



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, June 2, 2008

QUORUM

At 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2008, in the City 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 Alderman DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt, and Bush (8). Also present was Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin and city department heads.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At this time the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Bush. After the Pledge of Allegiance was said, Mayor George Gaulrapp explained that he voting would begin with Alderwoman DeVine.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Alderman Helms motioned for approval of the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- Proclamation on Juneteenth National Freedom Day was read by City Clerk Meg Zuravel.
- A presentation of the robot entry by the "Metalheads" FIRST team for Northwest Illinois
- A presentation was given by Joe Crawford of the Community Youth Development Council and members of the council were available for questions from the city council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on Monday, May 19, 2008, was made by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

Franklin McGee of Freeport City Service Cab Company spoke to the administration and the council to ask why his reimbursement check from the 5311 grant program was not as much as he had claimed. Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated that there were many discrepancies in the Freeport City Service Cab Company voucher manifest so payment was dependent on the accurate record keeping for the cab rides. Mr. McGee asked Community Development Director Shelly Griswold for a listing of the records and she said she would provide them to him.

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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 of Water and Sewer Disbursements as of June 2, 2008--- \$164,315.60
- B. Approval of Payroll for period ending May 24, 2008 --- \$441,964.56
- C. Approval of Bills Payable for 2008 (#87, 88, and 89) ---- \$222,962.70

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented – Endress

Second – O’Neill

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

Nays – None (0)

Motion passed 8-0 and the Consent Agenda items were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS TO COUNCIL

- A memorandum was presented to Council from Duane Price regarding Garbage Rate Increase stating that effective July 1, 2008, the rate for garbage collection that will be shown on the Water and Sewer bills will increase from \$10.41 per month to \$10.93 per month. This increase is caused by our contract with the haulers requires the city to annually increase their fee by the consumer price index which calculates to \$.39 and there was a shortage between the amount paid to the haulers and the amount collected caused by vacant properties which causes an increase of \$.13 to cover.
- A memorandum was presented to Council by Duane Price regarding Capital Equipment Fund Flow Analysis for the next five years. This is the fund that is used to purchase equipment and vehicles for the Street Department and police cars. The main source of revenue is the City’s gasoline tax.

ORDINANCES –THIRD READING

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-34:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 893 (Motor Fuel Tax) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport – designation the Motor Fuel Tax Fund for the express purpose of capital equipment purchases for the Street Department and vehicle purchases for the Police Department. The first reading of this ordinance was held on May 5, 2008. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress and it was automatically laid over to tonight’s meeting.

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

Nays – None (0)

Ordinance 2008-34 was adopted 8-0.

ORDINANCES –SECOND READING

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-35:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 288.19 (Medical and Life Insurance) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport – in regard to specification of premiums. The first reading of the ordinance was held on May 19, 2008. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman

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Endress and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-36:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 290 (Compensation and Benefits) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport – 3% wage increase for non-bargaining employees effective May 1, 2008. The first reading of the ordinance was held on May 19, 2008. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman Helms and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-37:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 440 (Obstructions and Special Uses of Public Ways) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport – parade routes exceptions. The first reading of the ordinance was held on May 19, 2008. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-38:

An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of Not To Exceed \$8,000,000 Health Care Facilities Revenue Bonds (Freeport Regional Health Care Foundation Project) Series 2008 and Authorizing the Execution of Documents in Connection Therewith - The first reading of the ordinance was held on May 19, 2008. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-39:

An Ordinance to Authorize Landfill Gas to Energy Site Lease and Easement Agreement by and between the City of Freeport and Ecoport Biomethane, LLC - The first reading of the ordinance was held on May 19, 2008. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman Helms and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ORDINANCES FIRST READING

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2008-40:

An Ordinance to Ascertain the Prevailing Rate of Wages for Laborers, Workmen, and Mechanics Employed in Public Works of the City of Freeport, Illinois – This ordinance was presented to council by Public Works Director Craig LeBaron as the yearly communication of wages that will be paid when hiring outside work. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman Klemm and the ordinance was automatically laid over to the next scheduled meeting.

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RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2008-42:

Resolution to Adopt City of Freeport Spending Plan - Finance Director Craig Joesten presented the information to council in regard to the Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Appropriation Ordinance. Director Joesten stated that on May 19, 2008 the Appropriation Ordinance was approved for the City for the time period of May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2009. The Attachment A included the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget worksheet and Attachment B included the contingencies on Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriation Ordinance. Alderman Boldt had a question about the purchasing policy of the economic development money and what dollar amount needed to come before council. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that in this administration each item will come before council that comes out of that money.

