



CITY OF FREEPORT

125 Main Street E – PO Box 301 – Freeport, MN 56331 – 320-836-2112
For TTY/TDD Users 1-800-627-3529 or 711 Minnesota Relay Service www.freeportmn.org

March 21, 2023 - Meeting Agenda
Freeport City Hall - 7:00 pm

Call to Order

- I. Approve Agenda
- II. Public Forum
- III. Consent Agenda
 - a. February 28, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes (1-3)
 - b. Claims Report – March 2023 (At Meeting)
 - c. February 2023 Sheriff's Report (4)
- IV. Reports
 - a. Clerk-Treasurer Report (5)
 - b. Fire Department Report (N/A)
 - c. Public Works Report (6-7)
 - d. Engineer Report (8)
 - e. Attorney Report (9)
- V. Old Business
 - a. ARPA Funds – Streetlights (10)
 - b. THC Moratorium (11)
- VI. New Business
 - a. Splitting costs with EDA for trip to Denmark (12)
- VII. Adjourn

Next Regular Meeting: April 25, 2023



CITY OF FREEPORT

125 Main Street E – PO Box 301 – Freeport, MN 56331 – 320-836-2112
For TTY/TDD Users 1-800-627-3529 or 711 Minnesota Relay Service www.freeportmn.org
cityfrpt@albanytel.com

February 28, 2023 – Meeting Minutes

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

Staff in attendance: Public Works Director Loren Goebel, City Clerk-Treasurer Jon Nelson, City Financial Advisor Ashley Feldewerd, City Engineer Dave Blommel, City Attorney Scott Dymoke, and Fire Chief Andy Grieve.

AFSA Representatives in attendance: Pete Welle & Tom Roelike, Oak Township; Nate Arnzen, Joe Wiechmann, & Chad VanBeck, Millwood Township; John Arnzen, City of St. Rosa; Jim Cremers, City of St. Anthony; Randy Hartung, Krain Township; Brian Schneider, Albany Township.

Others in attendance: Carol Moorman, Star Post; Hunter Feldewerd, New Munich; Lora Fourre & Martin Solar, 1025 2nd Ave SE; Jason Hoeschen, 216 9th St SE; Kelly Blommel, 313 10th St SE; Larry Hoeschen, 40625 Co Rd 11; Dave & Kathy Welle, 36762 Co Rd 11; Erin Telfair, 1013 3rd Ave SE; Tom Elfering.

Approve Agenda

- With the addition of claims #5315 and 5316, Renneker motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Arnzen. Motion carried 5-0.

The regular meeting was left open as Mayor Eveslage opened the 2023 AFSA meeting.

AFSA Meeting

- Nelson took roll call. All townships and cities had representatives in attendance.
- Feldewerd presented the budget that she and Chief Grieve created.
- Welle from Oak Township motioned to approve the 2023 AFSA budget, seconded by Schneider from Albany Township. Motion carried 7-0.
- VanBeck motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Welle. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Hearing: Vacation of Easements in Welle Addition

- Mayor Eveslage opened the Public Hearing.
- Blommel explained that the final phase of the Welle Addition has easements that are going to the drainage pond. The easements, if vacated, will be replaced with new ones in close proximity to the current ones during development. Nothing significant will be

changing and water will not be redirected whatsoever. The hearing is more of a formality than anything so the City doesn't hit any snags while the final Welle Addition is developing.

- **Resolution 2023-06 – Vacation of Easements in Welle Addition:** Renneker motioned to approve Resolution 2023-06, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.
- Mayor Eveslage closed the public form and Blommel fielded questions on the new Welle phase in the small conference room for those in attendance who wished to join him.

Public Forum

- Public forum closed.

