



CITY OF FREEPORT

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February 18, 2020 – Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 7:01 pm 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, Administrative Assistant Lori Austing, City Engineer Dave Blommel (arrived during rental discussion), City Attorney Scott Dymoke, Fire Chief Andy Grieve.

Others in attendance:

Carol Moorman (Melrose Beacon)
Jamie Engelmeyer (Freeport Fire Dept)
Branden Roering (Freeport Fire Dept)
Lindsey Rasmussen (203 1st Ave N.)

Scott Rasmussen (203 1st Ave N.)
Carl Toenyan (Millwood Township)
John Arnzen (St. Rosa City)
Jim Cremers (St. Anthony City)

Approve Agenda

Eveslage asked to move Fire Department Report up to top of reports. Renneker moved to approve the agenda with the changes, seconded by Blake. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Forum

No comments.

Consent Agenda

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

Reports

Fire Department Report

At last fire meeting, they agreed the three chiefs would do rental licensing inspections if the council wanted them to.

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Wall mentioned the Presidential Primary which is March 3rd here at city hall and that she will also be attending the annual MCFOA Meeting on March 16-19.

Public Works Report

Goebel reported Kotzer cleaned out the storm drain behind Bob Hoeschen's and they will be coming back in the spring to finish it out. The van is working fine. Goebel suggested getting magnets to be placed on the

van stating “City of Freeport” since we don’t know how long this van will last. Discussion was had regarding placing a flasher on the top of the van for safety. Hennen moved to approve the magnets and flasher for the van, seconded by Ertle. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was had regarding the SCADA computer. Hennen moved to approve new SCADA equipment, seconded by Ertle. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Report

Dymoke asked for direction on the rental ordinance. Eveslage stated that we will discuss this under old business. Blake asked where we are with Waste Management. Dymoke explained we are waiting on Waste Management to get back to us on our email that was just sent out a week ago.

Eveslage suggested we move onto Old Business as we wait for Dave Blommel.

Old Business

Rental Licensing

Eveslage stated he is sick of looking at this issue. The fire chiefs have agreed to do the inspections. Eveslage’s suggestion is to lower the annual fee to \$75.00 and do inspections every other year (6 per year) but the fee would be yearly. Discussion was had. Renneker thinks it’s a good start. Eveslage explained that the inspection forms exempt the fire department from liability. Hennen likes Eveslage’s idea of price and inspection timing.

A question was asked about the parent/child exemption. Council’s direction was to leave it alone. Council’s understanding is that renting one room doesn’t apply to our rental ordinance.

(Dave Blommel arrived).

Engineer Report

Blommel stated that they are making good process on the facility plan. Blommel brought graphs showing inflow and infiltration. The pond behind Bob Hoeschen’s is cleaned out and will be smoothed out after the thaw. Freeport did not get awarded a Bureau of Water and Soil Resources grant, but it didn’t cost us anything to apply and it is normal not to get it the first year. We will apply again next year for the 2021 project.

Recess council meeting at 7:32 pm to begin Area Fire Service meeting (see Area Fire Service meeting minutes).

City Council Meeting resumed at 7:53 pm.

Scott Rasmussen, who lives at 203 1st Ave N, across from the veterinary clinic asked to address the Council and permission was granted. Rasmussen stated a mistake was made on where electrical poles were put across County Road 11 – they are not straight. The pole by the vet wasn’t structurally correct so they put a cable across to another pole on his boulevard. Then the cable was anchored to his yard. He wasn’t informed when this happened. It is an eyesore and he believes it has devalued his property. Blommel said it would be Xcel that would need to address this and probably the county paid for it, not the city. Recourse is very limited, especially after so much time has gone by, as this was probably done in 2012. Blommel will look at it next time he drives by.

Adjourn

At 8:00pm, Ertle moved to adjourn, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor, Mike Eveslage

City Clerk-Treasurer, Joan Wall