



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, April 20, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Freeport Illinois City Council was called to order on Monday, April 20, 2009, at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers with a quorum being present by Mayor George Gaulrapp.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were council members Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin, and Klemm (6). Absent were Alderman Boldt and O'Neill. Also present were City Department Heads and Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman Corbin. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on March 30, 2009 and the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 6, 2009 was given by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

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

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- Highland Community College Girls' Basketball Team was honored for their accomplishments this season and for earning the opportunity to play in a Junior College National Tournament.
- Highland Community College Boys' Basketball Team was honored for winning 7th place in a Junior College National Tournament and their season accomplishments.
- A proclamation was read for Freeport Beautification Association and presented to Kathy Helm and Loretta Barney.
- A proclamation was read for Comcast Cares and presented to Ken Warren on behalf of Comcast.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval to Receive and Place on File:

- 1) City Treasurer's Report for period ended March 31, 2009

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2) Community Development Reports for March 2009 including Building Permits, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing and Sign Permits, and Cash and Misc. Receipts

3) Police Department Reports for March 2009

4) Fire Department Reports for March 2009

B. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (#236, 238, 239) --- \$88,794.48

C. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending April 11, 2009 --- \$422,227.12

D. Approval of Bills Payable (#235, 237, 240, 241) --- \$432,031.89

Alderman Endress moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Corbin. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin and Klemm (6)

Nays – None (0)

Motion passed 6-0 and the Consent Agenda items were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

A memo was read into the record by City Clerk Meg Zuravel from City Accountant Duane Price stating the City has opened two new checking accounts at Midwest Bank. One account is for the Pretzel City Transit transportation providers to use to deposit their daily fares. The other is for the administration of the medical reimbursement program for our employees.

A memo dated April 20, 2009, from Alderman Shawn Boldt was read into the record by the City Clerk regarding his stance on budget considerations before council this evening. Alderman Boldt stated that he has been forced to make hard and difficult cuts at home and that the City and its departments must do the same. He believes that any suggestion to improve this spending plan whether from residents, employees, or elsewhere should be sought and considered, before the final package is acted upon. He ended by stating that the current administration has proven to be cautious, creative and conservative stewards of Freeport dollars in the last four years, and he has no reason to believe that they will not manage this spending plan with the same diligence and perseverance.

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

- Alderman Klemm motioned to approve the reappointment of Jeff Williams to the Police Pension Fund Board of Trustees effective immediately through April 30, 2011, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by roll call vote without dissent.
- Alderman Corbin motioned to approve the reappointment of Linda Buss to the Firefighters Pension Fund Board of Trustees effective immediately through April 17, 2012, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.
- Alderman Endress motioned to approve an appointment of Tom Teich as a non-voting member of the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Commission effective immediately, seconded by Alderman Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.
- Alderman Klemm motioned to approve an appointment of Cecil Pearson to the Zoning Board of Appeals Committee effective immediately through April 30, 2013, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.
- Alderman Bush motioned to approve an appointment of Daneice Davis to the Board of Fire and Police Commission effective immediately through April 30, 2010, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

ORDINANCES –THIRD READING

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-26:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1062 (City Cemetery) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport

The first reading of this ordinance was held on March 16, 2009. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Klemm. The second reading was held on April 6, 2009 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading and no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken to pass the ordinance.

Yeas: Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin, and Klemm (6)

Nays: None

Ordinance 2009-26 was adopted

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-27:

An Ordinance Authorizing Execution of the Northwest Illinois Major Case Squad Intergovernmental Law Enforcement Agreement

The first reading of this ordinance was held on March 16, 2009. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. The second reading was held on April 6, 2009 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading and no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken to pass the ordinance.

Yeas: Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin, and Klemm (6)

Nays: None

Ordinance 2009-27 was adopted

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-28:

An Ordinance to Supplement the Appropriations Ordinance, Fiscal Year 2008-2009, for the City of Freeport, Illinois

The first reading of this ordinance was held on March 16, 2009. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress. The second reading was held on April 6, 2009 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading discussion was held in regard to the affect on the reserves and the affect of the additional cost of salt. Accountant Duane Price stated that we are going over budget on some of the items and it is anticipated to have a deficit. Upon no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken to pass the ordinance.

Yeas: Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin, and Klemm (6)

Nays: None

Ordinance 2009-28 was adopted

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-29:

An Ordinance to Amend and Adjust the Appropriation Ordinance Fiscal Year 2008-2009 for the City of Freeport, Illinois

The first reading of this ordinance was held on March 16, 2009. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Corbin. The second reading was held on April 6, 2009 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. A memorandum dated April 15, 2009, from City Accountant Duane Price was included with an amendment to Ordinance 2009-29. The amendment

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included an additional amount of \$100,000 for 5311 transportation grant administration fund for costs of the new transportation program. Additionally, Street Capital Projects fund, Motor Fuel Tax Fund, and Health Care Fund were added to the ordinance from one previously presented. Alderman Klemm motioned to revise the ordinance as to the amendment presented, seconded by Alderman Endress. A roll call vote was taken on motion.

