



CITY OF FREEPORT

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April 30, 2013 – City Council Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 6:00 P.M. by Mayor Matt Worms with Council Members Ron Ritter, Carrie Goebel and Ken Goebel in attendance (Rodney Atkinson arrived after meeting convened).

Also in attendance: Jeff Johnson, Kathy Korte, Carol Moorman, Gary Eisenschenk, Linus Bonfig, Audrey Blommel and Keith Blommel.

Staff in attendance: Mason Schirmer, Noah Van Beck, Dave Blommel and Ashley Feldewerd.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those in attendance.

RECESS TO ANNUAL LOCAL BOARD OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION

Eisenschenk presented an appraisal of his property (Parcel 54.32122.0000) and requested that the estimated market value be reduced from \$110,500 to \$90,000, a decrease of \$20,500 (18.55%). Johnson reviewed the private appraisal and identified pros and cons to using the appraisal to establish valuation. Johnson said the comparable properties used in the appraisal included properties outside of Freeport, properties with varying acreage and properties with differing house designs.

Council Member Rodney Atkinson arrived at 6:20 P.M.

Atkinson moved and Ritter seconded a motion to approve a reduction in the market value of Parcel 54.32122.0000 from \$110,500 to \$90,000. Motion carried 5-0.

Bonfig raised questions regarding two parcels (54.32017.0000 and 54.32206.0000). No changes were made to either parcel.

Worms moved and K. Goebel seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of the local board of appeal and equalization. Motion carried 5-0.

Worms called a five minute recess and reopened the regular meeting at 6:59 P.M.

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 March 26, 2013 Regular Council Meeting and approval of the claims distributed March 26, 2013 through April 15, 2013. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of hiring two new Fire Fighters

Freeport Fire Department Chief Noah Van Beck presented two new applicants for the Freeport Fire Department. K. Goebel moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion approving the hiring of Gary Schmitz and Wesley David as Fire Fighters. Motion carried 5-0.

Replacement of Administrative Assistant

Schirmer recommended the hiring of an Administrative Assistant. Schirmer said the process of advertising the position, interviewing candidates and starting a new employee may take as long as two months. Feldewerd agreed with the recommendation. K. Goebel and C. Goebel seconded a motion authorizing the hiring of an Administrative Assistant. Motion carried 5-0.

Other

K. Goebel said Bud Heidgerken is asking for volunteers to help with street closures during the upcoming summer parade. Worms suggested inquiring about assistance from the Sheriff's Department.

REPORTS

City Engineer, S.E.H. – Dave Blommel

Atkinson asked Blommel about the condition of the rip-rap lining the wastewater ponds. Atkinson said the water levels indicate a potential change in retaining wall elevation. Worms commented that repairs had been made approximately five years ago. Blommel said that as long as the water level does not exceed the rip-rap, there is likely no concern. Worms asked Blommel to inspect the ponds to verify there is no cause for concern. Blommel said he would inspect the pond.

City Clerk/Treasurer's Report, Mason Schirmer

Schirmer said the LMCIT recently settled a claim for an accident that happened during the recent snowfall. Schirmer said he will be including the Wellhead Protection Plan in the next council meeting packet for review and approval. Schirmer said the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) is requesting the city to hold a public hearing regarding the closing of the 2006 DEED funding project that involved Whirlwind Building Components. K. Goebel moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, May 28, 2013 starting at 7:00pm as per the request of DEED. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:34 P.M. Worms moved and K. Goebel seconded a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.