

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON  
MARCH 14, 2023, 7:00 P.M.**

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**1. Call to Order - Roll Call**

Mayor Thom Walker called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilors present were Vicki Hallin, Jenny Gerold, Jack Edmonds and Jeff Reynolds. Others present: City Administrator Michele McPherson, Community Developer Planner Stacy Marquardt, Clerk Shawna Jenkins, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Police Chief Todd Frederick, Wastewater Plant Manager Chris Klinghagen, Technology Services Manager Ed Yost, Attorney Damien Toven, Liquor Store Manager Dylan Donner and Public Utility Manager Keith Butcher.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Agenda Additions / Deletions**

McPherson stated that 7.3 – VFW Auxiliary Wine and Spirits Grant Request can be removed as the Liquor Store Manager requested a basket from a vendor, which was provided.

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**4. Consent Agenda**

- 4.1. Approval of City Council Minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 22, 2024
- 4.2. Public Works Supervisor Tim Jensen Step Increase effective 3-18-24.
- 4.3. Approve Resignation of Public Works Seasonal Employee Bob Blackwelder effective March 14
- 4.4. Approve Angela Steichen as Riverside Camp Host for 2024
- 4.5. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of February 26th, 2024
  - 4.5.1. PC Resolution 17-01 CUP Amendment for Princeton Speedway (Informational)
- 4.6. Approve Farmers Market Site Use Agreement
- 4.7. Approve Task Order 10 AWOS Design
- 4.8. Approve Res 24-13 Authorizing Signatures - MNDOT Grant Application re: AWOS Project
- 4.9. Public Interest Representative for the ECRDC
- 4.10. Accept Troy Minske's Resignation from the Airport Advisory Board & Authorize Recruitment

J GEROLD MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**5. Open Forum; public comment on items not on the agenda. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. The Council will not discuss legal matters.**

Fire Captain Brian Mellgren spoke about the overbilling to Spencer Brook and Wyanett Township for Fire Protection Services. In his calculations, Spencer Brook was overbilled \$10,500 and Wyanett \$13,084.

Ken Murray, Wyanett Township stated that the 2023 billing has been corrected, but they are still waiting for 2022 to be calculated and corrected. He would like this to be on every agenda until it is resolved.

Walker responded that the City knows there was an issue with billing, and they are working on it.

Lisa Wudtke lives in Baldwin Township. She said anything she needs is provided for by the County, State or Township. She does not want the city to annex any of Baldwin Township.

Carla Mertz from Baldwin Township has a rural property and holds events on their farm. She does not support annexation.

Jeff Holm from Baldwin Township stated he asked a question on Facebook that was not answered. He wanted to know if the City was granted annexation, would they extend water and sewer to his property and how much that would cost.

Walker responded that Princeton's first position is that we object to Baldwin's Incorporation.

## **6. Old Business**

### **6.1. Approve Board and Commission Code of Conduct**

McPherson stated that the only change to the previous code of conduct that was reviewed is the additional language regarding the use of social media.

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE BOARD AND COMMISSION CODE OF CONDUCT. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1. Approve Resolution 24-12 Twice New Clothing Donation to Age-Friendly**

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-12. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **7.2. Princeton Community Ed Requests**

#### **7.2.1. Wine and Spirits Grant Request for use of Mark Park Fields**

Brian Julson from Princeton Community Ed spoke about the Twins Community Fund Clinic that they have scheduled for this year. It is free for children ages six to twelve. They are holding it Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5pm in conjunction with the Rum River Festival. They are asking for a Wine and Spirits Grant request to cover the cost of the Special Event Permit fee of \$50, and the field usage for that afternoon.

Staff estimates the amount would total approximately \$250 for the Special Event Permit fee plus the usage of the fields.

J GEROLD MOVED TO APPROVE COMMUNITY EDUCATIONS WINE AND SPIRITS GRANT REQUEST. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **7.2.2. Special Event Request - Twins Baseball Clinic**

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE COMMUNITY EDUCATION'S SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST FOR A TWIN'S BASEBALL CLINIC TO BE HELD AT MARK PARK ON FRIDAY JUNE 7TH. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### ~~**7.3. VFW Auxiliary Wine and Spirits Grant Request for Murder Mystery Dinner**~~

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### **7.4. Approve Resolution 24-10 - Interim Use Permit for Chickens at 402 4th Ave S**

Marquardt advised that Jackson Wheeler and Josie Anderson have submitted an Interim Use Permit application for the raising and keeping of chickens on their property located at 402 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South in the R-2, Residential District.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. There were no concerns from those that received the public hearing notice. The proposal meets the Ordinance criteria, as reviewed by the Planning Commission, who recommended approval of the Interim Use Permit subject to the conditions.

