



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, December 17, 2007

QUORUM

At 7:00 p.m. with a quorum being present, Mayor Gaulrapp called this meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present were Aldermen Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, and Corbin (8).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At this time, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Klemm.

PROCLAMATION

A resolution was read to recognize Mr. Kim Rees as an outstanding public servant and in honor of his continuous service to the people of Freeport. Mr. Rees retires on January 3, 2008, after thirty-four years with the Freeport Water and Sewer Department. Ms. Denise Ihrig of United Water applauded the work of Mr. Rees as manager of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and his support in managing the plant efficiently and up to standards.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Gaulrapp asked to have the Mayor's report moved to the last item on the agenda. A motion was made by Alderman Helms to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Endress. The motion carried 8-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Helms moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting for Monday, December 3, 2007, upon the correction of the adjournment time from 8:32 a.m. to 8:32 p.m., seconded by Alderman Endress. On a roll call vote of ayes and nays the minutes were approved 8-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

There were no individuals signed up for public comments this evening.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval to Receive and Place on File:
 - 1) Community Development Cash and Misc. Receipts – November 2007
 - 2) Freeport Police Department Activities – November 2007
 - 3) Treasurers Report for period ending October 31, 2007
- B. Approval of Bills Payable for December 2007 (#43, 44, 45, 46) ---- \$363,517.76
- C. Approval of Payroll for period ended December 8, 2007 --- \$393,374.98

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CONSENT AGENDA (CONT.)

D. Approval of Water and Sewer Disbursements for December 17, 2007 ---- \$177,590.43

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented - Endress

Seconded – Helms

Ayes – Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, and Corbin (8).

Nays - 0

The Consent Agenda was approved.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-92:

An Ordinance to Approve the Editing and Inclusion of Certain Ordinances as Parts of the Various Component Codes of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Freeport, Illinois – ordinance updates for American Legal Publishing. This ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole at the November 19, 2007 meeting. The first reading of this ordinance was held December 3, 2007. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Klemm and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight’s meeting.

Ayes – Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, and Corbin (8).

Nays - 0

The ordinance was adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2 (c) and (2) – Update on Collective Bargaining – a motion to enter an executive session was made by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Helms. On a roll call vote of ayes and nays; Aldermen Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, and Corbin voted aye (8). The motion to enter an executive session was approved.

A motion to return to the regular meeting from the executive session at 7:19 p.m. was made by Alderman Helms and seconded by Alderman Endress. On a roll call vote of ayes and nays, Aldermen Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, and Corbin voted aye (8). The motion was approved.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-93 (AS AMENDED):

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 290 (Compensation and Benefits) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport, Illinois – 3% increase in salary structure for non-bargaining employees including an increase for the Corporation Council. This ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole at the December 3, 2007 meeting. The first reading of this ordinance was held at the Council meeting that evening. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Klemm and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight’s meeting.

Ayes – Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, and Corbin (8).

Nays - 0

The ordinance was adopted.

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ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2007-94:

An Ordinance for Variation, Permit or Amendment of Codified Ordinance of Freeport, Illinois, requesting a variance for the property at 1334 Empire Court, Freeport, Illinois, to allow a twenty three foot (23') rear yard. This ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Board of Zoning Appeals by unanimous (4-0) approval on December 6, 2007. Additionally, there were no objectors filed for this ordinance, therefore approval may be made with only one reading.

Motion to approve ordinance – Helms

Second – Endress

On a roll call vote of ayes and nays:

Ayes – Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, and Corbin (8).

Nays - 0

The ordinance was approved.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2007-101:

Resolution to Authorize Letter of Intent with IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) and IDA (Illinois Division of Aeronautics) for Fiscal Year 2009 Airport Improvement Program for Freeport – Albertus Airport was presented by Public Works Director Craig LeBaron. This resolution was also presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting this evening. During the Committee of the Whole meeting, a motion was made by Alderman Klemm to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Alderwoman DeVine. On a voice vote of 7-0, the committee approved the resolution. A motion was made by Alderman Klemm to send the resolution to council this evening, seconded by Alderwoman O’Neill. On a voice vote of 7-0 the motion was approved.

Motion to approve resolution – Helms

Second – O’Neill

Ayes – Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, and Corbin (8).

Nays - 0

The resolution was approved.

RESOLUTION #R-2007-102:

Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Illinois Department of Agriculture AgriFirst Grant Application was presented by Community Development Director Shelly Griswold. This resolution was also presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting this evening with a presentation by Margaret Larson of the University of Illinois Extension Office. During the Committee of the Whole meeting, a motion was made by Alderwoman O’Neill to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Alderman Corbin. On a voice vote of 7-0, the committee approved the resolution. A motion was made by Alderwoman O’Neill to send the resolution to council this evening, seconded by Alderman Klemm. On a voice vote of 7-0 the motion was approved.

Motion to approve resolution – Helms

Second – O’Neill

Ayes – Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, and Corbin (8).

Nays – 0

The resolution was approved.

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DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Community Development – no items this evening.

Finance – Finance Director Joesten presented information on the applicant search for Operations Manager of the W& S Department to replace Kim Rees who is retiring in January 2008. This position was posted on AWAL and the IML and he has received five resumes. The search process is moving along expeditiously.

Public Works – Director LeBaron stated that since December 1, there have only been four days that crews have not been out plowing. First priority is to the streets and main thoroughfares throughout the City, next are the alleys and cul-de-sacs. Director LeBaron asked people not to park on the street until the crews are able to plow back to the curb line. Director LeBaron also spoke to the council about his concerns with the vehicles parking on Lincoln Boulevard in the area from Park Street to Saxby Street. He stated that of particular importance was the fact that our Fire Department protection and emergency vehicles and the Street Department plows are unable to drive on the street when vehicles are parked and the snow is piled at the curbs. The size of our plows and fire protection trucks now warrant no parking during the winter season. He would recommend that the council consider a no parking amendment to the ordinance for Lincoln Boulevard between Park Street and Saxby. Alderman Helms asked if there was an alley way along this area. Director LeBaron said no, but thought each of the houses had drive-ways. The aldermen asked Director LeBaron to check the number of single and double drive-ways in the area in question.

Water and Sewer – United Water Manager Denise Ihrig again thanked Kim Rees.

Police – Chief Whitmore provided information on the Public Health 410 ILCS 82/1 Smoke Free Illinois Act which takes effect on January 1, 2008. Fines of \$100 to \$250 may be imposed. Owners of property allowing smoking may also be fined. There is a State of Illinois 800 number to call to report violations.

Fire – Fire Chief Kevin Countryman was called out to a fire prior to the council meeting, but it was noted by Mayor Gaulrapp that our Fire Department uses Stephenson Street in order to avoid driving down Lincoln Boulevard due to the narrow passage because of parked vehicles and snow.

Library – Library Director Carole Dickerson thanked donors for the books for the Holiday Children's Book Drive that will place books in the FACC care baskets. There will be an oral history project on the second floor of the Library.

NEW BUSINESS

At this time, alderman addressed the meeting and in particular the following items were reported:

- Alderman Klemm asked if there was progress in choosing a committee for the RV Parking.
- Alderman Bush stated that the snow shoveling fines are complaint driven and the City is working with the elderly or disabled who are unable to shovel by contacting church agencies to help. There was recently a letter submitted to the editorial board of the Journal Standard that contained incorrect information about snow shoveling on West Avenue.
- Alderwoman O'Neill reminded business owners to clear out curb cuts to help the elderly and disabled when crossing the streets.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

A PowerPoint presentation was shown with the City Hall staff members wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, including a pictorial of beautiful holiday displays around the City.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.