



## **CITY OF FREEPORT**

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### **November 26, 2013 – City Council Meeting Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Matt Worms with Council Members Ken Goebel, Ron Ritter, Carrie Goebel and Rodney Atkinson present.

Public in attendance: Carol Moorman (Melrose Beacon), Dan Reynoso (AT Group) and Ben Etle (312 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North).

Staff in attendance: Mason Schirmer and Dave Blommel.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those in attendance.

#### OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

No comments received.

#### APPROVE AGENDA

Schirmer recommended adding item 'g' Resolution 2013-029 to New Business and said Atkinson wanted him [Schirmer] to review the proposed minutes of the October 22, 2013, October 29, 2013, and November 12, 2013 before council considers approving. C. Goebel questioned Atkinson; Atkinson said there were inaccuracies. C. Goebel moved and Ritter seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried 5-0.

#### PUBLIC HEARING TO CERTIFY SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR UNPAID SERVICES

Schirmer said 203 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Northeast and 419 Main Street East have yet to pay for public nuisance mitigation when the city had to mow their lawns. Schirmer said Resolution 2013-028 has been prepared for council's consideration. No comments were received from the public.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Ritter moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda (claims paid 11/21/13 totaling \$14,030.95; and claims to be paid totaling \$43,650.98). Atkinson commended Schirmer for getting the \$10 late fee reimbursed from the Credit Union. Motion carried 5-0.

#### REPORTS

##### Clerk-Treasurer

Schirmer said a USDA loan payment is due in December if there were no objections, payment would be made. Schirmer said the city received State Fire Relief Aid and if there were no objections, those funds would be paid to the Fire Relief Association. Schirmer presented notice of a Danny's Disposal & Recycling rate increase. Schirmer presented a draft ordinance regarding fences. Schirmer presented a 2014 budget recommendation. Schirmer presented an email from a resident regarding entertainment for children.

Schirmer said a resident asked about adding a light to the alley behind the Manor. Schirmer handed-out an article by Rep. Paul Anderson (dated 11/25/13) which was provided by Atkinson as an update.

Atkinson said resident Dan Austing was enthusiastic about the city discussing what can be done to provide entertainment for children.

Worms suggested asking the owner of the Manor if they want the light and will pay for it.

#### Engineer

Blommel said the control systems at the pump houses should be replaced and that he can put together an initial estimate of costs. Blommel said a light pole had started falling-apart along the trail and was taken-down in early summer; Blommel said the light pole manufacturer is no longer in business and the city's supply of excess poles was used-up replacing previous pole failures. Blommel said the raised sidewalk panel located in front of the Credit Union has been repaired. Blommel said some residents were interested in receiving city water; Blommel said it is often the responsibility of the property owner to pay for the expenses.

Worms suggested confirming the property owner's interests.

#### Public Works Director

Schirmer provided a report from Jon Stueve. Schirmer said if there was no objection, Stueve would trade-in the used snowblower for a new snowblower as well as purchase tires for the tractor. Schirmer said new street light holiday decorations were recently purchased to replace older decorations. Schirmer said prior to the purchase, Stueve was addressed by multiple Lions club members that said the club would pay for new lights; however, after the purchase, the club said they would not pay for the lights. Ertle said the club had set-up a committee and wanted to purchase new lights that would be used next year.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Annual Limited Liability Coverage Waiver Renewal

Schirmer said the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust needed the form returned to ensure coverage did not lapse. Schirmer said Atkinson wanted to waive coverage limits and buy more insurance. Schirmer recommended considering changes next year. C. Goebel moved and K. Goebel seconded a motion to not waive statutory limits. Motion carried 4-1 (Atkinson opposed).

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Resolution 2013-028

K. Goebel moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2013-028 Resolution Certifying Unpaid Municipal Fees and Utility Charges Against Property. Motion carried 5-0.

##### 2013 Audit Engagement Letter

Schirmer presented the 2013 Audit Engagement Letter from Steve McDonald of Abdo, Eick & Meyers. Atkinson said the price seemed high. Council asked for a reason why the price is higher than previous years. Worms moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to table discussion until the next regular council meeting after a reason for the price is obtained from Steve McDonald.

##### Employee Health Insurance

Dan Reynoso of AT Group said Schirmer asked him to analyze the city's current small group health insurance plan and help the city identify a strategy to cap health insurance expenses before the Affordable Care Act goes into effect. Reynoso said without change, the city would sustain a thirty to forty percent increase in premiums. Reynoso said insurance is more affordable to the individual employee on the open

market. Reynoso recommended dissolving the existing small group plan and providing employees with cash to purchase health insurance with.

Atkinson said it would be administratively easier for the city; no longer would the city worry about picking a plan that benefits one employee more than another. Atkinson ask Reynoso additional questions.

Worms said the strategy seems like a good fit for Freeport. C. Goebel recommended requiring employees provide proof of insurance before money is provided each month. Worms moved and C. Goebel seconded a motion to dissolve the current small group plan effective December 31, 2013 and provide employees with \$10,000 annually to be used to purchase health insurance and that employees must provide proof of insurance monthly.

#### Tri-County Humane Society Agreement

K. Goebel moved and Ritter seconded a motion to approve an agreement with Tri-County Human Society for stray animal handling effective January 1, 2014. Motion carried 5-0.

#### New Snowblower

Schirmer said he commented on replacing the snowblower during the Public Works Director Report and no action is necessary.

#### Budget Amendment

Schirmer presented eight amendments to the 2013 budget. Schirmer said the amendments moved the budget allocations between budget object codes to improve budget analysis. Atkinson moved and Ritter seconded a motion to approve 2013 budget amendments 1-8. Motion carried 5-0.

#### Resolution 2013-029

Schirmer presented a budget for 2014 and information on bond levy amounts. Worms moved and K. Goebel seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2013-029 A Resolution Adopting The Final 2014 Budget and Tax Levy with a total tax levy of \$397,500. Motion carried 5-0.

#### OTHER

##### Opportunity for to ask for items to be added to the next meeting agenda

Schirmer recommended reviewing enterprise fund rates. Worms recommended putting the topic on the next regular meeting agenda.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Worms moved and K. Goebel seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

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Mason Schirmer, City Clerk

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Matthew H. Worms, Mayor