**Analysis:** The applicant would like one female chicken each of the following breeds: Black Cooper Maran, a Lavender or a Buff Orpington, and a Blue Laced Red Wyandotte.

The applicant has provided plans for the coop with an enclosed run area. The applicant has researched what is an appropriate size of run for four chickens and what they intend to build would work well for the chickens.

The housing and keeping of chickens in the R-2 District requires an Interim Use Permit. Chapter VI.BB lists the review criteria for the housing of chickens:

No person shall own, keep, harbor, or have custody of any live chickens without first obtaining an Interim Use Permit in writing from the City, in accordance with the provisions of Section IV.6 of the Zoning Ordinance and subject to the following conditions:

- a. The keeping of any poultry besides chickens is prohibited.  
Comment: This shall be a condition of approval.
- b. Roosters are prohibited.  
Comment: This shall be a condition of approval.
- c. No more than four (4) chickens shall be housed or kept on any one residential lot in any area of the city zoned R-1, R-2, or R-3.  
Comment: The applicant is requesting to have 4 (four) chickens and understands this is the allowed limits and will be a condition of approval.
- d. Chickens shall only be allowed on single family home lots.  
Comment: This condition is met, still will be a condition of approval. Outdoor slaughtering of chickens in city limits is prohibited.  
Comment: This shall be a condition of approval.
- e. Chicken fighting shall not be allowed within city limits.  
Comment: This shall be a condition of approval.
- f. Leg banding of all chickens is required. The bands must identify the owner's name, address, and telephone number.  
Comment: This shall be a condition of approval.
- g. Chickens shall not be housed in a residential house or an attached or detached garage.  
Comment: The applicant has provided a layout of a chicken coop and run area that will be installed, still will be a condition of approval.
- h. A separate coop is required to house the chickens. Coops must be constructed and maintained to meet the following minimum standards:
  - 1) Located in the side or rear yard.  
Comment: The applicant provided two options for the coop placement. The first option

is the back southeast corner of the lot, but this area does not have as much room. The applicant would prefer the second option where the photo shows the swimming pool on the back northeast corner of the lot and the pool would be removed and the chicken coop would be put in that spot.

- 2) Meet the accessory structure setback requirements.

Comment: The chicken coop would be installed inside the six-foot wood fencing area.

- 3) Construction shall be adequate to prevent access by rodents.

Comment: The design of the chicken coop will prevent access by rodents.

- i. A run or exercise yard is required to be provided and must be enclosed by a fence.

Comment: The coop design has an enclosed fence and the coop itself is inside a six-foot property fence.

- j. All premises on which chickens are kept or maintained shall be kept clean from filth, garbage, and any substances which attract rodents. The coop and its surroundings must be cleaned frequently enough to control odor. Manure shall not be allowed to accumulate in a way that causes an unsanitary condition or causes odors detectible on another property.

Comment: This shall be a condition of approval.

- k. All food shall be stored in an enclosed, rodent proof container.

Comment: This shall be a condition of approval.

- l. Dead chickens shall be disposed of according to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health rules, which require chicken carcasses to be disposed of as soon as possible after death, usually within 48 to 72 hours. Legal forms of chicken carcass disposal include offsite burial, offsite incineration or rendering, or offsite composting.

Comment: This shall be a condition of approval.

### **Findings of Fact:**

When reviewing an application for an interim use, the City shall base its judgment on the following factors and any other factors it may deem appropriate for the specific property. The interim use may be granted if:

1. The proposed use is an interim use listed in the district in which the application is being made.

Comment: The keeping of chickens is an Interim Use in the R-2 District.

2. The date or event that will terminate the use can be identified with certainty and continued.

Comment: The Planning Commission shall recommend to the City Council a date or event that will terminate the keeping of the chickens. Staff would recommend that the keeping of chickens terminate when the current property owners sell the property. The Interim Use Permit can also be reviewed upon complaints.

