

REGULAR MEETING ~ CITY COUNCIL
PRINCETON, MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
June 13, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Common Council for the City of Princeton, Mercer County, West Virginia was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 800 Bee Street, Princeton, WV, on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Mayor David Graham; Vice Mayor Marshall Lytton; Council Members Dewey Russell, James Hill, Joseph Allen and James Hawkins; City Manager Michael Webb, City Attorney Paul Cassell and City Clerk Kenneth Clay. Absent was Council Member Jacqueline Rucker. A quorum was constituted thereby.

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Joe Allen offered the invocation by offering thanks for the day and opportunity to gather as City Council on behalf of the citizens of Princeton; offered a prayer of comfort for the family of Anthony Dishner upon his passing and for the family of Teddy Petrey; prayed for the families of victims of the recent tragic shooting and for our leaders to find a resolution to the gun violence in the country; offered a prayer for Ukraine as it suffers under Russian atrocities; prayed for Nicholas County Deputy Sheriff Tom Baker's family upon his death in the line of duty and for Deputy Ellison who was wounded; prayed for protection of all first responders and for all City employees; and prayed for divine guidance in the conduct of the Council meeting.

Council Member Dewey Russell led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor David Graham called the meeting to order.

III. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no proclamation or presentations.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT

Eddie Powell, 104 Douglas Street –Eddie Powell addressed City Council by remarking that Douglas Street is a one-way street two hours a day during the opening and closing of Mercer School, while the remainder of the day it is two-way. Mr. Powell continued by asserting these times and differences in access to Douglas Street are confusing and, as a result, he requested Douglas Street be converted permanently to a one way street, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Andrew Roselle, 502 Hale Avenue – Mr. Roselle, who recently moved to Princeton, advised that the country and world currently are experiencing a series of crises that have resulted in shortages of many goods, materials and services. Therefore, he requested that the City relax the enforcement of its ordinances, codes and zoning requirements during this time until the citizens are better able to accomplish the work to bring and/or maintain their properties to within

compliance of the codes. Mr. Roselle added that he was sure the residents of the City would be grateful for such consideration.

Mayor Graham thanked Mr. Powell and Mr. Roselle for their comments to City Council.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Without correction or addition, Mayor Graham committed the following item on the Consent Agenda to the record:

Minutes of the May 16, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting.

VI. POLICY AGENDA

A. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PUBLIC WORKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Acting Chairman Dewey Russell reported the Public Works and Recreation Committee of Princeton City Council met on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, with the following to report out to Council:

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works Monthly Report for May – City Manager Mike Webb had presented the following report on behalf of the Public Works Department:

Storm Water Work – Public Works repaired storm drainage piping on Front Street.

Stafford Drive Drainage – Public Works is in the process of cleaning and deepening, by six to eight inches, the drainage ditch along Stafford Drive.

Curbs – In May, workers began the project to paint curbs throughout the City.

Service Requests – Public Works completed 33 service requests for citizens in May.

Continuing and upcoming tasks in June include the following:

- Fabricate 37 power drops to service new ornament locations in the City;
- Started pothole patching on some of the worst locations and will be developing a plan to do much more in the coming weeks;
- Assist in the coordination of repairing and painting the caboose and install a mail slot in

the front door of the Railroad Museum as soon as the manpower is freed up. Will try to advertise this work again to see if the work can be hired out;

- Need to install guard posts at the McKinley Bus Shelter and considering the installation of concrete filled PVC pipe for these bollards;
- Will be watering flower baskets and boxes 2 to 3 times a week as needed this summer;
- Need to add grouting to the rip-rap stone in the storm drain behind the Towers, as well as fabricate a grate to cover the opening.

Region I Rogers Street Storm Water Project Drawdown #1 – Brenton Pannell from Region I Planning and Development Council explained that drawdown #1 for the Rogers Street Storm Water Project, in the amount of \$44,251.21, was to pay invoices processed for engineering services, including design work and obtaining easements from the WVDOH and the private property owners involved.

Acting Chairman Dewey Russell reported that the Public Works and Recreation Committee approved and recommended to City Council the Region I Rogers Street Storm Water Project Drawdown #1 in the amount of \$44,251.21, **and he so moved.**

James Hill duly seconded the motion.

Mr. Hill explained that the design work had been performed by E. L Robinson Engineering.

On voting, the motion carried unanimously.

PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Assistant Park and Recreation Director Malinda Edwards presented the following report:

City Pool Update – The status of the Princeton City Pool renovations remains relatively the same as reported in May. The Rec Department still awaits the delivery of the new waterslide pump, which is scheduled to arrive within the next two weeks.

