

**MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2023, 4:30 P.M.**

1. Call To Order / Roll Call

Mayor Thom Walker called the meeting to order. Councilors present were, Victoria Hallin, Jenny Gerold, Jack Edmonds, and Jeff Reynolds. Staff present, Administrator Michele McPherson, Clerk Shawna Jenkins, It Manager Ed Yost, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Police Chief Todd Frederick, and Fire Chief Ron Lawrence. Absent was Community Development – Planner Stacy Marquardt, Attorney Damien Toven, Wastewater Plant Manager Chris Klinghagen, Liquor Store Manager Dylan Donner, and PPU General Manager Keith Butcher.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. 21st Ave Closure – Public Safety Day Event

The “parking area” utilized by the public for Public Safety Day is currently under construction. Equipment and other displays will need to be placed on 21st Ave. Staff wanted to inform the City Council that 21st Avenue will need to be closed to support the Public Safety Day activities.

4. Building Inspector Service Provider Interviews

Staff and the Council interviewed four Building Inspection firms. Metro West, Mid MN Inspections, MNSPECT and Rum River Consulting.

The council discussed the difference in fees quoted and how some are all online permitting systems, which the City is not quite ready for. One firm was a “one man” show, and another while they had several staff members, they seemed to be very busy, leading to concerns about getting inspections done in a timely manner.

While Metro West has been the city’s building inspector for a very long time, J Gerold would like to see better customer service. They recently had their roof replaced and the inspector asked for photos, but never did a roof inspection.

J Gerold added that if we went with Metro West Inspections, we could possibly request a different inspector since Lynn Paulson plans on retiring soon. The City could also request more thorough inspections than just photos on some projects.

Frederick added that whatever firm the council decides to go with, he would like to add a safety code inspection piece if an option, as staff has had to deal with those on a few occasions. Also, if we move to require rental licenses, they will need occasional inspections.

5. Police Department School Resource Officers and Legislative Update

Frederick reported that the MN Legislature made a very big change that affects School Resource Officers. It limits school district employees, including School Resource Officers, from placing students into certain holds. This change greatly limits how officers can intervene in dangerous situations and can open them up to criminal charges of lawsuits. Many police departments are pulling their School Resource Officers due to this change.

For now, the previous School Resource Officers have been moved to patrol positions, however they do stop in at the school a couple times a day. Many people throughout the state are requesting a special session to clarify this language.

6. Adjournment

J GEROLD MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:14 PM. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

ATTEST:

Shawna Jenkins Tadych
City Clerk

Thom Walker,
Mayor