Yeas: DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin, and Klemm (5)

Nays: Bush (1)

Motion passed 5-1 and upon no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken to pass the ordinance.

A roll call vote was taken on the amended ordinance.

Yeas: DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin, and Klemm (5)

Nays: Bush (1)

Ordinance 2009-29 was adopted.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-34:

An Ordinance to Amending Chapter 806 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport – Temporary Liquor Licenses

The first reading of this ordinance was held on April 6, 2009. A motion to approve was given by Alderman Boldt seconded by Alderman Klemm and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. The second reading was held and the council packet included an amendment requested by the Fire Department so that when a temporary structure such as a tent will be used and, if so, the applicant should include a statement that it will comply with NFPA and IBC standards. Alderman Corbin motioned to amend the ordinance as presented, seconded by Alderman Klemm. A roll call vote was taken on motion to amend the ordinance.

Yeas: DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin, and Klemm (5)

Nays: Bush (1)

Motion passed 5-1 and upon no further discussion, it was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-35:

An Ordinance for Variation, Permit or Amendment of the Codified Ordinance of Freeport, Illinois - Application by Jacob Heitz for property at 816 S. McKinley for variance to Section 1268.07 (d) Accessory Buildings of Chapter 1268 (supplemental regulations) to allow an eighteen foot (18') high accessory building

Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin presented the ordinance by stating it was recommended to council from the last Zoning Board of Appeals meeting and there were no written objectors. There was one person in the audience at the public hearing who was a neighbor and had no objections to the accessory building. Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin stated the restriction for an accessory building is 15 feet and the petitioner, Jacob Heitz, is requesting a variance at 18 feet for the property at 816 S. McKinley.

Alderman Klemm motioned to send this back to the committee, seconded by Alderman Endress. A roll call vote was taken on the motion with Alderman Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin and Klemm

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voting yea. There were no nay votes. Mayor Gaulrapp asked Alderman Klemm why he is sending it back to committee. Alderman Klemm stated that he did not feel there was proper representation at the public hearing from Community Development and he believes this particular instance was a matter of blatantly going over the ordinance requirement and it needs to be looked at to determine how it came through the motions and why the building wasn't stopped.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-36:

An Ordinance to Authorize Right of Way or Easement to Stephenson Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission an Intergovernmental Agency Authorized and Appointed by the City of Freeport

The ordinance was presented by Public Works Director Craig LeBaron explaining the easement over the CMC Heartland property is irregularly shaped and this connects the Prairie Path with Tutty's Crossing. This land is just east of the property to be swapped with Rood that is in the works. A motion to approve the ordinance as presented was given by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman Klemm. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular scheduled council meeting.

DISCUSSION ON BUDGET

Discussion on Fiscal Year 2010 Budget/Appropriation

Mayor George Gaulrapp stated that before council was a balanced budget distributed by the Finance Department late last week. The updated version of the fiscal year 2010 budget included the following from the previously distributed budget; 1) reduction of raises for all employees to 2% which is subject to union approvals 2) an elimination of contributions to post employment health plan which is subject to union approvals 3) elimination of Deputy Chief position 4) replace retiring firefighter to keep staffing at current level 5) eliminate Summer Youth Program 6) transfer \$100,000 from the Fire Capital Improvement Fund to the General Fund 7) Transfer \$50,000 from the Capital Equipment Fund to the General Fund 8) add a \$75,000 transfer from the Library to help pay bond debt subject to Library Board approval 9) reduce amount budgeted for Insurance Other than Employee Benefits (line 01-63-577 on page 13) 10) reduce anticipated amount of health insurance claims by \$100,000 11) add \$15,000 for the Stephenson County Senior Center for match for Title 20 grant 12) Add \$9,000 to Fire Department overtime

Discussion continued about a letter to be sent the union representatives regarding the above stated information and Mayor Gaulrapp answered that a letter will be sent tomorrow. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that he, City Clerk Meg Zuravel and Finance Director Craig Joesten had elected to take a reduction in pay. He stated the Finance Director's salary reduction would be 5% in addition to foregoing any step increase for this fiscal year. Fifty percent of the salary of the Finance Director is paid by the Water & Sewer Department. Discussion was held regarding the duties of the Deputy Fire Chief. Discussion was held regarding the discontinuation of the funding of the Summer Youth Program and Mayor Gaulrapp explained pay for the counselors will be applied through a grant with the State of Illinois. Each of the City Department heads were asked to describe how the budget came to fruition, the process that was used to make cuts, and who from their department was involved in the process. Between staff meetings and department head meetings over one half million dollars was cut from the draft budget.

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The results of an April 2009 survey were read by Mayor Gaulrapp. This survey addresses the Community's Financial Challenges and was provided by Vision 2020 team stating that 65% of the responders had experience general budget reductions, 35% had experience wage freezes and 18% experience layoffs. Over 76.6% of the responders stated that budget reductions have already been implemented in their organization.

Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin presented information regarding the budget for the Legal Department and considerations for outside legal counsel and arbitrations.

Discussion was held regarding an internal survey regarding employee recommended cost saving measures. Alderman Helms provided a recommended listing of items to be reduced or cut from the budget. Alderman Bush recommended the City form a Financial Task Force for next year to assist in budget development.

