



CITY OF FREEPORT

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April 30, 2019 – Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 7:00pm by Mayor Mike Eveslage, and councilmembers Sarah Blake, Ben Eittle, Tim Hennen, and Jake Renneker.

Staff in attendance: Clerk-Treasurer Joan Wall, Public Works Director Loren Goebel, City Attorney Scott Dymoke, Fire Chief John Gilk, and Assistant Fire Chief Andy Grieve

Others in attendance:

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

Rodney Atkinson (310 8th St SE)

Lori Austing (Freeport)

Al Williams (Freeport)

Jason Hartman (Waste Management)

Rose Austing (Freeport)

Megan Gaebel (Freeport)

Approve Agenda

Because Jason Hartman needs to drive back to the Twin Cities, Eveslage suggested moving the Waste Management agenda item to just after the Public Forum. Renneker moved to approve the agenda with the proposed change, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Open Public Forum

Tim Hennen opened a discussion about property owned by Carl Botz that has a significant amount of cattails on it, and nearby flooding. A meeting was had last fall with several people, including Fish and Wildlife or the DNR, about plans to address the problem. Botz talked to Andy Grieve last fall about burning it and Grieve suggested they wait until spring. About one month ago, Botz said he wanted to leave it alone because there are birds nesting. Grieve explained the DNR said if the cattails were burned, they would just come back twice as thick. They said a permit for aquatic spray would be needed to take care of the problem. If there is flooding, who is responsible for it? Loren Goebel explained that the pond has been pushed back further onto the property and the front part is now pretty dry. Ben Eittle will talk to County Commissioner Steve Notch to see if there are funds or help for this.

Waste Management

Hartman stated that the \$6.50 admin charge for commercial customers will be removed from their bills. If those customers want to be reimbursed for the past charges, they will need to call and make a request. Hartman left a stack of his business cards and stated anyone can call him with questions instead of calling the switchboard number from Texas.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Hennen stated he has a source for office furniture in St. Cloud and he will give Wall that information. Council stated Wall could check out office chairs and let Eveslage or Hennen know the amount and they could approve the purchase.

Hennen moved to hire Vaughn Glasener to clean the floors at City Hall, seconded by Blake. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Department Report

Gilk clarified questions about the quotes for the dehumidifier. If Precise did the work, they would not need to install ducting because of where they would hang it. If Melrose Plumbing & Heating did the work, they would need to install ducting. Gilk would prefer if Precise did the work because they have done this kind of thing before. Renneker moved to hire Precise, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was had about Gilk's proposed price increases to bill for supplies. Blake moved to approve the increases, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Gilk stated they would be applying for a matching DNR grant for two new drop tanks that need to be replaced.

Public Works Report

Goebel started discharging the ponds this week. Goebel brought pictures of a culvert that was washed out by water flowing from Pung's field to the crick. Council stated Goebel could call Kotzer's to fix the culvert.

Engineer Report

No report was given.

Attorney Report

Dymoke reported that Buddy Loehrer's foreclosure redemption period should expire in about one month. We may know more about that situation by the May meeting.

Old Business

Administrative Assistant Job Opening

Eveslage explained that he called three candidates last week asking for references and inviting the candidates to come to tonight's meeting for interviews. One of the three candidates did not return his call. Eveslage called the references for Lori Austing and Megan Gaebel and all information was very positive for both. Wall and the Council took turns asking pre-determined interview questions, first to Austing, and then to Gaebel. Austing and Gaebel were also able to ask questions. By the end of this week, each Council member will let Wall know which candidate they chose and how much they think the hourly pay should be. Wall will notify the Council of the decision and contact the candidates. This decision will be contingent upon a successful background check.

New Business

Elite Transport Group

Wall sent a letter to Mark Ettel inviting him to come to tonight's meeting to discuss the noise complaints neighbors have expressed. Hennen stated M. Ettel came to talk to him because he wasn't sure he would be able to attend the meeting. M. Ettel seemed to feel bad about the noise and would ask his drivers to be

quieter. He would like to discuss moving the business to a different lot, possibly in the Industrial Park. Council directed Wall to send a letter to M. Ettel inviting him to attend an EDA meeting to discuss an Industrial Park lot. Hennen offered to go with him to look at available lots.

City Hall Technology Updates

After reviewing the quotes, Council wondered if we could purchase two more laptops instead of two desktop computers, since the laptops were so much cheaper. They also want to make sure RemotePC is secure. Wall will check into these items further. Since the City needs to update the desktop computers, the Council is not interested in purchasing a TV at this time. Etle moved to approve the purchase of the 256GB SSD laptop, dual monitors, docking station, and keyboard and mouse, seconded by Blake. Motion carried 5-0.

Update Pay Ranges

Renneker asked if Kathleen Murphy could come to a Council meeting to explain how she comes up with her numbers before we agree to hire her to do an update. It was also asked how other cities handle this. Wall will contact Murphy and other cities.

Senior Center Maintenance

After a short discussion, Council agreed they would not approve replacing landscape rock with concrete. Council directed Goebel to let D. Notch know the rock would not be replaced and that everyone who rents the Senior Center should pay a damage deposit.

Website Photo Update

Council would like to know what the \$500 annual website hosting fee covers and would like more detail as to what the \$750 to do updates covers. Wall will contact Weber to ask him to attend the May meeting. Council is interested in adding a calendar of events to the City's website.

Resolution 2019-07 Liquor License Renewals

Etle moved to approve Resolution 2019-07, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

Donation Request, Resolution 2019-08 Contribution to Freeport Chamber of Commerce

Council directed Wall to contact Sara Hoppe to explain that the City couldn't contribute to her project. Etle moved to approve Resolution 2019-08, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Etle moved to adjourn, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor, Mike Eveslage

City Clerk-Treasurer, Joan Wall