Motion to approve resolution – Klemm

Second – Endress

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

Nays – None (0)

Motion passed 8-0; Resolution R-2008-42 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2008-45:

Resolution to Request Temporary Closure of Streets for 2008 Cruise Night –the date of the 2008 Cruise Night is scheduled for August 2, 2008 and the approximate time period of this street closure will be from 12:00 noon to 10:30 p.m. This resolution requests temporary closure of Route 75 from Galena Avenue to State from the Illinois Department of Transportation. A motion to approve resolution was made by Alderwoman O’Neill, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent (8-0) and Resolution R-2008-45 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2008-46:

Resolution to Co-Sponsor Juneteenth As An Officially Recognized Day of Commemoration and Celebration for the City of Freeport, Illinois – scheduled for June 20-22, 2008. The commemoration scheduled in the City beginning on June 20, 2008 through June 22, 2008 to honors the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the south by Union General Granger on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, more than two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln. A memorandum was also given to the council by Alderman Bush dated May 21, 2008, and signed by the Freeport Juneteenth Committee explaining the event and three scheduled events that people are encouraged to participate in the City including “A Heart to Heart Conversation on Race on June 20, Opening Ceremonies in Taylor Park on June 21, and church services on June 22, 2008. Mayor Gaulrapp stated his office can remind council members about the event. A motion to approve resolution was made by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman Corbin. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent (8-0) and Resolution R-2008-46 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2008-47:

Resolution to Approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Housing Authority of the City of Freeport, Illinois, The City of Freeport, Illinois, The Freeport Park District, Freeport School District No. 145, and the Boys and Girls Club of Freeport and Stephenson County to Create a Summer Youth Program – information on this resolution was presented to the council by Mayor George Gaulrapp stating that this is an intergovernmental agreement between the City and all the partners. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that there are a couple of items that are going back and forth between the partners and

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their Corporation Counsel. Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin stated that the School District did not intend to provide transportation so there is a question as to who will provide the transportation and the Mayor is working with the Boys and Girls Club to see if they can provide transportation from one of the sites and the Housing Authority will provide from the other site. She stated the other question is about the snack funding. With these minor issues that need to be worked out Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin recommended the wording of the resolution be amended on the last paragraph instead of “that it does hereby authorize the Mayor to execute the attached agreement” changing to “an agreement” and after the word County add “in substantially the same form as attached.” A motion was given by Alderman Boldt to include the amended wording in the resolution, seconded by Alderman Corbin. On a roll call vote of the amendment, voting aye were DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt and Bush (8). There were no nay votes. The amended wording was approved. Mayor George Gaulrapp stated that there is \$1,500.00 in the budget for transportation.

Motion to approve resolution as amended – Klemm

Second – Endress

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

Nays – None (0)

Motion passed 8-0; Resolution R-2008-47 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2008-48:

Resolution Repealing and Replacing Resolution No. 2008-38 Authorizing Application of and Execution for Public Transportation Financial Assistance Contract Under the Provision of the Downstate Public Transportation Act (30 ILCS 740/2-1, ET SEQ.) – as presented to council by Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stating that more specific wording was requested by the Downstate Operation Assistance Funding in part of Section 1 inserting the contract number reference and the 2008 year. This resolution repeals and replaces Resolution #R-2008-38 approved by the council on May 19, 2008.

Motion to approve resolution – Boldt

Second – Klemm

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

Nays – None (0)

Motion passed 8-0; Resolution R-2008-48 was adopted.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Community Development

Façade Improvement Grant Recommendations, 2008 – A June 2, 2008 memorandum to council from Community Development Director Shelly Griswold and Quentin Davis was contained in the packets after receiving one application for façade improvements. The memorandum contained recommendation for the application of funding at 50 percent for a total of \$7,750.00 (project estimated cost of \$15,500) in grants to the Landmark Restaurant located at 1 East Main Street to be used for power washing, scraping and caulking, primer and finish coats on the south and east sides of the building. She stated that an application had been received from the Art Center for the old Myers Ford dealership and that will be on the next council agenda.

Motion to approve façade improvement funding for the Landmark Restaurant – Boldt

Second – Klemm.

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Façade Improvement Grant Recommendations, 2008 (Cont.)

