



CITY OF FREEPORT

125 Main Street E – PO Box 301 – Freeport, MN 56331 – 320-836-2112 – FAX 320-836-2116
For TTY/TDD Users 1-800-627-3529 or 711 Minnesota Relay Service www.freeportmn.org

October 27, 2015 – Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 7:00pm by Mayor Rodney Atkinson with Councilmembers Mike Eveslage, Ken Goebel, Tim Hennen, and Ben Ertle present.

Staff in attendance: Clerk-Treasurer Adrianna Hennen, Deputy Treasurer Joan Wall, Public Works Director Loren Goebel, City Attorney Scott Dymoke, City Engineer Dave Blommel, and Maintenance Assistant Vernon Fuchs.

Residents in attendance:

Andrea Ramacher (720 1st Ave N)
Carrie Goebel (324 8th St SE)
Ryan Pruesser (304 8th St SE)

Natascha Hennen (107 3rd St NW)
Mark Middendorf (711 Main St E)

Public Forum

No Comments were made.

Approve Agenda

Ertle moved to approve the agenda with the additions of claim 2057 and *f. Land Use Proposal* under *Old Business*; seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda

There was discussion regarding claim 2067 to Bayer Trucking. Council had previously approved a proposal for \$5,900 to replace the truck box, but the invoice was for more work totally \$9,057.60. It was explained that previous public works director Stueve had approved the additional improvements. Council expressed their dissatisfaction with the way this was handled, but was reassured by A. Hennen that this will not happen again. Eveslage moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Reports

Engineer Report

City Engineer Dave Blommel present council with a map of the town he had developed to show which houses were check for sump pumps, which ones had problems, which ones were cleared, and the ones we were still unsure about. It was decided by council that the new public works director, L. Goebel, would start over with sump pump checks since the previous director left us with little information.

Attorney Report

Council had no questions or comments regarding Scott Dymoke's report.

Public Works Report

L. Goebel stated that his first week had been a learning process, but everything was going well. L. Goebel said he was working on figuring out weekly projects ahead of time to let the maintenance assistants know when they were needed. Eveslage wanted to thank Fuchs and Elfering for working hard, especially after Stueve had left. Atkinson asked to make a resolution thanking Fuchs and Elfering for their hard work.

Old Business

Liability Waiver Form

Fritz Hoeschen explained that it would cost the City an \$202 to Waive the monetary limits. T. Hennen moved to waive the monetary limits, seconded by Atkinson. Motion carried 5-0.

Health Insurance

Atkinson asked if it would be okay to move this item under old business so that Fritz Hoeschen wouldn't have to stay. Council agreed.

A. Hennen asked council to consider a group health insurance plan. A. Hennen stated she and L. Goebel are not asking to get more than the already allotted \$9,000/year they currently receive, but instead put that money towards a group plan instead of an individual plan. Currently group plans are cheaper than individual plans. It was explained that L. Goebel would have to pay into the plan since his premiums for family are higher, while A. Hennen would be paid the difference since she would be the only one on her plan. Etle moved, seconded by T. Hennen to sign up for group health insurance. Motion carried 5-0.

2016 Budget

A. Hennen asked council what amounts they would like to place into the "streets fund" and the "equipment fund". Council was told that if we stayed with our proposed levy, we would have \$79,000 to work with. Atkinson asked Blommel what he thought. Blommel said that you can never get ahead of street improvement costs, so whatever you have I would try to delegate towards streets to reduce bond payments in the future. Council directed to allocate \$60,000 into the street fund and \$10,000 into the equipment fund. Council also asked to get a list of equipment the city currently owns so we have a better idea of replacement costs.

Albany Telephone Lines

Council agreed that the line to Tom Hiltner's house needs to be disconnected. It was also stated to disconnect the phone and internet at the maintenance shop, but to check with Preferred Controls first to make sure that nothing with our SCADA systems would be harmed in doing so.

Resolution 2015-16 – Fire Department Personnel Policy

K. Goebel moved, seconded by Etle to approve the resolution. Motion carried 5-0.

Outdoor Bulletin Board

Council agreed a bulletin board wouldn't be necessary if meeting notices were hung on the inside of the door.

Land Use Proposal

After discussion on what should be included in the land use proposal, Atkinson took a different approach to the idea of a land use plan for the City. Atkinson stated that a lot of the areas in Freeport are set, zoning wise. The City isn't going to change the industrial park into residential, commercial into industrial, etc. Atkinson thought it would be a better use of money and time to have the land use advisor look at Freeport

and recommend where multi-home housing would be appropriate in Freeport, since that is the topic which started the idea of a land use plan. Council directed A. Hennen to speak with Cynthia Smith-Strack in regards to having her look at our multi-home housing needs.

New Business

Resolution 2015-17 – Public Hearing on changing City Code Sections 1400 and 1405

Ettle moved to approve the resolution, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2015-18 – Ballpark Light Rental Agreement

Eveslage moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Ettle. Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of Claim

Dymoke went through and explained the memo he had put together regarding the claim. No further discussion was had.

Watershed District Assessments

Ettle moved to pay off the assessments at one time, seconded by K. Goebel. Motion carried 5-0.

Robert Hoeschen

Council asked L. Goebel not having a fence around the sediment pond in Hoeschen's field pose a problem for the City if Hoeschen's are already taking down their portion of the fence. L. Goebel didn't foresee any problems. Atkinson moved to fulfill both of Robert Hoeschen's requests to erect a barrier off of 9th Street and allow them to remove the City's portion of the fence around the sediment pond, seconded by Ettle. Motion carried 5-0.

Blandin Foundation

A. Hennen explained that she had applied for the program and are looking for more people from Freeport to apply. She stated that she has applications and information available to whomever might be interested.

Adjourn

Ettle moved to adjourn at 9:30 seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor, Rodney Atkinson

City Clerk-Treasurer, Adrianna Hennen