



CITY OF FREEPORT

125 Main Street E – PO Box 301 – Freeport, MN 56331 – 320-836-2112
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June 29, 2021 – Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 7:03 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.

Staff not in attendance: Fire Chief Andy Grieve

Others in attendance:

Carol Moorman (Star Post)

Eddie Atkinson (Freeport Lions)

Ryan Schmidt (Schlenner Wenner)

Approve Agenda

Renneker moved to approve the agenda with the addition of the Lions-City Agreement, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

2020 Audit Presentation

Ryan Schmidt from Schlenner Wenner & Co. presented a summary of the 2020 audited financial statements. The City received a clean opinion. Schmidt reported the audit went very smoothly, especially given that it was performed remotely. The only issue that was reported was the lack of segregation of duties, which is common for smaller cities.

Renneker moved to accept the 2020 audit results, seconded by Blake. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Forum

Consent Agenda

Hennen would like an addition to be made to the minutes The Massmann variance was approved, pending a survey of the lot. Renneker moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Arnzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Reports

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Kemper explained that Carr's was to begin underbrush removal on Welle 3 in the first week of July. The bid for the street project was awarded to Kuechle Underground for \$1,846,052.78. City Hall will be closed on July 5th in observance of Independence Day. Last, the water shutoffs will resume since the mandate has ended.

Fire Department Report

Kemper reported that there were twelve calls for the month of June, nine of which were medical and three for mutual aid. The Father's Day Ham BBQ served 836.

Public Works Report

Goebel explained the quote for a brush mower from the Freeport Farm Center. Discussion was held over the applications of a brush mower if the City purchased one. Hennen gave an alternative option of renting a brush mower once a year to keep underbrush down. Renneker expressed that he would prefer to see the money go toward a new lawnmower, since the current ones are getting old.

Engineer Report

Blommel reported that the PCA has placed a phosphorus limit on Freeport's ponds. The City is allowed to discharge a specific amount of phosphorus in a given year. If we near the limit, alum can be added to mitigate the amount. Freeport was not granted an award for the Local Road Improvement Plan. Blommel stated that there are several options for 7th street since it did not qualify for the grant. He estimated around \$175,000.00 to reuse and re-lay the current asphalt that lays on the road. The DEED grant may be put towards the 7th street rehab as well, since it benefits the community as a whole. Arnzen questioned whether the DEED grant should be used for 7th or put towards another community betterment project, to which Blommel said that 7th has had the most attention from the public of all improvements. Blommel explained that with 7th street, policy states that even lots on the back side of the street (along 8th) get assessed in addition to the residents of 7th. Blommel recommended bidding the 7th street project separately, rather than in conjunction with the water and sewer project. Also discussed was the need for road rehab on Industrial Drive. Blommel recommended ITT to do the soil boring for the project.

Renneker moved to approve submission of an extension letter to MPCA, seconded by Arnzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Hennen moved to accept ITT's quote, seconded by Blake. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Report

Dymoke reported that he had worked on securing easements and completing documents for the USDA in June.

Old Business

New Business

Lions-City Agreement for Ball Park Maintenance

Eddie Atkinson spoke on behalf of the Lions. In the case of an emergency at the ball park, Jason Hoeschen was given a key as a backup if no members of Freeport public works were immediately available. Hennen said that he would like to see the City involved with this more, since the City owns the park. Kemper stated that he would like to have an agreement drawn up between the City and Lions stating that Hoeschen has the authority to be there and also to protect the entities of liability, should an accident occur. Atkinson asked Kemper to have an agreement drafted for the next Lions' meeting.

Resolution 2021-09

Kemper explained that resolution 2021-09 is a USDA-required form to authorize debt for the repair of infrastructure. Hennen moved to approve Resolution 2021-09, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was held over the timing and other details of the sewer and water reconstruction project. The projected start date is the week of August 19th, 2021. Blommel said that since the project uses common sizes of pvc piping, the amount we need should not be hard to come by. Conversely, the project is bound by American iron and steel standards, so those metal pieces may be a bit scarcer.

Resolution 2021-10

Renneker moved to approve Resolution 2021-10, seconded by Arnzen. Motion carried 5-0.

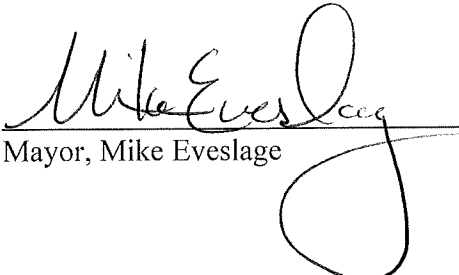
Initiative Foundation 2022 Budget Confirmation

Kemper explained the Initiative Foundation's goal as well as the help they can provide. Blommel and Dymoke also spoke for the Initiative Foundation. Eveslage asked what the cost of using the Initiative Foundation's service is, and Kemper explained that the amount is variable, depending on what Council would like to allocate in the budget. Dymoke explained that the Foundation is a nonprofit that seeks to better the communities that are involved in it. Blommel said that he has worked with the Foundation himself, and they typically end up providing funds for community betterment projects, with the City as a beneficiary. He said that the City would usually end up benefitting indirectly rather than directly.

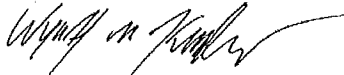
Eveslage moved to approve a \$500.00 allocation to the Initiative Foundation in the 2022 budget, seconded by Arnzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

At 8:40 pm Hennen moved to adjourn, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.



Mayor, Mike Eveslage



City Clerk-Treasurer, Wyatt Kemper