



CITY OF FREEPORT

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June 28, 2016 – Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 7:00pm by Mayor Rodney Atkinson with Councilmembers, Ken Goebel, Tim Hennen, 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, Public Works Director Loren Goebel, and Maintenance Assistant Vernon Fuchs

Others in attendance:

Andrea Ramacher (720 1st Ave N)
Gene Glass (212 9th St SE)

Fritz Laing (110 4th St NW)

Approve Agenda

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

Public Hearing – C-3 Commercial Highway District

No public comment was given.

Open Public Forum

Resident Gene Glass spoke up regarding the “dirty water” that took place the evening of June 26th for a few hours. Glass stated he was unable to use his water for personal use and that the dirt had accumulated in his water softener. Glass stated that he let his water run for two hours and it still didn’t clear up. Glass stated that they called Atkinson and soon after Atkinson and another person arrived and flushed the hydrant in front of his house which resolved the problem. Glass stated that he called the Department of Health and the Department said the reason for the colored water was most likely due to drawing a substantial amount of water out of the tower at one time, causing rust and sediment to become loose.

Council and staff stated the reason this happened was because there was a barn fire that evening and the fire department had to draw 80,000 gallons of water out of the tower for the fire. They stated that this has always occurred when drawing that much water out of the tower.

Glass stated that a different source of water should be found for the fire department to prevent this problem.

Council stated this only occurs when the fire department draws a lot of water out in a short period of time, which isn’t very often.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports

Deputy Treasurer Report

No report was given.

Public Works Report

L. Goebel told council that most of the storm drains he has seen in town are becoming overgrown and full of vegetation. L. Goebel asked council if they would like this problem addressed, and if so did they want to hire it out or have the maintenance department rent the machinery to take care of it. Council agreed they would like the maintenance department to take care of the problem, but to make sure to find as many of storm drains before renting the machinery.

Engineer Report

Blommel presented council with the bids he gathered to fix Industrial Drive. Blommel stated that if council wanted to stay within the \$70,000 budget then the road improvement could be shortened by 100 feet which would keep the project at \$70,000. Council agreed that the extra 100 feet for \$7,450 was worth it. T. Hennen motioned to approve the bid of \$77,450.55 from Worms Ready Mix, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Blommel presented an updated improvement schedule with the main focus on the sewer lines. Council asked the dollar amount that is usually collected from assessments. Blommel stated on average, 30% of the project cost will come from assessments and the rest will have to come from City funds.

Attorney Report

No discussion was had.

Fire Department Report

Chief Gilk stated Glen "Gopher" Meyer retired at 23 years on the department.

The Freeport Lions donated D-fibs and that they would be sending out thank you cards.

The department received a donation from the St. Rosa Lions.

The department is still waiting to hear about the FEMA grant they applied for earlier in the year.

The rescue van is at Rambler for repair.

The brush truck is having signal light problems. Gilk asked if they council bring that to John Weis Ford since it is a Ford truck. K. Goebel moved to bring the truck to John Weis Ford, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 4-0. Ertle abstained.

The department's 4inch hose is leaking and they need to purchase a new one for \$300. Ertle moved to purchase a new hose, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Gilk asked if council would approve purchasing an app called "I am responding" which allows fire fighters to state whether they are going to make the call or how far away they are via their phones that show up on a monitor at the fire hall. This would allow members that are at the fire hall know if they should wait or if other members will be responding. The cost is \$400 the first year and then \$300 annually. Ertle moved to purchasing "I am responding" app, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Gilk stated they have two openings on the department now and will slowly begin advertising to fill the openings. K. Goebel moved to start advertising for the two opening positions, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Gilk stated they were going to have a drill at the wellhouse to try drawing water directly from the well instead of the tower to see if that would help resolve the dirty water issue.

Old Business

Ordinance 2016-02 – C-3 Commercial Highway District

Council agreed they wanted to ordinance to read “35 feet instead of terms of stories. Ertle moved to approve the ordinance with the agreed upon change, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Ertle moved to approve the ordinance summary for publication, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Sewer Rates

Council agreed sewer rates needed to increase to help the sewer fund balance. T. Hennen suggested raising it 10% to see how that went until the end of the year and then raise it again in January. Atkinson stated that 10% wasn't going to be enough to make a difference. Council suggested raising the rates now and doing more research to see how much more, exactly, needed to be done. T. Hennen moved to increase sewer rates 10%, seconded by Eveslage. A roll-call vote was requested: Atkinson-no, Ertle-yes, Eveslage-yes, K. Goebel-yes, and T. Hennen-yes. Motion carried 3-2.

Sewer Line Maintenance

T. Hennen moved to accept Johnson Jet-Line's contract agreement price quote to clean the sewer lines, seconded by Ertle. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business

Resolution 2016-06 – Election Judges

Atkinson moved to approve resolution 2016-06 – Election Judges, seconded by Eveslage. K. Goebel abstained. Motion carried 4-0.

Vacant Building Fee

Council stated that enforcing our new maintenance ordinance and focusing on remedying the problem properties in town were a priority. A. Hennen stated, to start, her and Dymoke would discuss a suggestion for 601 1st Ave N for the July council meeting.

Initiative Foundation Donation

Council agreed they would not be donating to the Initiative Foundation this year.

Adjourn

Ertle moved to adjourn at 9:17, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor, Rodney Atkinson

City Clerk-Treasurer, Adrianna Hennen