

Village of Freeport  
Council Meeting Minutes  
July 8, 2024

A regular monthly meeting of the Freeport Village Council was held July 8, 2024 at the Freeport Community Center. Village President pro tempore Lani Forbes called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm. Other council members present – President Bill Andrews, Trustees Damon Cove, Madison Cove, Treasurer Joyce Callihan, and Clerk Shari Clark. Absent – Trustee Shawn Hill. Staff present – Police Chief Tim Griffin, Water Operator Duane Weeks, DPW Director Collin Crumback, and Brian Allbright.

The minutes of the June 10, 2024 meeting were approved.

Public comment was heard from Jon Smelker sharing an update from Barry County Board of Commissioners.

Police Report was read by Chief Griffin.

Treasurer’s Report was read by Callihan.

Moved by Forbes and supported by D.Cove to pay monthly bills totaling \$9,224.54 plus incoming Consumers bills. Upon roll call, all voted “Aye”. Motion passed.

Water Operator Weeks reported that the village has finalized grant requirements and waiting for approval to replace lead service lines. The 2023 Water Quality Report (Consumers Confidence Report) has been mailed, posted, and will be submitted to the health department. The Public Notice Certification form will be submitted to EGLE as required. Work on the wellhouse has started and is running smoothly. He is hopeful that the project will be completed next month. He announced that Collin Crumback passed his water license test and is now officially certified as a Waterworks System Operator with classifications D-4 & S-4. Weeks will work with Crumback transitioning over the next year to take over responsibilities as he is now a licensed water operator. Forbes brought up that the intent of council was to increase Crumback’s wage upon becoming licensed. Moved by Forbes and supported by D.Cove to increase Crumback’s wage \$1.00 per hour. Upon roll call, all voted “Aye”. Motion passed.

DPW Report was read by Crumback. Tree debris clean-up has been ongoing. Still working on obtaining sidewalk and tree removal bids. New Community Center Sign donated locally planning to install prior to Freeport Homecoming event. Crumback will be meeting July 9<sup>th</sup> with Scott Civil Engineering to sign paperwork for the East Street Bridge project.

Andrews or Forbes will verify a count of which street poles, Crumback to arrange for pick up from City of Hastings. Forbes & D.Cove plan to schedule employee evaluations by the end of July.

Public comments were heard from Linda Robinson inquiring about legality of recent fireworks set off in the park. The DPW had a lot to clean up off the ball fields to remove firework residue, Forbes will look into the park rules.

Madison Beuhler and Cindy Barton on behalf of Freeport Good Works asked permission of the village to hold events on village property for the annual Freeport Homecoming Event scheduled July 27, 2024. FGW has their own insurance and rock wall vendor has own insurance. All streets will be open for passage, except Division. Moved by Forbes and supported by M.Cove to authorize blocking off certain streets\*, forego the daily vendor charge, use of the Community Center at no cost, use of lawn for games, with Licenses & Liability to be responsibility of Freeport Good Works. All in favor, motion passed.

\*Classic car show on multiple streets to be used/blocked: Division St from N. State to Cressy St, Warren St from Oak to Cherry (leaving room for post office access), Maple St from Oak (alley) to Cherry (alley), Blocking Irving Rd at Division. Craft Vendors on Warren St, Kiddy Car Show on Main St, Kids games (bounce house/rock wall) at Community Center, Live Music on Main St (no later than 11 pm), Lemonade wagon by the fire station, and potentially one food truck on Main St.

The streets to be swept by DPW and hosed off by the fire department prior to the event.

Forbes expressed thanks & appreciation to the new police chief and the entire DPW staff for all their efforts working for the village.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

The next COW meeting will be held August 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

The next regular Council Meeting will be held August 12, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

*Submitted by Shari Clark, Village Clerk*