3. The interim use does not result in adverse effects on the public health, safety and welfare nor does it create additional pollution potential for ground and surface waters.

Comment: If the listed conditions are met, the interim use does not appear that it will result in adverse effects on the public health, safety, and welfare, nor does it create additional pollution potential.

4. Permission of the use will not impose additional costs on the public if it is necessary for the public to take the property in the future.

Comment: It does not appear the use will impose additional costs on the public if it is necessary for the public to take the property in the future.

**Longevity, Termination and Expiration:**

1. Any interim use may be terminated by a change in this chapter or violations of any of the conditions imposed after the original or subsequent hearings held by the city.
2. Any interim use permit issued by the city automatically expires upon the termination date noted in the permit or upon change of the ownership of the property, whichever comes first.

**Conclusion / Recommendation:**

Based on the findings, the proposed Interim Use appears to meet the standards for the keeping of chickens and the general review standards for an Interim Use Permit, as listed in the Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission recommends approval of Resolution #24-10 Interim Use Permit for Jackson Wheeler and Josie Anderson to allow the raising and keeping of chickens at their property located at 402 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, subject to the following conditions (as listed in the Ordinance):

1. The keeping of any poultry besides chickens is prohibited.
2. Roosters are prohibited.
3. No more than four (4) chickens shall be housed.
4. Outdoor slaughtering is prohibited.
5. Chicken fighting shall not be allowed.
6. Leg banding of all chickens is required. The bands must identify the owner's name, address, and telephone number.
7. A separate coop is required to house the chickens. Coops must be constructed and maintained to meet the following minimum standards:
  - a) Located in the side or rear yard.
  - b) Meeting the accessory structure setback requirements.
  - c) Construction shall be adequate to prevent access by rodents.
  - d) If the coop is 120 SF or larger, a building permit is required.
8. A run or exercise yard is required to be provided and must be enclosed by a fence.
9. All premises on which chickens are kept or maintained shall be kept clean from filth, garbage, and any substances which attract rodents. The coop and its surroundings must be cleaned frequently enough to control odor. Manure shall not be allowed to accumulate in a way that causes an unsanitary condition or causes odors detectible on another property.
10. All food shall be stored in an enclosed, rodent proof container.
11. Dead chickens shall be disposed of according to the Minnesota Board of Animal Health rules, which require chicken carcasses to be disposed of as soon as possible after death, usually within 48 to 72 hours. Legal forms of chicken carcass disposal include offsite burial, offsite incineration, or rendering, or offsite composting.
12. The keeping of chickens terminate when the current property owners sell the property.

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-10 APPROVING THE INTERIM USE PERMIT FOR CHICKENS AT 402 4TH AVE SOUTH. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**7.5. Approve Resolution 24-11 - Lot Split at 706 9th St N**

Marquardt reported that Shawn and Tonya Williams applied for a Lot Split at the property site located at 706 9<sup>th</sup> Street North. The legal description for the site is Lot 10, Lot 11, and Lot 12, Block 60, Original Townsite. The City approved the vacation of the “not constructed” alley that is east of the three lots and north of Lot 10 on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The approximate 8 feet have been added to the lots. Princeton Public Utilities will maintain the proper utility easements and Rights-of-Way for electric lines in the vacated alley.

The property was owned by Mille Lacs County and hosted a building for Mille Lacs County Public Works Department. The site will be cleared of the building and any other structure on the lots. This will be a condition for the approval of the Lot Split.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and the appropriate notifications were sent to properties 350 feet from the site. There were no concerns from those that received the public hearing notice for the Lot Split application.

**Proposal:**

The applicant would like to build single family homes on each lot. The lots are standard size lots that will accommodate a single-family home. Setbacks shall be met and that will be a condition of the Lot Split.

**Zoning:**

The site is located in the R-2, Residential District. The Zoning Ordinance states for a permitted use in the R-2 District.

For a single-family dwelling, the minimum finished ground level main floor area of the various kinds of dwellings shall be as follows:

- a. one story with basement – 1000 square feet one story without basement – 1100 square feet.
- b. multi-story (bi-level) dwellings – 850 square feet.

