



CITY OF FREEPORT

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May 30, 2017 – Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 7:00pm by Mayor Rodney Atkinson with Councilmembers, Tim Hennen, Jake Renneker, and Ben Eittle present.

Eveslage arrived during the audit presentation.

Staff in attendance: Clerk-Treasurer Adrianna Hennen, Deputy Treasurer Joan Wall, City Attorney Scott Dymoke, City Engineer Dave Blommel, and Public Works Director Loren Goebel

Others in attendance:

Father Dan (Sacred Heart Church)

Andrea Ramacher & Vernon Fuchs (720 1st Ave N)

Andy Welle

Jim Hemker (334 8th St SE)

Matt Lurken-Tvrdik (514 1st Ave N)

Approve Agenda

Eittle moved to approve the agenda, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 4-0.

Audit Presentation

Molly Thompson with Schlenner Wenner and Co. presented the 2016 audit to the council. Overall, nothing abnormal or concerning was found. Thompson stated it was very consistent with the previous years.

Open Public Forum

No public comment was given.

Consent Agenda

Eittle moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Reports

Clerk Report

Council decided to try sending out a city wide letter, while asking preferences for how residents preferred receiving city information.

Deputy Treasurer Report

No report was given.

Public Works Report

Goebel explained that the sidewalk in front of CMCU was not even with the Corner Pub's sidewalk. T. Hennen stated he looked at it and CMCU's sidewalk has sunk below the curb, while the Corner Pub's is still level with the curb. T. Hennen thought CMCU's sidewalk should be made so that it is level with the curb,

ultimately making it level with the Corner Pub's sidewalk. Council agreed to notify CMCU that they needed to make their sidewalk level with the curb, but were not going to dictate how CMCU wanted to do that.

Council directed staff to talk to Duane Pung in regards to grating roads to see if he was willing to do it, with the idea that he would assuming some liability.

Engineer Report

Blommel presented the invitation to bid and the accepted bid from Kotzer to replace the line by the lift station behind the school. Blommel stated work would begin the following week.

Attorney Report

Dymoke stated he has been working with A. Hennen on more unusual zoning questions lately, some of which have been deemed not doable according to city ordinance. Atkinson asked that council be notified when something isn't approved so they are aware if asked about it by residents.

Fire Department Report

No report was given.

Old Business

Public Nuisance Notices

A. Hennen provided an updated list of nuisances she had been working on. Atkinson asked to be updated more frequently on the matter. Atkinson also wanted it to be known that Fast Line did a good job cleaning his property. Hemker disagreed and thought more work needed to be done to improve the appearance.

New Business

Easement/Lift Station

Hemker and Fr. Dan expressed concern regarding the cul-du-sac located at the end of 3rd St NE that is behind the school gymnasium and allows access to the City's lift station. They have seen cars parked in the cul-du-sac, which is Parish property, and cars have driven from the cul-du-sac behind the gym in the grass. Fr. Dan expressed that he would like to see a gate put up so that cars cannot drive through there or park. Hemker stated they were also putting up more lighting and surveillance cameras because of the recent vandalism of the gym and Worms Lumber getting broken into during construction of the gym, which council members were unaware of. Hemker thought the City should install more lighting in the park as well to deter youth that have been going there in the evenings. Welle thought a "rules and regulations" sign should be developed for the park similar to one at the Lion's Park.

A. Hennen stated staff would look into the costs of sign and an Xcel light for the park.

Ettle moved to put in a gate at the end of 3rd St NE to block the cul-du-sac, seconded by T. Hennen.

Atkinson-yes, Ettle-yes, EVELSAGE-yes, T. Hennen-yes, Renneker-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Water & Sewer Charges for Services Trends

Wall presented a spreadsheet she put together showing the previous trends in regard to water and sewer collection percentages. From what she can tell, the collections the city has received so far this year is similar to what we have received in the past. Wall stated she will continue keeping an eye on it.

Rural Service District

Dymoke explained that in the 1980's an ordinance was developed that placed properties in a rural service district, which gave those properties a 50% tax break. Recently, Arlen Westergren started questioning whether some of the properties should still be included in the rural service district. This brought to light the rural

service district, which was something Dymoke and A. Hennen were unaware Freeport had established. Council agreed that Borgerding and Pung farms should remain rural; they were uncertain with the Hoeschen property; they would remove Quality Trailer; Sacred Heart they were not concerned about since they are exempt from taxes. Council stated that before they made any decisions on the percentage of tax break they would like to know the amount of taxes Borgerding and Pung pay in comparison to farms not within the city limits and also if those farms are a part of the Green Acres program.

School Park Lease Agreement

Hemker stated that a legal description of the property should go along with the agreement so it is known which area is under lease. Dymoke stated he would look into that since he was the one who drafted the agreement, he may have the description. Council was told they were not living up to the agreement since they had not put up and signs in the area outlining the rules. Council members questioned where that was written in the agreement and it was pointed out that the city “may” erect signs but was not obligated. T. Hennen stated that the city would look into the cost of erecting a sign and extra lighting.

Conflicts of Interest

Dymoke explained that the State is telling the city to have extra procedures when purchases goods and services from any business that are owned by council members. This will now include establishing resolutions and affidavits, which will be seen at the June meeting.

Gun Ordinance

Atkinson expressed that he would like the gun ordinance removed from Freeport city code. Atkinson thought it should be regulated by the State, which has more power, then the city’s ordinance. Atkinson didn’t want the city in the position of prosecution. Discussion was held. Atkinson moved to repeal Section 200.07, line 8 from Freeport city code, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Ettle moved to adjourn at 9:30pm, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor, Rodney Atkinson

City Clerk-Treasurer, Adrianna Hennen