Roll Call Vote – Ayes: DeVine, Endress, Helms, O’Neill, Corbin, Klemm, and Bush

Nays – None (0)

Abstain – Boldt - Alderman Boldt stated that he must abstain for economic interest.

Motion passed 8-0.

Consideration of 5311 Central Dispatch Proposals - Community Development Director Shelly Griswold included in the council packets the 2008-2009 Section 5311 Pretzel City Transit Summary of Proposals for Central Dispatch and Demand Response Providers. She included in her presentation the members of the review committee and a summary of scoring used to evaluate the applicants.

A proposal was received by Nationwide Inbound, Inc. (a part of Stewart and Associates) for the Central Dispatch and they submitted a proposal to provide the service for \$.85 per call with a projected cost of \$81,930 in the first year. Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated that she is not requesting approval of the provider this evening but a nod to proceed to the next step of negotiating an agreement with Nationwide Inbound to provide the central dispatch service to the City.

Motion to proceed to negotiate the agreement with Nationwide Inbound – Helms

Second by Alderman Corbin

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

Nays – None (0)

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold explained to council the process of the Central Dispatch Service stating that their will be one number to call for Public Transportation. The Senior Center will no longer have a phone number and the idea is to have one number to call for all providers of public transportation. You must call 24 hours in advance. This will be a demand response system and may be scheduled out for a week in advance. They are proposing the use of fare cards so people may purchase a card for say ten rides. The committee is working to avoid the use of cash. They are proposing the most efficient routes and services.

Consideration of 5311 Provider Proposals - Community Development Director Shelly Griswold presented the application to participate (proposal form) for fiscal year Public Transportation Program for the City of Freeport. The applicants included Stephenson County Senior Center, Corporate Purchasing Source (CPS), and Jams Transportation. The evaluation scores were presented to council in the packets of information for the meeting and ranking 1 was CPS, 2 was Stephenson County Senior Center and 3 was Jams Transportation. Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated the red flag on the Jams Transportation proposal was that operation has one van and one driver only and they were proposing to provide operation from 6 a.m. to midnight five days a week and from 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Saturdays so there were many capacity issues for that proposal. The Senior Center’ proposal for the bid was \$11.25 per ride cost and they would be required to take all of the assisted rides during their hours of operation. These are preliminary estimates since the city has not started to negotiate with them. Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated that committee has recommended the council move forward with CPS and the Senior Centers to be the demand response providers for the 2008-2009 plan year. She stated that Jams Transportation does not meet the criteria set forth by IDOT for a provider for the public transportation 5311 grant program.

Motion to approve recommendation by committee – Corbin

Second - Helms

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Consideration of 5311 Provider Proposals (Cont.)

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

Nays – None (0)

Motion passed 8-0 to approve the recommendations by the committee.

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated the Planning Commission meeting this Thursday has three petition on filed. They will also be looking at the Comprehensive Plan proposals.

Public Works

Public Works Director Craig LeBaron stated the following items for information to council:

1. Consideration of parking requirements on Empire Street from Park Lane Drive to McKinley Avenue (area adjacent to Read Park playing fields). Director LeBaron stated they have been working with the Park District and they will be looking at parking in the area of Little Cubs Field, parking on McKinley Avenue, curb and gutter on McKinley, and a possible cross walk on Empire Street to the east side of Deming.
2. On the list for capital equipment requests for this year were two snowplows so the department will be going out for bids shortly.
3. The department will be going out for bids on a used 4-wheel drive pick-up for the Street Department Superintendent. The department has identified some surplus equipment and they will be going out for bids on items such as a couple of snowplow, mayor’s old car, etc.
4. A petition has been received to add a right turn lane at Hance Drive at Sumac Drive although not completed yet it is part of the FHN project.
5. Hanger Bids – commercial three unit hanger at the airport in this year’s plan to go out for bids.
6. Street Program – Fehr-Graham sent street program to IDOT for their approval and this will be coming back to council soon. The cost of hot mix has gone up and the number of streets that the department was hoping to resurface had to be narrowed down due to these increased cost. Public Works Director Craig LeBaron has a list if the council is interested.

After Director LeBaron was done with his items, Alderman Boldt asked for recap of the Motor Fuel Tax fund expenditures from Director Joesten.