Renosys Corporation still has not arrived on site to begin work on the installation of the new pool liners and RecDeck. They notified Ms. McCabe this week they will attempt to get a crew here by the week of June 27th. The job is expected to take approximately 21 working days.

The Park Board met on May 26th and had a lengthy discussion on whether it would be feasible to still try to open the pool when the job is completed. Staffing the facility at this point of the

summer would also be very difficult. The Board has scheduled a special meeting for June 23rd to discuss the facility again.

City Park Trash Receptacles – The 10 City Park trash receptacles have all been installed and really are a nice addition to the park. The Recreation Department is planning to seek a donation in order to purchase more of the receptacles to cover other areas of the park.

Program Report – The department’s three spring basketball leagues will be finishing up their post season tournaments at the end of this week. Then the department will begin organizing the four summer leagues: Mini Basketball, Minor Basketball, JV Volleyball and Varsity Volleyball. Currently, there are 148 boys and girls signed up for basketball, and 79 signed up for volleyball. Basketball numbers are down approximately 20 kids from the summer of 2021, but still higher than the years prior to the Covid shut down. Registration has been extended through this week.

The Summer Day Camp Program began on June 6th. The program started off great, averaging 17 kids each day. In addition, the department anticipates numerous more campers to begin attending next week.

City Park Events – On Saturday, July 2nd, Greg Bishop will be hosting another disc golf tournament in City Park.

On June 9th a new music event was held on the stage in City Park. One of the newest Park Board Members, Floyd Ricks, organized this event. It is called “Thursday Night Summer Jam” and is scheduled to occur from 6 to 9 p.m. The public is invited to bring a lawn chair or blanket and come out to this new event that potentially will become a weekly or biweekly event.

James Hill commented that the one this past Thursday was a very good event.

Joseph Allen commended Mr. Floyd Ricks for his work on the venue in painting the stage and working with the City Manager to obtain a new sound system.

Mayor Graham and the City Council Members commended Mr. Ricks for his efforts.

RAILROAD MUSEUM

British V8 Car Club – Railroad Museum Director Pat Smith reported there 118 people at the Museum that day, including members of the V8 British Car Club, all of which toured the Railroad Museum. She noted the role of Michael Crews in organizing the event, which was held at both the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and the Railroad Museum, where they were fed a meal courtesy of the Museum.

Caboose - Pat Smith thanked Jackie Phillips, Eric Gatchell and the Public Works Department for the work on the railroad caboose at the Museum, as well as the yellow maintenance cars.

West Virginia Day - Mrs. Smith noted that the Museum's West Virginia Day Celebration would be held that coming Saturday, June 18th and noted that all the museums in the City, except the McNutt House, would be open at the same time to receive tours transported to their locations by the trolley. There also will be musical bands, historic re-enactors, food vendors, the oldest and newest city fire trucks and the Police Department K-9 units. She invited everyone to come out this coming Saturday to the WV Day Celebration.

Dewey Russell commented that the V8 Car Club was a great event and included people from all over the county, as well as Canada.

Mrs. Smith added that the latest edition of the Princetonopoly Game was finished and features a retro board of former businesses from Princeton's heyday. She also reported that *Princeton Times* reporter Jeff Harvey had written a great article the Princetonopoly Game and West Virginia Day.

PRINCETON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Council Member Dewey Russell presented the Princeton Public Library's report on behalf of Interim Library Director Laura Buchanan, as follows:

The Friends of the Princeton Public Library Book Sale will be held on June 11th, 13th and 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and July 11th and 12th.

For the month of May, the Library had 4,173 items circulate, this includes our digital circulations. This is an increase of 682 from last year. Our children's fiction saw an increase of 305 checkouts.

We hosted 22 in person programs with 315 participants. Tea for Tots had 39 attendees, the Pokemon Trading Cards Exchange followed with 22 participants, the book signing with Jim Owens had 20 participants, and the Four Seasons Artist All Together Arts Week program had 19 attendees.

Our Summer Reading Program has now begun and will run through July with the raffle drawing taking place on August 3rd. We have various prizes for both children and adults which are on display at the Library. Some prizes were donated by businesses within the Athens and Princeton area, and some were purchased with funds designated for Summer Reading.

Some of our upcoming programs are as follow:

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On June 14th at 5 pm we will host **Vision Board** where participants can make a collage board that will help with motivation in achieving goals.

