



CITY OF FREEPORT

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November 24, 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)

Craig Timp (213 2nd Ave NW)

Public Hearing – Freeport City Code Section 1400

Scott Dymoke explained what were the major changes in the enabling ordinance. The changes included housekeeping items like updating addresses and spellings along with making sure that it went along with the updated EDA Bylaws.

No other public comment.

Public Forum

No public comment.

Approve Agenda

A. Hennen asked council to add claim 2128 (health insurance payment), Ordinance 2015-003 under 'New Business', and Resolution 2015-22 under 'New Business'. Ertle moved to approve the agenda with the suggested changes, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Consent Agenda

K. Goebel moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Ertle. Motion carried 5-0.

Reports

Deputy Treasurer Report

Wall included monthly financial reports in the agenda packet. Council appreciated getting the information, but asked that they receive this information quarterly.

Public Works Report

L. Goebel had provided log sheets of activity for the council to review in the agenda packet. Again, council appreciated getting this information and asked that it continue. L. Goebel said that he had about 20 houses

left to check for sump pumps. He also asked council if he could go ahead and fix the pump house roof by the old water tower where there was a pipe in the roof that was letting rain and snow in. Council agreed to allow L. Goebel to go ahead and patch up the hole.

Engineer Report

Blommel stated that he had come to Freeport to show L. Goebel some things around town and help him to get familiar with the infrastructure. Otherwise, he was waiting for L. Goebel to finish up sump pump checks.

Attorney Report

Dymoke noted that he had worked on the EDA bylaws for this City this month.

New Business

Mail Ballot Voting

Dave Walz, Stearns County Election Director, presented to council the option of mail ballot voting. Walz stated that the County will be giving some of the smaller precincts the opportunity to become a mail ballot voting precinct. The only regulation is that the precinct has to have less than 400 registered voters, Freeport has been holding steady at about 370 for the past few years. Walz explained that it would cost the City \$6 per voter. Walz also stated that the time is coming to purchase new ballot counters which cost upwards of \$11,000, that the City would have to incur. Walz explained that the County mails out ballots no less than two weeks before the election. A person could go to the County if he or she wanted to vote in person. Council asked questions regarding voter fraud, and Walz said that is something that could happen, but hasn't seem to be a problem in other precincts that conduct mail ballot voting. Walz stated that they are going to try and target non-registered voters before the election to become registered. Council asked if the County would be interested in holding a centralized polling place in Freeport. Walz said the County has talked about this and will replay that Freeport is interested. Walz said he would like an answer soon so that if Freeport chooses not to, he could give other precincts the opportunity. Atkinson stated we would talk about this again at our special Dec. 15th meeting.

SunShare

The speaker did not show up for this item.

Bond Schedules

Wall put together a spread sheet that showed all of the bonds and what was left to pay on them. The question was asked about the water tower and when that should be paid off. Currently we are looking at paying it off in 20 years with the amount of money we are taking in through the "water tower fee" on each water bill. Right now we have a 40 year bond on the water tower. It was asked how we pay that off early. It was decided that was a question that needs to be asked to the USDA.

Ordinance 2015-003

Ettle moved to approve Ordinance 2015-003, seconded by K. Goebel. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2015-19

K. Goebel moved to approve Resolution 2015-19, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2015-20

Ettle moved to approve Resolution 2015-20, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2015-21

Ettle moved to approve Resolution 2015-21, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

Dog Boarding/Kennels

Council agreed to have A. Hennen look into what other towns do in relation to dog boarding.

Ladder Purchase

Eveslage moved to purchase a 10 ft. aluminum ladder for \$207.90, seconded by Ettle. Motion carried 5-0.

Cell Phone

Eveslage moved to purchase the 1000 minute plan, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

January Meeting Schedule

Council agreed to have the January 2016 meeting at its regular time on January 26th.

Resolution 2015-22

Ettle moved to approve Resolution 2015-22, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Ettle moved to adjourn at 9:15pm, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor, Rodney Atkinson

City Clerk-Treasurer, Adrianna Hennen