



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Tuesday, January 22, 2008

QUORUM

At 7:00 pm a quorum being present, Mayor George Gaulrapp called this meeting to order.

RECORD

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PROCLAMATION

A proclamation was read by Clyde Cole announcing February 2008 as Black History Month.

PRESENTATIONS

- Presentation of the “Do the Right Thing” nominees and award winner by Sergeant Quincy Carter and Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore. Nominees Jameriaqua McClain, Dal Keith Jackson, Jr., Ke Asia Brooks, Cherokee Joan Pendergrass, and Nelson Walker received plaques from the Fire and Police Departments. A selection committee chose Jameriaqua McClain as the winner of the “Do the Right Thing” award.
- Presentation by Nicole M. Bauer on behalf to the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Sesquicentennial Celebration with information being distributed to council members in the packets distributed on Thursday, January 17, 2008. The committee has set the Freeport Lincoln Douglas Debate Sesquicentennial Celebration for Labor Day Weekend 2008 (August 29 through September 1, 2008). The committee, in a letter by Ms. Nicole M. Bauer, requested the city to provide funding for this celebration in the amount of \$10,000. A motion by Alderman Boldt, seconded by Alderman Klemm to ask the administration to present the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Sesquicentennial Celebration request for funds to the Committee of the Whole meeting in two weeks.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Alderman Helms moved, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill to approve the agenda as presented. The agenda was approved 8-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderwoman moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on Monday, January 7, 2008, seconded by Alderman Endress. The minutes were approved 8-0.

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

- Jeff White (lives in the 1500 Block of Lincoln) spoke against the Ordinance placing ban on parking on Lincoln Boulevard during the months of December, January, and February. He stated that he understands the plight of the snowplows to get through and it was especially bad early this year due to the heavy snowfall and ice build up. He would propose that the ordinance be written for 24 ban on snow days. This would allow time for the plows to clear snow from both sides of the boulevard.
- Pat McKenna (has lived in the 1500 block of Lincoln Boulevard for 10 years). He stated he received a letter from the Public Works Director Craig LeBaron and up until that time did not know there was a problem. If the City would have let people know they probably would not continue to park along the street. It looks like many people have stopped parking along Lincoln after they received letters. He would recommend the city council consider a restriction for 24 hours after the snow falls.
- Roger Loper (lives in the 1500 block of Lincoln Boulevard) and he stated that this was the first year snow removal was complicated because it was extremely heavy due to the ice. He would recommend that the plows push the snow to the boulevard just like they used to do. This ordinance is overkill and a compromise is needed so that people may have guests over for the holidays. He asked if the current ordinances are being enforced banning parking on the odd-even sides in order to allow a chance to have the snow cleared. To ban parking during the months of December, January and February is very inconvenient for homeowners along Lincoln Boulevard.
- Director LeBaron spoke to the council that he received five responses to the letter he sent to residences affected by the ordinance change and they were all in some way against the ordinance as amended. He stated he would like to have an ordinance written that will be good for the future, this year is too late already to implement
- Alderman Helms stated that he has done research on municipal ordinances around the area and he would recommend that this ordinance be returned to the committee of the whole for further amendment.

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) Fire Department December 2007 Monthly Totals Fire/Ambulance**
- 2) Fire Department December 2007 Ambulance Activity Report**
- 3) Freeport Police Department Activities and Fines for December 2007**
- 4) Treasurer's Report for period ended December 31, 2007**
- 5) Treasurer's Monthly Investment Report for period – December 31, 2007**

B. Approval of Payroll for period ended January 5, 2008 --- \$413,828.42

C. Approval of Bills Payable for January 2008 (#51, 52, 53, 54) ---- \$475,024.63

D. Approval of Water and Sewer Disbursements for January 2008 ---- \$464,654.61

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill. A question was brought up about items on the accounts payable regarding Easy Care Service and JMT Billing Services. The previous motion was withdrawn by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill.

