



City Council

City Council Chambers ♦ 230 West Stephenson Street ♦ Freeport, IL 61032

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, November 19, 2007

QUORUM

At 7:03 p.m. a quorum being present, Mayor Gaulrapp called this meeting to order.

RECORD

Present were Aldermen O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms (7 present). Alderman Corbin had advised the Mayor of his absence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At this time, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderwoman O'Neill.

RECOGNITION

Recognition of FHS Athletes – Soccer and Volleyball Teams - IHSA Regional Champions and Boys Golf, Cross Country, and Girls Tennis – IHSA State Qualifiers

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Alderman Helms moved, seconded by Alderman Endress to approve the agenda. The motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, September 4, 2007
Special Meeting, Tuesday, September 11, 2007
Regular Meeting, Monday, September 17, 2007
Regular Meeting, Monday, November 5, 2007

Alderman Endress moved, seconded by Alderwoman DeVine to approve the minutes from the above stated meetings. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms voted yea. The motion carried 7-0.

PROCLAMATION

A proclamation was read by the City Clerk declaring December 2007 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month in the City of Freeport.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

Windy Pearson, 711 S. Carroll Avenue, spoke to the council in favor of the Chronic Noise Ordinance. Ms. Pearson stated that there is a continuous problem with noise in her neighborhood and asked for the council's support of the ordinance so the police may now deal with the violators.

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CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as the first item after approval of the Consent Agenda.

A. Approval to Receive and Place on File:

- 1) Freeport Fire Department Ambulance Activity Report for October 2007
- 2) Freeport Fire Department Fire/Ambulance Monthly Totals for October 2007
- 3) Freeport Police Department Activities for October 2007
- 4) Freeport Area Economic Development Foundation letter November 8, 2007

B. Approval of Water and Sewer Disbursements for November 15, 2007 - \$405,835.09

C. Approval of Bills Payable for November 2007 (#36, #37, #38, #39) ---- \$1,277,613.66

D. Approval of Payroll for period ended November 10, 2007 --- \$374,026.19

Motion to approve Consent Agenda - O'Neill

Seconded - Endress

Ayes - O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms

The consent agenda was approved.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-78:

An Ordinance amending Chapter 659 Chronic Nuisances of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Freeport – regarding violation of Chapter 670 (Peace Disturbances) Subsection 670.05 –Noise was presented for approval. The first reading of this ordinance was held on November 5, 2007. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Alderman Bush stated that this ordinance was brought to council following the neighborhood meeting at St. Mary's Church where people voiced their concerns over the noise violations in their neighborhood of the 3rd Ward and other parts of the city. Alderman Bush asked for the support of the council.

Ayes - O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms - 7

Nays - 0

The ordinance was adopted.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-79:

An Ordinance amending Chapter 1252 (Business Districts) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport, Illinois regarding zoning of repair shops was presented. The first reading of this ordinance was held on November 5, 2007. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Endress and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. No discussion ensued.

Ayes - O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms - 7

Nays - 0

The ordinance was adopted.

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2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-81:

An Ordinance to authorize right of way of easement to Freeport Park District for Public Recreational Path was presented. The First reading of this ordinance was held on November 5, 2007. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Endress and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

Ayes - O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms - 7

Nays - 0

The ordinance was adopted.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-84:

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. Explanation – There is hereby levied upon all property subject to taxation within the corporate limits of the City of Freeport, Illinois, as the same is assessed and equalized for State and County taxation, for the fiscal year 2007-2008 the sum of Two Million Four Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Seven Dollars (\$2,487,137) or so much thereof as may be authorized by law, the same being for general corporate purposes, for streets, for contribution to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, for the Police Pension Fund, and for the Firemen's Pension Fund, such levy being itemized in the documents given. Alderman Helms stated that this ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole by unanimous vote, on a motion by Alderman Klemm and a second by Alderman Endress.

