



CITY OF FREEPORT

125 Main Street E – PO Box 301 – Freeport, MN 56331 – 320-836-2112 – FAX 320-836-2116
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September 25, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

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

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

Absent: Ben Eittle

Others in attendance:

Sarah Blake (1012 3rd Ave SE)

Chad Thielen (112 3rd St NW)

Andy Grieve (210 2nd Ave NE)

Andrea Ramacher & Vern Fuchs (720 1st Ave N)

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

Approve Agenda

Eveslage moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Hearing – Ordinance 2018-02 Solar Energy

Public hearing opened at 7:01. No comment was given. Public hearing closed at 7:03

Open Public Forum

No comment was given.

Consent Agenda

Eveslage moved to approve the consent agenda, excluding claim 3319 and removing “then work getting completed” from the August meeting minutes, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 4-0

Reports

Clerk Report

A. Hennen state Simon Hellermann has approached her about the City cutting the grass, which is technically state land, behind his gravel lot on Main Street. Council stated the city would cut it if Hellermann paid \$25 per grass cutting.

A. Hennen asked if the council would like to hire Atkinson Well & Pump to blow out the ballpark water lines for the same cost as last year which was \$245. T. Hennen moved to have Atkinson Well & Pump do the work, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 3-0 with Atkinson abstaining.

Treasurer Report

No report was given.

Public Works Report

Goebel stated he got an estimate from Jesse James Plumbing and Phil Osendorf. Melrose Plumbing didn't want to give an estimate. The purpose of the grease trap is to prevent grease that is coming from Charlie's Café from entering the City sewer line. The Council discussed how the grease trap should be paid for. Some members thought cost sharing would be appropriate since Jesse Job would have to maintain the grease trap and it would be benefiting Job and the City from backups and extra maintenance on the line. Some members didn't feel it should be on the burden of the tax payers to help pay for something that doesn't benefit them. It was finally recommended to ask the EDA their opinion since this was more of a business assistance situation.

Engineer Report

Blommel stated that MPCA has released the Draft General Permit for Pond Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Blommel said that as of right now nothing is really changing for Freeport.

Attorney Report

Dymoke stated most of his items were coming up in Old Business. Dymoke gave the Loehrer update during his report. He stated he filed Council's order with the court and filed a notice of lis pendens with the County Recorder. He now has to wait five business days to schedule the hearing and file the motion papers.

Fire Department Report

John Gilk stated that they didn't get the FEMA grant again this year. Council questioned whether we should get a new person to write these grants. Gilk said that anyone else will cost around \$1500 where Neil, the person we have now costs \$400. Atkinson asked if Neil has gotten grants for anyone else lately. Gilk said he got Chain of Lakes one this year, and Albany and Avon within the last three years. Atkinson thought it might be worth looking into someone new. Gilk said he would like to give Neil one more try this year. Gilk asked if Atkinson wanted to be at the meeting with Neil when they went over the grant application. Atkinson didn't think it would be appropriate for him to be there since he will no longer be on council soon. T. Hennen said he would attend the meeting.

Gilk said they are in dire need of turnout gear now that they haven't gotten the FEMA grant. He said the Relief Association has half of the \$55,000 funds. Gilk said he has intentions of talking with the Freeport and St. Rosa Lions and the St. Rosa Jaycees to see if they would donate towards the turnout gear. Atkinson said to wait on doing that because the Fire Department account might have unallocated dollars in the fund that have been accumulating that could be used towards the turnout gear. It was also mentioned that the building and equipment fund had \$19,000.

Gilk also said that Mid Central is getting him an estimate on the cost of putting in a commercial dehumidifier and A/C unit in the Fire Hall since they are having major mold issues.

Old Business

Ordinance 2018-02 Solar Energy

T. Hennen moved to approve Ordinance 2018-02, seconded by Eveslage. Atkinson-yes, Eveslage-yes, T. Hennen-yes, Renneker-yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance 2018-03 Solar Energy Summary

Renneker moved to approve Ordinance 2018-03, seconded by Atkinson. Atkinson-yes, Eveslage-yes, T. Hennen-yes, Renneker-yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Rental Housing

Dymoke explained at the August meeting Council reviewed New Munich's ordinance and council agreed at that time that it was too much for Freeport. Dymoke explained he broke up the information in different parts, rental housing and unfit for habitation. Council agreed they liked where the rental housing ordinance. Atkinson stated he wanted to see a specific area that outlined parking in the rental ordinance. Potentially requiring the owner to submit a parking plan and only allow a certain number of vehicles. Something to prevent perpetual on street parking by the people renting the property.

Unfit for Habitation

T. Hennen liked the rental ordinance and felt the city would be able to enforce it. T. Hennen stated that the unfit for habitation is something that the city can adopt, but will not be able to enforce. T. Hennen stated when he spoke with building inspector Harren during the Loehrer house inspection and Harren stated he had no red sticker to stick on unfit homes. A. Hennen stated she would speak with Harren to see if this is something he could or would feel comfortable trying to enforce.

Parking Nuisance/Ordinance 500.475

Council decided to talk more about this next month.

Public Nuisance by Zone

Atkinson wanted to know where the grass cutting height requirement was located in the City Code and questioned if it should be combined with the nuisance ordinance. Atkinson stated #3 under 2010.01 should be clarified since it could mean required retention ponds. #11 under 2010.01 was questioned since no one knew what it meant. #23 under 2010.05 was thought to be segregated away from commercial/industrial properties. Council thought "fence" under 2010.06, Subd. 1 should be removed.

Loehrer Update

Was given during Attorney Report.

New Business

2019 Preliminary Budget

Council went page by page and asked any questions that arose about the budget. It was recommended to bring up Mike Elfering's wages during the October meeting since he has never had an increase. Council wanted the percentages of bills collected with the new billing company for the Fire Department to determine if it was successful. Council decided to increase 602.43250.311 to \$20,000. Atkinson stated we needed to ask Jeff Johnson what new or increased valuation has come to Freeport to determine how much they can increase the levy without negatively affecting most households and businesses. Eveslage moved to increase the General Levy on Resolution 2018-10 from \$275,000 to \$300,000. Atkinson-yes, Eveslage-yes, T. Hennen-yes, Renneker-yes. Motion carried 4-0. Atkinson moved to approve Resolution 2018-10, seconded by T. Hennen. Motion carried 4-0.

Ajourn

Renneker moved to adjourn, seconded by Eveslage. Motion carried 4-0.