A motion to remove item C. of the Consent Agenda and approve the remaining items as presented was made by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Boldt. On a roll call vote of yeas and nays, Alderman Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm and Boldt voted yea. The motioned carried 8-0.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

To answer Alderman Helms on the question about the items removed from the Consent Agenda, Mayor Gaulrapp stated that Easy Care Service (register #53) is used as a snow removal contractor for the Freeport Public Library and payment for JMT Billing Service (register #54) was for accounts receivables that the city was still collecting dating back to the time their services were contracted with the City.

The items contained in Item C of the Consent Agenda were then motioned for approval by Alderman Helms with a second from Alderman Klemm. On a roll call vote of yeas and nays, Alderman Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm and Boldt voted yea. The consent agenda items were approved as presented 8-0.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-01:

An Ordinance to Abate the 2007 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2000 - 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 Klemm.

Motion to pass the ordinance - Klemm

Second – O'Neill

Ordinance 2008-01 will be automatically laid over to February 4, 2008.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-02:

An Ordinance to Abate the 2007 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2003 – 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 Boldt.

Motion to pass the ordinance - Helms

Second – Endress

Ordinance 2008-02 will be automatically laid over to February 4, 2008.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-03:

An Ordinance to Abate the 2007 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2004 - This ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole by unanimous vote on a motion by Alderwoman O'Neill and a second by Alderman Corbin

Motion to pass the ordinance - Endress

Second – Klemm

Ordinance 2008-03 will be automatically laid over to February 4, 2008.

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-04:

An Ordinance to Abate the 2007 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2006 - 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 Alderwoman DeVine

Motion to pass the ordinance - Corbin

Second – Endress

Ordinance 2008-04 will be automatically laid over to February 4, 2008.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-05:

An Ordinance for Variation, Permit or Amendment of Codified Ordinances of Freeport, Illinois, requesting an amendment of the Zoning Ordinance from R6 (Multiple Family Residence) to B1-1 (Restricted Retail Business) for property located at 518 North Island Avenue, Freeport, Illinois - This ordinance was recommended to the City Council by a unanimous vote of the Planning Commission at their meeting on January 10, 2008 and will so that Maria's Pizza will be able to expand their business.

Motion to pass the ordinance - Klemm

Second – Endress

Ordinance 2008-05 will be automatically laid over to February 4, 2008.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-06:

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 480 Parking Generally, Section 480.12 (Restricted Parking Streets) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport – no parking at any time during the months of December, January, and February on both sides of Lincoln Boulevard from Park to Saxby - This ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole by unanimous vote on a motion by Alderman Corbin and a second by Alderwoman DeVine.

Motion to move the ordinance back to the Committee of the Whole for further research- Helms

Second – Klemm

Motion passed 8-0 to move back to Committee of the Whole.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-07:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 868 (Taxicabs) Section 868.10 (General Application Requirements) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport - This ordinance was presented to the Committee of the Whole meeting this evening by Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin and is essentially a housekeeping of the ordinance in order to license the Freeport City Cab Service for 2008 since the business is located sixteen feet away from being located in the city. This would allow until December 31, 2008, for the Freeport City Service Cab Company to annex to the city or to move their company offices. At the Committee of the Whole meeting, a motion was made by Alderman Klemm to approve the ordinance as written, seconded by Alderman Endress. On a voice vote it was approved 7-0. A motion was made by Alderwoman O'Neill to send this ordinance to the city council meeting this evening, seconded by Alderman Klemm. On a voice of 7-0, the motion passed.

Motion to pass the ordinance - Klemm

Second – O'Neill

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

Nays – 0

The ordinance was adopted.

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

ACTION ITEMS

It was recommended to the City Council a reappointment to the Building Commission of Stan Zuravel, P.E. His term will expire on April 30, 2011.

Motion to approve – Klemm

Second – Endress

On a voice vote of 8-0, the council approved the re-appointment.