Mr. Steve Cline will join us at 3 pm on June 15th to talk about **Recycling in Mercer County**. Light refreshments will be served at this program.

On June 16th at 12 pm children are invited to make **Jellyfish Sun Catchers** so that you can think about the beach even on a rainy day.

Chess Club with Noah Stafford will be held on June 21st at 6 pm. All ages and levels of experience are welcome.

The Library is hosting an **Opportunity Open House** on June 24th from 12 pm to 2 pm. This is an opportunity for the community to learn about some of the free tutorial programs we offer.

Adults can transform a seashell into a jewelry dish on June 27th at 4:30 during the **Petite Shell Jewelry Dish Program**.

Due to popular demand, we will host another **Pokemon Trading Card Exchange** on June 28th at 4pm.

July 7th at 6 pm **Lab Squad** will teach children how to turn fruit juice into noodles that you can eat. This is a registered event, so call or stop by the Library to sign up.

There are many more special and monthly programs hosted at the Library. You can view the calendar of events on our webpage, through Facebook, or stop by the Library to pick up a calendar.

Some of our regular monthly programs include Cinema Society, which this month they will be discussing the Tom Hanks film, *Cast Away* (**June 9th at 5 pm**).

Lego Club challenges creators to build their mini-figure a wild vacation this month (June 13th at 6 pm).

Two book clubs – Banned Book Club (Lush, June 23rd at 5 pm) and Life Lesson Book Club (*Bunny Lake Is Missing*, June 22 at 11 am).

PPL Ten Art Club on June 30th at 5 pm (papier mache).

And every Friday at 11 am is our preschool story time and craft.

2. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chairman James Hill reported the Public Safety Committee of Princeton City Council met on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, immediately following the Public Works and Recreation Committee, with the following to report out to Council:

CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

Director Ty Smith presented the Code Enforcement Department's monthly report for May:

COMPUTATION OF COMPLAINTS

Summary – Property Maintenance

Initial Complaints	377
Cumulative Complaints to Date -	44,172

AREA PATROL SUMMARY

Demolition/Renovation Program Status

Condemnations/Unsafe in Process	60
Demolitions in Appeals Process	0
Demolitions w/Notice to Proceed	1
Total Demolitions to Date	680

Animal Control & Property Maintenance

Complaints this Month	139
Animal Control Cases	38
Impounded (dogs 1; cats 20)	21
Adopted	3
Euthanized	17
Reclaimed	1
Rescued	0
Property Maintenance Cases	101

Building Inspection (Zoning, PM, RC)

Building Permits (Res. 16; Com. 13)	29
Total Inspections	33
Total Project Costs	\$714,715.67
Permit Fees	\$3,711.00

Flood Plain Management & Property Maintenance

Flood Plain Determinations:	
Flood Plain Permits Issued	5
Property Maintenance Case Total	123

Elevation Certificates Registered 30

Zoning Official

Certificate of Occupancy Applications: 4

Certificate of Occupancy Inspections: 3

Zoning Board Cases: 1

Rental Compliance

Revenue in May \$710; Total to Date: \$18,332.95

Registered Units May: 18 Renewals; Houses 2; Apts. 4; Total Units 6

Cumulative Total: Houses 355; Apts. 559; Other 74; Total 988

Vacant Buildings

Registered Vacant Buildings May: Registered 1; Total 36.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Matt Mould presented the following report:

Call Report – Chief Mould reported that during the month of May the Fire Department responded to 122 emergency calls, as follow:

- 5 fire calls (3 structure fires)
- 13 motor vehicle accidents/rescues, and
- 78 emergency medical calls

Inspections – The Fire Department also performed one fire inspection, four certificates of occupancy and issued 16 outdoor burning permits.

Training – The Chief also reported the Fire Department devoted 463 man hours to training during the month.

Vehicle Accident Billing – The Fire Department received \$250 from insurance billing in May with the total for insurance billing since July 1, 2021, totaling \$11,466.

Training Center Project – Containers for the live-burn building and the SCBA Maze have been placed in position with WV Recycle providing the equipment and operator to accomplish the job.

Other Updates:

- Waiting for preliminary approval on two submissions for the WV Department of

Homeland Security Grant Program;

- Spring Maintenance Program was completed in May, including vehicle and equipment maintenance and cleaning, as well as hydrant testing;
- All aerial and ground ladders are scheduled on June 9th and 10th for required annual inspections and testing;
- Firefighter John Franklin completed his first year probationary period on May 12th;
- Probationary Firefighter Tyler submitted his resignation on May 4th;
- A hiring test is scheduled for July 30th;
- A Lieutenant's promotional exam is scheduled for August 29th with two firefighters eligible to take the exam; and
- Former firefighter Nathan Hensley submitted a petition for reinstatement with the Fire Department.

