



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

May 29, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

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

Staff in attendance: Clerk-Treasurer Adrianna Hennen, Public Works Director Loren Goebel, City Engineer Dave Blommel, City Attorney Scott Dymoke, Fire Chief John Gilk, and Assistant Chief Chris Williams

Absent: None

Others in attendance:

Andrea Remacher (720 1st Ave N)

Sean Lawler (Xcel Energy)

Stephanie Hennen (303 3rd St SE)

Craig Timp (213 2nd Ave NW)

Mike & Aaron Mills (211 2nd St NW)

Buddy Loehrer (208 2nd Ave NW)

Jim Scherer (203 3rd Ave SE)

Cody Scherping (204 3rd St NW)

Kyle Rademacher & Brooke Fleischaker (212 2nd Ave NW)

Lt. Bob Dickhaus (Stearns Co. Sheriff's Office)

Mark Ostendorf (Xcel Energy)

Chad Thielen (112 3rd St NW)

Jordan Primus (110 2nd St NW)

Waste Management

Zack & Holly Arnold (209 2nd Ave NW)

Keith Fischer (109 3rd St SW)

Everett Scherping (37267 Rimcrest Road)

Approve Agenda

A. Hennen explained two additions to the agenda. One being a claim for “I am Responding” which the Fire Department uses and would like to continue. Second was that Waste Management wanted to change the day of the week that they collect garbage and recycling. Ettle moved to approve the agenda with the presented changes, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

Xcel Energy Variance Request Public Hearing

During the public hearing Keith Fischer asked if this new power line would affect the power line that currently runs through his property. Sean Lawler confirmed that it would not. Lawler explained the need for the line is connect a substation to the large powerlines that run along I-94. Everett Scherping expressed his dislike for Xcel and this process. Cody Scherping also explained he didn't have the resources to fight the power line running along his property so he agreed to it. Atkinson made it clear that Freeport did not agree to anything until the surrounding properties made a decision since the City didn't want to be the ones pushing for or against it. No other comments or questions were given.

Open Public Forum

No comment was given.

Consent Agenda

Renneker moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Eittle. Motion carried 5-0.

Reports

Clerk Report

No report was given.

Treasurer Report

No report was given.

Public Works Report

Goebel had no updates for council.

Engineer Report

Blommel stated at the last meeting alleys were discussed. Blommel looked at both in question. He determined that the one behind Scott Thielen and Glen Meyer can be fixed with a couple loads of crushed rock. After looking at the alley that runs along Mike Renneker he is recommending vacating the alley. Blommel stated he hopes Kotzer will begin work on Industrial Drive in the upcoming weeks.

Attorney Report

Dymoke explained everything he has worked on will be coming up later in the meeting.

Fire Department Report

Gilk stated they received an offer on the 1968 pumper truck for \$5,126.00. Council expressed dissatisfaction for how this had come about. Council was unaware the truck was for sale. Gilk explained that he was under the impression that from previous conversations that council was okay with selling the pumper. T. Hennen stated that he wasn't happy about how this was conducted, but motioned to sell the pumper for \$5,126, seconded by Renneker. Roll call vote was requested: Atkinson-pass, Eittle-yes, Eveslage-yes, T. Hennen-yes, Renneker-yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business

Xcel Energy Variance

T. Hennen moved to approve the variance for Xcel Energy, seconded by Eittle. Roll call vote was requested: Atkinson-yes, Eittle-yes, Eveslage-no, T. Hennen-yes, Renneker-yes. Motion carried 4-1.

Public Nuisance

Lt. Bob Dickhaus was present to discuss the County's involvement when it comes to public nuisances. Dickhaus first explained that Freeport does have a very nice nuisance policy and quite robust in terms of what he has seen from other cities. He stated that the county can help enforce, but it is more up to the City to follow its ordinances and the steps. Dymoke then explained that Freeport does have a few options. If someone's property doesn't meet standards they should be given notice. If there is no action from the resident from the notice, the city can prosecute them with a misdemeanor. The other option instead of a misdemeanor would be to allow the court system to set a date that it has to be cleaned up by and set repercussions if it is not cleaned up by that date. Dickhaus agreed with what Freeport was doing. He stated you get the most action by the resident by working with them and giving them the time to clean up before the other routes. Dickhaus did say though there eventually needs to be repercussions if there is no improvement from the resident.

Atkinson started with the Buddy Loehrer property. Loehrer explained that he's been working on cleaning up the property. When asked how much longer he would need to clean it up and get it up to compliance, Loehrer stated two weeks. Neighbor, Holly Arnold, expressed concern regarding the loud, derogatory music coming from the Loehrer residence that is right across the street from her day care. Loehrer stated he would talk to his brother about that. Arnold did say she saw some improvement in the appearance of the property. Council stated they would give Loehrer until July 1st to get his property up to compliance. They would follow up at the June 26th meeting.

Atkinson then moved on to the Scherer rental property. Neighbors of the home did say that they cleaned up quite a bit and it was looking much nicer. Goebel also stated that he told them to start working on their vehicles on the property instead of in the roadway, which has helped. Scherer asked if all of this fell upon the owner of the property or on the renters. Atkinson stated you own the property so it is upon you. Atkinson recommended driving by the house when they are in town to keep an eye on it.

Jennifer Beach was not at the meeting. Council told A. Hennen to send reminder letters that she has until July 1st to get the house completely down. Council agreed to follow up on this property at the June 26th meeting as well.

*Recess was called for at 8:22. Meeting resumed at 8:27

Ross Klaphake Shed

Atkinson stated that we had a late spring and Klaphake had been working on the shed and it was looking good. He stated to consider the shed compliant.

Solar Gardens

Dymoke presented a sample ordinance that showed what it would look like to have rules regarding solar gardens. Council asked, instead of having all of this language, since council doesn't want solar gardens, to just stated in the ordinance that solar gardens are not allowed in the city limits. Council agreed that they would allow single solar gardens on properties that powered the building on site. Dymoke stated he put together the example ordinance just to see what council wanted, but could easily take it out and state solar gardens are not allowed. Council agreed they would come back to this so this could think about how they wanted to address commercial and residential properties.

Treasurer Position

A. Hennen explained that she hadn't received any applicants since the last month that were worthwhile. Eveslage still suggested that the council consider updating the position to a 32 hour a week position, where the person could start late morning and work until 5 so that more residents would be able to access city hall. Council agreed it's something that they should try.

Welle Addition Park – Set Meeting Date

Council agreed to hold the meeting during the June 26th meeting. A. Hennen stated she would send out special notices to the Welle Addition neighborhoods.

At the end of the meeting, Keith Fischer brought up the issue of parking around the ice cream shop since he lives across the street. Fischer stated he sent an email to the owners stating his concerns and they said they would try to address the issue. Fischer stated it's a nuisance to the neighbors and dangerous since all of the cars make it difficult to see. Council thanked him for bringing up the issue and hoped that the owners would take Fischer's email into consideration.

Ajourn

Ettle moved to adjourn at 9:17, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor, Rodney Atkinson

City Clerk-Treasurer, Adrianna Hennen