Consent Agenda

- Hennen, under old business, noticed “AFSA” needed to be changed to “ARPA” for streetlight funds. Arnzen motioned to approve the consent agenda with this change, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

Reports

a. Clerk-Treasurer Report - Jon Nelson

- Paperwork has been finalized with Matt Imdieke for his Industrial Park lot.
- Met with Jeff & Mitch Howe to establish new inspection rates. Rates are less than those we had with Inspectron.
- Nelson was contacted by Nature Energy to see if their company would be a good fit for the City of Freeport. Nature Energy is a renewable natural gas company that captures methane gases from organic waste and turns it into renewable natural gas. Jesper Nielsen, VP of Business Development in the US, is coming for a visit to scope out Freeport.
- The City of Hinckley has a Jacobsen Turfcats for sale that includes sweeper and mower attachments. It was discussed that the machine should be beneficial for the City and if it's not the right fit it should bring the same amount of money, or close to it, if we decide to resell. Arnzen motioned to purchase the Jacobsen Turfcats from the City of Hinckley for the sum of \$6,500.00, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Fire Dept Report - Fire Chief Andy Grieve

- 4 calls last month.
- Everyone is invited to go to the fire hall after the meeting for wings.

c. Public Works - Public Works Director Loren Goebel:

- A tower well went down. Atkinsons checked the pump and it was determined that a damaged wire was the issue. Freeport Electric repaired and the well is back up and functioning.

d. Engineer Report - City Engineer Dave Blommel:

- New USDA regulations are giving our Welle bids a bit of trouble, delaying the process a bit.

- We should expect to call for a public hearing for 2021 sewer & street project at the March meeting, with the hearing being held in April.

e. Attorney Report - City Attorney Scott Dymoke:

- Nothing significant to report.

Old Business

a. AFSA Funds - Streetlights

- Council discussed different lights they have seen throughout different communities in the area. The City wants to keep a “downtown feel” or “mall effect” with our light fixtures but poles need to be taller.
- Council requested to receive quotes for 20’ poles with our current fixtures retrofitted to LED bulbs.

New Business

a. 2022 Fourth Quarter Report – Ashley Feldewerd

- Feldewerd presented the 2022 fourth quarter report to Council.
- Feldewerd presented a comparison for Abdo’s cost to process payroll vs. using Abdo Workforce Solutions. Preliminary numbers show that the City could save \$5,630 by using Abdo Workforce Solutions vs. Abdo Financial Solutions.
- Arnzen motioned to switch to Abdo Workforce Solutions when Abdo Financial Solutions’ contract expires, seconded by Renneker. Hennen, Arnzen, Renneker and Eveslage were in favor, Blake was against. Motion carried 4-1.

b. Xcel Energy Meeting with Brice Held

- Nelson met with Brice Held, designer for Xcel Energy, about the possibility of cleaning up the look of the power poles in our downtown area.
- It would be very costly to move our power supply underground. Every business would have to be on board and would have to pay their own way to tap into the supply.
- The only reasonable option was to lash three of Xcel’s lower lines together at a cost of \$2-300 per span. Nelson believes that this would only do so much and that Council should take a look at the lines to envision if the change would be worth the cost.
- Residents have asked about support poles that Xcel has installed on their properties. Nelson asked if support poles could be moved but Held explained that there’s really nowhere else for them to go with the proximity of the lines to neighboring buildings.

Adjourn

Blake motioned to adjourn, seconded by Arnzen. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Mike Eveslage

Clerk-Treasurer Jon Nelson

FREEPORT ALL CALLS

<u>City</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Call #</u>	<u>Description</u>
FREEPORT	02/24/2023 21:09:03	23015386	911 ABANDONED CALL
FREEPORT	02/25/2023 22:54:14	23015678	911 ABANDONED CALL
FREEPORT	02/21/2023 08:44:15	23014430	ABANDONED VEHICLE
FREEPORT	02/10/2023 23:40:23	23011660	AGENCY ASSIST
FREEPORT	02/23/2023 21:33:47	23015105	AGENCY ASSIST
FREEPORT	02/02/2023 12:23:45	23009085	CO-RESPONDER
FREEPORT	02/22/2023 01:50:13	23014643	DIRECTED PATROL
FREEPORT	02/10/2023 23:26:24	23011657	DRUNK DRIVER ARREST
FREEPORT	02/23/2023 21:31:57	23015104	JUVENILE/PROBLEM WITH
FREEPORT	02/28/2023 09:06:47	23016306	PARKING VIOLATION
FREEPORT	02/17/2023 10:22:06	23013433	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE
FREEPORT	02/28/2023 16:21:27	23016447	THEFT FROM VEHICLE
FREEPORT	02/04/2023 22:19:29	23009795	TRAFFIC STOP
FREEPORT	02/07/2023 23:58:10	23010654	TRAFFIC STOP
FREEPORT	02/17/2023 20:23:21	23013580	TRAFFIC STOP

