



## **CITY OF FREEPORT**

125 Main Street E – PO Box 301 – Freeport, MN 56331 – 320-836-2112  
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### **May 28, 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 Ettle, Tim Hennen, and Jake Renneker.

Staff in attendance: Clerk-Treasurer Joan Wall, Public Works Director Loren Goebel, Administrative Assistant Lori Austing, City Engineer Dave Blommel, City Attorney Scott Dymoke,

Others in attendance:

Andrea Ramacher & Vern Fuchs (720 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N)  
Barry Weber (Albany)

Carol Moorman (Melrose Beacon)

#### **Approve Agenda**

Wall explained claim #3646 should be in the amount of \$1,900.00 instead of \$1,600.00 because that is the total donations received for the Ham BBQ. Renneker moved to approve the agenda with the proposed change, seconded by Ettle. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Open Public Forum**

Eveslage opened a discussion about the possibility of installing solar powered speed signs coming into town from all four directions. A resident expressed concerns to Eveslage, but wasn't able to attend the meeting. Both commercial vehicles and regular vehicles have been seen coming into town at high speeds and some residents are concerned for people's safety. Eveslage suggested getting 3 quotes to find out what it would cost to install these signs. Blommel mentioned that highway safety grants exist, but our highways don't have enough traffic to qualify. He also mentioned Stearns County needs to approve anything we do because these are county roads. Blommel isn't aware of a state program for funding, but he has meeting in June where he can ask about that.

#### **Consent Agenda**

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

#### **Reports**

##### Clerk-Treasurer Report

Council would like a blurb about Lori Austing being a new city employee in the newsletter.

##### Fire Department Report

No report was given.

### Public Works Report

Goebel and Blommel explained that we will most likely not be able to purchase any more light poles like we currently have. A discussion was had whether to begin purchasing different ones when we need to replace our current ones. Hennen moved to have Freeport Electric replace the light pole by Charlie's, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

Ettle moved to approve Hennen Lumber's quote to replace well house doors & windows, seconded by Blake. Motion carried 4-0. Hennen abstained.

### Engineer Report

Blommel explained that manhole #71 is underwater and needs to be fixed soon. Manholes #72 & #73 will also need to be fixed within the next several months. If we have a contractor do them all at once, we will save on mobilization fees. If we don't fix these soon, we could end up having to do work on our ponds because they are full. Blommel brought bids for fixing all three manholes and fixing the Industrial Park lift station. Kotzer Excavating's bid was for \$18,383.95 and Kuechle Underground's bid was for \$35,730.00. Ettle moved to approve Kotzer's bid, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

### Attorney Report

No additional information given besides what was in the agenda packet.

### **Old Business**

#### Update Pay Ranges

Kathleen Murphy was not able to attend the meeting due to a medical issue. Murphy provided Wall with the information she would have brought to the meeting and Wall provided it to the Council. Council directed Wall to utilize the League of Minnesota Cities Salary & Benefits Survey.

#### Website Update

Barry Weber demonstrated and explained how our website works. He explained that a website requires maintenance to keep it running smoothly and to keep viruses and spam at bay. His services to do this are included in the annual website hosting fee the City pays. Having Weber do this work provides consistency even if we have turnover at City Hall.

Our website is based on a framework that was purchased several years ago and that framework determines how the City's website looks. If the City wanted a new fresh look, it would be an involved undertaking and would have a fairly significant cost.

#### Elite Transport Group

Mark Ettel hasn't attended any of the meetings Council or the EDA has invited him to. Council noted a few ordinances that are being violated and asked Scott Dymoke to send Elite Transport Group a letter addressing them.

#### City Hall Technology Updates

Discussion was had about the technology options presented. Council agreed that since Goebel doesn't use a computer much and Austing is part time, he would be able to use Austing's computer when needed, so there is no need to purchase a new computer for him. Ettle moved to purchase a NUC desktop computer with Microsoft Office Pro for the Administrative Assistant and Microsoft Home and Business for the Clerk-Treasurer's computer, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

**New Business**

Creamery Site

Dymoke advised the Council to do nothing at this time. Give it a month and see what happens.

Corner Pub

Council discussed what the long-range solution would be for the Corner Pub to have a patio across the alley. If the City wishes to make the Community Festival license available, Council would need to amend the ordinance. Even if the ordinance was changed, Pooch would still need to get a festival license ahead of time every time he wanted to use the patio. Is that how Pooch would want to operate? Eveslage will discuss with Pooch.

Partial Release of Easement – Rita Blommel Home

Ettle moved to approve, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

**Adjourn**

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

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Mayor, Mike Eveslage

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City Clerk-Treasurer, Joan Wall