It was asked by Mayor Gaulrapp to the council for leave to open the floor for public comments. Scott Townsend, union president of the Firefighters Union #441, 524 Delmar Drive, asked about a letter regarding a request to reopen the contracts which will be sent tomorrow. The end of the fiscal year of the firefighter contract will be in ten days. The Mayor stated the City deficit is at \$585,000. Mr. Townsend spoke in regard to the contract which was ratified just a month ago and that he is against the removal of the Deputy Fire Chief from the staffing numbers for the Fire Department. Mayor Gaulrapp and Fire Chief Kevin Countryman stated that minimum fire staffing will remain at 16 per shift with the minimum daily staffing at 12. Mayor Gaulrapp stated the budget deficit started at \$1.2 million and reductions were made in all areas and particularly one half million reduction at the airport. Now, the City is looking for ways to reduce personnel costs because over 80% of the budget is personnel.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #R-2009-41:

Resolution for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Transportation Enhancement Funding For the Pecatonica Prairie Path in Stephenson County

Public Works Director Craig LeBaron stated this resolution enter in to a proposal that would request \$7.5 million of transportation enhancement stimulus dollars that has the possibility of coming to Northern Illinois, a portion of the stimulus money which could come to the State. The commitment of this resolution is contingent upon the net percentage of required local matching funds for awarded grants being a maximum of 10% of the total grant project award and this commitment is contingent upon approval of matching resolutions by Stephenson County and the Freeport Park District. Director LeBaron stated the trails bring economic dollars locally through hotel and restaurant tax dollars. Discussion continued regarding the timing and possibility of receiving the stimulus dollars.

A motion to approve the resolution as presented was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress. The resolution was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin and Klemm (6)

Nays – None (0)

Resolution #R-2009-41 was adopted.

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Resolution #R-2009-42:

Resolution to Authorize Mayor to Enter Into Lease for a Term Not Exceeding Two Years With Freeport Downtown Development Foundation For Placement of Parking Lot Kiosks in Downtown Area

A motion to approve the resolution as presented was given by Alderman Corbin, seconded by Alderman Klemm. The resolution was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin, and Klemm (6)

Nays – None (0)

Resolution #R-2009-42 was adopted.

Resolution #R-2009-43:

Resolution in Support of Upgrade of Illinois Highways in Northern Illinois

A motion to approve the resolution as presented was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress. The resolution was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin, and Klemm (6)

Nays – None (0)

Resolution #R-2009-43 was adopted.

OTHER

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Public Works

A presentation was given by Public Works Director Craig LeBaron regarding Motor Fuel Tax material bids received on April 14, 2009. An Illinois Department of Transportation tabulation of bid was provided. The only item bid that was over the engineers estimate was for Bituminous Patch Mix. It was estimated at \$50.00 per ton and the bid received as for \$75. Director LeBaron thought it was due to the high cost of oil and the small quantity estimated to be used. IDOT accepts this item as meeting the bidding requirements but would suggest limiting the quantity used to stay within the dollar amount estimated. All other items came in under the estimate and therefore, also meet IDOT requirements for award. As in year past, we have awarded this bid to all bidders with the intent being the ability to use the other bidder if on or the other is out of material at any given point. Also if the job being worked is closer to one quarry or the other, which reduces haul costs. Director LeBaron recommends concurrence with IDOT and award this material proposal to both Fischer Excavating and Conmat. A motion to concur with Director LeBaron's recommendation and accept the bids for Motor Fuel Tax material as presented was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Corbin, and Klemm (6)

Nays – None (0)

Water and Sewer

Water & Sewer Project/Utility Manager Denise Blakeley Ihrig reviewed the latest project status including detention basins inspections and the Galena Avenue water main loop.

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Police

Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore recognized National Telecommunicators Week including the men and women of the 911 call center.

Fire

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman spoke in regard to not filling the Deputy Fire Chief position, stating that over the past year to year and a half, he had been anticipating that the Deputy Chief could possibly retire and he had developed a plan to take into account converting some of our current staff into Battalion Chief positions and keeping our scalar structure. It could save the department roughly \$30,000 to \$35,000 per year in personnel costs.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gaulrapp stated City crews are making repairs to the Hancock Bridge and it will be one lane for a couple of weeks. The Mayor's Hunger Luncheon benefiting Freeport Area Church Cooperative is tomorrow. Pretzel City Transit has been online for two weeks now providing transportation in the City operating during the hours of 6:00 am to midnight servicing all three work shifts Monday to Friday and from 6:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday. This transportation system uses a 24 hour advance notice. Mayor Gaulrapp brought up negotiations of Titan Tire and how the City is impacted on the reliance of their jobs.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Bush announced a Third Ward Meeting on Saturday at 1:00 pm in the Freeport Public Library to discuss public safety. Alderman Helms asked to have something set up for employees as a public forum and Mayor Gaulrapp stated he would rather wait until after the council decides if it will support a reduction in wage increases. It was noted that on Saturday there would be a Relay of Life fundraiser called "Touch a Truck."

At 8:30 pm, upon a motion being given the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Meg Zuravel
Meg Zuravel, City Clerk