



**City Council**  
City Council Chambers    230 West Stephenson Street    Freeport, Illinois 61032

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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, November 5, 2007**

Call to Order at 5:15 p.m.

**Roll Call by Mayor Gaulrapp**

Present: Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, Endress

Not present during roll call: DeVine

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments this evening.

**Committee of the Whole Report**

A motion to approve the Committee of the Whole Report for the regular meeting of October 15, 2007, was given by Alderwoman O'Neill, seconded by Alderman Endress. Vote to approve 7-0.

**Public Works**

1. An Ordinance Authorizing a Feasibility Study Concerning the Redevelopment of Certain Property and Creating an Interested Persons Registry within the City of Freeport, Illinois (West Avenue Tax Increment Financing Area) was presented by Mayor George Gaulrapp. Mayor Gaulrapp referred to the map of the TIFF area and its description contained in Exhibit A of the committee packets. A motion was made by Alderwoman O'Neill to authorize the firm of Vandewalle & Associates to conduct an eligibility study of the Site to determine if it is eligible for TIF and if the property is determined to be eligible, to complete Redevelopment Plan.

Motion to approve - O'Neill

Second – Endress

Motion passed – 7-0

At this time, Alderwoman DeVine entered the meeting bringing the number of committee members present to 8.

**Finance**

1. An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2007, and ending April 30, 2008 for the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson, and State of Illinois was presented by Finance Director Craig Joesten. Director Joesten stated the amounts to be included in Tax Levy included \$566,873 for the Fire Pension, \$750,388 for the Police Pension, \$172,000 for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, and \$997,876 for the Total General Corporate Expense for a sum of Two Million Four Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Seven Dollars (\$2,487,137) which constitutes the total amount that the City of Freeport requires to be raised by taxation for the fiscal year 2007-2008. A motion to approve the ordinance as presented by Director Joesten was made by Alderman Klemm.

Motion to approve - Klemm

Second - Endress

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Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, O’Neill, Corbin and Helms - 8  
Nays - 0

2. An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2007, and ending April 30, 2008 for the Public Library City of Freeport County of Stephenson and State of Illinois was presented by Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson. Director Dickerson stated that the improvements to the cataloging system and the overall facility have been responsible for the 11% increase for items checked out of the library as compared to October 2006. A double digit increase in usage each month has been realized by the library since June 2007. The committee was presented line items for the amount to be levied and the ordinance stated that the amounts for general library purposes and for insurance against loss or liability for a total amount of one million one hundred fifty-two thousand five hundred fifty-four dollars (\$1,152,554) and will comprise an approximate tax rate of .454 of the value of all the taxable property within the City, as equalized or assessed. Alderman Klemm asked if this tax levy was the same rate as last year and it was answered yes.

Motion to approve – Boldt

Second – Corbin

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, O’Neill, Corbin and Helms - 8  
Nays - 0

### **Community Development**

1. An informational item on Community Development Department research on regulation for licensing of contractors and issuance of building permits among other similarly-sized Illinois home-rule municipalities. Community Development Director Shelly Griswold presented comparative ordinance information from other Illinois home rule municipalities at the October 1, 2007, for which three Aldermen have provided feedback. Director Griswold will compile their information for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.
2. An informational item on Brownfields assessment priorities was presented by Community Development Director Shelly Griswold to list priorities for the USEPA grants dated - November 2006. A \$200,000 grant was received for petroleum and \$200,000 for hazardous substance. Four properties on the east side of Freeport have been selected but due to confidentiality reasons, the property owner’s names can not be disclosed. In addition, monies will be used for the Rawleigh complex and the IOCO station at the corner of Galena Avenue and Chicago Avenue.

### **Public Safety**

1. An informational item on purchase of new tires for ladder truck was presented to the committee by Fire Chief Kevin Countryman. The purchase of ten tires was sent out for bids and over \$1,000 was saved by going through the bid process.

### **Other**

1. Resolution to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Stephenson and the City of Freeport to Support 2010 Census Information Sharing was presented by Corporate Counsel Sarah Griffin. Corporate Counsel Griffin stated that Stephenson County and the City will be participating in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program to prepare for the 2010 Census and participating entities will receive information from the U.S. Census Bureau in various forms for review and updating. Updated information must be returned to the U.S. Census

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**Other (Cont.)**

Bureau for use during the 2010 Census in the various requested media forms (specifically Geographic Information System (GIS) software for use with digital shape files. The County has offered to share its GIS capabilities for the purpose of sharing information and working together, so this resolution sets the framework of the intergovernmental agreement.

Motion to approve – Klemm

Second – Bush

Motion passed 8-0.

Adjournment at 5:37 p.m.