



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 4, 2008**

Call to Order at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call by Mayor Gaulrapp

Present: Alderman Klemm, Boldt, DeVine, Endress, O'Neill, Corbin, and Helms (7)

Not present: Bush (1)

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 Tuesday, January 22, 2008, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill. Vote to approve 7-0.

Finance

1. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 893 (Motor Fuel Tax) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport to Extend Such Tax for a One Year Period of Time was presented by Finance Director Craig Joesten. The funds from this tax are earmarked for improvements to our public works trucks, leaf pick up equipment, street sweeper, and, in addition, they were used to purchase two police squad cars when needed. This ordinance was enacted on July 7, 2003, and with this approval it will extend the current tax until July 31, 2009.

Motion to approve – O'Neill

Second – Klemm

On a roll call vote of ayes and nays: Aldermen Klemm, Boldt, DeVine, Endress, O'Neill, Corbin, and Helms (7) voted aye. There were no nay votes.

Motion passed 7-0.

2. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 889 (Electricity Kilowatt – Hours Use Tax) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport to Extend the Increase on Such Tax For a One Year Period of Time was presented by Finance Director Craig Joesten. Director Joesten explained that the tax rate will stay the same but instead of it expiring on July 31, 2008 it would be extended through July 31, 2009. This tax generates \$800,000 for general operations of the city.

Motion to approve – Klemm

Second – Endress

On a roll call vote of ayes and nays: Aldermen Klemm, Boldt, DeVine, Endress, O'Neill, Corbin, and Helms voted aye. There were no nay votes.

Motion passed 7-0.

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3. A Resolution Requesting Funds in Support of the Freeport Lincoln – Douglas Debate Sesquicentennial Celebration – request by commission for a grant in the amount of \$10,000 for the 150th anniversary celebration scheduled for Labor Day Weekend beginning August 29, 2008 through September 1, 2008, was presented by Finance Director Craig Joesten reiterating the information presented by the Sesquicentennial Committee at the January 22, 2008 council meeting. The committee has worked to develop activities that will interest a variety of people including parades, dedication of the debate site, a 1858 grand ball, family day with art in the park and an historical pageant. The total cost of the events is estimated by the committee to be \$72,684 with funds coming from the Freeport Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, sale of commemorative coin sets, in-kind donations, and, in addition, a request of funds from the city in the amount of \$10,000. Alderman Helms questioned the economic return to the Freeport area during the event. Mr. Ed Finch addressed the committee stating that Freeport is receiving support across the state of Illinois and has the ability to become a part of history with not only state but national recognition. Freeport is the second city on the trail of cities to be host of the debate sesquicentennial celebrations.

Motion to approve – Klemm

Second – Endress

On a roll call vote of ayes and nays: Aldermen Klemm, Boldt, DeVine, Endress, O’Neill, Corbin, and Helms voted aye. There were no nay votes.

Motion passed 7-0.

WATER & SEWER

1. An informational item on the Capital Improvement Projects of the Freeport Water and Sewer was presented by Water & Sewer Project Director Denise Ihrig referring to her letter presented to the committee members this evening. Ms. Ihrig explained the CIP update was presented to the Water and Sewer Commission on January 29, 2008 and is used to identify projects, spending dollars, projected projects and the amount in the reserves of the Water and Sewer Department budget.
2. An Ordinance Repealing the Expiration Clause of Ordinance 2007-36 Regarding Chapter 1052 (Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Fund) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport, Illinois, was presented by Finance Director Craig Joesten. The Water and Sewer Commission has recommended that such chapter be enacted without an expiration in order to continue to finance capital projects relating to the city’s water system and sewer system in regard to the \$4 surcharge.

A motion to extend the surcharge with an amendment to the sunset clause to one year and send to council for the next meeting – Boldt

Second – Corbin

On a roll call vote of ayes and nays: Aldermen Klemm, Boldt, DeVine, Endress, Corbin, and Helms voted aye. Alderwoman O’Neill voted nay.

Motion carried 6-1.

3. An informational item on the water and sewer rate structure was presented by Finance Director Craig Joesten stating that there needs to be an increase in the water rate structure. With the current meter revenue it is within cents of accomplishing projects on the CIP list. The city is operating on rates through April 30, 2009 and revenue and expenses are out of balance with the number of capital improvement projects that need to be done. This will be discussed at the Water and Sewer Commission meeting in February 2008.

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OTHER

1. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 220 "Council", Section 220.10 "Rules of Council", Subsection (10) "Order of Business"; Chapter 220 "Council", Section 220.11 "Council Committees" and Chapter 222 "Ordinances and Resolutions" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport was presented on behalf of the Executive Committee of the City Council by Alderwoman Linda O'Neill.

Motion to amend the wording under item new section 222.02 First Readings to read that first readings should be read in full by the clerk only if demanded by two members was made by Alderwoman O'Neill

Second – Boldt

Vote to approve – 7-0

Motion to approve ordinance with changes as presented and forward to the next council meeting – O'Neill

Second – Klemm

Vote to approve – 7-0.

PUBLIC WORKS

1. An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 480 Parking Generally, Section 480.12 (Restricted Parking Street) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport was presented by Public Works Director Craig LeBaron. Mayor George Gaulrapp asked committee members to forward ordinance wording from other cities of similar size within the next week. It was decided to look at this ordinance wording in two weeks at the meeting on February 19, 2008.

Adjournment of the meeting at 6:30 p.m.