

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
APRIL 23, 2020 7:00 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

Mayor Brad Schumacher called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council members present were, Jenny Gerold, Jack Edmonds, Jules Zimmer and Jeff Reynolds. Others present: City Administrator Robert Barbian, Finance Director Steve Jackson, Police Chief Todd Frederick, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Community Development Specialist Stephanie Hillesheim, Clerk Shawna Jenkins, Liquor Store Manager Nancy Campbell, Fire Chief Ron Lawrence, Wastewater Plant Manager Chris Klinghagen and Attorney Damien Toven.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Zimmer would like to add “ Lights on, City of Princeton” to the agenda under miscellaneous.

J GEROLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting minutes of April 9, 2020

J Gerold had a correction to the attendance. It shows her and Bob Gerold absent from the meeting. They were both in attendance. Jenkins will make the change.

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MINUTES OF APRIL 9 2020 WITH THE CORRECTION. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permits and Licenses

B. Personnel

1. Accept resignation of Liquor Clerk Tanee Kelley effective 4-17-20
2. accept resignation Park Board member Daniel Voce effective 6-1-20
3. Opening of yard waste site and hiring of PT Fred Rittenour effective 4-25-20

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE RESIGNATIONS OF TANEE KELLEY EFFECTIVE 4-17-20, PARK BOARD MEMBER DAN VOCE EFFECTIVE 6-1, 2020 AND THE HIRING OF FRED RITTENOUR EFFECTIVE 4-25-20. SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Donations

1. Resolution 20-33 – accept donation of disposable nitrile gloves from Global Glove Safety Manufacturing.

J GEROLD MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-33 ACCEPTING THE DOANTION OF DISPOSABLE NITRILE GLOVES FROM GLOBAL GLOVE SUPPLY. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OPEN FORUM

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

Dave Vigdal with Mille Lacs County Assessors Department reported the first recommended change is regarding the property at 809 7th Ave North, owned by Princeton Partnership. The North side of the parking lot continues to flood. They had previously recommended a reduction in value with this property a few years ago, but are recommending a \$1000 per unit reduction, for a total of an \$8000 reduction. The Original Value is set at \$331,300, so this will bring that down to \$323,300.

Barbian asked who is responsible for the flooding at that property. Vigdal thought the owners had contacted the City regarding the drainage there in the past. He has seen some photos, and it does affect the parking on the north side.

B Gerold added that this issue was addressed prior to him being the Public Works Director. The ditch is in the County right of way. The runoff is coming off 8th street north, and it was exacerbated when the north side of the parking lot was paved.

Property owner Rick Schwartz feels the main problem is that there is no drainage in that area.

Edmonds added that he knows it has been an issue for a long time, but doesn't know what the resolution would be.

Schumacher asked B Gerold if he had heard from the County on the 7th Ave project in regard to a time line. B Gerold responded that he believes the project is set for 2023 or 2024, but will have to look at his notes.

Vigdal advised that their 2nd recommendation, is regarding 602 10th Street North, owned by Lavonne Johnson. The issue here is also flooding and drainage issues. She has seen flooding of her basement, and has had some damage to the wall. The issue has been noted in their system for a few years, and they recently received some photos of the issue. They are recommending removal of \$2500 from the basement value, and putting a \$7500 reduction due to the damage to her foundation. The current estimated market value is \$130,000, so with this reduction it will reduce the value to \$122,500.

EDMONDS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE THE VALUE FROM \$331,300 TO \$323,300 ON 809 7th AVE. N. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

EDMONDS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION TO REDUCE THE VALUE FROM \$130,000 TO \$122,500 ON 602 10TH STREET NORTH. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PRESENTATIONS / SPEAKERS –

A. Princeton Graduating Seniors – Mayor Schumacher

Ellie Pomerleau read a statement:

Hello, my name is Ellie Pomerleau and I am a Senior at Princeton High School. I am involved in the fall musical, dance, 1 Act play, mock trial, madrigal, and prom committee. I am the President of S.A.D.D, I am a member of the student council and I am on the School Board. I maintain a 4.0-grade average (weighted) and I never miss the chance to support our students in the student section unless I have rehearsal. In other words, I am proud to be a Princeton Tiger. I am speaking today to represent the class of 2020.

