



## CITY OF FREEPORT

125 Main Street E – PO Box 301 – Freeport, MN 56331 – 320-836-2112 – FAX 320-836-2116  
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### March 28, 2017 – Meeting Minutes

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

Staff in attendance: Clerk-Treasurer Adrianna Hennen, Deputy Treasurer Joan Wall, City Engineer Dave Blommel, and Public Works Director Loren Goebel

Others in attendance:

Andrea Ramacher & Vernon Fuchs (720 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N)  
Phil Osendorf (124 2<sup>nd</sup> St NE)

Matt Lurken-Tvrdik (514 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N)  
Marc Payne (511 1 ½ St NE)

### Approve Agenda

A. Hennen presented updated meeting minutes with type error and a gambling license for the Freeport Black Sox raffle. Etle approve the agenda with the proposed changes, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

### Open Public Forum

No comment was given.

### Consent Agenda

T. Hennen moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

### Reports

#### Clerk Report

A. Hennen stated that the audit was beginning April 3<sup>rd</sup>. That is what Joan has been working on and what they will be busy with the beginning of the following week.

#### Deputy Treasurer Report

No report was given.

#### Public Works Report

No report was given.

#### Engineer Report

No report was given.

#### Attorney Report

No report was given.

#### Fire Department Report

No report was given.

## **New Business**

### Chickens in R-1

Resident Marc Payne requested that the council consider allowing laying hen chickens in R-1 so that he and his family would be able to have chickens, specifically for his daughters that are in 4-H. Eveslage and Ertle both expressed that they were not in favor of the idea of allowing chickens in all of R-1. Ertle stated that Albany allowed chickens in R-1 but only on properties that were of so many acres and a specific distance away from the neighbors. Council stated they would not be changing the ordinance to allow for chickens.

### Public Nuisance Notices

A. Hennen stated she recently became aware of a grant/loan program that the USDA is providing for homeowners. There are age and income brackets the homeowner has to fall in to be eligible for the loan and/or grant. A. Hennen stated this is the information she provided a few of the residents along with the notice of violation their properties are currently under. Phil Osendorf followed-up with that and stated that there are some dumpy looking properties in town he would like to see taken care of. A. Hennen stated she would keep the council and Osendorf up to date on the progress of these properties.

### Fire Department Water Usage

Atkinson stated he would like to charge the fire department for water usage to collect a water tower fee. He stated that when he saw County Road 11 redone and a new fire hydrant and other assessments were given to the City he thought it was unfair that only the city of Freeport was paying for this expense even though it is truly the area fire service. Atkinson stated the area fire service should have been paid for a portion the assessment. Council agreed they saw where Atkinson was coming from. T. Hennen recommended the idea of charging the user of the water, fire victim, for the water usage on the bill that is sent for the fire department service. T. Hennen stated that is how it is done with Noah Van Beck. He takes water and notifies the city how many gallons he took and is charged a bulk water fee that is established. Atkinson stated he never thought of doing it that way. Atkinson and A. Hennen both agreed they didn't need to make a decision tonight, but instead to start thinking about the idea.

### Fire Department Surplus Transfer

A. Hennen stated that the fire department wanted the excess 2016 funds to be transferred to the building/equipment fund for future equipment needs. Council asked what happens to the money now. A. Hennen stated it just stays in the fund, and Wall followed up that it adds to the total fund balance so it stays with the fund. Council agreed they would rather not allocate it to any area since it will still be in the fund and can be used wherever needed in the future. Ertle moved to keep the surplus in the fund and not allocate it, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

## **Adjourn**

Ertle moved to adjourn at 7:35, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 5-0.

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Mayor, Rodney Atkinson

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City Clerk-Treasurer, Adrianna Hennen