Motion to approve ordinance – Helms

Second – Klemm

Ordinance 2007-84 will be automatically laid over to December 3, 2007

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-85:

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. Explanation - The total amount of One Million One Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Four Dollars (\$1,152,554) which constitutes the total amount that the City of Freeport requires to be raised by taxation for the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year of said City for Public Library Purposes. Alderman Helms stated that this ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole by unanimous vote, on a motion by Alderman Boldt and a second by Alderman Corbin.

Motion to approve ordinance – Helms

Second – O'Neill

Ordinance 2007-85 will be automatically laid over to December 3, 2007

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-86:

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. Alderman Helms stated this ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole as a feasibility study and using the map as presented.

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1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-86 (CONT):

The committed approved this ordinance by unanimous vote, on a motion by Alderwoman O'Neill, and a second by Alderman Endress.

Motion to approve ordinance – Helms

Second – O'Neill

Ordinance 2007-86 will be automatically laid over to December 3, 2007

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-87:

An Ordinance Authorizing Exchange of Real Estate (Parking Lot #1 - located at the southeast corner of Stephenson Street and Adams Avenue with the legal description of Lot 10 and the Westerly 40.33 feet of Lot 9 in Block 44 of Carters Re-subdivision of Original Town owned by the City of Freeport and Parking Lot #2 - located at the southwest corner of Main Street and Adams Avenue with the legal description of Lot 6 in Block 39 of Carter Re-Subdivision of Original Town (Except Part Taken for Highway purposes in Book 12-120) owned by Newell Co.) was presented. Alderman Helms stated this ordinance was presented to the Committee of the Whole this evening by Mayor George Gaulrapp. Alderman Boldt made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Alderman Klemm and the motion passed 6-0. A motion to move the ordinance forward to the council meeting was made by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress and the motion passed 6-0. The Newell Companies have increased their number of jobs in Freeport by 65. This is a fair and equitable exchange of parking lots for both parties.

Motion to approve ordinance – Helms

Second – Endress

Ordinance 2007-87 will be automatically laid over to December 3, 2007

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-88:

An Ordinance was presented for Variation, Permit or Amendment of Codified Ordinances of Freeport, Illinois, requesting a Variance for the property at 1637 South Walnut Avenue, Freeport, Illinois to erect an accessory building or structure within one foot (1') of the side lot line for the property. Community Development Director Griswold stated this ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Board of Zoning Appeals by a 4-0 unanimous vote on November 8, 2007.

Motion to approve ordinance – Klemm

Second – Helms

Ayes - O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms - 7

Nays - 0

The ordinance was adopted.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-89:

An Ordinance was presented for Variation, Permit or Amendment of Codified Ordinances of Freeport, Illinois, requesting a Variance for the property at 754 South Carthage Drive, Freeport, Illinois to allow a seventeen (17') foot front yard. Community Development Director Griswold stated this ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Board of Zoning Appeals by unanimous vote on November 8, 2007.

Motion to approve ordinance – Klemm

Second – Endress

Ayes - O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms - 7

Nays - 0

The ordinance was adopted.

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1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-90:

An Ordinance was presented for Variation, Permit or Amendment of Codified Ordinances of Freeport, Illinois, requesting a Variance for the property at 1027 West Empire Street, Freeport, Illinois to allow a five (5') foot fence in a front yard. Director Griswold stated this ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Board of Zoning Appeals by unanimous vote on November 8, 2007.

Motion to approve ordinance – Klemm

Second – Endress

Ayes - O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms - 7

Nays - 0

The ordinance was adopted.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-91:

A Special Ordinance was presented for Variation, Permit or Amendment of Codified Ordinances of Freeport, Illinois, requesting a zoning change from R6 (Multi Family Residence) to B2-1 (Limited Service Business) for 1163 West Empire Street, Freeport, Illinois. Director Griswold stated this ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Planning Commission by unanimous vote on November 8, 2007. She stated it is the intent of Mr. Tim McElfress to use the building now known as Dr. Miller's dental practice as a retail sport memorabilia store.

