



CITY OF FREEPORT

125 Main Street E – PO Box 301 – Freeport, MN 56331 – 320-836-2112 – FAX 320-836-2116
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June 24, 2014 - Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 7:00p.m. by Mayor Matt Worms with Councilmembers Ken Goebel, Ron Ritter, Carrie Goebel and Rodney Atkinson present.

Staff in attendance: Clerk-Treasurer Mason Schirmer and Cynthia Smith-Strack (Municipal Development Group).

Residents in attendance: Wendy Atkinson (310 8th St SE), and Vernon Fuchs & Andrea Ramacher (720 1st Ave N)

Others in attendance: Carol Moorman (Melrose Beacon), Kathleen Murphy (Murphy Management Consultants), Melissa Murphy (125th St SW, Melrose), and Lisa Schirmer (St. Martin Resident).

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2014-002 (ZONING CODE UPDATE)

Worms opened the public hearing at 7:01p.m.

K. Goebel said anytime somebody wants to address Council they should come to the podium, state their name and address and limit their comments to 2 minutes. R. Ritter moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion requiring all individuals wanting to address the City Council 1) to do so from the podium; 2) to state their name and address before making any comments; and 3) to limit their comments to 2 minutes. Motion carried 4-0 (R. Atkinson abstained by making no sign).

Smith-Strack said her office received no comments regarding the potential new zoning code.

Worms moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to close the public hearing. Motion carried 4-0 (R. Atkinson abstained by making no sign).

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

M. Murphy said the proposed minutes of the 5/27/14 city council meeting are incorrect and a lot of information was left unsaid. M. Murphy said Clerk-Treasurer Schirmer rudely interrupted and over-talked people.

Worms said minutes are not prepared word-for-word, they are an overview.

W. Atkinson said the proposed minutes of the 5/27/14 city council meeting are incorrect and listed inaccuracies.

APPROVE AGENDA

Schirmer recommended adding Resolution 2014-016 to New Business. Worms said the item would be considered before Closed Session. Ritter moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 4-1 (R. Atkinson abstained by making no sign).

CONSENT AGENDA

Schirmer provided an updated list of claims as well as a correction to the minutes of the 5/27/14 city council meeting. Schirmer said during the 5/27/14 city council meeting, speakers did not state their name or address, so there is plenty of opportunity for error when preparing the minutes. K. Goebel said he would be in favor of rescheduling approval of the 5/27/14 city council meeting minutes until next month, to give Schirmer time to review for errors. K. Goebel moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to approve claims 1450 – 1455 and claims 1466 – 1490 (\$89,991.09). Motion carried 5-0.

REPORTS

Clerk-Treasurer

Schirmer said a memo was provided in the agenda packet. Schirmer asked if the City is interested in vacating the alley by Glen Meyer's residence or the alley along the Renneker property adjacent to County Road 11. K. Goebel said no. Council agreed not to vacate any alleys at this time.

Schirmer asked if the City wants to continue maintaining main street garbage cans, since they have been a source of complaints. Council agreed to continue to maintain the garbage cans at this time.

Public Works Director

Worms said a memo was provided in the agenda packet. K. Goebel said the ponds looked full recently. Worms said heavy rains impacted pond levels.

OLD BUSINESS

Presentation by Murphy Management Consultants Regarding Pay Plan Development

K. Murphy presented the City's previous pay plan from 2007 and examples of five different pay plan options then asked Council which type of plan they want.

K. Goebel said he would like a plan that keeps the City competitive, yet it is affordable. K. Goebel asked if the City could accidentally price itself out-of the market. K. Murphy said it's up to the City to determine what it means to the City when an employee has another year of service.

Worms asked if the City's current pay plan complies with pay equity law. Schirmer said the City does not have a pay plan, just a yearly percentage increase. K. Murphy said pay equity law protects female employees from discrimination. Ritter asked if occasional part-time help would need to be paid according to a pay plan. K. Murphy said no, that employees must meet a minimum number of hours for a minimum number of weeks and that seasonal help does not usually qualify. R. Atkinson said longevity can't be a component of pay equity. K. Murphy said that R. Atkinson's statement was not true, and said ranges are reported and that when using a step system, only the maximum is reported. K. Goebel asked what the City would do if an employee is at the maximum now. K. Murphy said since the City already has staff, the pay plan would need to be developed around them.

Worms moved and K. Goebel seconded a motion to accept the estimate from Murphy Management Consultants not to exceed \$1,575 for the development of a pay plan. Motion carried 5-0.

Creamery Building Asbestos Consultant

C. Goebel moved and Ritter seconded a motion to accept the estimate from Braun Intertec not to exceed \$1,300 to prepare a pre-demolition hazardous building materials inspection report. Motion carried 5-0.

Business Subsidy Policy & Criteria

Ritter moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2014-014 Resolution Calling For A Public Hearing On The Adoption Of Criteria For Awarding Business Subsidies. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of Updated Zoning Code

K. Goebel moved and Ritter seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2014-015. A Resolution Approving Ordinance 2014-002 Entitled “An Ordinance Repealing And Replacing Section 500 Of The Freeport City Code Relating To Zoning, Planning, And Land Use Within The City Of Freeport” And Providing For Authorizing Summary Publication Thereof. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Nuisances

Schirmer presented a request from Jim Beutz for 1-year as he plans to transition out-of his business. K. Goebel said J. Beutz is continuing to bring more wood onto his property, even though he previously agreed not to exceed 1 chord of wood. K. Goebel said Beutz has said in previous years that he was going to transition out of his business; however, he continues. K. Goebel asked R. Atkinson about once saying he was going to build a Quonset-type building to use for storage.

