

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

January 31, 2024 - Regular Meeting Agenda Freeport City Hall - 7:00 pm

Call to Order

- I. Approve Agenda
- II. Public Hearing
 - a. 212 1st Ave S Variance Request (1-3)
- III. Public Forum
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - a. December 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes (4-5)
 - b. Claims Report (6-8)
 - c. Sheriff's Report (9)
- V. Reports
 - a. Clerk-Treasurer Report (10)
 - b. Fire Department Report (N/A)
 - c. Public Works Report (11-13)
 - d. Engineer Report (14-15)
 - e. Attorney Report (16)
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Streetlights (17)
- VII. New Business
 - a. Ordinance 2024-01 Fee Schedule (18-22)
 - b. Resolution 2024-01 Official Depository FSB (23-24)
 - c. Resolution 2024-02 Official Depository Magnifi (25-26)
 - d. Resolution 2024-03 2023 Donations (27)
 - e. Resolution 2024-04 Disbursement and Payment of Claims Policy (28-31)
 - f. Resolution 2024-05 Accepting USDA Rural Development Loan for Welle's Country Acres Four (32-34)
 - g. Resolution 2024-06 Identifying Slum & Blight in the City of Freeport (35-36)
 - h. LMCIT Storm Damage Contract with Widseth (37-42)
 - i. 2024 Appointments (43-44)
- VIII. Adjourn

Memo

From: Jon Nelson, Clerk-Treasurer

To: Freeport City Council

Date: 01/26/24 Re: Public Hearing

Don & Bertha Hartung, 212 1st Ave S, are requesting a variance from the City of Freeport to construct a deck on their property that is proposed to encroach the front yard setback. The deck would not encroach Stearns County's setbacks on CSAH 11.

In order to be granted a variance, we must find that the request meets all three of the practical difficulties' three-factor test.

Reasonableness

The first factor is that the property owner proposes to use the property in a reasonable manner.

Uniqueness

The second factor is that the landowner's problem is due to circumstances unique to the property not caused by the landowner.

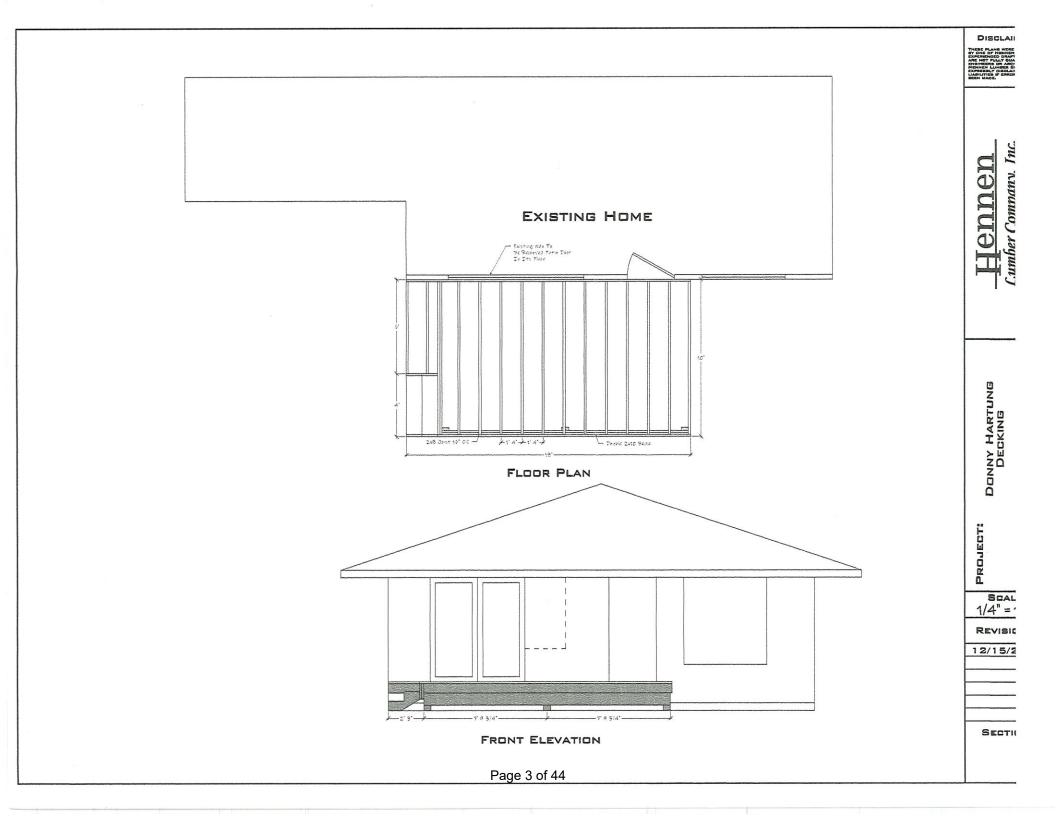
Essential character

The third factor is that the variance, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the locality. Consider whether or not the resulting structure will be out of scale, out of place, or otherwise inconsistent with the surrounding area.

