MINUTES OF A STUDY SESSION OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON MARCH 7, 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, Fire Chief Ron Lawrence and Engineer Jen Edison.

Chamber of Commerce Request

Karen Michels thanked the council for entertaining the Chamber’s $10,000 Wine and Spirits Grant Request each year. Last year, the City gave an extra $5,000 for the Moving Wall Exhibit. Their costs for that event was $44,000.

She provided an overview of the Chamber’s Expenses for the various events.

She would like to again request a $10,000 Wine and Spirits Grant.

J Gerold asked if it is budgeted for yearly. Jackson confirmed that it is.

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHAMBERS WINE AND SPIRITS GRANT REQUEST FOR $10,000. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. MEETING ADJOURNED

Zimmer mentioned the Chamber’s Award’s Dinner and said while it is too late now, he would like to see a City employee recommended for the outstanding service that they provide as well.

Michels provided an update that the Business Expo scheduled for Saturday has been rescheduled for April 6th due to the predicted snow storm.

Hwy 95 / 21st Ave Roundabout Assessment Discussion

Edison reported that the original proposed assessment for the TH95 came out to $2,289.89 per acre with 50% being assessed. The final assessment using actual costs, and reducing the local share by $61,000 for the County’s participation and using $90,000 franchise funds to pay for the trail, it would bring it down to $1,257.57 per acre.

South Roundabout Assessment Discussion

Edison advised that the Engineer’s estimate for the County Road 45 roundabout is $1,350,000. The Freight Program Grant is going to cover $850,000. Sherburne County’s cost participation is $250,000 and Baldwin Township and the City of Princeton will both be responsible for $125,000.

If the Council wishes to assess the properties, they will need to authorize the feasibility report at the March 14th Meeting, approve the feasibility report and call for a public hearing at the March 28th meeting, with the public hearing being held on April 25th.
Zimmer questioned if the Franchise fee could pay for the portion of the trail that goes through the roundabout, which would cut the city’s portion. Staff said the franchise fees should be able to pay the trail part of the roundabout.

Reynolds questioned if the cost of legal and engineering outweigh the benefit to assessing the remaining portion of the project.

**Splash Pad Contract**

Barbian said they are looking at some changes at the Splash Park. Current contract is with Leeann Hartigan. She is unable to manage the park again this year, and her husband has shown interest in taking that over. J Gerold said it this agreement was put in place a long time ago, so maybe this agreement should be reviewed. Jackson stated that the current contract is the manager receives 10% of the gross sales.

Jenkins added that city hall staff began taking all of the party reservations in 2018, so the Splash Park Manager job position has changed slightly.

**City Hall Security at Counter**

Jackson advised that staff has received the first quote for the City Hall Security. It is a push button that will open the locked door. The Quote that was received is for $1,500.

Frederick said they are also looking at getting glass for the front, that would have a pass through and a speaker. The side windows could be covered with various films that will provide more protection. J Gerold also questioned if the other windows should be done as well.

Frederick stated that they will also look at ways that the outer doors could be locked in case of an emergency.

**Board and Commission Pay Discussion**

Schumacher thought the Board / Commission and Council pay should be reviewed. Jackson said it was $20 at one point, then it was dropped to $10 per meeting when the city had to really cut back the bucket a few years ago. Schumacher would like to discuss raising the compensation back to the $20 or $25 per meeting.

Edmonds said he supports the action. He brought it up in the past, and was always told it was a budget item. Staff will bring it back for next Thursday. Jackson said to address the concern about the budget. They could approve it, and have it go into effect January 1st so it could be budgeted for.

Jackson advised that Council pay is about $3300 for Council and $3700 for the mayor. One factor to keep in mind, state statute does not allow them to set their pay. Changing the Council pay can only be done during an election year, so the council could ask on it, but it would not take effect until Jan 1st 2021.
Social Media Policy Discussion

Barbian advised that J Gerold asked if the City had a Social Media Policy. There is a portion on the personnel policy that covers social media.

J Gerold handed out a Social Media Policy example she found on the League of MN Cities’ website. She went over some things she liked in the policy. She does not feel that people should be venting on the Princeton Bulletin Board Facebook page, as it reflects poorly on the Council and City as a whole. Barbian stated that these views and discussions are better have at the city level with the council or staff.

Schumacher said his opinion is his opinion. In reality if you want a problem solved, it isn’t going to be addressed on social media, people should be contacting city hall.

J Gerold stated she would like a policy to be drafted and approved by the City Council.

Nancy said the ADA doors have been installed and are working great. They are having an issue with their back door is having a problem getting the door to shut.

Adjournment

ZIMMER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE STUDY SESSION AT 6:10 PM. 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