Water and Sewer

Water & Sewer Project Director Denise Ihrig provide a brief update of projects for the department; 1) Specifications on projects are being prepared to enter into the bid process 2) Results of test wells, well eight study will be forthcoming to the commission 3) the five storm water project season including the J.C. Penney ditch, an inlet on the 500 block of Mosley, a Sioux Drive culvert repair, a storm sewer at the corner of Float and South, and a residential drainage issue along Park Boulevard.

Fire

Consideration of roof repair bid for Fire Station #3 – not need to consider due to dollar amount Consideration of Roof Repair Bids for Fire Station #3 - Fire Chief Kevin Countryman presented to council a memorandum dated June 2, 2008, regarding the quotes requested of G&M Blacktop and Civil Construction for repair of Fire Station #3 parking lot. The quotes included: Core out approximately 1571 square yards and place 12” stone base over front lot. Placement of a 4” compacted asphalt map in 2 separate lifts over a reshaped lot in front of station. Quotes include labor and materials. If additional

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Department Head Reports – Fire (cont.)

material is needed it will be added to the cost. Civil Constructors bid on May 22, 2008 in the amount of \$37,985.00. G&M Blacktop bid on May 20, 2008 in the amount of \$47,500.00. Each quote is good for 30 days only, due to fuel price fluctuations. Based upon cost, Fire Chief Kevin Countryman recommended Civil Constructors. The lot repair was appropriated in this year's budget and will be paid for with Fire Improvement Funds.

Motion to approve recommendation by Fire Chief – Helms Second – O'Neill
Roll Call Vote – Ayes: DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt and Bush (8)
Nays – None (0)

Police

Consideration of Parking Lot Bids for Freeport Police Station – a letter was presented to the council by Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore in which quotes were requested from G&M Blacktop and Civil Construction. The Civil Construction quote was received on May 22, 2008, based on changes in oil pricing the bid is good for 30 days from date on the letter, in the amount of \$28,637.00 and includes; 1) Remove 1,687 SY of existing asphalt parking lot. Core out and stone entire lot installing a 10" stone base as it appears base is poor (should Civil find any areas not needing new base they will credit back off bid) 2) Reshape 1,687 SY of existing stone lot. Included in this bid is 718 tons of stone for reshaping and base 3) If any additional stone is needed in the reshaping process, it will be delivered and placed for \$10.00 per ton 4) Place a 3" asphalt mat compacted to 2 ½" over reshaped drive. Based on the fact that Civil Construction was the only company to submit a bid, Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore recommended the Civil Construction bid. The lot repair was appropriated in this year's budget.

Motion to approve bid for Civil Construction for the Police Parking Lot – Helms
Second – Boldt
Roll Call Vote – Ayes: DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Boldt and Bush (8)
Nays – None (0)

Supplement Funding Request for Prairie Shield Grant Match \$72,000 - Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore presented a letter to council dated June 2, 2008, which included the following information relating to "Prairie SHIELD" and a grant which was obtained through the Prairie SHIELD Alliance, for radio interoperability. The City of Freeport has been involved in Prairie SHIELD since 2005 and in 2006 the City Council approved a "Memorandum of Understanding" for the City's participation in the Prairie SHIELD Alliance. In short, the Prairie SHIELD Alliance was formed in 2005 and its' mission was: "The Prairie SHIELD partners shall endeavor to collaborate and seek the most cost-effective and efficient means to allow first responders or related public entities to communicate on a voice, data, and video platform with interoperability capability. In implementing this mission, Prairie SHIELD shall act as a unified group and assist other similar efforts at the state and national level to accomplish this goal." The alliance consists of Boone, McHenry, DeKalb, Ogle, Winnebago and Stephenson Counties. The City of Rockford, Rockford Airport, Rock Valley College, and the cities of Belvidere, DeKalb, Freeport, Rochelle, Sycamore and the Villages of Cherry Valley, Machesney Park and Rockton are members. Additional members include Fire Districts in Boone County, Harlem-Roscoe Fire District, Boone County Conservation District, Belvidere School District #100, and the Illinois Public Safety Agency Network.

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Department Head Reports – Police (cont.)

A needs assessment was conducted of the alliance members by a professional consultant and as a result it was determined the Starcom21 System would best address the needs of voice communication for first responders in the area.

In 2007 a grant application was submitted, with McHenry County being the fiscal agent, to fund this transition. On December 7, 2007, an announcement was made that the Prairie SHIELD Alliance had been awarded \$5.1 million from the Public Safety Interoperability Communications Grant. The award was divided among the Prairie SHIELD partners and the City of Freeport's award was calculated at \$361,626, including a 20% match of \$72,325 (grant budget attached).

