



## *City Council*

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

---

### MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, March 17, 2008

---

#### **QUORUM**

At 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2008, in the Council Chambers of City Hall with a quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Mayor George Gaulrapp.

#### **RECORD**

Present on roll call were Aldermen O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Helms.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

- “Do the Right Thing” nominees and their letters of recommendation were read for Capri Little, Dustin Moheng, Kaylee Hawthorne, Jason Nugent, Colton Havens and Justin Archer. The winners of “Do the Right Thing” sponsored by the Fire and Police Departments for February and March were Dustin Moheng and Kaylee Hawthorne.
- Michael M. Woldman, Affinity Commercial Real Estate spoke to the council about looking forward to doing business in the City of Freeport.
- Barbara Carlisle spoke to the council to encourage participation in the Stroll – A – Thon benefit for the Stephenson County Senior bus to be held at Oakley Courts on March 29.
- Cheryl Kneubuehl and Brian Stewart spoke to the council to provide an update and answer questions regarding Northwest Illinois Development Alliance. The office is fully operational through this transitional period while Ms. Kneubuehl is interim director and they are working to promote Freeport and meeting with developers to stimulate economic development in the area. In April, NIDA will be part of a tri-state alliance to draw attention on Highway 20 corridor from Rockford to Iowa. The director position is listed on the internet through March 31, with interviews being expected in April and a new hire expected by May/June 2008. Mr. Stewart asked the council to consider whether jobs and the economy of Freeport and Stephenson County are the number one priority, then he requested a vote in favor of the NIDA resolution.
- Alderwoman Linda O'Neill provided brief explanation to the viewing audience of the integration of the Committee of the Whole meeting into City Council which she stated will not eliminate readings or reduce opportunities of constituents with comments. The council will continue to review the process and possibly effect changes if need be.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Prior to the approval of the agenda, Mayor George Gaulrapp noted that item 18. Resolution R-2008-23 was removed from the agenda until April 7, 2008. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday March 17, 2008**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve minutes from the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, March 3, 2008, was made by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman DeVine. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

A motion to approve minutes from the City Council meeting on Monday, March 3, 2008, was made by Alderwoman O'Neill, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no one signed up for public comments on agenda items this evening.

**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 Police Department February 2008 Activities
- 2) Freeport Fire Department February 2008 Activities

B. Approval of Water and Sewer Disbursements as of February 26, 2008 ---- \$155,821.19

C. Approval of Payroll for period ended March 1, 2008 --- \$431,853.49

D. Approval of Bills Payable for February 2008 (#65, 66, 67, 68) ---- \$443,739.70

Motion to approve Consent Agenda items as presented – Endress

Second – O'Neill

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress and Helms (8).

Nays: None

Motion passed 8-0, the Consent Agenda was approved.

A motion to move item 20, Resolution R-2008-15 next on the agenda was made by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Helms. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

**RESOLUTION #R-2008-15:**

A Resolution to Authorize Supplemental Funding for Northwest Illinois Development Alliance – request for \$25,000 for transitional period - This resolution was presented to the Committee of the Whole on March 3, 2008 by Finance Director Craig Joesten. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress. Mayor George Gaulrapp presented the resolution stating that it requests gap financing to support NIDA from now through April 30, 2008. Mr. Brian Stewart and Ms. Cheryl Kneubuehl were available to answer questions by the council. When asked what the \$25,000 would be used for, Mr. Stewart stated that the funds would be used for operating funds to get NIDA through to next funding period with the county and private sector stepping up funds prior to this evening. Accountant Duane Price addressed the budget question stating that this line item is in the budget and it was budgeted for \$30,000 and appropriated an additional \$45,000 in contingency funds within the Community Development fund. When asked if it has always been a line item in the budget, Mr. Price stated it has since he has worked for the city for over nine years. This additional \$25,000 is not coming out of a new fund, it will come out of Community Development through funding that has not been used out of the same line

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday March 17, 2008**

item and \$45,000 will be received back from Enterprise Zone filing fees. Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin explained that although it will be put back in the line item as far as appropriated funds where it will come out of in the mean time since it is this fiscal year, it will come out of other economic development funds which were appropriated within the Community Development fund.

