

**MINUTES OF A STUDY SESSION OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2021, 2021 4:30 P.M.**

1. Call To Order / Roll Call

Mayor Thom Walker called the meeting to order. Council members present were Vicki Hallin, Jenny Gerold, Jules Zimmer and Jeff Reynolds. Staff present, Finance Director Tracy Peters, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Community Development Manager Stephanie Hillesheim, Police Chief Todd Frederick, Wastewater Plant Manager Chris Klinghagen, Fire Chief Ron Lawrence, and Clerk Shawna Jenkins. Absent was Liquor Store Manager Nancy Campbell

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Elect Acting Mayor for 2022

REYNOLDS NOMINATED J GEROLD TO BE ACTING MAYOR FOR 2022.

HALLIN NOMINATED ZIMMER TO BE ACTING MAYOR FOR 2022

J Gerold said she would be honored to give it a try. Zimmer responded that if it is important to J Gerold, he is okay with her being the acting mayor for 2022

ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION FOR J GEROLD TO BE THE ACTING MAYOR FOR 2022.
VOTE 4:0:1. REYNOLDS, ZIMMER, WALKER AND HALLIN IN FAVOR, J GEROLD ABSTAINED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

4. Review Board and Commission Applicants

The City Council reviewed and discussed the applicants for each Board and Commission.

Airport Advisory Board – 1 open position, 3-year term (2023)

John Sautter
Jack Edmonds
Sharon Sandberg

J Gerold would like to appoint Jack Edmonds to the airport board. It would be nice to have someone that lives in the city and pays City taxes be involved.

Walker stated he really likes Sharon Sandberg, but with her business, he feels it could get tricky sometimes.

The Council consensus was for Jack Edmonds and John Sautter to be appointed to the Airport Board.

EDA - 1 open position, 6-year term (2027)

Sharon Sandberg

The Council consensus was for Sharon Sandberg to be appointed to the EDA.

Housing and Redevelopment Authority - 1 open position, 5-year term (2026)

Park Board – 3 open positions, 3-year term (2024)

Aaron Gruber

The Council consensus was for Aaron Gruber to be appointed to the Park Board.

Planning Commission – 1 Open position, 3-year term (2025)

Andrea Gerrard

Jon George

Jack Edmonds

Walker stated that he likes that Jon George applied to the Planning Commission. J Gerold agreed. Zimmer said he would be an asset.

Reynolds said that all 3 applicants would be a good choice, and would like to see Andrea Gerrard continue to serve on the Commission.

The Council consensus was for Jon George to be appointed to the Planning Commission.

Public Utilities Commission - 1 open position, 3-year term (2024)

Dan Erickson

Carrie Peterson

Zimmer said he has been at a number of PUC meetings and Erickson has shown a lot of knowledge and wants to keep the rates down. He sees no reason why he should not be appointed for another term.

Hallin agreed and said Erickson does not seem to be over-reactive and will research things if he does not know the answer.

Walker added that he spoke to Erickson after the discussion of the PUC looking into expanding their service territory into the Industrial Park. He understands that Erickson may not always make decisions that the City Council would prefer.

J Gerold has concerns with some of those decisions made, especially that regarding the PILOT. It has been said that we would like to see new faces on the Boards and Commissions for fresh eyes.

Reynolds would like to advocate for Carrie Peterson.

Hallin and Zimmer would like to see Erickson appointed for another term.

J Gerold and Reynolds would like to see Carrie Peterson appointed.

Reynolds would ideally like to see the PUC be a 5-person Board.

J Gerold added that this is an opportunity to make some changes and have some fresh eyes.

Zimmer mentioned that Erickson has told him that putting the PILOT back in place at some point is not out of the question.

Hallin added that Erickson and the other PUC commissioners have dealt with some very difficult times in the last few years.

The Council consensus was to appoint Carrie Peterson to the PUC.

Cable Commission - 1 position, no term

Staff will provide a memo in the next packet with the Council consensus for appointments to be made at the January 13th meeting.

5. Closed Session – Sale and Purchase of Real Estate

Walker announced that this agenda item for this meeting is to discuss and consider terms of an offer to purchase real estate as well as selling real estate.

This portion of the properly noticed meeting of the Princeton City Council will be closed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes under the real estate sales or purchase exception to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law, pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05 Subd 3(a)(3).

The need for confidentiality outweighs the purposes served by the open-meeting law in this case based on the following:

Confidentiality is necessary to protect the City's negotiating strength and interests as to real estate negotiations.

- The purpose of the closed meeting is not to make a decision behind closed-doors, but instead is to determine what actions are appropriate with respect to the real estate negotiations.
- The only business to be discussed in this portion of the meeting are the real estate negotiations, and what action, if any, should be taken.

I will now entertain a motion to close this portion of the meeting.

HALLIN MOVED TO CLOSE THE MEETING AT 5:04PM. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Council will now go into a closed session. The time is 5:04PM

Only the officials and consultants of the Council who reasonably require access to this data may be in attendance at any portion of the meeting for this agenda item.

The minutes of this portion of the meeting should reflect only that a meeting was held with its date, time and location; who was present at the meeting; and the purpose of the meeting.

Members of the Council, I will now ask our City Administrator to begin our discussion on this matter.

Members of the Council, following the completion of our business, we will now adjourn into open session, and I will entertain a motion to adjourn the closed portion of the meeting and go back into open session.

HALLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING AND GO BACK INTO OPEN SESSION AT 5:49PM. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Adjournment, there being no further business:

J GEROLD MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:50 PM. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

ATTEST:

Shawna Jenkins Tadych
City Clerk

Thom Walker,
Mayor