



CITY OF FREEPORT

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April 27th, 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 Wyatt Kemper, Deputy Treasurer Joan Wall, Public Works Director Loren Goebel, City Attorney Scott Dymoke, City Engineer Dave Blommel, Fire Chief Andy Grieve.

Others in attendance:

Carol Moorman (Star Post)	Janelle Kendall (Stearns County Attorney)
Branden Roering (Freeport Fire Dept)	Andrea Ramacher (720 1 st Avenue North)
Rodney Atkinson (310 8 th Street)	Michelle Bourguise (Becker, MN)
Judy Glass (212 9 th Street SE)	Kathy Korte (Stearns County Appraiser)
Michelle Hinnenkamp (Stearns County Appraiser)	

Approve Agenda

With the addition of the Public Works Report, Claims 4515-4516, and Residential Property Cleaning, Renneker moved to approve the agenda with the additions, seconded by Arnzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Local Board of Appeal and Equalization

With a motion made by Renneker and seconded by Blake, the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization (LBAE) meeting was called to order. Freeport Council performed role call to begin the meeting. Kathy Korte and Michelle Hinnenkamp of the Stearns County Assessor's Office reported that there were thirteen qualified sales in Freeport in 2020, with north and south-side residences increasing roughly 2% in value. *Phone connection became an issue around this point in the call-in meeting* Korte informed the council that if nobody shows up to make an appeal, the meeting can be closed after fifteen minutes. Eveslage asked Kemper whether anybody had made a point to appeal, to which Kemper responded "no". Korte said that *should* meetings be held remotely next year, we can arrange a Zoom or Go-To Meeting to simplify the communication and recording process.

Tim Hennen arrived during the LBAE meeting.

With no appeals made during the LBAE meeting, Hennen moved to adjourn, seconded by Blake. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Forum

Eveslage reminded those in attendance that the public forum is not meant to be a platform for discussion, but for the public's voice to be heard and considered.

Rodney Atkinson approached the podium to state that 7th Street is in desperate need of repair, and should be included in the 2021 Street and Infrastructure Repair Project.

amount for soil borings from ITT. Arnzen moved to approve the soil boring through ITT, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0. Eveslage inquired about 7th Street, and Blommel said we would know around June whether 7th Street could be included in the upcoming project. A discussion was held about the feasibility of 7th if it was not included in this project. Blommel walked the Council and public through the current plans.

Renneker moved to approve Resolution 2021-08, seconded by Blake. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Report

Northing further to report

Old Business

Comp Time Policy

Dymoke presented the updated Comp. Time Policy to the Council. Comp. time is now capped at sixty hours, with a carry-over limit of twenty-four hours into the next accrual year. Hennen moved to approve the updated comp. time policy, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business

Health Insurance Policy

Eveslage asked Kemper to walk the Council through the Health Insurance quote from North Risk. Kemper said he had not taken much time to look over the quotes, so he does not have a firm understanding of the options yet. Hennen suggested that Kemper pick the option that looks best to him, as long as it is within the City's contribution parameters. The Council discussed and recalled that the City would contribute up to nine thousand dollars per year.

Resolution 2021-07: Annual Liquor License Renewals

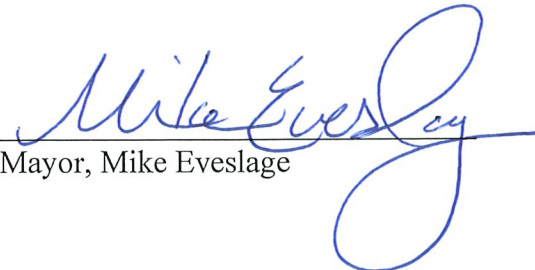
Kemper explained that passing the Resolution approved on-sale, off-sale, Sunday, and the optional 2am licenses for liquor establishments. Arnzen questioned whether anybody else had heard that Minnesota wants to do away with the 3.2 license, since it is one of the last states to even have that category. Dymoke questioned whether the license would even be available anymore. Hennen moved to approve Resolution 2021-07, seconded by Blake. Motion carried 5-0.

Residential Property Cleanup

Eveslage addressed the issue of nuisance properties in town. It seems that there is a handful of owners who are consistently getting letters regarding the state of their properties, yet still do nothing to improve them. Kemper suggested looking through state statutes, which can be enforced by the Sheriff. Dymoke said that the City can issue a hearing that orders the owner to clean the property, and if they do not abide then the City can go to the County Court and attain an order to allow the City to clean the property. Charges can be assessed for the costs involved. The consensus was to send letters to those named as nuisance properties, and proceed from there. Hennen moved to send out letters to the aforementioned property owners, seconded by Arnzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

At 8:25pm Arnzen moved to adjourn, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.



Mayor, Mike Eveslage



Clerk-Treasurer, Wyatt Kemper