For a two-family dwelling, the minimum finished floor area for one and two-bedroom units shall be 800 square feet per unit. Each additional bedroom beyond two shall require an additional minimum of 120 square feet of finished floor area.

<b>R-2, Residential Zoning District</b>	<b>One Family</b>
A. Lot area minimum square feet	9,800
B. Lot width minimum feet <sup>1</sup>	66
C. Maximum lot coverage	40%
D. Front yard minimum setback (living area) <sup>2</sup>	25
E. Front yard minimum setback (front porch) <sup>3</sup>	20
F. Side yard minimum setback (living area)	10
G. Side yard minimum setback (garage) <sup>4</sup>	5

H. Street side yard minimum setback	20
I. Rear yard minimum setback <sup>5</sup>	30
J. Rear yard minimum alley setback <sup>11</sup>	5
	10
K. Maximum height	30

**Access:**

The applicant proposes to build each single-family home where the access for each of the three lots will be from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. This proposes a challenge with the addressing of the lots.

Currently Lot 12 has the building on it that faces 9<sup>th</sup> Street North and is addressed as 706 9<sup>th</sup> Street North. The applicant will be removing this building and will be placing the new single-family home where the front of the home faces 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. The address will be changed to 900 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. The home built on Lot 9 is addressed as 904 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North and without changing this address, the two other lots will be addressed as follows:

**Proposed Single Family Home Address:**

- Lot 10 – 902 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- Lot 11- 900 ½ 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
- Lot 12 – 900 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North

**Water / Sewer:**

Lot 12 has a current connection from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. The other two lots will need to have individual connections and those service lines may not cross other separate lots. If a curb stop is located in the driveway, sidewalk, or other paved surface, a mini-manhole is required. Water meter locations must follow service rule guidelines. The lots that do not have existing service being used; the WAC/SAC fees will be applied for at the time of building permits. The applicant must contact Princeton Public Utilities and Princeton Public Works for the individual service connection to each site.

**Electrical:**

All electrical distribution and service lines are to be placed underground. Service lines may not cross other separate lots. Electric meter locations must follow service rule guidelines. The applicant must contact Princeton Public Utilities for the power to the individual sites. Princeton Public Utilities will maintain the proper utility easements and Right-of-Way for electric lines in the vacated alley.

**Conclusion / Recommendation:**

The proposed Lot Split appears to meet the standards for the Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission approved the Lot Split and forward the recommendation of approval for #24-11 Resolution of the Lot Split at 706 9<sup>th</sup> Street North, PID #24-040-2630, subject to the following conditions:

1. The R-2, Residential Zoning Ordinance requirements be followed.
2. The applicant will need to contact Princeton Public Utilities and Public Works for individual connection for each home for water and sewer hookup.
3. The applicant will need to contact Princeton Public Utilities on power to the individual connection to each home.
4. The applicant will obtain a Digging Permit from the City prior to digging in the street.

5. The applicant will obtain an approved demo permit and MPCA form from the city prior to the removal of the building on the site.
6. Where the water curb stop is in a paved area (usually driveway) there needs to be a mini- manhole.
7. Separate building permits and SAC/WAC permits must be applied for and approved prior to construction of the individual residential homes.
8. When work on the site begins, the work shall be carried on with minimum of interference with traffic.
9. The Developer shall replace in-kind or better all streets, curbs, and sidewalks disturbed by this operation.
10. The front and side yards to the rear of the dwellings need to be sod. The rear of the dwelling and garage should have sod or seeded with a minimum of four (4) inches of topsoil. If due to weather conditions, the landscaping is inadvisable, a temporary Certificate of Occupancy may be issued subject to an escrow deposit to assure compliance by no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.
11. The driveway to each dwelling needs to be hard surfaced with either asphalt or concrete. If due to weather conditions, the driveway is not complete, a temporary Certificate of Occupancy may be issued subject to an escrow deposit to assure compliance by no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year.
12. The R-2 Zoning District Ordinance requirements for setbacks be followed.
13. The Princeton Public Utilities will maintain the proper utility easement/Right-of-Way for their electric lines in the vacated alley.
14. The applicant will have a Deed prepared and full property taxes paid to go with the Lot Split Resolution for recording at Mille Lacs County.