Here are factors that I find meet the practical difficulties' requirements:

- 1. **Reasonableness**: The Hartungs have a reasonable request to build a deck on the front of their home.
- 2. **Uniqueness**: City code 500.31, Subd.5, Item 2. states that where adjacent structures within the same block have front yard setbacks different from those required, the front yard minimum setback is the average of the adjacent structures. The adjacent structures on this block have an average setback of ~6 feet from the right-of-way. The proposed deck setback would be ~13 feet from the right-of-way.
- 3. **Essential Character**: The deck would not change the essential character of the neighborhood.

Recommendation: Consider approving the variance request.





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cityfrpt@albanytel.com

December 22, 2023 – Meeting Minutes

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

Staff in attendance: City Clerk-Treasurer Jon Nelson and Financial Advisor Ashley Feldewerd

Others in attendance: None

Approve Agenda

• Hennen motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Blake. Motion carried.

Public Forum

• Mayor Eveslage opened and closed the public form without input.

Consent Agenda

Hennen motioned to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried.

Reports

- a. Clerk-Treasurer Report Jon Nelson
 - The City has invested a total of \$1,000,000 with Freeport State Bank.
 - \circ \$250,000 3 months @ 4.50%
 - \$500,000 6 months @ 4.75%
 - \$250,000 3 months @ 5.20%
 - Head judge and clerk election training will be held January 17th
 - The city has been working with MRWA to extend our Wellhead Protection Plan
 - Jerry Mayers has accepted our offer for the snow removal position
 - Chief Grieve has requested that we accept the results for the fire chiefs and officers' election as follows:
 - Chief Andy Grieve
 - o 1st Assistant Chief Branden Roering
 - o 2nd Assistant Chief Larry Hoeschen
 - o Secretary Loren Goebel
 - Renneker motioned to accept the election results, seconded by Blake. Motion carried.
 - Austin Douvier, 507 1st Ave N, is requesting to build a 40x48 shed on his property. Nelson determined that Douvier would be well within the code restrictions but wanted Council's approval since the request is for a larger structure. Hennen motioned to allow Douvier to build a 40x48 shed, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried.
 - We will hold a public hearing in January for a variance request by Don Hartung.
 - There are conditions that have to be met to use our SCDP funds that we were planning on using for the streetlight project. Lisa Graphenteen administers grants and has offered her services to the

- city to ensure that we meet all requirements. Any fees accrued are eligible to be paid out of our SCDP grant. Hennen motioned to hire Lisa Graphenteen to assist with the usage of SCDP funds, seconded by Blake. Motion carried.
- During Nelson's report, Mayor Eveslage motioned to move the January meeting to January 31st at 7pm, seconded by Hennen. Motion carried.

Old Business

a. Final 2024 Budget

- Feldewerd expressed that we have had an unchanged budget since our preliminary budget workshop in July.
- Mayor Eveslage expressed that even with the proposed increase, Freeport would still be at the 4th lowest tax rate since the year 2000.
- Feldewerd stated that the most impactful increase on property owners isn't because of the city increase but rather it is due to inflation on the taxable market value of properties which the city has no control over.
- Blake motioned to approve the 2024 budget, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried.

b. Earned Sick and Safe Time

- Nelson updated the PTO section of the personnel policy to include ESST as an eligible use of PTO.
- Renneker motioned to accept the changes, seconded by Blake. Motion carried.

New Business

a. Regional Safety Group

- Highway 55 Regional Safety Group has accepted our request to join, along with the cities of Albany, Belgrade, Brooten, Eden Valley, Paynesville and Watkins. The group meets eight times throughout the year to discuss safety topics. Joining the group fulfills OSHA training requirements and will allow Freeport to collaborate with the safety trainer and other cities in the group.
- Renneker motioned to approve Resolution 2023-18, authorizing the City of Freeport to join Highway 55 Regional Safety Group, seconded by Blake. Motion carried.
- b. Resolution 2023-19 Appointing Election Judges for the 2024 Elections Within the City of Freeport.
 - All of our 2022 election judges have agreed to return in 2024. Freeport is very fortunate to have a committed and knowledgeable group of judges that continue to show up for us.
 - Hennen motioned to approve the election judges for 2024 elections, seconded by Renneker. Motion carried.
- c. Resolution 2023-20 Designating a Polling Place for the Year 2024
 - Hennen motioned to keep City Hall as our designated polling place for any elections held in 2024, seconded by Blake. Motion carried.

