



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

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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, January 22, 2008**

Call to Order at 5:15 p.m.

**Roll Call by Mayor Gaulrapp**

Present: Alderman Klemm, DeVine, Endress, O'Neill, Corbin and Helms (6)

Not Present: Bush and Boldt (2)

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments this evening.

**Committee of the Whole Report**

A motion was given by Alderman Endress to approve the Committee of the Whole Report from the regular meeting on Monday, January 7, 2008, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill. Vote to approve 6-0.

**Public Works**

1. A Resolution for Improvement by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code was presented by Public Works Director Craig LeBaron for improvements to Stephenson Street from Park Crest Drive to Carthage Drive. The sum of \$90,000 from the city's allotment of Motor Fuel Tax funds would be used to finance this project. This is the annual LAPP Program paperwork required by Illinois Department of Transportation for the city street improvements consisting of preliminary and construction engineering and the construction costs divided as 80% Federal and 20% City.

Motion to approve – Klemm

Second – Endress

Roll Call vote Klemm, DeVine, Endress, O'Neill, Corbin and Helms

Due to early spring letting and time to formalize the document with IDOT, Director LeBaron requested to have this Resolution sent to council this evening.

Motion to send to council – Klemm

Second – Endress

Vote to approve – 6-0

At 5:22 p.m., Alderman Bush entered the meeting bringing the number of committee members present to seven (7).

**Community Development**

1. A Resolution to Amend a Tax Increment Financing District Fund Expenditure Plan was presented to the committee by Mayor George Gaulrapp explaining the Tax Increment Financing District Fund Expenditure Plan included as an attachment to the resolution. The total operating budget for the 2008 Downtown TIF proposed operating budget will be \$386,865 with an additional \$25,000

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in contingency for a total plan expenditure of \$411,865. Line items of the plan were discussed with Mayor Gaulrapp answering questions from the committee.

Vote to approve resolution as presented to committee and send to council on February 4, 2008 – O’Neill

Second – DeVine

Vote to approve – 7-0

**Finance**

1. An Ordinance Amending Portions of Chapter 288 Officers and Employees Generally – a change to life insurance benefit from \$15,000 to \$25,000 in term life insurance coverage for non-bargaining employees was presented by Finance Director Craig Joesten. Director Joesten stated that back in August 2006 this subject was brought up and tabled. Based on information that Alderwoman O’Neill has received from the police and fire department that some employees are hesitant to be promoted to managerial positions because they will lose some benefits due to a disparity between the union employee contracts and the city worker benefits, she asked the administration to draft this ordinance for the committee. Based on the cost estimates that Director Joesten received from Human Resource Manager Amanda DeLong, the cost to the city for this additional benefit level will be \$96 per month or annual amount of \$1,100.

Vote to approve ordinance as presented to committee and send to council on February 4, 2008 – O’Neill

Second – Corbin

Vote to approve – 7-0

2. An informational item regarding the contract with Lindgren, Callihan and VanOsdol, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants was presented by Finance Director Craig Joesten. The city has used this accounting firm in FY 2005, 2006, and 2007 and due to continuity of auditing practices and knowing where and what to look for in our accounting files he recommends extension of the contract. Director Joesten believes that by continuing our relationship with this firm it could actually save the city money in auditing costs. Director Joesten recommended that the city extend the contract for fiscal year 2008 and 2009 with the contingency that the firm rotates partners from year to year in order to receive a different perspective on the audits. Mayor Gaulrapp disclosed to the committee that his daughter, Rachael Gaulrapp, is employed as an accountant at Lindgren, Callihan and VanOsdol. He stated that there is an agreement with the company is that she will not audit city files.

Motion to approve extending the contract – Klemm

Second – Endress

Vote to send to council at the next meeting – 7-0

3. An informational item regarding the city taxes which have sunset dates in calendar year 2008 was presented by Finance Director Craig Joesten. The total amount of taxes coming up for review would be \$2.3 million in revenue dollars for the city. Director Joesten gave the committee hand-outs showing tax revenue recap for the property transfer, food and beverage, electricity, natural gas, telephone, and two sales taxes along with the cable franchise fee. The committee discussed the upcoming sunset dates of these taxes and recommended that each tax be considered separately as they come up for renewal. The electricity tax and motor fuel tax both expire on July 31, 2008, so it was recommended to review these taxes at the next committee meeting.

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4. An informational item regarding disposition and use of city generated Enterprise Zone fees was presented by Finance Director Craig Joesten and how the city tried to work with the Freeport Area Economic Development Foundation to further enhance and support recruitment to generate more jobs in the area. Now with the reorganization of the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance (NIDA), the city has more of an opportunity to help set priorities of the foundation – with the number one priority to bring additional jobs to Freeport. Mayor Gaulrapp told the committee he would be attending a meeting the next morning and they should convey to him opinions they may have to bring the NIDA forward.

### **Other**

1. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 868 (Taxicabs), Section 868.10 (General Application Requirements) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport was presented by Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin. She stated that this ordinance would allow the current cab company to continue their operations since it currently outside the city limits by 16 feet. This ordinance amendment allows the cab company to either annex in to the city or move its company to another location within the city by December 31, 2008.

Motion to approve ordinance as written – Klemm

Second – Endress

Vote to approve 7-0

Motion to move to council floor this evening – O’Neill

Second – Klemm

Vote to approve 7-0

Motion to move to Executive Session pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act (5ILCS 120/2 (c) (2) – Collective Bargaining Update was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress. On a roll call vote of ayes and nays the vote was as follows: Alderman Klemm, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, and Corbin voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to return from Executive Session was given by Alderman Corbin, seconded by Alderman Endress. On a roll call vote of ayes and nays the vote was as follows: Alderman Klemm, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, and Corbin voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment of the Committee of the Whole meeting at 6:37 p.m.