Memo

From: Jon Nelson - Clerk-Treasurer

To: Freeport City Council

Date: 03/20/2023

Re: Clerk-Treasurer Report

1. Mayor Eveslage and I attended LMC's City Day on the Hill. There is a lot going on in our state government this year with 2,900+ bills introduced during the session.
 - We met with Senators Westrom & Howe in their office. We were scheduled to meet with Representative Anderson but he was delayed with prior commitments.
 - MN Small Cities is lobbying to increase local government assistance, supporting a \$150 million increase in funds. They are also supporting a \$40 million per year ongoing funding for transportation. Cities under 5,000 are currently the only government unit that does not have ongoing funding for transportation.
 - With the recent rise of property taxes, citizens should be happy to hear that there is also a homestead exclusion increase proposal.
 - An email was sent out saying our bridge project is going to be pushed back from 2026 to 2028 due to funding.

Hours Breakdown - Maintenance Dept

Employee Name:	Loren Goebel								
Month:	February								
Day of Month	# of Hours: Streets, General Maint, Snow Removal, Sewer Line, Water Line	# of Hours: Water Plant	# of Hours: Sewer Plant	# of Hours: Parks, Mowing	# of Hours: Bldg Maint	# of Hours: Shop Equip Maint	# of Hours: Garbage Collection	Total Hours Per Day	
1	6	1	1					8	
2	6	1	1					8	
3	3	1	1			1		6	
4		0.5	0.5					1	
5		0.5	0.5					1	
6								0	
7								0	
8								0	
9								0	
10								0	
11		0.5	0.5					1	
12		0.5	0.5					1	
13	5.5	1	1				0.5	8	
14	5	1	1					7	
15	6	1	1					8	
16	2	1	1			4		8	
17	2.5	1	1			2	0.5	7	
18		0.5	0.5					1	
19		0.5	0.5					1	
20	3	0.5	0.5					4	
21	4	1	1					6	
22	5	1	1					7	
23	9	1	1					11	
24	1	0.5	0.5					2	
25		0.5	0.5					1	
26		0.5	0.5					1	
27	2	3	1			2		8	
28	4.5	4	1				0.5	10	
29								0	
								0	
								0	
TOTAL for Month Per Category	64.5	23	18	0	0	9	1.5	116	

Job Duty	Date	Initial
Well, tower, pond checks - Push snow	SAT 2/25/23	JY/PR
Well, tower, pond checks	SUN 2/26/23	JY
Well, tower, 1.5t static, pond checks, water samples, got blower repaired, Atkinson Well checked tower well for alarm - "ground Fault" Freepost Electric will fix in morning.	MON 2/27/23	JY
Well, tower, pond checks, Freepost Electric fixed wire at Tower Well pump, water meter readings, clean snow by ponds, filled vehicles, Well heard ^{garbage} council meeting -	TUE 2/28/23	JY
Well, tower, pond checks, pushed snow	"	JY
Well, tower, pond checks, pushed snow	3 Wed 3/1/23	JY/PR
Well, tower, 1.5t static, pond checks, water samples snow cleanup, open spot for Rabus to put snow -	THUR 3/2/23	JY/PR
Well, tower, pond checks, reports, garbage	"	JY
Well, tower, pond checks -	FRI 3/3/23	JY
Well, tower, pond checks -	SAT 3/4/23	JY
Well, tower, pond checks -	SUN 3/5/23	JY
Well, tower, 1.5t static, pond checks, garbage, push snow, water samples	MON 3/6/23	JY/PR
Well, tower, pond checks, school	TUE 3/7/23	JY
Well, tower, pond checks school - scraped snow by bank	Wed 3/8/23	JY/PR
Well, tower, 1.5t static, pond checks, school, water samples	THUR 3/9/23	JY
Well, tower, pond checks, snow cleanup, garbage	FRI 3/10/23	JY/PR
Well, tower, pond checks	SAT 3/11/23	JY
Well, tower, pond checks, push snow sanded	SUN 3/12/23	JY/PR
Well, tower, 1.5t static, pond checks, water samples, sanded, garbage, push snow	MON 3/13/23	JY
Well, tower, pond checks, tab vote, picked up Turf cart, got trailer	TUE 3/14/23	JY
Well, tower, pond checks, blew snow dead ends by hydrants, got rid of trailer	Wed 3/15/23	JY
Well, tower, 1.5t static, pond checks, pushed snow, checked manholes on 10th street -	THUR 3/16/23	JY/PR
Well, tower, pond checks, snow clean up up town, pushed drifts, blew snow on loud stream & 7th st SW.	"	JY/PR
	FRI 3/17/23	JY/PR