Councilman James Hill described employment as a Firefighter with the Princeton Fire Department as an ideal job for young people.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief T. A. Gray presented the following report of May 2022:

- During the month of May, Princeton officers responded to 494 offenses, made 37 arrests and issued 77 citations;
- Officer Carroll resigned for the Princeton Police Department and Officer Maguire began his duties law enforcement duties with the WV Department of Natural Resources Police;
- Applications are begin accepted once again for the position of Patrolman with testing scheduled on Saturday, July 16th. Also, the Police Department currently is performing background checks on two applicants and preparing to convene the Review Board next week or the following week to conduct hiring interviews; and
- Lieutenant Weatherly and Lieutenant Combs will be attending in-service training at the Clarksburg FBI Fingerprint Lab with classes on the 15th, which will complete everyone's

- in-service training hours for the fiscal year. However, the Chief added that offices must also qualify with handguns by the end of June.

Chief Gray thanked Mr. Powell for coming to the Council meeting and requesting the City to make Douglas Street one-way street permanently. Chief Gray added that his request would be considered.

New Police Cruisers – Chief Gray continued by reporting that the Police Department had purchased two, new cruisers out of Indiana which would be picked up next week. The Chief thanked the City Manager Mike Webb and Finance Director Brian Conner for their efforts in making this acquisition possible.

Councilman James Hill commented that the Princeton Street Fair was well covered by the Police Department’s Bicycle Patrol.

Councilman Dewey Russell also noted he had heard many positive comments on the Police Saturday. Then on Sunday, thanks to the Public Works Department, you couldn’t tell an event had been held downtown.

Mayor David Graham concurred by remarking that all the City’s workers made a good impression during the Street Fair Saturday.

3. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Chairman Marshall Lytton reported the Finance and Administration Committee of Princeton City Council met on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, immediately following the Public Safety Committee, with the following to report out to Council for action or as information:

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

May 2022, Financial Report – Finance Director Brian Conner reported that as of the end of May, the eleventh month of FY2022, the actual revenues collected stood at 88.85% of the budgeted amount, while actual appropriations were expended at a rate of 83.21%, as compared to the budget projections of 91.67% forecast for the end of May. Total funds available for City operations at the end of May were **\$3,356,513**.

Noteworthy Expenditures for May:

Fredeking-Stafford	\$50,565
P&R Monthly Allocation	\$12,708

Mr. Lytton reported the Finance and Administration Committee approved and recommended the

May 2022, Financial Report to City Council, **and he so moved.**

Joseph Allen duly seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

FY2022 General Fund Budget Revision #5 – Finance Director Brian Conner next presented and recommended to the Finance and Administration Committee Revision #5 to the FY2022 General Fund Budget and explained that Revision #5 is required to appropriate additional expected revenue and to correct fund balance for unappropriated funds in the prior year. Furthermore, the additional funds need to be allocated to funds showing an actual deficit in the accounting records. This revision will increase our estimated revenues by **\$259,500** brings the FY2022 General Fund Budget to **\$9,079,691**.

Expenditure adjustments include the following:

- Increase in Economic Development Fund to better represent needed monies for the new department.
- Appropriate for under budgeted Salaries and Wages (multiple funds).
- Appropriate for under budgeted Fuel and Utility Expense (multiple funds).
- Appropriate for capital equipment transfer for matching grant funds.
- Appropriate for Fire Department Training Center repairs.
- Increase in Fairs and Festivals to represent Cruise-In, WV Day & July 4th expenditures.
- Appropriate for additional CIC expenses for needed repairs to Dick Copeland Town Square.

Total revisions increase the General Fund Expenditures Budget by **\$259,500** bringing the total General Fund appropriations for FY2022 to **\$9,097,691**, thereby creating a balanced budget.

Chairman Lytton reported the Finance and Administration approved and recommended the FY2022 General Fund Budget Revision #5 to City Council, **and he so moved.**

James Hawkins duly seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Public Employees Insurance Agency – Mr. Lytton continued by reporting the Finance and Administration Committee approved and recommended to City Council, **and he so moved**, delaying until January 1, 2023, the implementation of the 80% to 20% ratio of PEIA insurance rate policy, by which the City of Princeton will pay 80% of the cost of PEIA health insurance premiums, while City employees will pay 20% of said cost. The policy to fully vest employees

after ten year of continuous employment remains unchanged.

