



CITY OF FREEPORT

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March 26, 2013 – City Council Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 5:28 P.M. by Mayor Matt Worms with Council Members Rodney Atkinson, Ron Ritter, Carrie Goebel and Ken Goebel also in attendance.

Also in attendance: Carol Moorman, Kathleen Murphy, Dave Humbert, Mary Goebel, Kathy Korte, Mason Schirmer, Cara Olmscheid, Jackie Bauer, and Kevin Kelly.

Staff person in attendance: Jon Stueve, Dave Blommel and Ashley Feldewerd.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those in attendance.

INTERVIEW CITY CLERK/TREASURER CANDIDATES

Kathleen Murphy gave a brief summary of how the interviews were going to be run. She said that each candidate would have some time to give an introduction and summary. After that council members would take over and ask their questions.

5:30 P.M. Cara Olmscheid

5:50 P.M. Kevin Kelly

6:10 P.M. Jackie Bauer

6:30 P.M. Mason Schirmer

Each candidate gave a brief summary of their experience, education and strengths. After they were finished council asked various questions in regards to their past experiences and where they see the city headed.

TEMPORARY RECESS

OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

No public comment was provided.

CONSENT AGENDA

C. Goebel moved and Ritter seconded a motion approving the Consent Agenda which included the following: Approval of the agenda; approval of the minutes from the February 19, 2013, Regular Council Meeting; approval of the claims distributed February 19, 2013 through March 14, 2013, approval of gambling license-Freeport Family Fishing, June 1, 2013, approval of liquor license-St. Joseph Society, April 20, 2013. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Hail Damage Insurance Claim

C. Goebel said that she spoke to Carol from the League of Minnesota Cities. Carol is not happy with the quote that the city received from Hennen Lumber. The quote stated that it would cost very close to the same price to replace the damaged panels as it would to replace the entire door. Worms said that he would get some prices and get back to C. Goebel. C. Goebel also said that

Carol would not order a second look at the roof without the city having someone go up on the roof and pinpoint the actual spots where we think damage has occurred as a result of the hail.

NEW BUSINESS

2013 Stearns County Assessor's Report

Kathy Korte gave an overview of average assessment changes by property type for 2013. Johnson highlighted the impact on agricultural property due to the changes in the green acres program. Atkinson had some questions about the industrial park and the valuations. The Local Board of Appeal and Equalization is set for April 30, 2013.

City Clerk/Treasurer Discussion/Selection

Worms asked Kathleen Murphy for suggestions on how to vote. Murphy said that council had two options. The first they could each write down on a piece of paper who they would like to see as the new city clerk. The second way is to write all for names down and rate them one to four and tally them up. Council decided to each write down a name and see where they stand. Worms collected the votes and tallied them. It was unanimous for Mason Schirmer.

Other

Humbert commented that public works did a good job with main street and keeping the snow cleaned up. Humbert stated that public works did not do a good job with snow removal in the residential areas. He said that there is nothing that can be done this year but it can be looked at for next year. Humbert stated that he came through on Saturday morning and the sidewalk in front of city hall was not shoveled and said that it looks bad for the city. Humbert also brought up concerns about public works using the city truck for personal use. Worms stated that on different occasions public works may go to Albany for parts and stop for lunch and that is acceptable. M. Goebel stated that they should not have to be prisoners in their own building because of snow. She also voiced concerns about snow removal and ice. M. Goebel also agreed that city hall sidewalks are not cleaned well enough. Concerns were also brought up about how many hours part time public works help was working. Worms said that the concerns would be addressed. Worms said that he has been in the snowplow and you can't do it alone. He questioned if they wanted the snow winged out, but then it would create more snow to remove for the manor. Discussions were had with ideas of how to rectify the snow removal issues.

REPORTS

City Engineer, S.E.H. – Dave Blommel

Blommel said that we have a punch list for the water tower that they will be working on finishing this spring. Blommel said that he needs a certificate of completion filled out for JR Ferche.

Resolution 2013-014: Certificate of Final Approval-JR Ferche

K. Goebel moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2013-014: Certification of Final Approval-JR Ferche. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works Report, Jon Stueve

Stueve said that he took care of the annual reports that were due. He also stated that the new meters are nice and that it is easier to track the water usage. Stueve answered questions about the

water being out of town. Stueve said that he figured out the problem and they are working on figuring out what the correct level of water is for the new water tower.

City Clerk/Treasurer's Report, Ashley Feldewerd

Feldewerd presented council with the new tax rates for Freeport and the surrounding areas.

WAGE/BENEFIT DISCUSSION (CLOSED SESSION)

Worms stated that council was going into a closed session to discuss wages/benefits.

Worms moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to reopen the meeting.

Worms stated that council had come up with \$19.00/hour and that the city would pay health insurance premiums up to \$8,000. Schirmer accepted the offer.

At 9:14 P.M. K. Goebel moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.