



## CITY OF FREEPORT

125 Main Street E – PO Box 301 – Freeport, MN 56331 – 320-836-2112 – FAX 320-836-2116  
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### October 24, 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 Etle 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:

Andrea Ramacher & Vernon Fuchs (720 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N)                      Dave Gruenes (Stearns Electric)

#### **Approve Agenda**

Etle moved to approve the agenda, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Open Public Forum**

No comment was given.

#### **Consent Agenda**

T. Hennen moved to approve the consent agenda, not including claims 2934, 2935, 2936, and 2937 to Thull Excavating until more information was gathered. Motion seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Etle moved to pay Thull Excavating invoice number 446 for \$400.00, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Reports**

##### Clerk Report

A. Hennen thanked Joan for her time as Deputy Treasurer.

##### Deputy Treasurer Report

It was asked how the water and sewer funds were looking. Wall replied that income was still less than average. Council suggested looking at usage and determining if that is the reason income is less.

##### Public Works Report

Goebel asked council if they would like a car towed that has been sitting in a city parking lot across from Charlies Café for over a month. Council asked if that's something the city then has to pay for. A. Hennen explained the County informed her that the City can tow the vehicle and then, once the person goes to claim the vehicle, the owner will be responsible for paying the towing fee. Council asked what happens if no one claims the car. A. Hennen stated then the tow company holds it in their impound lot. Etle made a motion to have the car towed, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

##### Engineer Report

Blommel began by stating that Goebel got an estimate from the tarring company, that is currently doing work at the Lions Park, to do some patching on 8<sup>th</sup> street. For 3 patches the company will charge \$6400. Blommel stated that was a fair price. The company explained to Blommel what they would be doing and Blommel's only additional request was that they add a mesh layer. T. Hennen moved to have the company repair the three patches, seconded by Ertle. Motion carried 5-0.

Blommel also explained that in the near future rock will need to be added to pond two on the east and north ends of about three feet. Council requested that Blommel get cost estimates on both field rock and granite.

#### Attorney Report

Dymoke explained that since his report was given to council the only other item that he was working on was a potential Xcel powerline that Xcel is proposing running through the industrial park.

#### Fire Department Report

Gilk explained that the Fire Department did not receive the FEMA grant this year and asked that they be allowed to apply for it again the next round. Council agreed that they should keep trying for the grant.

T. Hennen moved to try Expert T Billing for one year and see how it goes, seconded by Ertle. Motion carried 5-0.

Eveslage moved to increase the fee for fire department calls per fire fighter per call from \$15.00 to \$20.00 for all area fire service residents/tax payers and to increase the fee to \$40 for non-area fire service residents/taxpayers. Motion carried 5-0.

Council requested that Fritz Hoeschen come to the November meeting to explain insurance coverage to the council.

#### **Old Business**

##### Stearns Electric-Dave Gruenes

Gruenes was invited to the meeting to explain the loan that the City applied for and was granted. The loan was for \$360,000 with \$300,000 coming from USDA and \$60,000 coming from Stearns Electric. The city would receive the money and then pay the loan to Stearns Electric, who could send it back to Washington, or they could put it in a revolving loan fund that they have established. Gruenes explained that their revolving loan fund can be applied for by anyone, business or city can apply to use revolving loan fund dollars.

Gruenes also explained that there isn't an interest rate on the loan but there is a 1% administrative fee that is added each year to the remaining outstanding balance of the loan.

Atkinson explained that he could foresee the city accepting the money and turning around and paying it all back in the same year to avoid the 1% administrative fee and then the city would be helping add money to Stearns Electric revolving loan fund, which would then help someone in central Minnesota.

Council agreed they would take a little time to consider accepting the loan.

##### Sacred Heart Parish

A. Hennen explained that the light pole by the lift station is up and running; the dead end sign had been put in Betty Hennen's yard; a no parking sign was put at the end of the turnaround; Jim Meyer was to be finishing and dropping of the park sign within the next week.

Atkinson called for a recess at 8:45. The meeting resumed at 8:50

## **New Business**

### Deputy Treasurer Position-Interview

Wall asked what his experience level was with Xcel. Mr. Frahm stated that he had taken a class on Xcel and was hoping to take an advanced class next semester. Wall also asked about a gap in employment. Frahm explained that his wife received a job and when they moved she told him to focus on school for a while. Council asked other questions regarding his military service and other job experience. Frahm was thanked for his time and A. Hennen explained she would be in touch with him.

### Loren Goebel Performance Review

Ettle stated that Goebel is doing a great job and made a motion to increase Goebel's pay by \$1 per hour. Eveslage explained he did not like seeing the \$1.00 raise, but would like to see percentages. Eveslage not believed 5% was too much of an increase and was leaning closer to 2.5%. Renneker agreed that he was more comfortable with 2.5%

T. Hennen asked if Goebel didn't receive a raise when he passed his water and wastewater tests? Goebel and Atkinson explained that when Goebel was hired he was hired at \$20 per hour, but 3 of those dollars were allocated to Brian Zapzalka's pay. Once Goebel past his water and waste water licenses, Zapzalka's help was no longer needed and that \$3 was allocated back to Goebel's pay. T. Hennen then looked at it as Goebel has not received a pay increase in the two years that he has been here so he could justify a 2.5% times two pay increase, which would equate to 5% or \$1.00.

Atkinson stated that Ettle made a motion to increase Goebel's pay by \$1.00 and asked if there was a second. T. Hennen seconded the motion. Atkinson asked for a roll call vote. Atkinson-yes, Ettle-yes, Eveslage-no, T. Hennen-yes, Renneker-no. Motion carried 3-2.

## **Adjourn**

Ettle moved to adjourn, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

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Mayor, Rodney Atkinson

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City Clerk-Treasurer, Adrianna Hennen