As Seniors, we have been preparing for the things we love to end since the first day of school, however, no one could prepare us for this. COVID-19 went from being a distant foreign problem to the reason that our Senior year was pulled from under our feet. We have faced the loss of the memories and experiences that were supposed to shape us into young adults. I watched and cheered as our boy's basketball team proudly took a piece of the net from the Duluth East gym knowing they were state bound. I watched my friends start going to track practice to prepare for their upcoming season, and I got ready to book a hotel for my dance competition in April. Then before we could blink it was gone. I saw the loss on the faces of the boys who were so excited to go to the state. I saw students who were ready for their turn to have their last seasons turn fearful that their season would not even get the chance to start. I was notified that all my dance classes would now be via zoom. Teachers began to talk about the possibility that school would be canceled and I refused to believe it. Then on March 16th, 74 days before what should have been our last day of senior year. Many people did not attend that day. The hallways were quiet, the lunchroom was nearly empty. Many of us seniors wore our senior shirts and looked around despairingly at what 2020 had come to. This was supposed to be our year.

Now I wake up at 8:00 every morning, open my chrome book and complete the rest of my Senior year Online. I have lost interaction with teachers I have known for four years, I have lost getting the chance to be with my friends before we move to separate states, I have lost my senior year. These last months were supposed to be our time to recognize all of our accomplishments and to begin moving on to our futures. It was supposed to be our time to say goodbye. We are of course grateful to our district, to our staff, and to our city. We know that all of the measures taken were for our safety. We know our teachers worked hard to turn our classes into online courses. We even made a video to share our gratitude with them. We are thankful, but we are heartbroken. We cannot face another loss. As I am speaking with you now my prom dress hangs behind me unworn, one of our biggest highschool events already canceled. The early mornings with prom committee have gone to waste, and my dress, shoes, makeup are unused and high school experience was taken away from me again. One thing remains for us seniors, and that is graduation. We ask please do not make us face another loss. I have spoken with many students and parents about ideas that could rework graduation to make it safe. We first off would like to say do not be afraid to choose a date farther along in the summer. The class of 2020 is good at adapting change. One of the most promising ideas we had is to hold the graduation ceremony outside on the football field, with only parents allowed in the stands. We would then ask that the ceremony could be videoed to show other family members. This would allow us to be with the people we spent the last 13 years of our lives in a safe manner. If you need us to wear a mask and gloves with our caps and gowns we will. But we will not receive our diplomas at our kitchen table. Please help us honor our district.

I would like to thank you for your time and for this opportunity. I would also like to thank you for keeping Princeton safe. I know that Seniors are not the only people facing loss. People have lost the chance to be with family members, to be employed, or even to go out to eat. This graduation ceremony is not about us, it is about how strong our community has been through these difficult times. It is about what it takes to be a part of Princeton. I came

forward today because that is what I learned throughout my time at Princeton. I learned to speak out to have a voice. I learned to respect others, property, and that community. My classmate's hard work and accomplishments deserve to be recognized in this way. We have waited for this moment for years, and there is safe and feasible way graduation could take place. Please give us the chance to respect our community. To thank them for turning us into the young adults we are today by having this graduation ceremony. Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Taxable General Obligation Tax Abatements for the Land Acquisition and Trail Project

George Eilertson from Northland Securities gave an overview of Tax abatements and the proposed abatement for the land acquisition and for the trail.

REYNOLDS MOVED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARINGS AT 7:56PM FOR BOTH GENERAL OBLIGATION TAX ABATEMENTS. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION.

EDMONDS MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:57PM WITH NO COMMENTS. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Resolution 20-34 – approving general obligation tax abatement for land acquisition
EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-34. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolution 20-35 approving the General Obligation Tax abatement for the Trail Project
ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-35. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Eilertson stated that the next step is to get proposals for financing by May 7th, and then they will bring those to the Council for approval at the May 14th meeting

Currently the interest rates are very good, and he is estimating they are between 2 and 3%.

