



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, February 4, 2008

QUORUM

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

RECORD

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PRESENTATION

Mayor George Gaulrapp and Alderman Dennis Endress presented the 2008 IHSA Boys Bowling State Champions from Freeport High School. Team members receiving recognition were; Ryan Buss, Rob Meinert, Sidney DeVries, Tim Holbert, Matt Keith, Tyler Hendrickson, Jesse Castle, Kurtis Gosewisch. Their head coach, John Kreeger, and assistant coach, Alderman Dennis Endress, were also recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Alderman Helms moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Endress. The agenda was approved 8-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman O'Neill moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, seconded by Alderman Helms. A roll call vote of ayes and nays with Aldermen DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt and Bush voting aye (8). The minutes were approved 8-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor George Gaulrapp asked for leave of the council to allow public comments of non-agenda items for Pastor Steve Barr. Motion to allow public comments of non-agenda items to be moved forward in the agenda was made by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. Vote to approve 8-0. Pastor Steve Barr presented packets to the council in regard to uniting the City of Freeport in prayer from February 6 to March 16, 2008 – 40 days. In addition, Mary Thom, Lighthouse Prayer Director spoke to the council regarding the mission of the Lighthouse Prayer, Care and Share Center located at 8 N. Galena.

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 4, 2008**

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) Community Development Cash and Misc. Receipts for January 2008
- 2) Community Development Building Permits for January 2008
- 3) Letter from Mayor Gaulrapp regarding signature authorization
- 4) United Water Monthly Report for December 2007/January 2008 including project descriptions, actions, timing and budget information

B. Approval of Payroll for period ended January 19, 2008 --- \$386,453.51

C. Approval of Bills Payable for January 2008 (#55, 56, & 57) ---- \$183,019.54

D. Approval of Water and Sewer Disbursements as of January 2008 ---- \$135,309.86

Motion to approve Consent Agenda items as presented – O’Neill

Second – Helms

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

Nays – 0

The Consent Agenda was approved.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

2ND 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 - The first reading of this ordinance was held on January 22, 2008. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderwoman O’Neill and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight’s meeting.

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

Nays – 0

Ordinance 2008-01 was adopted 8-0.

2ND 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 - The first reading of this ordinance was held on January 22, 2008. 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 – DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, and Bush (8)

Nays – 0

Ordinance 2008-02 was adopted 8-0.

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 4, 2008

2ND 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 – The first reading of this ordinance was held on January 22, 2008. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman Klemm and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

Ayes – DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, and Bush (8)
Nays – 0

Ordinance 2008-03 was adopted 8-0.

2ND 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 – The first reading of this ordinance was held on January 22, 2008. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Corbin, seconded by Alderman Endress and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

Ayes – DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, and Bush (8)
Nays – 0

Ordinance 2008-04 was adopted 8-0.

2ND 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. First reading of this ordinance was held on January 22, 2008. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting

Ayes – DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, and Bush (7) with Alderman Boldt abstaining due to financial ties with establishment (8).

Nays – 0

Ordinance 2008-05 was adopted 8-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to move to Executive Session pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5) – Acquisition of property was made by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill. On a roll call vote of ayes and nays; Aldermen DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt and Bush voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried 8-0.

Motion to return from Executive Session was made by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Helms. On a roll call vote of ayes and nays; Aldermen DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt voted aye. There were no nay votes. Motion carried 7-0 (Alderman Bush was absent during the vote).

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 4, 2008

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-08:

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. Alderwoman O’Neill stated this ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole on January 22, 2008, by unanimous vote on a motion by Alderwoman O’Neill and a second by Alderman Corbin. Alderwoman O’Neill reiterated the information given to the Committee of the Whole that the premium cost increase for the non-bargaining employees will be an additional \$96 per month.

Motion to approve – O’Neill

Second – Helms

Ordinance 2008-08 will be automatically laid over to February 19, 2008

ACTION ITEMS

APPOINTMENTS

A motion was made by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Endress to accept the appointment of Gary Fontana to the Historic Preservation Commission effective March 1, 2008. The motion passed 8-0.

A motion was made by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman Corbin to accept the appointment of Marcia Derrer effective immediately to the Residential Housing Advisory Board. The motion passed 8-0.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2008-06:

A Resolution to Amend a Tax Increment Financing District Fund Expenditure Plan was presented. This resolution was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole on January 22, 2008, by unanimous vote on a motion by Alderwoman O’Neill and a second by Alderwoman DeVine.

Motion to approve resolution – Helms

Second – O’Neill

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

Nays – 0

Resolution #R-2008-06 was adopted 8-0.

