Jenkins advised that there was only one late submission this year. All current license holders have renewed, and Kwik Trip is a new applicant for Tobacco and 3.2.

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2019 LICENSES. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Board and Commission Appointments

Jules Zimmer stated that he is resigning as a voting member of the Park Board. He was originally appointed to the Park Board when there was not enough for a quorum. Being that there are 4 applicants for 3 open seats, he wishes to resign to allow an additional community member to serve.

Whitcomb asked if any who applied for the Park Board is present to speak to the Council. There was not.

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPOINT JACQUILEN STRANDBERG, DANIEL VOCE AND BLAKE BRODING TO THE PARK BOARD FOR 3 YEAR TERMS, WHICH WILL END 12-31-2021. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Whitcomb asked if any Airport Board applicants would like to speak.

John Bjorstad is interested in the serving on the Airport Board. He restores airplanes, and is involved in the “Build a Plan program” with Sharon Sandberg. They just had their first student from the “Build a Plane” program complete their solo flight. He feels he could contribute to the Airport board and help promote the Airport.

Sharon Sandberg stated that she is a founding member of the “Flight Expo” and is a private pilot with an Instrument Rating. She is a local hanger owner, and is a member of the EDA Board. She attends most of the Airport Board meetings when she can. She has a strong interest in growing the airport. She has also recently started a flight club for kids 6 to 15 years old.

Jim Roxbury stated he served on the Airport Board for many years, and was chairman of the Board. He would like to address some things that have been discussed for many years and get them changed. He may make some waves out there, but would like to get some projects and issues addressed and fixed.
Roxbury said he understands that there are usually not many changes on the Council after an election, but questioned why the Board and Commission Appointments are done in December instead of the new year.

Barbian responded that staff did look into that, and historically they have been appointed in December. It then provides those appointed a little time to get the meetings into their schedule, and like the Airport Board, it is held prior to the first regular Council meeting of January.

Edmonds asked how many on the Airport Board are pilots, verses just a concerned citizen. Sandberg responded that Jeff Dotseth was a pilot, but has not flown in 15 years. However, the other recent airport board members are current pilots.

Edmonds stated he has some experience with the Airport Board and feels Sandberg may be a good fit as she has already been attending some of the meetings.

Walker commented that there are some positive things going on at the airport right now, and is not sure making waves out there would be a good thing right now. Motion

Zimmer said he has sat on the EDA board with Sandberg.

WALKER MOVED TO APPOINT SHARON SANDBERG AND JOHN BJORSTAD TO THE AIRPORT BOARD FOR 3 YEAR TERMS, WHICH WILL END 12-31-2021. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMously

Whitcomb asked if any Princeton Public Utility Commission applicants would like to speak.

Gregory Hanson stated that he lived here and taught school from 1971 to 1985. He moved to Iowa, California and then Nebraska. He retired and moved back here a couple years ago. He was involved with Nebraska Power when he lived there. There were no private power companies there. With the new wind and solar power options, it is an exciting time to be in the energy field. He lives just outside City Limits, and is the last person on PUC’s lines. He was very impressed with Princeton Public Utilities, as any power outages were resolved very quickly. When a large company serves the power, residents would not see outages being fixed so quickly. He feels his experience serving on the Board with Nebraska Power and his business background would be a great asset to the Princeton Utility Commission.

Dan Erickson said he is a resident here, and has about 40 rental properties in town as well. He is interested in having safe electric in town, and would like help give PUC a better name.

Brad Schumacher stated he put in his application, because the people spoke in the election that they want changes in the PUC. However, he understands that the council will not vote for him, he wouldn’t if he was in their position either. He feels Dan Erickson is a great person for the position, as he is a resident and business owner.

Edmonds added that he is currently the Council Liaison to the PUC, and hopes he is reappointed to that position. He feels best person is Paul Whitcomb. He is a longtime
resident and has a thorough understanding the PUC. SMMPA was here recently and provided a very informative presentation to the Council.

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPOINT PAUL WHITCOMB FOR A 3 YEAR TERMS, WHICH WILL END 12-31-2021. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Walker said does not want to disrespect Mayor Whitcomb, but would be very interested in appointing Dan Erickson to the position.

Toven stated that there is a motion and a second, so that would need to be rescinded or reconsidered, then Walker could make a motion to appoint Dan Erickson. Walker stated

It is fine to vote on the current motion, and if that does not pass, the Council can consider someone else.

Zimmer added that Mayor Whitcomb has many years of experience and the PUC would be very fortunate to have him on their Board. said another thing to look at, current mayor has many years of experience with the city.

Gregory Hanson said he has lived several other locations and dealt with several other power companies and Princeton has a real prize with the PPU.

Reynolds stated that having served with Erickson on the Planning Commission, he would like to see him on the PUC Board.

Edmonds pointed out that there is a term up each year, so one of these applicants could apply again next year.

VOTE: 2:2:1 EDMONDS AND ZIMMER IN FAVOR, REYNOLDS AND WALKER AGAINST AND WHITCOMB ABSTAINED. MOTION FAILED

Whitcomb withdrew his application.

WALKER MOVED TO APPOINT DAN ERICKSON TO THE PRINCETON PUBLIC UTIL-ITY COMMISSION FOR A 3 YEAR TERM, WHICH WILL END 12-31-2021. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EDA Board

Walker stated he was appointed by the Council, but he would be interested in continuing to serve on the EDA.

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPOINT THOM WALKER AND GENNY REYNOLDS TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR A 6 YEAR TERM, WHICH WILL END 12-31-2024. WHITCOMB SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE 3:0:2 ZIMMER, WHITCOMB AND EDMONDS IN FAVOR, WALKER AND REYNOLDS ABSTAINED. THE MOTION CARRIED
Cable Commission

Walker suggested making this a Council Appointed position. It is usually only a once a year meeting, which is held in North Branch.

**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 $99,216.97 and the items listed on the liquor bill list and general city bill list which will be checks 78454 to 78551 for a total of $295,098.80. Reynolds seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Whitcomb said it will be Walker’s last council meeting. He thanked him for his service to the Community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business:

Zimmer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM. Edmonds seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  

ATTEST:

_________________________ __________________________
Shawna Jenkins Paul Whitcomb, Mayor
City Clerk