Building a Better World
for All of Us®

MEMORANDUM

TO: Freeport City Council

FROM: Dave Blommel, PE (Lic. MN)
Freeport City Engineer

DATE: March 16, 2023

RE: Council Update
SEH No. FREEP GEN 14.00

With the rescheduled meeting I will unfortunately not be able to attend as I have a previously scheduled meeting.

Interstate 94 Bridge

The bridge replacement that was scheduled for construction in 2026 has been pushed back to 2028. The revised timetable will give the City more time to evaluate alternatives to a simple replacement. Along with the additional time for review, we will also have more time to explore funding to help pay for any additional costs incurred by the city as a result of the requested changes to the standard bridge design. MnDOT has proposed meeting again this fall to continue the discussions.

2021 Project

Without being able to attend your meeting, I don't want to put the final assessment information in your packets. We will plan review the final assessments at your April meeting for public hearing in May. It would be an option to have a council work session to go over the assessments if you would so desire.

Welle Final

USDA is waiting on guidance from Washington regarding the funds that will be utilized for the 2023 construction. I have been meeting regularly with USDA state engineer and the state director to expedite the bidding. If I have additional information prior to the meeting I will share with Jon.

dwb

x:\fj\freep\common_council meeting\2023.03.16m council update.docx

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., 2351 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 300, Sartell, MN 56377-2485

320.229.4300 | 800.572.0617 | 888.908.8166 fax

SEH is 100% employee-owned Affirmative Action Non-Equal Opportunity Employer

Dymoke Law Office, P.A.

408 Main Street East, Unit 5

PO Box 127

Melrose, Minnesota 56352

Telephone (320) 256-4205

Fax (320) 256-7201

March 16, 2023

Jon Nelson
City of Freeport
125 Main Street East
Freeport, MN 56331

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: Monthly Legal Report

Dear Mr. Nelson:

During the period from February 23, 2023 through March 16, 2023, we have not given significant attention to any projects on behalf of the City of Freeport.

Respectfully submitted,
Dymoke Law Office, P.A.

Scott E. Dymoke
by Scott E. Dymoke

cc: M. Eveslage

Memo

From: Jon Nelson, Clerk-Treasurer

To: Freeport City Council

Date: 03/17/2023

Re: ARPA Funds - Streetlights

Design Electric came to town to look at our existing fixtures to see what retrofit kits they would need to update them to LED. He will compare the cost of that with new fixtures. I told him we want to keep the “mall effect” and “downtown feel” of our town.

I requested warm lighting. He explained that most are just white light but he will see if he can get anything colored for us.

I am awaiting quotes for the fixtures and 20’ poles from Orlynn.

Memo

From: Jon Nelson - Clerk-Treasurer

To: Freeport City Council

Date: 03/17/2023

Re: THC Moratorium

1. Cannabis Update: There is a bill for recreational cannabis in the state of MN. LMC identified the lack of local control is concerning as cities would have no control over licensing or have the ability to opt-out of sale of products. There is also no local zoning regulation or limits to the number of retailers. Enforcement on other issues may prove to be difficult as well.
2. Prepare to revisit our moratorium on THC. It is set to expire in August.

Memo

From: Jon Nelson - Clerk-Treasurer

To: Freeport City Council

Date: 03/17/2023

Re: Splitting Costs of Denmark Trip with EDA

EDA approved sending Freeport representatives to Denmark in order to lock in the best airfare pricing. A few EDA members that approved the usage of EDA funds in order to expedite the process, mentioned that they would appreciate if the City would help alleviate the costs by splitting the trip 50/50 since it will be taking up much of their small budget.