

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON JUNE 8, 2021 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Thom Walker called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council members present were Vicki Hallin, Jenny Gerold, Jules Zimmer and Jeff Reynolds. Others present: Administrator Michele McPherson, Finance Director Tracy Peters, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Police Chief Todd Frederick, Community Development Manager Stephanie Hillesheim, Liquor Store Manager Nancy Campbell, Fire Chief Ron Lawrence, Wastewater Plant Manager Chris Klinghagen, Clerk Shawna Jenkins, and Attorney Damien Toven

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

J Gerold had a question on the Bill List, so she asked if that could be removed that from the Consent Agenda and approved separately.

- A. City Council Minutes of May 27, 2021
- B. City Council Minutes of June 3, 2021
- C. Mille Lacs County Agricultural Society Temporary Intoxicating Liquor License for July 4th, 2021 – noon to 10pm
- D. Finance Director Tracy Peters Advance from Probationary to Regular Employment
- E. Approve Splash Park Part Time Employees
 - 1. Ella Anderson
 - 2. Gabrielle Labarre
 - 3. Charlotte Mattson
 - 4. Beck Wogen
 - 5. Hannah Otte
 - 6. Natalie Lawrence
 - 7. Alexandra Bailey
 - 8. Abigail Wyganoski
- F. Approve Hiring of Communications and recreation intern Alex Bailey
- G. Approve Hiring of PT Seasonal Public Works Riley Leonard
- H. Approve Hiring of PT Seasonal Public Works Angela Ulrich
- I. Splash Park Free days 2021
- J. ~~Bill List~~

HALLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE A SEPARATE LINE ITEM UNDER NEW BUSINESS. J GEROLD SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OPEN FORUM

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Consent Agenda - Bill List

J Gerold asked what the petty cash check for \$1800 was for. Jenkins explained it was Civic Center Deposit refund cash and money to get the Splash Park opened.

J GEROLD APPROVED THE BILL LIST. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A. Advance Fire Recruits to Probationary Status

Lawrence advised that he is looking for council approval to move the four new recruits to probationary status. All four have completed the necessary tests to move forward and are excited to become members of the Princeton Fire and Rescue Dept. The new recruits will be on probation for about a year while they complete their firefighter training.

The new recruits are:

Jeremiah Reedy
Dan Ryden
Ryan Signore
Eric Weiss

Walker asked how many firefighters the Department is. Lawrence responded that he has 40 firefighters, and has an additional application on hold.

J GEROLD MOVED TO APPROVE ADVANCE THE FOLLOWING RECRUITS TO PROBATIONARY STATUS:

JEREMY REEDY, DAN RYDEN, RYAN SIGNORE AND ERIC WEISS.
ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Open Forum Contact during meeting -

Zimmer just stated that he received a message from Rick Schwartz saying he tried to get on the open forum, but wasn't able to get through. He had a complaint about trucks exiting off Highway 169 onto Rum River Drive using their jake brakes. B Gerold responded that there are signs on Highway 95 coming into town, but have not had any complaints on Highway 169 and Rum River Drive. However, the sound can really travel depending on the weather and barometric pressure. They will monitor the area.

B. Authorize Purchase of Turnout gear for Fire Recruits

Lawrence advised that he is asking for approval to purchase new turnout gear for the new recruits. This was budgeted in the C.I.P. for this year. We have \$15,000.00 in the budget and he believes that we should still be able to come in at the budgeted amount. OSHA requires all firefighters to have turnout gear that is less than 10 years old. Currently they are operating in turnout gear that is older than 10 years.

ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF FIVE NEW TURNOUT GEAR SETS. HALLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Change in Covid-19 Policy – Masking and Maximum Occupancy

McPherson reported that the Emergency Management team has stated that after the recent changes with the Governor's orders for mask requirements and the changes handed out from the CDC and MDH. It is the recommendation from the Emergency Management team that we change to the following:

All City operated buildings be allowed to go mask free if you have received the Covid vaccination. We ask that you continue to wear a mask if you have not received the Covid vaccination. New signs should be posted at the following city buildings:

- Public Works
- Civic Center
- Library
- City Hall
- Liquor Store
- Treatment Plant
- Police and Fire Safety Building
- A/D Building at the Airport

There have not been any changes as of now for the social distancing requirements and we recommend that we still limit the City Council meetings to 15 people. We also recommend that temperatures and health questions continue to be completed on all participants who attend the meetings.

The Emergency Management team will continue to monitor the recommendation from the State and Federal governments and make recommendations to the council.

D. City Administrator Bi-Weekly Report

McPherson provided her report:

Airport

The bid opening for the taxiway project is scheduled for June 10 at 2 pm in the Council Chambers.

Staff and KLJ have been working together on the hangar requests as well as preparing for a discussion regarding the AWOS relocation. A joint meeting of the City Council and the Airport Advisory Board is scheduled for July 1; topics for discussion will be the AWOS relocation, the airport CIP, and other topics relating to hangar and general airport development.

Development Projects

Princeton Business Park (formerly known as the industrial park)

A draft of the preliminary plat should be ready for staff review fairly soon.

Staff met with another prospective tenant of the business park on May 26.

Staff will be meeting with WSB to see if there would be some economies of scale to bid the 21st Avenue and Business Park infrastructure projects together. Obviously, they would be bid as two

separate projects, but pricing might be better if they are bid at the same time. Staff is still seeking sources of funding for the business park infrastructure.

Residential Development

We continue to compile information and meet with the local residential developer. Of interest is determining the means to pay for infrastructure extensions. We have another meeting scheduled this week and will be discussing funding options with Northland Securities.

Staff is meeting with representatives of the Sherburne Lakes development on June 8 to discuss infrastructure costs and funding.

Finance

This week is the rescheduled audit. Since the auditors are working remotely, Finance Director Peters is having to respond to e-mail requests for information like backup for checks, copies of contracts and grant agreements, etc. Remote auditing is not recommended.

Public Safety

Staff is meeting with Mille Lacs County on June 8 to continue discussion on the simulcast radio project. The grant application is due July 1; we will be reviewing the process with the grant writer.

Staff has an inquiry into the League of Minnesota Cities regarding whether they have an agreement regarding the issue that can be modified to meet the needs of the City and County.

Infrastructure

Staff will be meeting with the County Engineer on June 9 to discuss the County Road 4 reconstruction project scheduled for 2022. Staff from the PUC will be in attendance to discuss the water and electrical components

Upcoming Meeting/Event Reminders

- June 10 – Rum River Festival Parade
- June 11 – Music in the Park 3 to 7 pm, Riverside Park
- July 1 – Study Session, Joint Meeting with the Airport Advisory Board
- July 4 – Free Family Fun at the Fairgrounds, Noon to 10 pm, Fireworks following

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business:

HALLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:19PM. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

ATTEST:

Shawna Jenkins Tadych
City Clerk

Thom Walker,
Mayor