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Hennen motioned to adjourn, seconded l	by Blake. Motion carried.	
3		
Mayor Mike Eveslage	Clerk-Treasurer Jon Nelson	
		D.

For the Accounting Period: 1/24

For doc #s from 5731 to 5751
* ... Over spent expenditure

Claim		Vendor #/Name/	Document \$/	Disc \$	20 11				Cash
Line #	Check	Invoice #/Inv Date/Description	Line \$		PO #	Fund	Org Acct	Object Proj	Account
5731		829 ABDO	16,315.00						
1	481252	12/31/23 Payroll Prep - Dec 2023	425.00			101	41000	300	10100
2		12/31/23 Monthly Fee - Dec 2023	7,500.00			101			10100
3		12/31/23 ESST Consulting and Support	140.00			101			10100
4		01/24/24 2024-2029 Long Term Plan	8,250.00			101			10100
5732		219 JOANN TIMP	200.00						
1	01/25	/24 Dec/Jan Cleaning	200.00			101	41000	300	10100
5733		647 BADGER METER INC	27.18						
1	801482	73 12/28/23 Beacon MBL Hosting - Dec 20	2 13.59			601	43225	433	10100
2	801482	73 12/25/23 Beacon MBL Hosing - Dec 202	3 13.59			602	43250	433	10100
5734		52 BLACK MOUNTAIN SOFTWARE, INC.	5,385.00						
1	29842	12/01/23 UB Annual Maintenance	747.50			601	43225	433	10100
2	29842	12/01/23 UB Annual Maintenance	747.50			602	43250	433	10100
3	29842	12/01/23 UB Email Bills Annual Maint	57.50			601	43225	433	10100
4	29842	12/01/23 UB Email Bills Annual Maint	57.50			602	43250	433	10100
5	29842	12/01/23 UB ACH Annual Maintenance	142.50			601	43225	433	10100
6	29842	12/01/23 UB ACH Annual Maintenance	142.50			602	43250	433	10100
7	29842	12/01/23 UB ARM Interface	152.50			601	43225	433	10100
8	29842	12/01/23 UB ARM Interface	152.50			602	43250	433	10100
9	29842	12/01/23 UB BDS Interface	90.00			601	43225	433	10100
10	29842	12/01/23 UB BDS Interface	90.00			602	43250	433	10100
11	29842	12/01/23 UB Rate Analysis Annual	17.50			601	43225	433	10100
12	29842	12/01/23 UB Rate Analysis Annual	17.50			602	43250	433	10100
13	29842	12/01/23 Accounting Annual Maint	2,120.00			101	41000	433	10100
14	29842	12/01/23 Budget Prep Annual Maint	850.00			101	41000	433	10100
5735		675 CUSTOMIZED FIRE RESCUE TRAININ	G 3,250.00						
1	2533 1	1/21/23 11/20/23 Fire Training	2,000.00			225	42200	330	10100
2	2477 0	9/14/23 8/21/23 Fire Training	750.00			225	42200	330	10100
3	2572 1	2/31/23 12/4/23 Fire Training	500.00			225	42200	330	10100
5736		123 DYMOKE LAW OFFICE, P.A.	240.00						
1	01/02	/24 General Matters - Dec 2023	240.00			101	41000	302	10100
5737		157 FREEPORT FIRE DEPT RELIEF ASSO	C 3,692.32						
1	12/07	/23 Christmas Care Drive	200.00			225	42200	430	10100
2	01/04	/24 Horse Races	3,492.32			225	42200	430	10100