RESOLUTION #R-2008-07:

Resolution to Extend the Audit Contract with Lindgren Callihan & Van Osdol. Finance Director Craig Joesten stated this resolution provides an extension to the original RFP dated February 7, 2006, with the initial RFP providing for a two-year extension on the original three-year contract. He stated that the audit firm has been requested to rotate the audit partner from Mr. Dunham to another partner in the firm. This resolution was recommended to the City Council by the Committee of the Whole on January 22, 2008, by unanimous vote on a motion by Alderman Klemm and a second by Alderman Endress.

Motion to approve resolution – Helms

Second – Klemm

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

Nays – 0

Resolution #R-2008-07 was adopted 8-0.

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 4, 2008

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Community Development –

- Community Development Director Shelly Griswold presented the council with a handout regarding January 2008 Housing Grants Awarded as written by Community Development Specialist Leslie Mastroianni for the City of Freeport. Grant funds for administration and implementation were awarded for Small Rental Properties in the amount of \$27,077, Mobility and Accessibility Rehabilitation Services in the amount of \$2,378, and for Single Family Owner Occupied Rehabilitation in the amount of \$6,000.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission items on the agenda for February 7, 2008 – letter presented to council members prior to the meeting.
- Property Maintenance Task Force will be meeting Monday, February 11, 2008.
- Building Commission will be meeting Wednesday, February 20, 2008 regarding permits, fees and licenses.
- The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 to formulate Hazard Mitigation Plan to submit to FEMA.
- Community Development Director Shelly Griswold provided an update on demolition of houses and grants to be applied.
- The council was presented a handout regarding public transportation complaint log showing numerous complaints filed against the Freeport City Service Cab Company owned and operated by Franklin McGee. Community Development Specialist Leslie Mastroianni spoke to the council about the quality of service and the complaints that City Hall has received. Complaints include missed doctor appointment, job interviews, late for work, students missing classes at Highland, children missing school, and cab company employee disrespect. Leslie Mastroianni also spoke of a disabled woman who walked several blocks in sub-zero weather to City Hall to see what could be done about the cab company after missing her fourth doctor's appointment due to no shows of Freeport City Service Cab Company.
- Mayor George Gaulrapp spoke to the council about the transportation issue and request for additional options including a request printed in the newspaper for interested parties to provide public transportation. Alderman Helms asked to have Franklin McGee of the Freeport City Service Cab Company come to the next council meeting to answer questions.
- The Community Development Department has been reviewing the documentation provided by the cab company and if appropriate documentation is not provided, they do not receive grant money through the 5311 program.

Finance

- Finance Director Craig Joesten stated that an operations manager, John Harper, has been hired for the Waste Water Treatment Plant starting on February 19, 2008.
- The Water and Sewer Commission approved the purchase of a new billing program which includes alternatives for bill paying with the acceptance of credit/debit cards. Mayor Gaulrapp asked about the drop box outside the Water & Sewer Department.

Public Works

- Public Works Director Craig LeBaron stated that the city has experienced a significant snow fall this year. Single lane plowing doesn't work, it is not an efficient way to plow and it has been tried in the past. What works is to make a couple of passes up and down the middle, put the material down and come back to plow to the curb. There is appropriate driving

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 4, 2008

etiquette that should be followed as a safety to our plow drivers – residents should not pass a snow plow and they should not follow closely. Drivers need to give the plows the right away and recognize that they may have to drive in the wrong lane. They have to do that so they can back up and get around in an intersection. The wing plows on the trucks are extensive and many times snow is blowing all around them so a plow driver can't see if a vehicle is passing from the side. Director LeBaron touched on how many hours the plows have been running this year working most of the past couple of months. It is the Public Works department goal to keep the workers on a schedule and keep them fresh and alert for their shifts to cut down on accidents. So far through December, the plows have run over 13,000 miles in the city's 210 miles of streets and laid out tons of material to combat the winter weather.

Water and Sewer

- Water & Sewer Project Director Denise Ihrig referred to the United Water Monthly report contained in the consent agenda and asked council members to call if they have any questions.

Police

- Police Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore stated that the department will be going out for squad car bids and this information will be brought to council the first week in March.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor George Gaulrapp updated the council on various issues including a visit of Congressman Don Manzullo to announce a recent designation as a USDA rural community. This designation enables the City of Freeport, City residents, and local non-profit organization to access funding through USDA Rural Development Housing Programs. Mayor Gaulrapp gave credit to Community Development Director Shelly Griswold for her efforts to this designation.
- Farm & Fleet recently made public their purchase of the vacated Wal-Mart building and Family Video will be opening this Friday.
- The city continues to meet with Northern Illinois Development Alliance (NIDA) to keep economic development projects moving forward. Mayor Gaulrapp asked council to give their opinions in how they would like NIDA to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

- Alderman Helms asked the administration to start the process for getting bids for repair of the Senior Center's roof and asked for it to be brought to the next council meeting.
- Alderman Klemm thanked the Street Department for all the work they have done to keep our streets clean and the time they put in.
- Alderman Boldt requested Director LeBaron that he continues to look at the plowing routes so the same people are not left to be plowed last each time.

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