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

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2017

WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2017. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permits and Licenses
   1. Shopko Fireworks sale permit
   2. Princeton Lion’s gambling permit – Raffle June 10, 2017
B. Personnel
C. Donations/Designations
   1. Resolution 17-22 Fire Department Donation

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

OPEN FORUM

PUBLIC HEARINGS

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

A. Planning Commission Minutes of April 17, 2017
B. Airport Board Minutes of April 3, 2017
C. Fire Board Minutes of April 4, 2017

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Wine and Spirits Grant Request for the Senior All Night Party

Karnowski reported that the Senior All Night Party is again requesting a donation of a 6 pack of pop for every student attending the Senior All Night Party. This has been requested and approved every year.

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE SENIOR ALL NIGHT PARTY REQUEST OF A 6 PACK OF POP FOR EVERY STUDENT ATTENDING. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Ordinance 749 – Liquor Ordinance Amendment –FINAL Reading
Karnowski advised that earlier this month the Minnesota Legislature passed a bill making the sale of liquor by the bottle (off-sale liquor) legal from 11 AM to 6 PM on Sundays. The law is permissive in nature and does not require dispensaries like Princeton Wine and Spirits to be open. That choice is left to the individual licensing entities in Minnesota.

Staff suggests that, in order to retain our current customers and hopefully add others, that it makes sense to be open on Sundays.

While the new state law does not mandate that liquor stores stay open the full 7 hours allowed by the new statute, our liquor store manager feels that, at least to start, we should be open the full 7 hours and then monitor the sales and see if staying open the full 7 hours makes sense.

The ordinance amendment modifies the city’s ordinances to allow the municipal liquor store to be open the full 7 hours allowed by statute. If, in the future, the city opts to be open fewer than the maximum hours, no further ordinance amendment would be necessary.

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 749 AMENDING CHAPTER 400.05 OF TITLE 4 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES) OF THE PRINCETON CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING THE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL OFF-SALE LIQUOR STORE SUCH THAT THE ORDINANCE IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE NEWLY ADOPTED STATE LAW. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Ordinance 750 – Solicitor Amendment – First Reading

Karnowski advised that staff found a loophole which would allow “solicitors” to sell without a license (and only “register” with the city) At the end of the current ordinance, it also states that when a solicitor “registers” with the city, the application is signed off on immediately after it is filled out. Therefore, a background check would not be completed in these instances.

Definition of “Solicitor” which would encompass most people wishing to go Door to Door:

“Solicitor” - a person who goes from house-to-house, door-to-door, business-to-business, street-to-street, or any other type of place-to-place, for the purpose of obtaining or attempting to obtain orders for goods, wares, products, merchandise, other personal property or services of which the person may be carrying or transporting samples, or that may be described in a catalog or by other means, and for which delivery or performance shall occur at a later time. The absence of samples or catalogs shall not remove a person from the scope of this section if the actual purpose of the person’s activity is to obtain or attempt to obtain orders as discussed above. The term shall have the same meaning as the term “canvasser.”

The proposed amendment simply changes the requirement that Solicitors are required to be licensed and a background check done as it is with Peddlers and Transient Merchants.

If the Council agrees with requiring Solicitors to have a background check done and be licensed, please introduce Ordinance #750.

Walker stated that many people may not even know that licenses are required to go door to door in the city, so he suggested making note of that on the website and city’s Facebook page. Staff can put it on Facebook and on the city’s webpage.
ZIMMER MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 750. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed May 27th Golf Course Outdoor Dance Request

Karnowski reported that Becky Southard from the Princeton Golf Course is requesting to have an outdoor band for their 2nd Annual Grand Opening on Saturday May 20th. Weather permitting, they would like approval for it to go from 8pm to Midnight. They plan on facing the band to the south or east to reduce the noise level to residences near the golf course. Since the letter, Mark received an email asking if they ended at 11pm would they still need council approval.

Walker asked Southard if she had anything to add for the Council. She replied that the band they are having would like to play until midnight, so they are asking for permission to go an hour later than normally allowed. Walker said he recalls last year there was a lot of pushback from the event. Zimmer added that this event is only once a year, and the Golf Course is a very nice asset to the community.

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PRINCETON GOLF COURSE’S REQUEST FOR AN OUTDOOR STREET DANCE REQUEST FOR MAY 27, 2017 TO GO UNTIL MIDNIGHT, WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE BAND BE FACED AWAY FROM THE RESIDENTIAL HOMES. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Sealcoat Bid Authorization

Karnowski advised that it is time to go out for bids for Sealcoating and is asking for Council Approval. Approximately 25% of the city streets are included yearly, and how much is done varies slightly on the cost per square yard.

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE STAFF GOING OUT FOR SEALCOATING BIDS FOR 2017. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

*** Mille Lacs County Board of Appeal and Equalization ***

EDMONDS MOVED TO OPEN THE MILLE LACS COUNTY BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION AT 7:16PM. WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mille Lacs County Assessor Al Heim reported on their 21 month study of sales and the residential preliminary and final ratios that were used in determining the estimated market values in the city of Princeton. The evaluations are now sent out with the tax statements, which saves the county a considerable amount of money, but requires the Board of Appeal Meeting to be held a little later than they used to be.
Heim advised that they have not received any calls or appointments for tonight’s meeting. Walker stated that was nice to hear.

Karnowski asked about Commercial and Industrial values. Heim responded that they did have to move on the commercial and industrial values a bit this year. He added that when an area does not have 6 sales in an area, they look at a 5 year history. The change regarding that occurred in 2009, so they are just now getting a look at the 5 year history. Commercial was raised approximately 7-8%, as the 5 year history said they were sitting at the 84-86% range. He stated that commercial, industrial and apartments have been pretty flat for several years. They are hard to get a good handle on values without sales.

Walker asked for clarification that residential properties are going up 8.66%. Heim replied that 8.66% was looking at the 21 month study. Looking at values over the 12 month period will have the property values increase about 11%. Heim said he met with regional rep from the MN Department of Revenue and he felt the county may need to increase it a bit more.

Heim reported that they just saw a state wide Tax Court Appeal from Walmart that they will be watching. He stated that there was a similar petition from Menards a few years ago, and adjustments were made to some stores. He added that the assessors from across the state do keep in touch so they can be aware of issues others are seeing and be prepared.

Walker asked what the commercial and industrial increase was. Heim responded that it was about an 8% increase.

MISCELLANEOUS

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 $121,269.15 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 75445 TO 75425 FOR A TOTAL OF $235,396.58. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business:

EDMONDS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:39 PM. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted, ATTEST:

_________________________ Thom Walker, Acting Mayor
Shawna Jenkins
City Clerk