James Hill duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Graham explained this six months' delay gives the City's department heads time to get their departments fully staffed before the new policy goes into effect.

Mr. Hill informed that the insurance premiums for PEIA will be increasing 5% a year for the next three succeeding years.

On voting, the motion carried unanimously.

One-Year New Home Construction Incentive – Mr. Lytton next reported the Finance and Administration Committee approved and recommended to City Council, **and he so moved**, authorization for the City Manager to develop a policy offering a one-year forgiveness of certain City fees on new, residential home construction in the City of Princeton.

James Hawkins duly seconded the motion.

Economic Development Authority Director Samuel Lusk explained that the purpose of this policy, once approved by Council, would encourage new home construction in the residential zones of the City.

On voting, the motion carried unanimously.

Organizational Meeting of City Council – Mr. Lytton reported the Finance and Administration Committee approved and recommended to City Council, **and he so moved**, the convening of a special, recessed meeting of Council on Friday, July 1, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. to organize Council for the 2022-2023 Term.

James Hill duly seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of USDA L.O.C. Forms – The Finance and Administration Committee approved and recommended to City Council, **and Mr. Lytton so moved**, two USDA Letters of Conditions pertaining to grants for the purchase of two police cruisers and a Fire Department utility truck, respectively, and authorizing the City Manager to sign said documents on behalf of City Council.

Dewey Russell duly seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. & O. Tax Incentive Applications – The Finance and Administration Committee approved and recommended to City Council, **and Mr. Lytton so moved**, the following businesses for the one-year, 100 percent B. & O. Tax Incentive for new businesses:

1. Wilcoat, LLC – 702 Mercer Street (Gas Station/Retail) – Rhynell Coatney, Owner;
2. Simply Beautiful – 852 Mercer Street (Salon) – Tracy Farmer, Owner;
3. The Corner Barber Shop – 1239 Princeton Ave. – Cameron Furches, Owner; and
4. Triple V Services, LLC -385 Dogwood Dr. – Lawn Care/Landscaping – Jason Vest and Logan Vest, Owners.

James Hawkins duly seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Intragovernmental Memo of Understanding with U. S. Economic Development

Administration – Mr. Lytton reported the Finance and Administration Committee approved and recommended to City Council, **and he so moved**, an “Intragovernmental Memorandum of Understanding between the Princeton Economic Development Authority and the City of Princeton, West Virginia” regarding the Princeton Economic Development Authority’s application for, and use of, US-EDA grant funding.

Joseph Allen duly seconded the motion.

Princeton Economic Development Authority Director explained this MOU sets out the terms, duties and responsibilities of both the PEDDA and the City of Princeton regarding the use of the grant, should it be awarded, for the PEDDA to retain a Communications & Outreach Coordinator who will be subject to the City of Princeton’s Personnel Guidelines and Procedures.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION

Community Improvement Commission Chairman Sam Lusk reported the CIC did not meet in June, but is scheduled to meet on July 11th at 10:00 a.m. with six façade grant applications carried over from last fiscal year and pending action by the Commission.

B. CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Paul Cassell presented the following ordinances for Council’s consideration:

- 1. Second reading, by title, and public hearing for AN ORDINANCE AMENDING § 1131.06, “COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS/FEE STRUCTURE,” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON, WEST VIRGINIA: FEES.**

Public Hearing

Mayor Graham moved City Council into public hearing at 7:34 p.m. and called for public comments or questions regarding the ordinance.

City Manager Mike Webb explained this ordinance increases the garbage collection fees effective July 1, 2022, from \$18 to \$20 a month; and thereafter, effective on July 1, 2023, to \$22 a month. These increases are necessary to offset the cost of a new garbage truck, he explained.

There being no further comments, Mayor Graham closed the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

MOTION: James Hawkins moved City Council adopt the ordinance.

Dewey Russell duly seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously

- 2. First Reading, by title, for AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE UPDATED WEST VIRGINIA STATE BUILDING CODE, § 87CSR4, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2022.**

MOTION: Dewey Russell moved City Council accept the ordinance on first reading.

James Hawkins duly seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 3. First Reading, by title, of AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REPLACING § 1511 .01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON, WEST VIRGINIA REGARDING THE STATE FIRE CODE.**

Mr. Cassell explained that this ordinance will clean up the old Fire Code by adopting the updated version of the State Fire Code.

