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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Mayor Walker and Councilors  
FROM: M McPherson, City Administrator  
SUBJECT: **Bi-Weekly Administrator's Report**  
DATE: February 7, 2023

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I have the following observations and information to share from the last update:

### **Airport**

The Joint Planning Board to amend the airport zoning ordinance met on February 13. Members of the JPB include: Kathy Stoeckel and Dave Persing from Princeton Township and Troy Minske (Airport Board) and Eldon Johnson (Planning Commission) for the City. The meeting was organizational in nature; Mr. Persing will be Chair and also to review the amendment and process. A public hearing on the amendment will be held March 13 at 6:00 pm. The counties and townships will receive a copy of the ordinance with their public hearing notice.

### **Development**

Community Development Planner Marquardt and I met with Eldon Johnson and Scott Moeller on Friday, February 10 to discuss their residential project (86 homes) on the north end of town. They are still negotiating items with the School Board.

The plat for our land swap/right of way acquisition agreement with Butch Drews is scheduled for review by the Planning Commission on February 27. A variance request accompanies it due to the short depth of the lots. He intends to construct duplexes on each of the two lots.

Community Development Planner Marquardt is working with various departments to update the website and information that is provided there.

### **Finance**

Accountants Hodge and Hoheisel, Technology Services Manager Yost and I met with representatives from Smith-Schafer on February 16 to discuss internal controls as part of the audit. February 23 we meet with Abdo to discuss audit preparation tasks. Field work for the audit will occur in April.

Moody's released another credit rating report February 9. The City's rating did not change from A1.

We received the first lodging tax payments.

### **Infrastructure**

Staff is reviewing the preliminary draft of the feasibility study for the CSAH/7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North joint project with Mille Lacs County. City staff will discuss it at the monthly engineering meeting of February 27<sup>th</sup> and then move it to the County. Once we have agreement on the study components, cost estimates, cost-sharing, and funding sources will be inserted into a cooperative agreement.

I have drafted a preliminary request to Congressman Stauber's office for funding for the radio simulcast system. This request will be considered with other community-based projects for inclusion in his funding request for FY24 appropriations. We are working cooperatively with County Administrator Hayes and Sheriff Burton on drafting and submitting the request.

### **Light Up Princeton**

I assisted Public Works and Chamber of Commerce staff as well as volunteers from the Soccer team to remove part of Light Up Princeton. At least those parts that weren't frozen to the ground or covered in snow. A second workday has been tentatively scheduled for March 18; hopefully by then there will be little or no snow at Riverside Park.

### **Legislative Monitoring**

I am monitoring, with help from CGMC and LMC various legislative topics. Of interest:

- *Bill to Address Public Safety PTSD (House File 1234, Senate File 1959)*; requires treatment for a mental injury prior to filing for a duty disability, keeps employees on payroll while receiving treatment, financial support to backfill positions, fully reimburses employers for health insurance provide the employer has implemented mental health injury prevention measures, requires preservice training to prepare staff for stressful events and to teach coping mechanisms. Senate file added, referred to the Public Safety and Finance Committee in the House, Labor Committee in the Senate since the February 7 update.
- *Earned Sick and Safe Time (House File 19, Senate File 34)*; requires employers to provide on hour of paid sick and safe time for every 30 hours worked. This covers all employees including part-time and seasonal, working 80 hours in a year for the employer. Passed the House vote on February 16 and referred to the Senate on February 20 where it was referred to the Finance Committee since the February 7 update.
- *Creation of Street Improvement Districts (House File 1183, Senate File 1627)*; allows cities to create street improvement districts for the purpose of construction and reconstruction of streets and related components (minus underground utilities). Cities would be allowed to impose a street improvement fee after providing public notice and holding a public hearing. Senate file added, referred to Transportation Finance and Policy in the House, State and Local Government and Veterans in the Senate since the February update.
- *Competing Bonding Bills*; two bills have been unveiled, a General Obligation bonding bill totaling \$1.5 billion and a "cash only" bill of \$392 million.
- *Local Government Aid Increase (House File 1377, Senate File 1828)*; increases the appropriation for local government aid and modifies the calculation for distribution. The House referred it to the Taxes Committee and the Chair referred it to the Property Tax Division. The Senate has referred it to the Taxes Committee.

If you receive the CGMC Brief, there is a list of other "bills to watch" listed in the February 16 edition.

### **Miscellaneous Correspondence**

- Thank you from the family of Mark Karnowski
- Central Minnesota Audubon Society re "Lights out Program" for migratory birds.

- Mille Lacs County Historical Society January 2023 Newsletter

### **Community Participation**

I will again be participating as a judge for the Princeton Ambassador program. Events occur in April and May, with coronation on June 4. As of now, there are six Ambassador candidates.

### **Upcoming Meeting/Event Reminders**

- February 24 – closing for the Charlie-Bravo project, 3 pm at Home Security Abstract and Title, Princeton Office.