R. Atkinson said he has no recollection of every saying such a thing.

Worms asked R. Atkinson if he will be erecting the windmill, which is presently lying on the ground.

R. Atkinson said it is his intention, unless somebody offers to buy it for a good price in the mean time.

Worms asked R. Atkinson about the status of the pile of wood pallets.

R. Atkinson said Floyd Sand wanted them.

Ritter said RotoChopper in St. Martin takes wood pallets at no cost.

Worms asked R. Atkinson if he has started cleaning-up the property.

R. Atkinson said he thought the pile of plastic bags containing leaves were biodegradable; he said he will be spreading-out the leaves.

Worms moved and Ritter seconded a motion to 1) extend the deadlines for 126 7th St SW (Managed by R. Atkinson) to comply with Ordinance 2004-05 and City Code 600 to June 8, 2014, with a 1-week extension when rain accumulation during a week meets or exceeds 1” and 2) authorize Clerk-Treasurer to enforce the Ordinance and City Code if the property does not meet the deadline established. Motion carried 5-0.

Worms said the City should be consistent when addressing all public nuisances.

Worms moved and K. Goebel seconded a motion to 1) extend the deadline for 515 Main Street East (Owned by Jim Beutz) to comply with Ordinance 2004-05 to June 8, 2014, with a 1-week extension when rain accumulation during a week meets or exceeds 1” and 2) authorize Clerk-Treasurer to enforce the Ordinance

if the property does not meet the deadline established. R. Atkinson said he does not want to get Buetz in trouble. Motion carried 4-1 (R. Atkinson opposed).

Worms moved and Ritter seconded a motion to 1) extend the deadlines for 313 2nd AV NW (Owned by Christopher Hansen) to comply with Ordinance 2004-05 and City Code 600 to June 8, 2014, with a 1-week extension when rain accumulation during a week meets or exceeds 1" and 2) authorize Clerk-Treasurer to enforce the Ordinance and City Code if the property does not meet the deadline established. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Assistant

Schirmer said Public Works Director Jon Stueve is asking the City to change the status of the public works assistant position from 32-hour per week part-time to 40-hour per week full-time. Schirmer said a memo regarding the request was in the agenda packet.

Worms moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to reschedule the item for the July 29, 2014 city council meeting to provide council members time to discuss the request individually with PWD Stueve. Motion carried 5-0.

Application for Lawful Gambling

K. Goebel moved and Ritter seconded a motion to approve the application from lawful gambling received from CentraCare Health – Melrose dated 6/2/14. Motion carried 5-0.

Health Care Savings Plan

K. Goebel moved and Ritter seconded a motion to approve amending the City of Freeport's Personnel Policy Benefit section to include the State of Minnesota's Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) and state that 1) all full-time city employees shall contribute 5% of pay; 2) all part-time city employees shall contribute 2.5% of pay; and 3) all city employees shall contribute 100% of severance to the HCSP. R. Atkinson said he did not understand. Motion carried 4-1 (R. Atkinson opposed).

Melrose School Banner

Council directed Schirmer to provide a copy of the City's official seal in response to Melrose school's desire to create banners for each city within the school district and display each within their gymnasium.

Golf Cart Ordinance

Schirmer said C. Goebel asked at the conclusion of the 5/27/14 city council meeting, that the City potentially considers an ordinance regarding the use of golf cars and similar vehicles within the City of Freeport. Schirmer asked if Council any such information prepared for their review.

Ritter said there is no golf course in Freeport and that golf carts can be difficult to see on the road and provide users no protection during an accident with a motor vehicle.

C. Goebel asked about the use of Rangers. K. Goebel said Rangers are licensed vehicles.

Worms said an ordinance is not needed; however, the elderly do prefer using them to get around town.

Council directed Schirmer to prepare information for their review at a future meeting.

Appointing Election Judges

C. Goebel moved and Ritter seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2014-016 Resolution Appointing Election Judges For Primary Election And General Election Within The City Of Freeport. Motion carried 4-1 (K. Goebel abstained).

Initiative Foundation Request

C. Goebel moved and Ritter seconded a motion to deny the Initiative Foundation's request for donation. Motion carried 5-0.

Closed Session

C. Goebel moved and K. Goebel seconded a motion to close the meeting as allowed under Minnesota State Statute 13D.05 subd. 3(c) to consider offers and counteroffers for the purchase of 316 Main Street West in Freeport. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting closed at 8:33p.m.

C. Goebel moved and Ritter seconded a motion to reopen the regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting reopened at 9:33p.m.

Schirmer said during the Closed Session council members K. Goebel, Ritter, Worms, C. Goebel and R. Atkinson discussed offers and counter offers for the potential purchase of 316 Main Street West and 107 Main Street West (since the purchase of 316 Main Street West is contingent upon the purchase of 107 Main Street West).

ADJOURN

Worms moved and K. Goebel seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:34p.m.

Matthew H. Worms, Mayor

Mason Schirmer, Clerk-Treasurer