MOTION: Joseph Allen moved City Council accept the ordinance on first reading.

James Hill duly seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. CITY MANAGER

City Manager Mike Webb presented the following updates on projects and events occurring around town:

Fire Training Tower – Everything is in place for the Fire Training Tower, including the shipping containers for the tower and the SCBA maze making it ready for use.

High Street Sidewalk – Plans are underway for the construction of a new sidewalk on High Street from top to bottom.

Thorn St. Sidewalk Project – Thorn Street Sidewalk-South Project is in the design phase at this point, but will proceed to construction in the near future.

Straley & N. 8th Street – The City Manager has applied for grants for the construction of sidewalks on both sides of Straley Avenue and N. 8th Street.

Thorn Street Bridge – The Thorn Street Bridge went up in the 1940's but now its replacement is in the design phase and construction period for the new Thorn Street Bridge is scheduled for 2023-2024.

Celebrate Princeton Street Fair – The just concluded Celebrate Princeton Street Fair had an excellent day for the event and was well attended. The City Manager also advised that he had received numerous positive comments about the Fair and the work by the City's employees. The Council Members made a lot of contacts representing the City at their booth.

Thursday Night Music in the Park – There was excellent music being played at the refurbished stage in City Park. People who came out brought folding chairs or spread blankets on the grass to listen to the music. This event was conceived by Park Board Member Floyd Ricks who worked hard to make improvements to this new musical event that will continue throughout the summer.

Mercer Street Rest Area – The legal ad will be published soon to solicit bids for construction of the Mercer Street Rest Area at the corner of Mercer and 8th Streets.

Railroad Caboose – The repairs and painting of the caboose at the Railroad Museum has been completed with Public Works doing a great job.

Princetonopoly – The Retro Princetonopoly Game, featuring businesses from Princeton’s earlier heyday, is being produced at this time and should be available for purchase soon.

Library Outdoor Seating – The Library received a grant from the Community Foundation of the Virginia’s by which they funded the creation of the Library’s new outdoor seating and reading area.

Straley & 7th Sidewalks – The sidewalks on Straley Avenue and 7th Street have been repaired by removing the uneven surfaces making them safer for pedestrians and also look good in the process.

Historic District Murals – A project will be underway soon to paint murals in the Historic District and Greg Puckett is in the process of painting three storefronts there, as well.

New Business on Mercer Street – A new business, Denim & Lace Consignment, has opened on Mercer Street next door to the Police Substation.

Development in the City – The previous Tri-State Printing building on Mercer Street is being developed for a prospective, new business

New Daycare Center – A new daycare center has opened on Stafford Drive.

Trent Street Stormwater – The Trent Street storm water upgrades performed by the Public Works Department are underway and should bring positive results for Trent Street as well as Stafford Drive.

Stafford Dredging – The Public Works Department has been enhancing the storm water drainage along Stafford Drive by dredging the ditch line along the roadway.

USDA Grant LOC – Letters of Conditions on two USDA grants for the purchase of two police cruisers and a utility truck for the Fire Department should be ready for approval in July.

Rogers St. Storm water Project – The contractor s selected for the Rogers Street Storm water Project will meet with City officials and E. L. Robinson Engineering on July 23rd to prepare the way to begin actual work on the project.

Historic District Brick Pavers – Volunteers from the Rotary International painted he brick pavers in the intersection at the Railroad Museum and plan to do more such work.

Von Court Mural – Work to repair the mural on the Von Court building and facing the patio at

the Sophisticated Hound, has been completed.

Fourth of July in Princeton – Events planned for Princeton’s four-day, Fourth of July Celebration beginning Friday, July 1st through the Fourth of July, include a minor league baseball game on Friday, followed by a fireworks display; Saturday in City Park; Water Baseball on Sunday; Jeep Freedom Cruise; Hot Dog Eating Contest, Minor League Baseball, Car Show at Princeton Senior High School, Musical Performances at the Chuck Mathena Center with a Grand Finale Fireworks display after the concert.

Mayor Graham commended the City Manager for putting his Updates’ Report and the Fourth of July celebration together.

D. CITY CLERK

The City Clerk had nothing to report to City Council.

E. HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Director Brian Blankenship reported that he continues to assist the City’s department heads in the hiring of new employees to bring them back to a full staff.

VIII. MEETING RECESSED

Mayor David Graham recessed the June 18, 2022, City Council Meeting at 7:55 p.m. to reconvene on Friday, July 1, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. to organize City Council for the 2022-2023 Term.