Mayor Gaulrapp stated there are several positions on commissions that are open and he requested citizens step forward and assist these committees.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2008-02:

Resolution of Official Intent of the City of Freeport, Illinois, Toward the Issuance of the City's Revenue Bonds to Provide Funds to be Loaned to Freeport Regional Health Care Foundation to Finance the Cost of Certain Health Facilities - This resolution was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole on January 7, 2008, by unanimous vote on a motion by Alderman Boldt and a second by Alderman Klemm.

Motion to approve – Klemm

Second – Endress

Alderman Boldt asked Finance Director Craig Joesten to reiterate the role of the City in this transaction that was talked about in the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 7, 2008. Director Joesten stated that the city is not in need to borrow money and this resolution does not obligate the City of Freeport in this transaction between the Freeport Regional Health Care Foundation and the Bond Counsel. The amount of bonds that are requested by Freeport Regional Health Care is \$8,000,000 to be used for acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, repairing, altering, improving and extending certain health care facilities and in particular the Burchard Hills facility.

Roll call vote to pass the resolution:

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

Nays- 0

The resolution R-2008-02 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2008-04:

Resolution Extend Letter of Intent with EcoEnergy, LLC to Negotiate the Purchase of Methane and Other Gases Generated by the Freeport Municipal Landfill #4 and to Repeal All Contrary Resolutions and Motions - This resolution was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole on January 7, 2008, by unanimous vote on a motion by Alderman Klemm and a second by Alderwoman O'Neill.

Motion to adopt resolution – Endress

Second – Helms

Vote 8-0 to adopt Resolution R-2008-04.

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

RESOLUTION #R-2008-05:

Resolution for Improvement by Municipality Under the Illinois Highway Code - Improvements to Stephenson Street from Park Crest Drive to Carthage Drive in the sum of \$90,000 from the city's allotment of Motor Fuel Tax funds - This resolution was presented to the Committee of the Whole this evening by Public Works Director Craig LeBaron. Director LeBaron stated in the meeting that this is the annual LAPP program continuation. A motion was made by Alderman Klemm to pass this resolution, seconded by Alderman Endress and the vote to approve was 6-0. Director LeBaron explained that due to the spring letting the Public Works department needs to file the paperwork with the Illinois Department of Transportation. A motion was made by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress to send this ordinance to the city council this evening. Vote to approve sending to council this evening 6-0.

Motion to approve resolution - Helms

Second – Klemm

Roll call vote to pass the resolution:

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

Nays- 0

The resolution R-2008-05 was adopted.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Public Works - Public Works Director Craig LeBaron spoke to the council about the cost of snow plowing thus far in the city and the number of miles logged by the street department. So far this year with the heavy snowfalls that we have had, the plows have logged 13,000 miles over the 210 miles of streets that they plow. He also explained the primary and secondary plowing system that the street department must use in order to keep the main thoroughfares of the city open.

Water and Sewer - Water & Sewer Project Director Denise Ihrig spoke to the council about the upcoming Water and Sewer Commission meeting scheduled for January 29, 2008 including a review of the surcharge for the capital improvement budget and a listing of the projects for the department.

Police – Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore spoke about the upcoming entry level police positions and the application process mandatory meetings on February 6 and 9, 2008. Information has been posted on the website and the newspaper informing the public of this information.

Fire – Fire Chief Kevin Countryman spoke about approval of a grant in order to hire two additional firefighters. This grant will be in the amount of \$210,000 with a tiered scale by year to help subsidize the department to meet the guidelines of the number of firefighters responding to fires.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor George Gaulrapp thanked the citizens that came forward with not only their opinions on the Ordinance for parking on Lincoln Boulevard but also with various solutions.

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

NEW BUSINESS

Aldерwoman O'Neill spoke about an upcoming meeting of the Executive Committee of the City Council on January 28, 2008, in order to discuss the Committee of the Whole meeting to combine it with council procedures.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Eugene Kuczinski of 1239 Staver, spoke to the council about fire protection coming first and cars should stay off the street. President Bush has abused us and college education is important. The city needs to clean up their streets.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.