Motion to approve resolution – Helms

Second – Bush

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

Nays: None

Motion passed 8-0 Resolution 2008-15 was adopted.

**COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS TO COUNCIL**

A report on the Property Maintenance Task Force Recommendations was included in the council packets and will be covered in the department reports by Community Development Director Shelly Griswold.

**ORDINANCES –FIRST READING**

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-17:**

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 844 (Mechanical and Electronic Games and Devices) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport - Alderman Helms presented a committee report that the first reading of this ordinance was held at the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 3, 2008 as a housekeeping item to include language for currency bills to included in the ordinance. A motion to approve was given by Alderwoman O’Neill, seconded by Alderman Endress. A motion to approve the ordinance as presented was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderwoman O’Neill and it was automatically laid over.

**1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-18:**

An Ordinance to Amend and Adjust the Appropriation Ordinance Fiscal Year 2007-2008 for the City of Freeport, Illinois was presented by Finance Director Craig Joesten and redirected to Accountant Duane Price to address the three appropriation ordinances together (Resolution R-2008-18,19 and 20) by stating that these ordinance are on the agenda to make any adjustments to cover any areas where more was spent than appropriated. These ordinances must be passed by April 30, 2008 at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Price noted that these numbers are estimates and they will be re-worked each week until this is passed and adjustments should be expected. A motion to approve the ordinance was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Endress and it was automatically laid over.

**1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-19:**

An Ordinance to Supplement the Appropriation Ordinance, Fiscal Year 2007-2008, for the City of Freeport, Illinois - A motion to approve the ordinance was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Endress and it was automatically laid over.

**1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-20:**

An Ordinance to Amend and Adjust the Appropriation Ordinance, Fiscal Year 2007-2008, for the Freeport Public Library - A motion to approve the ordinance was given by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderwoman O’Neill and it was automatically laid over.

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday March 17, 2008**

**1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-21:**

An Ordinance Amending the Boundaries of the Joint City of Freeport – County of Stephenson Certified Enterprise Zone was presented by Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stating that the applicant is requesting that the second and third readings be waived for this ordinance. Representative from EcoEnergy gave a presentation at the March 3, 2008 Committee of the Whole meeting on the wind farm project which requires expansion of the Enterprise Zone.

Motion to put ordinance on the floor for approval – Corbin

Second – DeVine

Motion to waive the 2nd and 3rd and vote on this evening – Klemm

Second – Endress

Roll Call Vote to waive additional readings – Ayes: O’Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress and Helms (8). Nays: None. Motion passed 8-0.

Roll Call Vote for the approval of the ordinance – Ayes: O’Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress and Helms (8). Nays: None. Ordinance 2008-21 was adopted.

**1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-22:**

Special Ordinance for Variation, Permit or Amendment of Codified Ordinances of Freeport, Illinois, requesting a Variance to Section 1270.03 (e) (2) of the City of Freeport Codified Ordinances to allow a fence within two feet of the side and rear property line at 1216 South Maple Avenue, Freeport, Illinois. This ordinance was recommended to the City Council by the Board of Zoning Appeals on March 6, 2008, by unanimous vote based on the condition that the property owner apply weed killer, then landscape fabric and mulch to the strip of land between her fence and a neighbor’s garage. Since this ordinance received unanimous approval by the Board of Zoning Appeals and no person filed a formal written objection or protest to such ordinance, based on Section 222.04 the council may take final action evening.

Motion for approval – Klemm

Second – DeVine

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

Nays: None. Ordinance 2008-22 was adopted.

