

The City Council of the City of Princeton, Iowa met for a Regular meeting on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Kernan presided. Roll Call: Present: Stutting, Woomert, Phares, McDonough, Wolfe. Motion to approve consent agenda was made by Stutting and seconded by McDonough. Roll Call: All Ayes. MC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Betsy Wolfe shared that she was appreciative of the actions the Clerks have made in regard to the house and sidewalk at 227 Filmore and requested an update when any other information is available.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Kernan started by sharing his monthly railroad update stating that they are currently repairing the tracks and will be repairing the bridge at Clay St and Highway 67 soon. Mayor Kernan also stated that residents are seeing an increase in water bills and this decision did not come easy to the city but was decided after a professional rate study was completed in November. The changed ordinance was published in the North Scott Press and went through three separate readings in December, January, and February in hopes that residents would reach out to get more information on the change. Council urged residents to get more involved. Residents are welcome to call city hall and request a council packet and residents are urged to read the council agendas that are posted on the bulletin board at the Post Office, Blackhawk Bank (Princeton Branch), and the front door at City Hall to stay informed about matters being discussed within the city.

PENDING BUSINESS:

Council McDonough shared that after research done by Clerk Tweed and Public Works Foreman Rindler that the City does not fit the criteria for the Iowa Finance Authority Water Infrastructure grant opportunity and asked the council members to get serious on their decisions for what projects come first when using the allocated ARPA dollars. McDonough shared that Princeton was awarded \$140, 976 and these monies can be used on an abundance of things such as; water and sewer infrastructure, trails, street repairs and many other projects within the city. Deputy Clerk Matzen and Public Works Foreman Rindler shared that the work they have been doing has resulted in 176 replaced meters from June 2021 – April 2022 and they have just ordered 150 more to make sure every house is complete. Matzen shared that the amount of “no reads” from February 23, 2022, to March 23, 2022, dropped from 110 to 37, but this number will not be at 0 until all meters are completely replaced.

NEW BUSINESS:

Planning and Zoning chair Tim Ruser shared that after information received regarding the water meter issues the Planning and Zoning committee have been looking at ways to amend the Water Meter Ordinance. Ruser also shared that the Renter Occupancy Ordinance will be completed next month for council to read. Ruser shared that the Land Use Plan needs completed before the Comprehensive Plan and the Planning and Zoning committee is looking at those as well.

RESOLUTION:

A motion was made by Wolfe to approve RESOLUTION 2022-05, A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED “CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON, IOWA” and was seconded by Woomert. Roll Call: All Ayes. MC

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Public Safety – Council Wolfe shared the Police Chief will be retiring and his last shift will be May 31, 2022. Council Phares and Wolfe shared some ideas they had and stated they have not decided which route they will be going yet. Fire Chief Woomert shared the Princeton Fire Department completed a controlled burn with the Iowa DNR, they burned over 1,000 acres. Woomert shared the DNR complimented them on their wild land gear, and she was very proud to hear that compliment. Woomert also shared that the fire department has done a lot of controlled training burns in the Princeton area not accompanied by the Iowa DNR.

Park Board – Council Wolfe shared the park board was set to have their Easter Egg Hunt on April 16 at 10 a.m. and that the Garden Tractor show had a set date of July 9, 2022. Park Board member Betsy Wolfe shared the park board plans to keep moving forward with the dog park and she was currently looking at grants for the park board to use for funding. Council McDonough shared that Wolfe should reach out to Purina in Clinton.

Trails – Council McDonough shared the Dog Scamper was a great turn out. 82 people registered and \$3,465 was raised. McDonough Shared that Governor Reynolds will be allocating \$100,000,000 to life and tourism for Iowa and that these grants might be a perfect opportunity for Princeton trails.

Water & Sewer – Council Woomert and Foreman Rindler shared information regarding the sewer blower bids, each blower would cost about \$2,500 new and roughly \$500-600 to repair. Rindler also shared information on the new water tower and well that has been having issues, a faulty pressure switch was the route of the problem and a new one was ordered and will be here in 12-14 weeks. Council McDonough shared that the offer from Iowa American Water was still on the table, and we can bring them back here at any time. Mayor Kernan stated that he was offended by the offer received. Council Wolfe shared that she thinks they need to revisit and see if there is a better offer after all the work put into the systems by Princeton City staff but that we needed to keep progressing and revisit in a year. Council Stutting stated she was very offended as well and asked why we were moving backwards and urged council to just move on. Council Woomert stated she was offended by the offer, and she was almost positive it was the same offer given 10-12 years ago and asked the clerk to look back in previous minutes to get the exact number and that she didn’t think the 5 council members could decide for the entire community. Attorney Pastrnak interrupted council and stated that it is their job to make the decision for all the community members, that is what they were elected for. Council Phares shared that his vote is not always based on his own beliefs but what he hears from most of the community when he is out because he was elected to be their voice.

Community Center – Chair Kevin Stutting started by asking council for approval to purchase a “smart lock” for the community center doors to cut down on the key traffic this way each renter has their own key code that will expire when their rental time expires and will eliminate the key pick up hassle, as everyone is not able make it to city hall in time to receive a key. Council agreed this would be a great purchase.

Summerfest – Council Phares shared they had to reschedule the can clean up date and they are excited to announce Community Visioning submitted a grant to replace the existing “can cage” to make it more appealing to the eye. Phares shared the Golf Cart Poker Run is scheduled for May 7, 2022. Mayor Kernan asked Phares to please include the Bar owners in the next SummerFest meeting.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Tom Pitts, owner of The Pitts Stop stated they are opening the basement bar in 2-3 weeks and that they have been working on a lot of improvements. Pitts asked if the city had any requirements from him because he would like to work with the city and not work against the city. City officials stated they would get him copies of the ordinances. With nothing further to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Approved:

Kevin Kernan, Mayor

Attest:

Kisa Tweed, City Clerk/Treasurer