



CITY OF FREEPORT

125 Main Street E – PO Box 301 – Freeport, MN 56331 – 320-836-2112 – FAX 320-836-2116
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August 30, 2016 – Meeting Minutes

A regular 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 Ertle 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)
Harry Fleegal (605 1st Ave N)
Stephanie Hennen (303 3rd St SE)
Jerry Butkowski (119 7th St SW)

Dan Bueckers (Danny's Disposal)
Neil Middendorf (216 7th St SW)
Jerry Meyer (330 8th St SE)

Approve Agenda

A. Hennen stated that Danny Bueckers asked to be put on the agenda to renew his refuse removal contract for another five years. A. Hennen wanted to add Ordinance 2016-02 under "New Business, a) Matt Imdieke Rezoning Request" and "Ordinance 2016-02 – Granny Pod" under "Old Business". T. Hennen moved to approve the agenda with the proposed changes, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Hearing – Matt Imdieke Rezoning Request

Matt Imdieke stated that he is requesting that his lot at 700 1st Ave N be rezoned from I-1 to C-3 so that he could build a storage facility. Imdieke showed plans to the council of what he was hoping to build. A. Hennen stated the only thing that should be mentioned is the utility line that runs East to West in the middle of the property. A. Hennen stated that she had just gotten some information regarding this line and asked that Neil Middendorf explain. Middendorf stated that the line is a private line and that it drains water from numerous properties. A. Hennen stated that since it isn't a City line, which can be dealt with between the property owners. Atkinson asked what the EDA's opinion was on the rezoning matter. A. Hennen stated they seemed to be in favor of it when asked at the last meeting. Gerry Meyer stated his only concern was the appearance most storage units eventually get to. Imdieke stated he would make the buildings look nice and would keep them up since his name would be associated with the buildings and has a lot of business in the area. Meyer said he wasn't worried about Imdieke keeping them looking nice, but in 20 years from now. Atkinson argued that statement since then we would have to be worried what Meyer's business might look like in 20 years when he sells it. Public hearing closed at 7:20pm

Open Public Forum

Danny Bueckers stated that the agreement for refuse pickup needed to be agreed upon since the 5 year deadline was coming up for the last agreement. A. Hennen stated nothing was changing in the agreement

except extending it for another 5 years. T. Hennen moved to continue services with Danny's Disposal, seconded by Ertle. Motion carried 5-0.

Eveslage addressed K. Goebel's comment that was published in the Melrose Beacon regarding well users getting off "scot free" when it comes to the water tower fee. Eveslage stated that K. Goebel could take the time to clarify what he meant by the comment. K. Goebel didn't comment.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports

Deputy Treasurer Report

No report was given.

Public Works Report

L. Goebel stated he was waiting to hear back from Butch Thull at the cost of clearing out the holding pond in the Industrial park. L. Goebel received an estimate from Carr's Tree Service to do the work at \$200/hour and roughly 25 to 30 hours of work which they would complete once the it had frozen.

Eveslage moved to have to granite "Welcome to Freeport" sign fixed with epoxy for free, seconded by Ertle. Motion carried 5-0.

Engineer Report

No report was given.

Attorney Report

Dymoke stated his items would be addressed later in the meeting.

Fire Department Report

Chief Gilk stated that they did not receive the FEMA grant this year. They will try again in October and will be applying for turnout gear and helmets. Atkinson asked if they should apply for a truck. Gilk didn't think they had much of a chance, but would ask grant writer if that was something he recommended.

Gilk stated that the truck committee was waiting on lists and prices.

Gilk stated that the department received a \$4800 matching 50/50 grant from the DNR.

Gilk asked if the department could purchase 25 helmets with flashlights for \$6590, but would use the matching grant they just received from the DNR so the total would be \$4190. Ertle moved to approve the department buying new helmets, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Gilk also asked for approval to send in a grant for a washing machine that costs \$11,000. The grant would require the department to pay 10% of the cost. Eveslage move to approve submitting the grant, seconded by K. Goebel. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business

Harold Fleegal Property

Fleegal stated he is willing to take options and suggestions on what to do with the house. He understands that it is an eyesore and doesn't look good, especially it being one of the first houses when coming in to town on the North side. Fleegal said he got an estimate of \$6500 to tear it down and an estimate of \$40,000 to fix the house. He stated that he owes about \$4,000 on the house and has assessments of \$20,000 so he would have to sell the house for \$24,000 to break even. Fleegal asked if the city would be willing to allow him to donate it to the city. Atkinson thanked Fleegal for coming in and explaining his situation and opening the doors of communication to get this resolved and that the EDA will discuss at the next meeting.

Water Tower Fee

After reviewing the additional spreadsheet that showed examples of resident's and commercial business's utility bills with different water tower fee scenarios it was discovered that city staff was under the impression that utility bills would either have a flat rate charge or a usage charge, depending on what type of user they were. Atkinson explained that wasn't the case, but instead everyone would get a flat charge and then a usage charge would be on top of that for people who had water hook-up as well. A. Hennen stated they would make those changes in the scenarios so they are more accurate.

Ettle stated that the maintenance of the tower needs to be taken into consideration. Ettle recommended reducing the "excess credit" line from \$10,600 to about \$9,500 so that we keep enough reserves to maintain the tower in 15 years.

Council members agreed that the 25/75 percent option and the 33/67 percent options weren't that different so they essentially just needed to pick one. Eveslage moved to select the 25/75 percent option, seconded by K. Goebel. A roll-call vote was requested: Atkinson-yes, Ettle-yes, Eveslage-yes, K. Goebel-yes, T. Hennen-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 2016-03 – Granny Pods

Eveslage moved to approve Ordinance 2016-03 seconded by K. Goebel. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business

Ordinance 2016-02 – Matt Imdieke Rezoning Request

Eveslage moved to approve Ordinance 2016-02 seconded by Ettle. A roll-call vote was requested: Atkinson-yes, Ettle-yes, Eveslage-yes, K. Goebel-yes, T. Hennen-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

2017 Preliminary Budget

Deputy Treasurer Wall went through the proposed 2017 budget and pointed out any major changes that were expected in 2017 compared to 2016 and years passed. Wall stated that how the budget was now there would be a 1.4% increase in the levy from 2016.

One topic that council would like to see addressed is the starting the process of saving for new street lights. They asked that an estimate be obtained so they can see what they should start setting aside.

Council also agreed that they want to put \$5,000 aside for developing the South Side Park.

A. Hennen stated the Resolution to approve the proposed 2017 budget does not need to be done tonight, but it will need to be done at the September meeting.

CD Transfers

Ettle moved to transfer the City's CD's at the Freeport State Bank to the City's checking account and the City's CD at Central Minnesota Credit Union to a money market, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Ettle moved to adjourn at 9:05, seconded by K. Goebel. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor, Rodney Atkinson

City Clerk-Treasurer, Adrianna Hennen