



CITY OF FREEPORT

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February 23, 2021 – Meeting Minutes

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

Staff in attendance: Clerk-Treasurer Joan Wall, Administrative Assistant Lori Austing, City Engineer Dave Blommel, Fire Chief Andy Grieve.

Staff not in attendance: Public Works Director Loren Goebel, City Attorney Scott Dymoke

Others in attendance:

Carol Moorman (Star Post)	Ben Eittle (312 1 st Ave N)
Nate Arnzen (Millwood Township)	Dale Overmen (Oak Township)
Tim Nierenhausen (Albany Township)	James Cremers (City of St Anthony)
Joe Wiechmann (Millwood Township)	Pete Welle (Oak Township)
Randy Hartung (Krain Township)	John Arnzen (City of St Rosa)
Jamie Engelmeyer (Freeport Fire Dept)	Branden Roering (Freeport Fire Dept)
Al Williams (308 2 nd Ave NW)	

Approve Agenda

Wall asked to add claim #4451 for RMB Environmental Laboratories to the consent agenda. Renneker moved to approve the agenda with the addition, 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

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Wall reported that there were twelve applications submitted for the Clerk-Treasurer position. Wall expressed her gratitude to Austing for the great work she has done with the City. Austing had an idea to mail out notices of statements that were past due for utilities. Wall said that since those notices were sent, she had seen accounts becoming more current on their payments. Discussion was held over how to handle the interviewing process for the Clerk-Treasurer position.

Fire Department Report

See Area Fire Service Association meeting minutes.

Public Works Report

Blommel reported that the meter radios were discontinued. The meters still have about 10 years of use left so we don't want to replace all the radios at this time. When we need to purchase new radios, our current handheld reader won't be able to read them, and it has already exceeded its expected life. Goebel has asked to add a replacement handheld reader costing about \$13,000 to next year's budget. The new reader will be able to read old and new meters. Blommel believes the radios we currently have in stock will get us through the next year.

Engineer Report

Blommel reported the 2021 project plan was roughly 60% completed. He would like to hold a neighborhood meeting at city hall in order to have residents' concerns addressed and council directed him to go ahead. Initial bid advertising will begin tentatively after March's council meeting, with the hope of opening in April and awarding in late April-May.

Blommel is pleased with the four business support letters we have received for the Local Road Improvement Grant application. Stearns County Engineer Jodi Teich advised Blommel to increase the application amount to make sure we're covered, as we can always return unused funds.

Attorney Report

Nothing further to add.

Old Business

Ordinance 2021-01 – Fee Schedule

Wall explained that Ordinance 2021-02 now reflects the 4% fee increase for all water rates recommended by Jason Murray. Hennen moved to approve Ordinance 2021-02, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.


Comp Time Policy

A discussion was had regarding the compensation time policy, which the Council agreed was in need of revision. Council likes the simplicity of Avon's policy. Eveslage suggested that the comp time calendar should begin November 1st and end on October 31st, with the comp time needing to be used by the end of October or paid out shortly thereafter. A minimum of 4 hours and a maximum of 24 hours should be used in a single occurrence. Comp time will cap at 40 hours.

Council directed Wall to start with Avon's policy and revise to add the items discussed. Council also asked Wall to have Dymoke review it before the next meeting.

Adjourn

At 8:29 pm Hennen moved to adjourn, seconded by Blake. Motion carried 5-0.



Mayor, Mike Eveslage



City Clerk-Treasurer, Joan Wall