

The Prinsburg City Council held a special meeting on December 2, 2022, at 2:00 pm in the Community room. Mayor Roger Ahrenholz called the meeting to order. Present were council members, Greg Bonnema, Mitch Swart Dan Negen and Dalen Folkerts. Also present City Attorney Griffin Leitch, Tim Miller with PLAM and several news outlets.

The purpose of today's meeting is to further address the proposed ordinance Mr. Miller requested the Council to consider at the November 15, 2022 regular meeting. This is not a public hearing and the city council will not be taking comments from the public. The purpose of the meeting is for the city council to discuss the issue.

Prior to the November 15, 2022 meeting, Mr. Miller requested to address the Council concerning the proposed ordinance. Much like the city would do with other citizen requests, we gave him the floor to share his work. Following his presentation, the city did not take any action on the ordinance and did not state that it had any intention to do so. Instead, the city simply listened to Mr. Miller's presentation and tabled any further discussion for a later meeting.

Following the meeting on November 15, 2022, the city was thrust into the spotlight with several news outlets reporting on the proposed ordinance. I believe the spotlight and the overall narrative of those reports surprised the citizens of Prinsburg, especially those who were in attendance at the November 15, 2022 meeting. The city also received a letter from Minnesota Attorney General, Keith Ellison. It is clear from Mr. Ellison's letter that his office takes the position the proposed ordinance is unconstitutional in the state of Minnesota. The Council has not been provided with any case law or legal authority from our city attorney to rebut the Attorney General's position. We do not live in the state of Texas where this ordinance has been approved and are instead subject to the laws of the state of Minnesota. Moving forward with such an ordinance, knowing the position of the Minnesota Attorney General, would subject the city of Prinsburg and its citizens to much scrutiny, and likely significant litigation.

When discussing this proposed ordinance, the Council is not making a determination as to whether each member is pro-life or pro-choice. That is not the issue before the Council. To the contrary, the Council must analyze the request from Mr. Miller and determine whether adoption of such an ordinance is in the city's best interests. Over the last couple weeks/days, we have heard from our citizens on this issue. These have been positive conversations.

At this point, given everything I have just stated, I am asking for a motion to deny the request to consider the abortion ordinance proposed by Mr. Miller at our November 15, 2022 Meeting.

Mitch Swart made the motion to deny the request to consider the abortion Ordinance proposed by Mr Miller at our November 15, 2022 meeting. Greg Bonnema supported this motion. AYES: Roger Ahrenholz, Greg Bonnema, Mitch Swart, Dan Negen and Dalen Folkerts. NAYS: none

Meeting adjourned Motion made by Mitch Swart and Supported by Dan Negen MSP