Motion to approve ordinance – Klemm

Second – Endress

Ordinance 2007-91 will be automatically laid over to December 3, 2007

ACTION ITEMS

APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Endress to accept the appointment of Tiffany Vondra to the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority. The motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made by Alderwoman O'Neill, seconded by Alderman Endress to accept the appointment of Michelle McNeely to the Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors. The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor George Gaulrapp stated there is a request to have an alderman on the board for NICA.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2007-97:

A Resolution to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Stephenson and the City of Freeport to Support 2010 Census Information Sharing was presented. This resolution was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole by unanimous vote, on a motion by Alderman Klemm and a second by Alderman Bush.

Motion to approve ordinance – Helms

Second – Bush

On a voice vote of council 7-0, the resolution was adopted.

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RESOLUTION #R-2007-98:

A Resolution was presented for Maintenance of Streets and Highways by Municipality under the Illinois Highway Code. Explanation – The City Council is requested to appropriate the sum of \$600,000 of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) for the purpose of materials for the Street Department and the Street Maintenance Program for next summer. This resolution was presented to the Committee of the Whole this evening by Public Director Craig LeBaron. Director LeBaron stated that this resolution is typically asked the same time each year for this amount. A motion was made by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress to approve the resolution. The resolution passed 7-0. Alderman Klemm moved to present the resolution to the council meeting tonight, seconded by Alderman Endress. Vote 7-0 to move it forward to council.

Motion to approve the resolution – Helms

Second – Endress

Ayes - O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms - 7

Nays - 0

The resolution was adopted.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Public Works Director Craig LeBaron presented a memorandum dated November 19 to the council explaining that bids for the 5 Yard Dump Truck with plow and spreader capability were received and opened on November 9, 2007. Director LeBaron recommended acceptance of a bid from Hawkeye Truck & Trailer for an International 7300 with Monroe Equipment to be awarded in the amount of \$86,960.47. It was asked when the possible delivery date is and Director LeBaron responded in March or April 2008. He also stated the source for the money to purchase the truck is funded from the fuel sales tax in the city.

Motion to approve the bid – Klemm

Second – Boldt

Ayes - O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms - 7

Nays - 0

The bid proposal was approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reminded the council and the public about many upcoming meetings and their dates:

- Property Code Enforcement Meeting
- Chamber Legislative Luncheon
- Artspace Public Meeting

There was recently a ceremony at the Albertus Airport for the installation of the Landing System. Due to the weather conditions the day of the ceremony, it was necessary for to use the system or the government plane would not have been able to land.

The mayor reported that the council should consider funding for additional police officers and particularly if the City is able to take over the IOCO station on Galena Avenue.

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NEW BUSINESS

Finance Director Craig Joesten spoke about considerations for the Water and Sewer Department as cost savings measures. They could consider closing the payment center in City Hall, require higher deposit amounts for water and sewer customers, or they could reduce the time period allowed for default of payment. Mayor George Gaulrapp stated that he agrees with the last two suggestions, but not the first suggestion of closing the payment center.

Community Director Griswold described the process and procedures on the 10 most wanted property list.

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman asked for support of the Food Drive at the Fire Stations in the next week.

Alderman Boldt and Alderman Bush agreed that receiving the packets electronically will save paper costs to the City and they would like to receive their packets in this manner to view on their personal lap top computers during the meeting.

Alderman Bush spoke about the scheduling of the upcoming retreat in December or January. He also thanked the public for their support of the Festival of Trees and in doing so the raising of funds for the Boys and Girls Club of Freeport.

There were many thanks for the support of Food Drives during the Thanksgiving season.

Alderman Helms spoke about the bridges in the City in need of repair or replacement, using the Hancock and Gladewood bridges as examples. He spoke about the impact these bridges will have on the funding for the City.

Adjournment of the meeting at 8:55 p.m.