**1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-23:**

Special Ordinance for Variation, Permit or Amendment of Codified Ordinances of Freeport, Illinois, requesting an amendment of Zoning Ordinance from R6 (Multi-Family Residence) to M2 (General Manufacturing at 412 East Winslow, Freeport, Illinois - Community Development Director Shelly Griswold presented this ordinance stating that it was recommended to the City Council by the Planning Commission on March 6, 2008 by unanimous vote. This ordinance requires two readings at council. A motion to approve the ordinance was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress and it was automatically laid over.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**APPOINTMENT:**

A motion to accept an appointment of David Monigold to the Historic Preservation Commission was made by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman Helms. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday March 17, 2008**

A motion to enter an Executive Session pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2) Collective Bargaining was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress and Helms (8). Nays: None. Motion passed 8-0.

A motion to return an Executive Session was given by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress and Helms (8). Nays: None. Motion passed 8-0.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION #R-2008-19:**

Resolution to Ratify Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), Local No. 441 was presented by Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin. The agreement will be effective from May 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008. It was noted that a correction to the resolution 2008-19 that the tentative agreement date was March 10, 2008 instead of May.

Motion for approval – Helms

Second – O'Neill

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress and Helms (8).

Nays: None

Resolution 2008-19 was adopted.

**RESOLUTION #R-2008-20**

A Resolution Accepting a Grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority's Small Rental Properties Program was presented by Community Development Director Shelly Griswold who stated that a grant has been awarded from the Illinois Housing Development Authority in the amount of \$157,500.00 to do rehabilitation of small rental properties with a 25% match by the property owner. The city will set up ranking criteria for landlords to apply for applications based on the IHDA grant with possible target for the Lincoln-Douglas area. There will be a meeting in April for landlords and rehab this building season..

Motion for approval – Helms

Second – O'Neill

Motion passed by voice vote without dissent. Resolution 2008-20 was adopted.

**RESOLUTION #R-2008-21:**

A Resolution to Authorize an Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement for the Operation of an Enterprise Zone was presented by Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stating the ordinance was already voted on this evening for the EcoGrove wind farm expansion of the enterprise zone.

Motion for approval – O'Neill

Second – Corbin

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress and Helms (8).

Nays: None

Resolution 2008-21 was adopted.

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday March 17, 2008**

**RESOLUTION #R-2008-22:**

A Resolution to Approve Grant Agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation for Special Seat Belt and Driving Under the Influence Enforcement Project, and to Repeal All Contrary Resolutions and Motions was presented by Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore stating that grant request will be in the amount of \$30,182 to be used for overtime payroll costs for fiscal year 2009 Seat Belt Enforcement Program and for a Driving Under the Influence Enforcement Program. The city's only out of pocket costs to participate in these two grant projects will be for fuel for city squad cars and city's share of increased payroll taxes.

Motion for approval – Endress

Second – O'Neill

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress and Helms (8).

Nays: None

Resolution 2008-22 was adopted.

**RESOLUTION #R-2008-24:**

The council was presented three choices for the May 1, 2008 Contract for the City's Healthcare Coverage:

Choice A – Fully Funded contract with Local Government Health Plan-State of Illinois

Choice B – Self – Funded contract with Northern Illinois Health Plan (NIHP)

Choice C – Self – Funded contract with Cottingham Butler

Finance Director Craig Joesten stated that after a phone call from a council member he felt it was important for him to comment on his membership on the board of the Northern Illinois Health Plan which was stated to the council last year. Director Joesten is not a voting member of the Freeport Healthcare Committee, nor is he a voting member on the council. He is acting as an information source so he is not aware of any conflict of interest.

Motion for approval of Resolution 2008-24 with Choice B Self – Funded contract with Northern Illinois Health Plan (NIHP) with a total possible exposure of \$2,313,377.00 through April 20, 2009, was made by Alderman Corbin, seconded by Alderman Boldt.