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE LOT SPLIT AT 706 9TH STREET NORTH WITH THE CONDITIONS AS DISCUSSED. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**7.6. Ordinance 850 - Amendment to Chapter 355 - Sale of Cannabinoid Products - FIRST READING**

Marquardt advised that staff recently had a request for a Tobacco and Cannabis license under the new ordinance. The ordinance currently requires 1000 feet to a school or commercial daycare and 500 feet from a drug rehabilitation facility. Unless there is specific language on how this measurement is taken it defers to the closest point from property line to property line for distance.

Our business district includes several malls so measuring from a property line poses some issues when the business itself could be in the middle of the mall and not near a property line. When we licensed Prince Tobacco, now understanding how this measurement works since our ordinance does not specify, we issued the permit with it not meeting the setback requirements to a daycare. This was discovered when Mellow Fellow applied, and staff applied the distance requirement and found neither would meet that requirement.



When the city adopted this ordinance, we were the first in the area to have something in place. Now that other Cities have adopted cannabis ordinances, we were able to compare ours with the surrounding Cities. We found that only one of them even had a distance requirement to a daycare, most did not have this requirement. The state does not have any distance requirements, these are only at the local level.

As staff we understand how important it is to have a boundary for our daycares but feel that we could lessen it to a more reasonable number. All measurements are taken as the crow flies, which we all know is not how you walk to a business. For example, two businesses that are 500 feet from property line to property line as the crow flies would be more like 1000 feet in walking distance from door to door. So, the number can be slightly arbitrary in nature.

Staff's thought is to make it as accurate as possible and define how it will be measured. We propose to measure from the main door of the establishment to the main door of the establishment. This has a bit more meaning as property lines are a trivial imaginary line and your actual business may not be anywhere near that boundary. We also propose to still keep the daycares in our ordinance but lessen the distance to 300 feet so the two malls could accommodate these businesses but still have a buffer in place.

Staff's conclusion is that after researching other ordinances and with the layout of our downtown malls we feel these changes are justified. Staff recommends that the City Council approve the amendments to the cannabis ordinance to read:

*Any person whose primary place of business will be within 1000 feet of a school, 300 feet to a commercial daycare, or 500 feet from a drug rehabilitation facility. This distance requirement is reciprocal in nature and is measured from the main door of each establishment.*

J GEROLD MOVED TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 850 AMENDING CHAPTER 355. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE 4:1, J GEROLD, EDMONDS, WALKER AND REYNOLDS IN FAVOR, HALLIN OPPOSED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

#### **7.7. Bill List**

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 14, 2024, CHECK REGISTER CONTAINING CHECKS 87944 TO 88031, AND EFT ITEMS 31420241 AND 2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$369,557.83, AND THE PAYROLL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS AS NOTED ON THE PAY PERIOD 5 TRANSMITTAL REGISTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$89,912.73 AND PAY PERIOD 5 CHECK REGISTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$154,388.31. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **7.8. City Administrator Bi-Weekly Report**

McPherson had the following observations and information to share from the last update on February 21, 2024.

##### **Airport**

Troy Minske submitted his resignation effective immediately. Assistance in recruiting a new member is requested.

Work continues on the ALP and parcel release request.

Word on the tree clearing grant is yet to be received from MNDOT. This would be in the area on the west side of the airport within the second AWOS site.

### **Baldwin Township**

The hearing for Baldwin Township's incorporation request was held March 7 and 8. It was an interesting process but very long. Attorneys Bourgeois and Toven, Public Works Director Gerold, City Clerk Tadych, Community Development Planner Marquardt, Mayor Walker and I testified on the afternoon of March 8. Councilors Gerold and Edmonds were in attendance as well.

The next steps in the process are:

1. Written public comments may be submitted up to 4:30pm on March 22, 2024.
2. The Township's final brief and response to written comment and the City's legal analysis regarding our request to be granted Township lands are due to the OAH on April 19, 2024.
3. The judge will then review the record, analyze the statutory requirements, and issue an order within 90 days of April 19, 2024. The order is appealable to the District Court.

The city has posted the order as directed on the website as it was written. The Township chose to editorialize the order in their posting of it. As staff receives calls, there are directed to the website for information.

### **Building Inspections**

The transition to MNSPECT continues to go well. Almost all the handouts have been posted to the website. Training on MNSPECT's software will occur on March 14, 2024. While the City is not using the software for the bulk of the permitting process, staff will be able to enter over the counter permits and check on the status of other permits to answer inquiries from applicants.

### **Development**

Staff met with a national builder interested in entering the Princeton market on February 21. They are in potential discussions with a local landowner and information regarding the School District's parcel was provided to them. They indicated this week that they are completing a market analysis for the area to aid in their decision-making process.

Staff have completed some preliminary TIF runs for the developer interested in the 40-acre parcel in Princeton Township near the airport. There will be meeting with them in the next week to review the numbers.

### **Fire**

The transition team, minus the former Chief, continues to meet weekly. Topics that have been discussed since February 21 include:

- Training needs: focus on continuing education, limiting budget impacts, and sources.
- Personal Protective Equipment: vendor provided training on March 5, measured for replacement suspenders; the old equipment is being sorted and that which can be donated will be sent to places like Russia.
- Vehicle maintenance: new rear tires on Tender 9 and Ladder 1, monitor the cut tire on Tender 4, light replacement on Engine 5
- Budget: process, grants (Fire Act, ECE have been submitted), seeking donations
- Facebook: determining who has access to and a process for approving posts.

The meetings have been productive.

Two applications for the Chief's position have been received to date.

### **Great Northern Trail**

There was a GNT Partners meeting on February 23. The agenda included updates on grants received (for a segment in Zimmerman), a future grant application (trailhead in Zimmerman), and the

logo for the GNT. Staff from the City of Elk River re-worked the logo that had been completed by the master plan consultant; two options were provided and input from the partners given.

### **Legislature**

LMC and CGMC are tracking issues of local interest that are moving through the legislature. Two specific items to note:

1. Changes to the School Resource Officer legislation adopted in 2023. The bill is making its way through the legislature. Hopefully, it will be passed and signed in the next week or so.
2. Legislation that would pre-empt local zoning controls in order to promote additional affordable housing. There have been modifications to the legislation, but it continues to be problematic for cities in outstate Minnesota.

McPherson continues to participate in the monthly call with Congressman Emmer's office. Staff will submit the funding request to his office for the simulcast equipment; a request has been submitted to Congressman Stauber's office.

### **Relocation Program**

Emergency Manager Lawrence and McPherson met with HSEM staff on February 22 to discuss the REP program given the recent staff changes. They are also working on procedural changes at their end regarding training of station leaders and volunteers that will aid in making roles and responsibilities much clearer. There may be a change to the Middle School from the High School, so they toured the city after the meeting.

### **School Resource Officers**

Police Chief Frederick and McPherson met with Superintendent Barton and Director of Business Services Czech on February 29 to discuss a new contract for the School Resource Officers. McPherson drafted a new, comprehensive contract based on the previous contract for their review. Barton assured staff that the SRO program is important to the district staff, and they don't intend to cut the program, but make modifications to ensure it is meeting today's needs of the district.

Staff will be meeting again to discuss the billing amount for the first portion of the 2024 school year (September-December 2023).

### **Upcoming Meetings and Reminders:**

- March 15 – I will be out of the office but available by phone if needed.
- March 19 – Special Election for House District 27B
- March 26 – Fabulous Finds Ribbon Cutting; 9:45 am. 1900 1st Street Suite 1

### **7.9. Closed Session: Discuss Sale of Real Estate**

Walker stated that this agenda item for this meeting is to discuss and consider terms of an offer to purchase or sell 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 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.

J GEROLD MOVED TO CLOSE THE MEETING AT 7:46PM. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Council will now go into closed session. The time is 7:46pm

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.

HALLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE CLOSED SESSION AT 8:02PM. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The council discussed whether or not to accept a verbal offer on a piece of property that the city has for sale. Staff will draft a purchase agreement and bring it back for Council approval.

## 8. Committee Reports

Edmonds provided an update on the PUC meeting and invited everyone to a SMMPA event on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Walker and McPherson provided a brief update on the Airport and said there will be a meet and greet with the FAA in April. The Airport CIP is getting lighter.

## 9. Adjournment

HALLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:06PM. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted,

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shawna Jenkins Tadych  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Thom Walker,  
Mayor