FYI – REPORTS. ANNOUNCEMENTS. CORRESPONDENCE AND BOARDS / COMMITTEES

A. PUC Agenda packet for April 22, 2020

J Gerold said she was going to be sworn in at the PUC meeting yesterday. She read the following statement:

I decided to be on the PPU Board because I believed that I could make a difference. I knew that I had some great ideas and that I could be a formidable asset in helping with the struggling relationship between our PPU and the City of Princeton. Contrary to what some have said or believe to be true, many cities have Council Members and even Mayors serving on their Utility Boards, such as: Grand Rapids, North Branch, Rochester, Wells, Delano and Elk River, to name a few. Despite the threats, bullying, false accusations and mis-information from members of this PUC and it's Commission, fellow Council Members and a few

community members, I still believed that it was going to be in the best interest of both parties (along with the tax payers and rate payers) for me to be a productive and positive member of this PPU Commission. However, after the recent decision by this PPU General Manager and this Commission Board to adopt Resolution #20-03 to discontinue supporting the City of Princeton via "in-lieu-of" taxes, it appears to me that this General Manager with this Commission Board's support, has no desire to have a cohesive relationship with the city that you do business in. Should there be any future agenda topics that arise, that could be deemed a "conflict of interest" where it would be necessary for me to abstain from voting for both City Council and the PPU Commission, my vote will be much better served on the City Council. With that being said, I have made a decision to stay on as the City Liaison but I will NOT be taking a seat on the Princeton Public Utilities Board. My #1 priority is to stay focused on my City Council seat and the residence of the City of Princeton. I will bring this to the City Council to decide the next steps to fill this open seat. Thank you, Councilor Jenny Gerold City of Princeton

Schumacher thanked Gerold for wanting to work together with the PUC. We will advertise this open seat that ends on 12-31-2020. Barbian says it is up to the Council on what process they would like to follow.

Zimmer stated that he is aware that there are council members and even mayors that serve on boards and commissions. He feels the issue was that the application process was not opened for the general public to apply. It is okay to have a council member on the commission, but feels we should open that application process to others to apply. Edmonds said he concurs with Zimmer that the open seat be advertised.

Schumacher suggested allowing applications until the June 11th meeting and the Council could make an appointment then.

J Gerold would like to have a deadline of May 28th, the Council can interview the applicants at the June 4th Study session and make an appointment then, or at the next meeting on June 11th. Brad, go out to advertise, deadline may 28th, June 4th interview, can appoint then or at June 11th meeting.

EDMONDS MOVED TO HAVE STAFF STARTED THE PROCESS IMMEDIATELY WITH A DEADLINE OF MAY 11, WITH AN APPOINTMENT AT THE MAY 14TH MEETING, ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE 2:3, EDMONDS AND ZIMMER IN FAVOR, SCHUMACHER, J GEROLD REYNOLDS OPPOSED, THE MOTION FAILED.

J GEROLD MOVED TO ADVRETISE THE OPENING IMMEDIATELY, WITH A MAY 28TH DEADLINE, THEY CAN BE REVIEWED AND INTERVIWED AT THE JUNE 4TH STUDY SESSION AND APPOINTED THEN, OR AT THE JUNE 11TH REGULAR MEETING. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE 3:2, J GEROLD, REYNOLDS AND SCHUMACHER IN FAVOR, ZIMMER AND EDMONDS OPPOSED. THE MOTION CARRIED

- B.** Planning Commission Minutes from March 16, 2020
- C.** Airport Board Minutes from February 3, 2020
- D.** Airport Board Minutes from March 2, 2020
- E.** Fire Board Minutes from March 3, 2020

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution 20-32 calling for a public hearing to vacate a portion of Golf Club Road

Barbian advised that the Golf Course is requesting a portion of Golf Club Road to be vacated for their brewery plans. This resolution is to call for a public hearing.

J GEROLD MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 20-32 CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO VACATE A PORTION FOR GOLF CLUB ROAD. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Not acquiring land for Cul-de-sac on 33rd and 82nd Ave project

Barbian reported that the City of Princeton and Township have executed the Joint Powers Agreement establishing the basis for the reconstruction of 33rd and 82nd. In the Joint Powers Agreement, the estimated costs have been identified through the bid that has been awarded.

Within the project a cul-de-sac was included at the east end of 33rd Street. Associated with the cul-de-sac the City is to acquire the necessary land. Should the land easement not be acquired the cul-de-sac would not be built or billed to the city.

