



CITY OF FREEPORT

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July 27, 2021 – Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Freeport City Council was convened at 7:02 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, Fire Chief Andy Grieve, City Attorney Scott Dymoke, and City Engineer Dave Blommel.

Others in attendance:

Carol Moorman (Star Post)

Al Williams (308 2nd Ave NW)

Jason Hoeschen (216 9th St SE)

Branden Roering (Freeport Fire Dept.)

Approve Agenda

Renneker moved to approve the agenda with the addition of Claim 4622, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Forum

Williams spoke about the decline of the condition of his neighborhood. He said he would like for there to be more follow-up regarding letters that get sent out to nuisance properties.

Consent Agenda

Eveslage asked about the temporary liquor license. The application was not included in the agenda packet, which he would like to see in the future. Renneker moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Arnzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Reports

Clerk-Treasurer Report

Kemper explained that Carr's had ben out to Welle 3 to clear the underbrush and had recently submitted another quote for final clearing. The 2021 construction is set to begin mid-August. A transient peddler's license in Freeport was obtained by Gatis Melbardis, a Latvian intern who is looking to sell educational materials to help pay his tuition. The American Dairy Association is planning to use the Lions' shelter to hand out Dilly bars in August.

Deputy Treasurer Report

Wall gave the quarterly financial report. Small Cities Assistance funds were received, and can be put toward a variety of different expenditures, including street repair. Another outlined area was potential sources of funding for the upcoming 7th St SE repaving. Eveslage asked if there were any red flags this quarter. Wall explained that the bond fund showed a negative amount, which was expected since the bond payment schedule

is before the property taxes and levied amounts are received. Hennen asked when USDA money starts coming in. Blommel said that it will start to come in after the project, so we need interim financing in the meantime.

Fire Department Report

Grieve reported that there were ten calls in June, which consisted of six medicals, two grass fires, and two mutual aid calls. Hennen asked whether the drought conditions were a large contributor to the number of calls that came in for the month. Grieve said that aside from the two grass fires, there have been no weather-related issues.

Public Works Report

Goebel stated that the city needs more pedestrian signs by the ice cream shop. The few that we had available are now down to one, because they keep getting knocked down and broken by traffic. Eveslage said he had spoken with Arnzen beforehand, who said that the sign has been helping. Eveslage asked whether there were restrictions on the color that can be used for crosswalks. Blommel said that a variety can be used, so an eye-catching crosswalk is certainly a possibility. A discussion was held over the possible solutions to the issue of traffic impeding on pedestrians crossing the street by the bridge.

Hennen moved to approve the purchase of two more pedestrian signs, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried 5-0.

Goebel also reported that we are down to our last functional meter radio, so we will have to start looking into new software for reading a new set of radios before this one is gone. Council asked him to get a quote on the price of the new software and radios. Lastly, Goebel said that there is a hole in the plow truck's hydraulic tank. A cost for repair will not be known until the tank is removed and inspected, since the tank is welded in place.

Engineer Report

Blommel reported that construction work will begin mid-August since the company is currently wrapping up other projects. He expressed that the start date makes no difference as long as they meet the completion date. If they do not meet the completion date, they will owe liquidated damages in the amount of \$1,500.00 per day. He said that they will be in Freeport with at least two teams once they start the project, so the work should be completed relatively quickly. There are several options for reconstruction of 7th Street Southeast. After some discussion, the Council decided that the option to reclaim pavement and use as additional overlay is the best path to follow. It will be better equipped to handle the heavier loads that 7th has taken on since its last improvement project. Potential drawbacks are the elevated roadway which can cause issues for homeowners. Costs may change with bidding as well. Inversely, the additional work will provide the benefit of a stronger roadway and a longer lifespan. Blommel said that our assessment policy states that we should assess the residents of 8th Street who have back lot lines abutting 7th Street. He also mentioned that, since the assessment process tends to be long-winded, the project will likely commence next year if we start the assessment process now. A feasibility study will need to be done, followed by resolutions and hearings. Arnzen asked what the lifespan difference would be, and Blommel said between the two options, the extra \$40,000.00 for the second plan will increase the street's lifespan drastically.

Attorney Report

Dymoke reported he had not received further requests for documents from USDA, so most of his attention for Freeport has gone toward the Lions' Park. He said that the City should have an agreement with Hoeschen, stating specific duties as well as indemnification in case of an accident.

Old Business

New Business

Odd/Even Watering Schedule

Kemper reported that the DNR has requested the City's help with water conservation. By implementing watering restrictions, the City will be doing its part to reduce water usage while severe drought conditions persist. The most common, Kemper said, is to implement an odd/even watering schedule. Homes and businesses ending with an odd address number may water on odd-numbered calendar days and vice-versa. Exceptions to this rule include newly seeded lawns and homes/ businesses with private wells.

Renneker moved to approve implementing the odd/even watering schedule, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Corner Pub Alley Closure

Kemper stated that the Corner Pub would like to host a party for their five-year anniversary on September 4th, 2021. The issue that we run into is that the parcels he owns are split by the alleyway in the back. Heidgerken (owner) is seeking approval of the Council to close off that alley for the night so he may utilize it for the party. Council agreed that as long as the closure does not impede on any business that abuts the alley, he may close the alleyway for the party. Council also requested that he have a clear border for where customers are allowed during the party.

Hennen moved to approve the alleyway closure for the Corner Pub's five-year anniversary party, seconded by Arnzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Carr's Cleanup Quotes

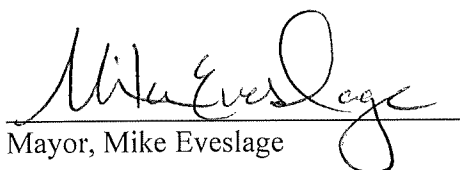
Kemper explained the Carr's Quotes to the Council. To finish up the Welle 3 development and remove all the grown trees, the estimate is \$2,000.00, not including the drainage pond. To clean up by the industrial park pond, the estimate is \$2,250.00. Eveslage asked Kemper and Wall to pull up copies of the vendor check that were sent out last time the industrial park pond was done, because that estimate seems much higher than the invoice they were previously paid for the same work. Eveslage expressed that the reason behind the recent cleanup projects is to hold the City to the same standard of tidiness that it holds its residents.

Pung Drain Tile Repair

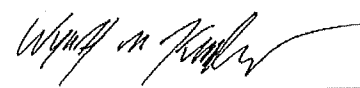
Goebel stated that there is a section of storm drain from Pung's field that ties into drain tile near the City's sewer ponds. The drain tile runs along the ditch next to the pond. The reason for bringing this up is that Pung's storm drain had recently been plugged. Jetting cleared the issue, but in the case that excavation was required, Pungs would have likely needed permission from the City to dig on the property near the pond.

Adjourn

At 8:21 pm Hennen moved to adjourn, seconded by Blake. Motion carried 5-0.



Mayor, Mike Eveslage



City Clerk-Treasurer, Wyatt Kemper