



CITY OF FREEPORT

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March 26, 2019 – Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 7:00pm by Mayor Mike Eveslage and councilmembers Sarah Blake, Ben Ettle, Tim Hennen, and Jake Renneker.

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

Others in attendance:

Stephanie Hennen (303 3rd St SE)
Sue & Troy Frieler (313 2nd St NW)
Matt Worms (124 9th St SE)

Rodney Atkinson (310 8th St SE)
Andrea Ramacher (720 1st Ave N)
Fritz Hoeschen (324 7th St SE)

Approve Agenda

Wall explained the following additions to the agenda: item c. under consent agenda was changed to include claims 3547-3576; added item e. March 7-19, 2019 Special Council Meeting Minutes to consent agenda; added item d. Laptop Options under New Business. T. Hennen moved to approve the agenda with the proposed additions, seconded by Ettle. Motion carried 5-0.

Open Public Forum

Sue and Troy Frieler stated there has been a lot of noise during early hours of the morning from Elite Transport across the street from their house. Trucks are leaving between 2am and 6am and the noise is disturbing their family's sleep. Trucks are also parking on the street. T. Hennen stated Mark Ettel from Elite Transport was at an EDA meeting months ago and he has talked to Ettel in the past about these issues. The Frielers also stated there is noise coming from the creamery, more vehicles are showing up now that the weather is nicer, and there are dogs running around the neighborhood.

Matt Worms asked about the results of the recent yard waste survey. A. Hennen and Eveslage stated the results were 2 to 1 against having yard waste containers. Worms asked whether Waste Management would be doing a fall pickup or if there would be an option for residents to bring their yard waste somewhere. Eveslage stated there had been discussion in the past for a drop off site, but nothing was decided. Bueckers may still accept yard waste. Eveslage stated he is hoping Waste Management will have 2 fall pickups this year. Eveslage stated a representative from Waste Management will be attending the April 30 meeting.

Consent Agenda

Ettle asked for further explanation regarding claim #3557. Renneker moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Ettle. Motion carried 5-0.

Reports

Clerk Report

A. Hennen expressed her thanks to the Council for putting faith in her when they hired her as the Clerk-Treasurer. She has learned a lot during her years working for the City.

Treasurer Report

No report was given.

Public Works Report

Goebel explained the following projects are expected to be coming this summer: fix cement at the base of the water tower, Hiniker blade needs to be redone, Tri-State Pumps will be coming in July for their annual inspection. Tri-State Pumps recommends fixing the electronics on lift station #1 and the propellers on lift station #2.

Engineer Report

Blommel brought a map that shows where he thinks water is getting into the ponds. He explained the manhole north of the school needs to be raised. It should cost less than \$10,000 and Blommel recommends getting quotes so it can be fixed in August. The culverts next to the Industrial Park lift station froze up so runoff was flowing into the Industrial Park lift station. Blommel suggested keeping the culverts open or possibly adding berms so water doesn't flow north. On Blommel's map, the orange highlights show where the pipes are in poor condition so water gets into them and the flow is high. The green highlights show where there are probably foundation drains and the pipes are in poor condition so the water is high there as well. Foundation drains would need to be fixed by homeowners. Water flow from the Industrial Park is better this year because trees have been cleared out. Drain tiles installed near Famo Feeds seem to be working as the pipes were flowing well.

Attorney Report

Dymoke explained that he reviewed City code and prepared opinions regarding accessory structures' compliance with zoning regulations. He also attended Council meetings regarding hiring a new City Clerk-Treasurer.

Fire Department Report

Chief Gilk was not present. It was explained that he did try to get a third quote from Mid Central for the dehumidifier, but they did not respond to multiple requests. Renneker noted that on the Precise quote, several items were not included in the quoted price, but Melrose Plumbing did include them. He wondered if we would need to hire someone else for those items and would like more details. Council requested that Gilk be contacted to ask for more information.

Old Business

Clerk-Treasurer Job Description

Ettle moved to approve the Clerk-Treasurer job description, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business

Health Insurance

Hoeschen explained that a government entity can now have a group policy with only one employee in the plan. Blue Cross is probably the best option for the City. Health Partners may not do a one-person plan. There are not a lot of options out there for the City because the private health insurance market has dried up;

the plans are expensive or not available. Council asked Hoeschen to shop around for options. A. Hennen would like to stay on the City's plan until the end of May because her new insurance will start June 1 and Council agreed that was fine.

Administrative Assistant Job Description

Discussion was had regarding how many hours an Administrative Assistant would be needed and which hours of the day. Council discussed wanting to have coverage for when the Clerk-Treasurer was out for conferences or days off in order to maximize a person being present in the office. Council agreed to change the job description to up to 30 hours per week. T. Hennen moved to approve the Administrative Assistant job description with the proposed change, seconded by Ettle. Motion carried 5-0.

The pay scale was discussed and Council agreed that \$15-18 per hour was a good range. Council directed Wall to post the ad on the website, local newspapers, and Indeed. Applications will be accepted until Tuesday, April 23 at 4:30 pm.

Waste Management

Eveslage explained a representative from Waste Management would be present at the April 30 City Council meeting. He stated no one in the City limits should be charged an administrative fee and those fees would be getting removed from bills.

Laptop Options

Wall explained why the laptop with the 1TB HDD hard drive was cheaper than the laptop with the 256GB SSD hard drive. The 1TB HDD is the "old fashioned" type of hard drive that still has a spinning disk inside. The 256GB SSD is a solid state drive that is much faster and is the current best of the best technology. Because most of the City's data is stored on a separate server, either laptop would have more than enough storage capacity. It was asked how much a dual screen and docking station would cost. Would it be compatible with a projector or TV so we could show a display to the public at City Council or EDA meetings? Council asked Wall to gather more information.

A. Hennen Farewell

Eveslage expressed thanks to A. Hennen for stepping into a challenging role as Clerk-Treasurer. He stated she is always approachable and was what the City needed. He wished her the best and presented her with a plaque in honor of her service to the City. The other Council members expressed similar sentiments. Resident Atkinson expressed his thanks to A. Hennen and shared a memory from when he was mayor. The public was invited to stay after the meeting to enjoy cookies and coffee.

Adjourn

Ettle moved to adjourn at 8:41, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor, Mike Eveslage

City Clerk-Treasurer, Joan Wall