For the Accounting Period: 1/24

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Claim	Vendor #/Name/	Document \$/	Disc \$					Cash
Line #	Check Invoice #/Inv Date/Description	Line \$		PO #	Fund	Org Acct	Object Proj	Account
5738	174 GOPHER STATE ONE CALL, INC	2.70						
	3120408 12/31/23 Email Tickets - Dec 2023	2.70			601	43225	300	10100
5739	187 HAWKINS, INC	30.00						
1	6665134 01/15/24 Chlorine Cylinders	30.00			601	43225	440	10100
5740	194 HENNEN LUMBER CO, INC	202.81						
1	01/01/24 Supplies	202.81			101	43100	210	10100
5741	824 CAPITAL ONE TRADE CREDIT	76.34						
1	1653090855 12/25/23 Supplies	76.34			101	43100	220	10100
5742	843 MELROSE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERC	CE 225.00						
1	01/25/24 2024 Full Membership	225.00			101	41000	433	10100
5743	769 METRO SALES, INC	89.87						
1	INV2441035 01/09/24 Copier Rental:12/15/23-1/3				101	41000	410	10100
5744	122 DVS RENEWAL	40.50						
1	11/21/23 STRL Plate	20.25			225	42200	433	10100
2	11/21/23 Ford Renewal	20.25			101	43100		10100
5745	309 MINNESOTA LIFE INSURANCE CO	1.70						
1	01/25/24 Goebel - Life Ins Feb 2024	1.70			101	43000	131	10100
5746	702 DMD ENVIDONMENTAL LABORATIONIES	20.00						
	782 RMB ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORIES D055475c 01/16/24 City Hall Courier Charge	20.00			602	43250	460	10100
5747	,	1,801.00						
	458215 12/15/23 2020 Freeport Facility	576.00*			420	41000		10100
2	458288 12/15/23 2024 Street Lighting	1,225.00*			419	43160	300	10100
5748	822 STEARNS CO FIRE CHIEFS ASSN	15.00						
1	1114 01/09/24 2024 Dues	15.00			225	42200	433	10100
5749	441 STEARNS CO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	100.00						
1	01/25/24 2024 Membership Dues	100.00			101	41000	433	10100
5750	809 VALLI INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INC	75.00						
1	92365 12/31/23 Online Monthly Maintenance	75.00			101	41000	300	10100

For the Accounting Period: 1/24

For doc #s from 5731 to 5751

* ... Over spent expenditure

Claim Line #	Check	Invoi	Vendor #/Name/ ce #/Inv Date/Description	Document \$/	Disc \$	PO #	Fund Org	Acct	Object Proj	Cash Account
5751 1	01/25/2		JEFF HOESCHEN	300.00 300.00			101	43100	430	10100

of Claims 21 Total: 32,089.42

FREEPORT ALL CALLS

City	Date_Received	Call #	Description
FREEPORT	12/03/2023 15:53:22	23097605	911 ABANDONED CALL
FREEPORT	12/16/2023 01:55:24	23100719	ACCIDENT
FREEPORT	12/20/2023 17:17:23	23102076	ACCIDENT
FREEPORT	12/20/2023 17:23:09	23102079	ACCIDENT
FREEPORT	12/23/2023 16:03:50	23102854	AGENCY ASSIST
FREEPORT	12/17/2023 18:10:56	23101194	AGENCY ASSIST
FREEPORT	12/04/2023 15:03:50	23097823	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
FREEPORT	12/14/2023 19:20:19	23100360	BURGLARY
FREEPORT	12/27/2023 17:00:21	23103676	CHILD CUSTODY DISPUTE
FREEPORT	12/08/2023 02:08:28	23098652	DIRECTED PATROL
FREEPORT	12/11/2023 00:23:51	23099308	DIRECTED PATROL
FREEPORT	12/01/2023 02:03:58	23096885	EXTRA PATROL
FREEPORT	12/31/2023 08:45:20	23104561	MEDICAL EMERGENCY
FREEPORT	12/19/2023 22:54:28	23101844	NOISE COMPLAINT
FREEPORT	12/20/2023 12:31:24	23101977	PAPER SERVICE
FREEPORT	12/20/2023 12:32:42	23101979	PAPER SERVICE
FREEPORT	12/31/2023 14:57:08	23104607	PERSONAL ASSIST
FREEPORT	12/30/2023 15:39:46	23104404	PHONE CALL
FREEPORT	12/31/2023 23:56:39	23104721	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
FREEPORT	12/19/2023 07:41:14	23101582	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE
FREEPORT	12/20/2023 08:07:58	23101909	THEFT FROM VEHICLE
FREEPORT	12/28/2023 17:54:12	23103934	TRAFFIC STOP
FREEPORT	12/28/2023 11:22:12	23103823	WARRANT