Originally the Prairie SHIELD Alliance made a determination that partners involved in the grant would have until the completion of the grant, on July 31, 2010, to complete their purchases. We, at the Freeport Police Department and Fire Department, were in the process of reviewing the functionality of the system and how it would operate in our area when the purchasing deadline was changed. The first week of May 2008, a decision was made by the Prairie SHIELD Alliance as a whole, that in order to obtain a substantial discount from the Starcom21 vendor, Motorola, all of the purchases would have to be made at one time. The date for this purchase was determined to be June 16, 2008. The City of Freeport and Stephenson County were forced to greatly accelerate our timeline and met with Motorola representatives and technicians several times during the month of May to come up with a proposed system. Motorola provided us with equipment to use in our area and during the past 30 days the Freeport Fire Department, Freeport Police Department and Stephenson County Sheriff's Department have tested equipment to evaluate its use in our area. On Friday May 30, 2008, Motorola representatives met with the Stephenson County 9-1-1 Board Chairman and a local radio service technician to confirm the Starcom21 operation within our 9-1-1 system and how the Starcom21 System would integrate with current systems in use. As a result of that meeting the final determination was made that the proposed Starcom21 system would benefit our agencies and we should attempt to go forward with the project.

As a result of last months' changes we had not allocated funds in the current years' budget to pay for the 20% match of \$72,325. This match covers equipment purchased for the fire and police departments. However, the exact amount of each department's expense will not be known until after the purchase is made. This is due to an overall package proposal and the final price may be lower based on the total purchase through Prairie SHIELD and the actual items purchased by the agencies (City of Freeport System Summary is attached). A small portion of that match will be reimbursed by the 9-1-1 Board as the equipment is for the 9-1-1 consoles.

Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore met with Finance Director Joesten on May 30, 2008, and explained the situation to him. He also provided him with the information provided by Motorola on a Municipal Lease-Purchase program. The lease program consisted of four options that would spread the cities cost over either a three, four, five, or seven year time period at a lease rate of 6.07% to 6.17% with the first payment due one year after contract execution. At the conclusion of that meeting, a determination was made to make a request to the Council for the supplemental funding of the Prairie SHIELD Grant Match in the amount of \$72,325.

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Department Head Reports – Police (cont.)

Finance Director Craig Joesten stated the funds for this program would come out of the surplus funds or reserve funds, not contingency funds. Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin stated the funds are available through the Appropriation Ordinance recently approved by the council, but if these funds were used it would certainly come back in a supplemental ordinance because those funds were intended for something else.

Motion to approve supplemental funding request for Prairie Shield Grant Match for \$72,325 – Helms
Second – Bush

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

Nays – None (0)

Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore publicly thanked the Stephenson County canine unit for support at the Freeport High School 2008 graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 31. He also thanked the Rockford police department for their assistance. Mayor George Gaulrapp commended the department.

Discussion regarding the neighborhood watch signs and Mayor George Gaulrapp suggested the cost of the signs come from the city budget instead of relying on neighborhoods paying for them.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor George Gaulrapp stated that the City of Freeport annual fireworks display will be held on Thursday, July 3, 2008 at the fairgrounds. Donations are short of the cost of the event and the City would welcome support from businesses and the community. No money is used from budget to fund the fireworks display. If you are having problems with mosquitoes, please call the Mosquito Abatement hotline number at 1/800942-2555. The Mayor spoke publicly about the Youth Program at two locations at Lincoln Douglas School and the Boys and Girls Club opening on June 16, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

Each council member was given an opportunity to publicly address significant items of interest.

The issue of the height of grass in vacant lots and the number of phone calls received by the alderman was brought up again by the council. Mayor George Gaulrapp answered that this is something that causes a fine to those who permit grass or weeds in excess of eight inches on their property. The City will issue a citation to the owner or tenant to cut or remove the grass or weeds. The City Nuisance Inspector is out everyday ticketing people and the City is having mowing done. Mayor Gaulrapp asked those who see tall grass, weeds or trash to call City Hall and ask for the Nuisance Inspector at 815-599-5807.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA OR NON- AGENDA ITEMS

There was no one signed up for public comments at this time.

An adjournment of the meeting was motioned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Zuravel, City Clerk