



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.

Judy Glass approached the podium to state that Freeport has an issue with dogs running loose. On July 10, her dog was attacked by a neighbor's dog. She stated that she would like to see a change in the City's enforcement of animal ordinances. Eveslage had to stop Glass at the two-minute mark.

Public Forum closed at 7:20 PM

Consent Agenda

Renneker had one question regarding Claim 1514, which was written to Kemper. Kemper and Wall explained that as part of his time served on Jury Duty, Freeport City employees are required to turn in their reimbursement for jury duty, *minus* mileage. The claim was for returned mileage reimbursement, since Kemper had turned in his *entire* jury duty payment. Arnzen had a question regarding a claim for reimbursement of "cat food". Goebel said that he had purchased cat food to be used for trapping strays.

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

Reports

Clerk Report

Kemper reported that May 1st will be the city-wide spring leaf pick up date for Waste Management. The MDH grant for well sealing has been finalized and sent to MDH for reimbursement, so the City is able to apply for another round of funding in September. Kemper has been talking to the Stearns County Attorney regarding the Diversion Program. He asked the Council whether they had any thoughts on implementing the diversion program in Freeport. Hennen asked whether Goebel had any projects the Diversion Program could be helpful with. Goebel and Hennen agreed that certain areas of the city could use some cleaning up.

Treasurer Report

Wall walked the Council through the quarterly financial report. She reported that most of the items are within budget. She noted that bonds appear negative for cash, but the City will receive tax money which will pay those balances and bring the account to a positive status. The water fund is also showing negative, but the trend has been reoccurring from past years. She expects that account to return to positive status when more water is being used during the warmer months. Hennen inquired whether the water fund (rates) had been adjusted. Wall said that they became effective with January's bills.

Fire Department Report

Grieve reported that there were three calls in the last month, and that the Fire Department is currently advertising for two open positions. Arnzen asked whether there were any applications turned in so far, and Grieve said there had not been.

Public Works Report

Goebel said that he has been sampling recently and is looking to discharge at the beginning of May. Goebel asked the Council whether he should order a new slow speed sign near Oak Station since the old one has gotten battered by vehicles hitting it. Eveslage asked Goebel to put the old sign up for the time being, and to order a new one so we can replace it when necessary. Last, the water heater at the ball park needs a filter since there is no water softener.

Engineer Report

Blommel reported that property owners were met with prior to the meeting, regarding storm sewer outlets. He said that they would like to avoid impacting the nearby properties, and he is working with Jodi Teich of Stearns County to find ways around that. USDA funding will be ready by June 1st, but we can start the bidding process before then. Blommel said that the USDA wants him to collect soil borings in order to determine how much pavement and gravel are underneath the roads so they can reimburse us for it. \$2,800 was the quote

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

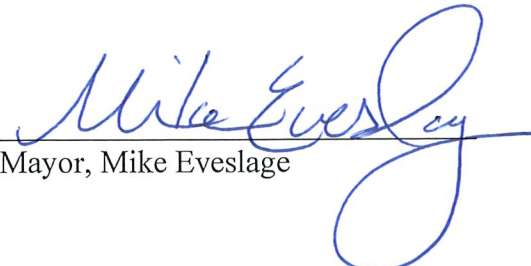
Kemper explained that passing the Resolution approved on-sale, off-sale, Sunday, and the optional 2am licenses for liquor establishments. Arnzen questioned whether anybody else had heard that Minnesota wants to do away with the 3.2 license, since it is one of the last states to even have that category. 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