Memo

From: Jon Nelson - Clerk-Treasurer

To: Freeport City Council

Date: 01/26/24

Re: Clerk-Treasurer Report

- 1. The Transportation Alternatives Grant and Active Transportation Grant solicitations have been submitted for the sidewalk along CSAH 11.
- 2. The Freeport Rec Club replaced fencing at the softball park last fall. The Freeport Rec Club has gifted the fence to the City of Freeport.
- 3. Engineer Blommel is expecting to hear a response from USDA soon on the paperwork he submitted for Welle Four improvements. Council can motion to authorize bidding for Welle Country Acres Four infrastructure improvements contingent on USDA's plan approval. This will allow bidding to go out ASAP after approval.
- 4. We will need to set a date for canvassing the election results between November 8th- 15th. I am proposing we canvass election results Tuesday, November 12th at 7pm.
- 5. Reminder that next month's meeting will be held Tuesday, February 20th at 7pm. The Area Fire Service Association representatives will join us for their budget meeting.

Employee Name:	Loren Goebel							
Month:	December							
	# of Hours: Streets,							
	General Maint,							
	Snow Removal,			# of Hours:			# of Hours:	
	Sewer Line, Water		# of Hours:	Parks,	# of Hours: Bldg		Garbage	Total Hours
Day of Month	Line	Water Plant	Sewer Plant	Mowing	Maint	Equip Maint	Collection	Per Day
1	0.5	1	1		2	2	0.5	7
2		0.5	0.5					1
3		0.5	0.5					1
4	3.5	1	1					5.5
5	3	1	1		1	2		8
6	4	1	1			2		8
7	3	1	1					5
8	2	1	1			1	0.5	5.5
9		0.5	0.5					1
10		0.5	0.5					1
11	2.5	1	1		1	2	0.5	8
12	4	1	1		1	1		8
13	4	1	1			2		8
14	0.5	1	1					2.5
15		1	1				0.5	2.5
16	2.5	0.5	0.5					3.5
17		0.5						1
18	5	1	1			0.5	0.5	8
19	3	1	1			2		7
20	4	1	1			2		8
21	5	1	1			1		8
22 23	2	1	1			0.5	0.5	5
23		0.5	0.5					1
24		0.5						1
25	0.5	0.5	0.5				0.5	2
24 25 26		1	1					2
27	4	1	1		1	1		8
28	4		1					6
27 28 29	0.5		1				0.5	
30		0.5	0.5					1
31		0.5						1
TOTAL for Month								
Per Category	57.5	25.5	25.5	0	6	19	4	137.5

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Freeport City Council

FROM: Dave Blommel, PE (Lic. MN)

DATE: January 19, 2024

RE: Council Update

SEH No. FREEP GEN 14.00

I will be unable to attend your meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, as I will be on vacation and out of the country for that week. I have written a bit more detail in the entries below since I will be unable to answer questions in person at the meeting.

Street Lighting

The bids for the streetlights need to be awarded so the products can start being ordered and arrive in time for spring installation. The project bids are more than the City had planned, but still represent a \$50,000 savings if we rebid the same plans again today due to the manufacturers oversight on the new fixtures vs the LED retrofit.

The difference in our funding comes down to the product Design Electric had provided to the City for its budgetary cost estimates. The poles Design had provided were a basic aluminum pole with modifications to be made to hang our Christmas decorations, banners, and flags. There would have still been pipe clamps, drilling into the poles, new brackets, and other modifications needed to accommodate the accessories that were not included in the budgetary quote. Also excluded in the budgetary quote was removal and replacement of sidewalk, and the addition of conduit. Those 3 primary items make up the difference in cost for the total project.

The project that was bid represents a high-quality product that meets the needs of the City. Additionally, the poles bid include brackets that are customizable (without drilling) giving the City the ability to change banner sizes, locations, and styles in the future without having to abandon old brackets.

At the meeting the council will need to decide to either accept the bid and award the project to the low bidder, or to reject the bids and come up with an alternate strategy to replace the light poles. The bids we have received will not get better if we re-bid with the same materials. Even switching to a straight pole (cheaper pole, but will require modifications) will likely result in higher costs as the light retrofit vs replacement issue will increase the costs. It is my recommendation that the city award the contract as bid to Design Electric as bid if the funding can be found.

Welle 4

The revised funding package for Welle 4 was provided by USDA on our area specialist's last day. We are again getting a new staff person on the project for the 3rd time in the recent past. The good news is that the interest rate remains unchanged from the 3.8% (now 3.75%) that we were planning. This rate is capped at 3.75% but can go down if rate change between now and loan closing. Assuming the predicted