The Princeton School District has indicated that they do not wish to consider providing the land if it will result in any additional cost being assessed to the School for the project.

The total estimated cost of the cul-de-sac is 31,333.50. In the Cost Allocation exhibit the cost is split with a half allocated to the Township and half the City. The Council has discussed assessing at least a portion of the 15,666.75 to the School District. At the Public Hearing held for the project I had suggested the City consider covering the estimated legal and administrative cost about 4K plus about 7K toward the cul-de-sac.

Analysis:

There seems to be a gap combined with a lack of interest for the cul-de-sac. It is difficult to find a rational and beneficiaries of the cul-de-sac.

Direction from the City Council on what to do about acquiring an easement is requested. Should staff proceed to acquire an easement?

Reynolds said he would like to see a cul-de-sac there as it drives large trucks and it is safer. B Gerold agreed with Reynolds and said it would be optimum, but with the unknown future development, a hammerhead ending would work for now. If a development did occur, an intersection or cul-de-sac could be put in at that time.

Toven added that a motion is not needed, a consensus is suitable. The consensus of the Council was that land for a cul-de-sac would not be acquired at this time.

B. Award 2020 Sealcoating project bids

Staff advertised for Sealcoating bids with a deadline of 11am on Monday, April 20, 2020.

The Bid was advertised on our Website, in the Finance and Commerce Magazine and the Union Eagle.

Only two bids were received.

Allied Blacktop 10503 89 th Ave. N. Maple Grove MN 55369 763-425-0575 Contact: Peter Capistrant Email: pete@alliedblacktopmn.com	\$.82 per square yard
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Pearson Brothers Office Manager -Missy Hallich 11079 Lamont Ave NE Hanover, MN 55341 Office: 763-391-6622	\$.83 per square yard
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Staff recommends a motion to approve the 2020 Sealcoating Bid of \$.82 per yard from Allied Blacktop Inc.

Edmonds stated he spoke with the one of the newest Board members of Princeton Township in regard to 33rd street, west of County road 4. B Gerold said some of that road is ours and some is theirs. If that road were to be seal coated, he would want it to be a joint venture with the Township. He would want to speak to their road maintenance supervisor.

EDMONDS MOVED TO AWARD THE SEALCOAT PROJECT TO ALLIED FOR \$.82 PER SQUARE YARD. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Airport Taxiway Independent Fee Estimate

Barbian advised that KLJ is finalizing the grant application for the Taxiway Reconstruction project. Part of the grant process requires an independent fee estimate to be performed when engineering fees exceed \$100,000. The cost of the independent fee estimate is reimbursable in the grant. KLJ recommends that the City of Princeton proceed with the IFE.

EDMONDS MOVED TO PROCEED WITH THE INDEPENDENT FEE ESTIMATE. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

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 \$151,207.71 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 81034 TO 81101 FOR A TOTAL OF 264,711.33. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MISCELLANEOUS

Lights on – city of Princeton

Zimmer reported Princeton participated the other night by lighting up the sports fields to honor the situation we are going through right now. It seemed to be well received. He has to say it was a very somber moment, standing in the press box seeing the bare fields. Many in the community drove by, while staying in their vehicles. He is glad the City participated.

Schumacher wanted to recommend that the City Council continue using their 2020 seniors' signs in the upcoming meetings through May.

**** CLOSED SESSION **** Land purchase

J GEROLD MOVED TO CLOSE THE SESSION AT 8:55PM, REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION

EDMONDS MOVED TO RE-OPENED THE SESSION AT 9:53, REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION

Toven reported that most of the terms of the purchase have been agreed upon, but there is one small item that the Council is working through. The Council has provided direction to staff and there is hope to have a final agreement at the next meeting.

Schumacher stated that he invited Ellie Pomerleau and he has asked her to provide her speech to the City Clerk to put her statement in the minutes, and pass that along to Hennagir at the paper as well.

Hillesheim added a quick update that she is meeting with some of the Downtown Business owners tomorrow and hopes to have a good update at the net meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business:

J GEROLD MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:00PM. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

ATTEST:

Shawna Jenkins Tadych
City Clerk

Brad Schumacher, Mayor