



CITY OF FREEPORT

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June 27, 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, Mike Eveslage and Ben Eittle present.

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:

Ken & Kathy Luethmers (215 3rd St NE)

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

Wes David (312 10th St SE)

Stephanie Hennen (303 3rd St SE)

Approve Agenda

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

Open Public Forum

Ken and Kathy Luethmers expressed concern regarding the proposed gate to be installed at the end of 3rd street. Currently there is caution tape across the cul-du-sac where the gate is going to be installed. Luethmers stated it is dangerous because now everyone that drives down that road has to back all the way up or turn around in people's driveways. They stated there is a lot of traffic currently, they think because people want to look at the gym and hopes that diminishes after time. They are worried about the kids that play down that street especially if people are backing down the road and have blind spots. Luethmers also stated the road is exceptionally narrow which makes it more difficult.

Council decided it would be best to meet with Parish representatives on-site at the July meeting to address any concerns before the gate is installed.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports

Clerk Report

A. Hennen stated that Phil Osendorf had not yet installed the water meter at the fire hall. Atkinson stated that instead of waiting on Osendorf that we find someone else or do it ourselves.

Council agreed that they would allow employees to take July 3rd off.

Deputy Treasurer Report

Wall explained that the city will be receiving \$8,980 for 2017 and 2018 under the Small Cities Assistance Account, which was previously received in 2015. This money can only be put towards street expenses. Wall also showed a list of the 2015 money had been put towards.

Public Works Report

Goebel stated that there was a dead tree on the corner of the fire department property that needed to be removed. He got an estimate from Carr's Tree Service for \$1,000 and one from Luke Mader for \$400. Council agreed to have Mader remove the tree.

Engineer Report

Blommel updated council on the new line that Kotzer put in behind school. The projected has been completed and the flow is an inch lower than before the project, which is an improvement.

Attorney Report

Dymoke stated each item on his report would be coming up later on in the meeting for discussion.

Fire Department Report

A. Hennen stated the fire department was looking at having 3 ceiling fans installed at a cost of \$587.20 through Oak Electric and installed by fire department member Phil Wiechmann. T. Hennen moved to approve the fans, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business

Rural Service District – Resolution 2017-07

At the May meeting the council questioned what the tax difference was if Pung and Bogerding didn't live within the City limits. Dymoke explained, from Stearns County calculations, that their taxes would be comparable. The Rural Service tax break can only be applied to general operations, not bonds and debts. If comparing general operations Pung and Bogerding's taxes are comparable if they lived in the city versus township. The only item that makes their taxes slightly higher is Freeport's bond payments. It was discovered that the Green Acres program does not benefit the two farms once previously thought. Council agreed that they would remove Quality Trailer from the Rural Service District and leave the rest the same and reevaluate next year.

Ettle moved to approve Resolution 2017-07 – Resolution Transferring Parcel No. 54.32085.0010 to the Urban Service District, seconded by Eveslage. Roll call vote: Atkinson-yes, Ettle-yes, Eveslage-yes, T. Hennen-yes, Renneker-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

School Park

A. Hennen stated that the Lions were having new signs made for the Lions Park so it we could just wait until they have theirs made and do them all at the same time.

Dan Roering recommended not adding anymore lighting to the park then the School has already added because the added light will be adequate.

Conflicts of Interest – Resolution 2017-08

Eveslage moved to approve Resolution 2017-08 – Resolution Authorizing Purchases from Hennen Lumber Co., Inc. up to \$1,000 per month, seconded by Ettle. Motion carried 4-0, with T. Hennen abstaining.

Firearm Ordinance – Ordinance 2017-02

Renneker moved to approve Ordinance 2017-02 – An Ordinance Amending the Freeport City Code of 1995, Section 2000.07 Disorderly Conduct, seconded by Eveslage. Roll call vote: Atkinson-yes, Ettle-yes, Eveslage-yes, T. Hennen-yes, Renneker-yes.

New Business

Creamery Site

The council made it clear that they were no longer tolerating the complaints being received from neighbors about the state of the Creamery. Council members along with staff stated they all had been receiving complaints about noise, vehicles, and garbage at the site. Dave Welle, Creamery Board member and Wes David, current renter were present. Welle stated he would speak with the other tenants regarding the complaints of noise and garbage around the building. The council asked about all of the cars sitting around the building. David stated that those were his and his son's vehicles and all but two of them had current registration, and the two were going to be getting tabs that week. Council asked why they had so many vehicles. David stated that his son likes to collect vehicles and work on them. David said him and his son try to be respectful of neighbors and not work there too late. Council asked about the rumor of someone living in the building. Welle stated that he and Dan Atkinson went in the building one day and there is a couch, tv, table and chairs in the loft but there was no evidence of anyone living there. Dymoke asked if the board had any formal lease agreements with the tenants. Welle said no. Dymoke stated that would be a good idea, because a lease agreement can be more strict then city code. Then if the tenants do not follow the lease agreement there can be repercussions and even eviction. Welle said they would definitely be doing that. Atkinson stated that this has become more than just an unsightly building but it is really affecting the neighbors. Their kids are scared of the building, waking them up at all hours, seeing weird cars come and go. It is emotionally affecting these families. Atkinson stated that it was unfortunate that they have to live next to this. Eveslage said that the building will be under a microscope now and in the future. Council asked what the board's intentions are with the building. Welle stated that they would continue to rent it out as that was a source of income for them. Council asked if they had any intention of selling it. Welle said they've had offers in the past but it was never enough since they still owe money on the building.

Hazardous Mitigation Plan – Resolution 2017-09

Eveslage moved to approve Resolution 2017-09 Adoption of the Stearns County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Mayor, Rodney Atkinson

City Clerk-Treasurer, Adrianna Hennen