Alderman Klemm motioned to amend the motion to include coverage of vision and dental up to an amount of \$45,000 to the NIHP proposal. This motion was seconded by Alderman Endress

Roll Call Vote on the motion to include optical and enhanced dental coverage to the NIHP plan –

Ayes: Klemm, Boldt, Endress and Helms. Abstain: O'Neill (due to employment).

Nays: Corbin, Bush, and DeVine.

Mayor George Gaulrapp voted aye. Motion passed 5-3.

Roll Call Vote on the motion to approve Choice B including up to \$45,000.00 for optical and dental coverage –

Ayes: Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress and Helms. Abstain: O'Neill (due to employment).

Motion passed 8-0.

Resolution 2008-24 with choice B to include vision and dental as amended was adopted.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Library

Library Director Carole Dickerson reported that fines helped support the Salvation Army. A traveling bus will visit the library exhibiting - Behind Barbed Wire, exploring Midwestern experience in Nazi Germany during WWII.

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday March 17, 2008**

Community Development

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold updated the council on a grant for public transportation dispatch service which will include a request for proposals that will be publicized next week. The Building Commission is putting together recommendation for changes to the building code . In addition she read the highlights of the Property Maintenance Task Force Recommendations to the council.

Water and Sewer

United Water & Sewer Project Director Denise Ihrig spoke on the drinking water and pharmaceutical issue stating that the IEPA will be sampling and testing five areas to help guide the Freeport Water and Sewer Department in what steps to take next.

Police

Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore presented a summary of report dated March 14, 2008 in regard to a bid proposal of four 2008 police pursuit vehicles opened in City Hall on February 22, 2008. Two sealed bids were received from Bocker Group in the amount of \$79,012.00 with trade and Barkau Automotive of Stockton in the amount of \$75,279.00 with trade. Under the City of Freeport Purchasing policy it states, "The City of Freeport will participate in the cooperative purchasing program sponsored by the State of Illinois when it is determined by the Purchasing Agent that the best interests of the city are to be served." Because of this statement, Chief Whitmore explored bids through the Illinois Municipal Joint Purchasing Program which were through Bill Jacobs Chevrolet in the amount of \$72,147.88 with trade. Although they refused to submit a sealed bid because they had already went through the State of Illinois bid process. Since the savings would be significant by accepting the State bid, it is recommended by Chief Whitmore.

Motion to approve the Barkau Automotive of Stockton bid in the amount of \$75,279.00 – Klemm

Second – Boldt

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, Endress and Helms (5).

Nays: O’Neill, Corbin, and DeVine

Motion passed 5-3.

Alderman Klemm recommended that the administration look at the ordinance of the State bid process

Fire

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman stated that although the city is experiencing a good year for health care expenses a lot of the city employees experienced a premium increase of 15%. He also gave an update on the flooding issue predicting that the river will reach 14 feet by Friday morning which will cause nuisance flooding as provided by Terry Groves of the Stephenson County Emergency Management.

Finance

Council Packets include a folder prepared by Finance Dept. a FY 2008-2009 Budget presented to council as a draft prepared by the Finance Department. Finance Director Craig Joesten asked the council how they would like him to proceed with the budget with a timeline and as time to permit to give us feedback to modify and update the proposal.

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday March 17, 2008**

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor George Gaulrapp spoke about:

- Website contains the newsletter that is available for all to view.
- There are openings on several boards and commissions including Library, Zoning, and Historic Preservation.
- He also spoke about a letter to the editor about taxicab services and the issue seems to be resolved since the writer was not aware of all the different issues facing the city at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Boldt spoke to the council about the stop sign on Country Court and Sioux Drive and a safety issue with its placement. A couple of concerned citizens received 250 signatures on a petition to let it be known that they would like to see something different done at that intersection. There were five signatures in agreement with the placement of the stop sign. This issue will be reviewed at the next meeting.

An adjournment of the meeting was given at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk