

**CITY OF FREEMAN
CITY COUNCIL | REGULAR SESSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023
6:30 P.M. | CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AGENDA**

ROLL CALL

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

VOUCHERS

PUBLIC INPUT

ADVERTISE FOR SEASONAL STAFF

DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING REPORT

OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING DATE – TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SDCL 1-25-2(1) – PERSONNEL

HIRE CLUBHOUSE MANAGER

ADJOURN

**This meeting will be livestreamed via the link posted in the “Government” section at
CityofFreeman.org & on Golden West Cable channel 90.**

Council Minutes
Regular Session
Tuesday, February 7, 2023

The Freeman City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 6:30 pm at City Hall in Freeman. Mayor Michael Walter called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Tabitha Schoenwald, Clifford Tjaden, Elizabeth Waltner and Steve Waltner. Also attending were Finance Officer Lisa Edelman, Duane Walters, Carol Eisenbeis, Scott Brewer, Josh Andersen and Terri Behl.

Minutes

S. Waltner moved to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2023 regular meeting, the January 30, 2023 special meeting and the January 31, 2023 special meeting as presented. Schoenwald seconded the motion. All votes aye.

Vouchers

Tjaden moved to approve the vouchers listed below. E. Waltner seconded the motion. Roll call: All votes aye.

PAYROLL – COUNCIL	6300.00	CORE & MAIN, repair	6113.05
PAYROLL – FINANCE	2819.24	FENSEL’S ELECTRIC, supplies	320.08
PAYROLL – MARKETING	3541.46	FINK LAW OFFICE, attorney fees	450.57
PAYROLL – GOVERNMENT BUILDING	189.50	GOLDEN WEST, telephone service	964.60
PAYROLL – POLICE	9376.83	HUTCHINSON CO TREASURER, taxes	206.66
PAYROLL – PUBLIC SAFETY	100.75	JASMINE LOOS, deposit refund	200.00
PAYROLL – STREETS	1099.08	KNIFE RIVER, deicing sand	2161.53
PAYROLL – SEWER	2538.69	KOERNER CONSTRUCTION, haul snow	318.87
PAYROLL – REFUSE	4055.87	LAMB MOTOR CO, police pickup	44597.00
PAYROLL – RECYCLE	2499.05	MAGUIRE IRON, water tower contract	49543.00
PAYROLL – WATER	7452.65	MATHESON, amb supplies	84.49
PAYROLL – AMBULANCE	4951.99	MR G’S, repair	160.00
PAYROLL – PARK/POOL	174.85	NAPA, supplies	137.07
PAYROLL – GOLF COURSE	3070.44	NORTHWESTERN ENERGY, electric & gas	10816.29
PAYROLL – LIBRARY	7118.42	OVERDRIVE, subscription	600.00
PAYROLL – COMMUNITY CENTER	310.50	PITNEY BOWES, postage	300.00
MERCHANTS STATE BANK, 941 deposit	10439.44	PLUNKETT’S, pest control	95.70
SD RETIREMENT	5271.36	R & R PRODUCTS, repair	896.01
ACH FEES, payroll & utilities	30.00	ROBERT HUBER, reimbursement	38.09
APPEARA, rugs	113.06	RURAL MFG, repair	21.02
BROOKINGS AREA TRANSIT, donation	10000.00	SAARIE AUTO BODY, repair	1254.96
B-Y WATER, water purchase	5425.08	SD ASSOC OF RURLA WATER, annual dues	590.00
B-Y WATER INTEREST	3168.00	SD DEPT OF REVENUE, sales tax	1070.42
C & B OPERATIONS, repair	13318.66	SECOND CENTURY PRINTING, publishing	260.61
CARDMEMBER SERVICES, supplies	1155.22	SIOUX INTERNATIONAL, repair	59.82
CAROL EISENBEIS, reimbursement	1356.75	SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC, electricity	2328.51
CHS, fuel	1807.26	SQUARE, monthly subscription	35.00
CITY OF FREEMAN, utilities	44.00	STERN OIL COMPANY, fuel	2677.04
CITY OF MITCHELL LANDFILL, garbage fees	3146.40	TOTAL STOP, fuel	1284.14
CMC EXCAVATION, repair	5724.50	VERIZON, police cell phone	93.66

CNH INDUSTRIAL, repair

3923.81

VOUCHERS	192601.73
SALARIES	55599.32
TOTAL VOUCHERS & SALARIES	248201.05

Financial Report

Tjaden moved to approve the financial report as presented. S. Waltner seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

Charles Gering entered the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Fire Department Annual Report

Fire Chief Josh Andersen presented the fire department annual report to the council. He informed the council that there are 35 fire fighters on the roster, which is the maximum allowed according the fire department bylaws. S. Waltner moved to accept the fire department roster for insurance purposes. Schoenwald seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

Snow Removal

Terri Behl inquired what the snow removal plan was for the large amounts of snow in her area of town. She informed the council that she is trying to be proactive by removing the snow piles from her property, but would like to know the City's plan for the snow piles in the drainage areas. Duane Walters stated that the city workers are aware of the problem areas, but do not want to remove the snow too early in order to keep the ground from freezing. If the ground does not freeze solid the moisture will soak into the ground rather than needing to drain somewhere.

Wastewater Hire

S. Waltner moved to hire Wade Rupp at \$23.00/hour with proof of CDL plus \$1.00/hour increase upon completion of each wastewater certification. Gering seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

Annual Audit

Tjaden moved to hire Schoenfish & Co. to do the annual audit not to exceed \$10,000.00. S. Waltner seconded the motion. Roll call: all votes aye.

Other Business

Tjaden: Informed the group that Dakota Protein Solutions have inspected the wells and found them to be in good condition. They are now working on a route for the piping from the water tower to their facility.

Brewer: Stated that the police pickup will be delivered later this week.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Freeman City Council will take place on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Adjournment

S. Waltner moved to adjourn at 6:56 pm. E. Waltner seconded motion. All votes aye.

Lisa Edelman, Finance Officer

Michael Walter, Mayor



DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING COORDINATOR REPORT FREEMAN CITY COUNCIL | FEBRUARY 21, 2023

A flurry of activity fills each day with regard to development, marketing, & communication related to the City of Freeman. Here's a brief overview:

- The Freeman Community Development Corporation held their annual meeting on February 6 & has reorganized with Courtney Unruh serving in the role of president. My annual report for the meeting was presented in the form of a [video](#) showcasing 2022 as a big year in development for Freeman.
- Long-awaited news related to the Freeman Community Transit: In the upcoming weeks, Brookings Area Transit Authority will be submitting a new grant proposal with a goal of securing funding for a transit garage to be built directly north of City Hall here in Freeman. I'm in the process of collecting letters of support to be included with the application. Access to local transit service is an economic asset for our community & a permanent home to house the transit vehicles would finally free up space in the city's garage & also provide for much-needed office space, restrooms, storage & more. I serve as Freeman's representative to the BATA board & participate monthly via Zoom as an advocate for our community.
- Relaying communication on behalf of the City of Freeman & FCDC continues to be a significant part of my role. Depending on the type of messaging that needs to be relayed, I frequently create content that is rolled out via a combination of the following platforms: 1) Citywide text notification system (560+ phone lines); 2) Citywide voice call notification system (120+ phone lines), 3) "Breaking News" section at [CityofFreeman.org](#); 4) [City of Freeman Facebook page](#); 5) The Courier for press releases, development columns, and time-sensitive announcements in print & at [FreemanSD.com](#); 6) KELO for snow emergency notices to be posted online & scroll on TV; 7) Dakota News Now for snow emergency notices to be posted online & scroll on KDLT & KSFY; 8) [Freeman Development-Experience Freeman Facebook page](#); 9) "[Calendar](#)" & "[Events & News](#)" blog content at [ExperienceFreemanSD.com](#); 10) Golden West Cable Channel 90; 11) Weekly "[Hometown Happenings](#)" online & airing on Hot Country 93.1 Radio; 12) Southeast South Dakota Tourism advertising; 13) Email communication; 14) [Experience Freeman, SD YouTube Channel](#).
- A wide variety of inquiries continue to come my way. As the marketing & development point person & "coordinator" for both the City of Freeman & FCDC, I strive to provide information & follow up as appropriate by putting the right people in touch with each other for the benefit of our community. While I am in ongoing communication with key

leaders from both of these entities, much of this work is confidential & done behind the scenes.

- As a member of the South Dakota Economic Development Professionals Association, I closely follow legislation, am in communication with those serving in Pierre, & relay information, as appropriate, regarding legislation that impacts our community. Right now, child care is a critical economic development component that must be addressed. The current business model is resulting in economic losses for our state as it significantly limits our ability to recruit workforce. At this point, we are anticipating the legislature to convene a summer study to explore the current situation & work toward solutions. This is an economic issue that will require involvement not only from child care providers, but from businesses, nonprofits, foundations, & local & state government entities, as well.
- Advertising related to Valley View Golf Course & the Freeman Swimming Pool will soon be underway. As we approach spring, we also look forward to the promised removal of the old shed & building at the entrance to Westward View, the installation of the new kiosks for the City Campground & the Swimming Pool Park that arrived at the end of February in 2022, the installation of the new sign at the entrance to Valley View Golf Course, the installation of an ADA-compliant lift chair for the Freeman Swimming Pool, & the replacement of signage at the rubble site west of town.
- Following up on information gleaned from recent conference sessions, webinars, & other sources is ongoing. This involves studying & implementing practices designed to help Freeman thrive & exploring a variety of funding opportunities that may be available to us. When it comes to being a thriving community, we need to realize that economic development today is quite different from economic development in 1972 or even in 1993. We live in a “flat” world where people can basically experience any community from anywhere. To keep our current businesses & schools open, we need people to continue to choose Freeman as a place to live. We also need to realize that communities from all over the world are getting their messages out to the same people we are wanting to recruit. A strong, online presence – complete with an abundance of appealing visual images, videos, & testimonials – is not just fluff. It’s not a frivolous waste of time. It’s not something that can be overlooked. It is, indeed, economic development. That’s something that’s underscored repeatedly in the current realm of economic development. We have access to platforms that can enable us to broaden our reach & we all – municipalities, development corporations, organizations, & individual businesses – need to be making the most of these opportunities if we want our community to be relevant & prosperous.

Respectfully Submitted by Carol J. Eisenbeis
Development & Marketing Coordinator | City of Freeman, SD