



CITY OF FREEPORT

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November 28, 2017 – Meeting Minutes

An Area Fire Service Meeting convened at 6:30pm . The purpose of the meeting was to inform and receive feedback from the Cities and Townships regarding the potential Stearns Electric Loan. It was explained that the City can afford the new pumper truck that is being delivered the following week. The City applied for the loan last year because it was free to apply. The loan is a 0% interest loan with a 1% yearly administrative fee. Atkinson stated that Dave Gruenes said that if Freeport paid back the loan in less than one year the administrative fee would be waived. The reason the City would accept the loan is put \$300,000 into the Stearns Electric revolving loan fund that has helped and will continue to help businesses in central Minnesota. Loren Pelzer with Albany Township, after hearing the explanation, stated it would be dumb not to take the loan. Pelzer made a motion to accept the Stearns Electric Loan, seconded by Pete Welle, motion carried unanimously.

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 Ertle present.

Staff in attendance: Clerk-Treasurer Adrianna Hennen and City Attorney Scott Dymoke.

Others in attendance:

Andrea Ramacher & Vernon Fuchs (720 1st Ave N)
Lornie Middendorf (Millwood Township)
Pete Welle (Oak Township)
Arnie Blommel (308 2nd Ave SW)

Loren Pelzer (Albany Township)
Carl Toenyan (Millwood Township)
Doug Peterson (Paynesville)

Approve Agenda

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

Open Public Forum

No public comment was given.

Consent Agenda

Renneker moved to approve the consent agenda with the addition of Resolution 2017-11, and Atkinson Well and Pumps invoice, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Reports

Clerk Report

A. Hennen reported that the city was outbid for the Welle Addition and someone else purchased the property. A. Hennen was not notified of the new owner yet.

Public Works Report

Goebel was not present. A. Hennen stated that if they had any questions about the presented water tower report they can speak with Goebel. Eittle moved to accept the recommendation to repair the grout at the base of the tower, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Engineer Report

Blommel was not present.

Attorney Report

Dymoke explained that he had worked on nuisance abatement, the Welle Development, and Xcel Energy Easements since the last meeting.

Fire Department Report

No report was given.

Old Business

Stearns Electric-Dave Gruenes

Eveslage moved to accept the Stearns Electric loan, seconded by Eittle. Atkinson-yes, Eittle-yes, Eveslage-yes, T. Hennen-yes, Renneker-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Thull Excavating Invoices

T. Hennen stated he would approve the invoices, but this should be a teaching moment; receive a cost up front and a date when it would be finished on future projects. T. Hennen expressed frustration that the city had to hire someone to finish Thull's work. Atkinson moved to pay the invoices, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business

Insurance Presentation

Fritz Hoeschen with North Risk Partners presented some information regarding the City's insurance and coverage. Specific questions were asked by council, which Hoeschen was able to answer and the information was laid out the City's policies. One question Atkinson asked that Hoeschen had to look into was if the city would be able to increase medical payment coverage from the current \$2,500. Hoeschen said he would look into that and let A. Hennen know.

Deputy Treasurer Position-Interview

Council members spoke with Petersen and asked questions which Petersen was able to answer. The other interviewee did not attend the meeting. Eveslage moved to offer the position to Petersen, seconded by Renneker. Atkinson-yes, Eittle-yes, Eveslage-yes, T. Hennen-yes, Renneker-yes. Motion carried 5-0. Petersen accepted the position. A. Hennen asked what the council would like to start Petersen's salary at. A. Hennen explained that they hired the previous Treasurer at \$18.00/hour and she left making \$20.00/hour. Eveslage asked what Petersen thought was fair. Petersen said no less than \$20.00. T. Hennen moved pay Petersen \$20.00/hour, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Klaphake Building Permit Violation

A. Hennen explained the situation outlined in the agenda to the council. Eveslage stated that from what he can see from his yard is that Klaphake has been working hard on improving the shed. Eveslage thought the May 15, 2018 deadline was more than fair. Atkinson thought Klaphake didn't want to make the improvements to the shed before Klaphake moved the shed in the event items were wrecked in transit, but

he still should have gotten the permit first. Council said that at the May 2018 meeting they would review the situation and see if Klaphake has met the standards.

Accessory Structures

Arnie Blommel expressed his frustration regarding setbacks for a small shed he would like to place in his back yard. He stated he didn't have many choices but to put it near the property line, but with the required setbacks of 10ft on the rear and side, he wouldn't be able to place the shed where he liked. Council started questioning that if sheds on skids should have the same setback requirements as permanent sheds. They also wondered if the setbacks should be based off of the height of the building. Council agreed that A. Hennen should see what surrounding towns regulate when it comes to accessory structures.

Fee Schedule

Council questioned a few lines on the fee schedule. Atkinson was wondering if the wastewater stub-out and hook-up charge were covering those costs. Also, if the water testing fee was covering those costs. Council asked Ertle to speak with the fire department to see if those line items were still accurate. Council agreed to not approve a fee schedule until some of these items have been addressed.

Adjourn

Ertle moved to adjourn, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor, Rodney Atkinson

City Clerk-Treasurer, Adrianna Hennen