



## *City Council*

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

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### **MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, September 21, 2009**

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#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Freeport Illinois City Council was called to order at 6:00 pm on Monday, September 21, 2009, in Council Chambers with a quorum being present by Mayor George Gaulrapp.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were Mayor George Gaulrapp and council members Klemm, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, and Corbin (7). Alderman Boldt was absent at the beginning of the meeting (*see page 4*). Also present were City Department Heads and Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin.

#### **SWEARING IN**

Mayor George Gaulrapp swore in Timothy Randecker as Firefighter.

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman introduced Clyde Butler who has been promoted to the position of Fire Inspector. Fire Inspector Butler replaces John (Scott) Anderson who retired.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Helms.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Alderman Endress motioned to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Alderman DeVine motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 8, 2009, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS**

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

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

Executive Director Cheryl Kneubuehl provided an update on the Northwest Illinois Development Alliance. She spoke about the certificate of employability that NIDA has been working on with Freeport School District #145 in which attendance, aptitude and attitude will be the featured attributes. NIDA is working on revising their website and working with different manufacturing facilities interested in locating to Freeport. Alderman Klemm congratulated Director Kneubuehl on the compliments she received regarding the opening of the Acciona Energy North America wind farm in Stephenson County.

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**CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- A. Approval to receive and place on file:
- 1) City Treasurer Schedule of Tax Receipts for period ended July 31, 2009
  - 2) Fire Department Activity Report for period ended August 31, 2009
  - 3) Police Department Activity Report for period ended August 31, 2009
  - 4) Community Development Activity Report for period ended August 31, 2009 including Cash and Misc. Receipts; Building Permits; Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing and Sign Permits
- B. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (#308) ----\$60,667.13
- C. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending September 12, 2009 --- \$419,103.97
- D. Approval of Finance Department Bills Payable (#307, 309, 310, 312) ---- \$577,996.21
- Alderman Endress moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. The Consent Agenda items were approved by roll call vote.
- Yeas: Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, DeVine, and Endress (7)
- Nays – None (0)

**COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL**

The Boards and Commissions open positions were read into the record including the Historic Preservation Commission and Housing Authority Board. Mayor Gaulrapp asked interested parties to contact the mayor's office at 815-235-8200.

**ORDINANCES – THIRD READING**

**3<sup>RD</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-61:**

**An Ordinance Amending Chapter 480, Section 480.03 (Prohibited Parking Areas) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport – Main Street**

The first reading of this ordinance was held on August 17, 2009. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress. The second reading was held on September 8, 2009 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Mayor Gaulrapp stated it is properly on the floor and open for questions. Upon no questions, a roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, DeVine, and Endress (7)

Nays – None (0)

Ordinance 2009-61 was adopted.

**ORDINANCES - SECOND READING**

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-63:**

**An Ordinance Amending Chapter 480, Section 480.11 (Prohibited Parking Streets) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport – McKinley Avenue**

The first reading of this ordinance was held on September 8, 2009. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress. The second reading was held this evening and upon no discussion, it was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

**ORDINANCES - FIRST READING**

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-64:**

**An Ordinance to Approve the Editing and Inclusion of Certain Ordinances as Parts of the Various Component Codes of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Freeport, Illinois (February 2, 2009 through July 6, 2009)**

Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin presented the ordinance stating that various ordinances have been passed by the City Council but they need to be included in the Codified Ordinances. This is the routine ordinance to do so. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman O'Neill, seconded by Alderman Endress and it was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Community Development**

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold provided photos of the recent landfill covering project. The public and officials are invited to the Stephenson County Floodplain Mapping Open House on September 24, 2009. Newly produced countywide digital flood insurance rate maps will be available.

**Finance**

Finance Director Craig Joesten requested approval of a transfer of \$260,827.32 from Fire Department Capital Improvement Fund to the general fund. The amount of last year's ambulance receipts that should be transferred to the general fund is \$160,827.32. The amount of \$100,000 is the amount that was appropriated in this fiscal year. Currently there is \$470,000 in the Fire Capital Improvement Fund. Alderman Endress moved to transfer \$260,827.32 from the Fire Department Capital Improvement Fund, seconded by Alderman Klemm. Upon no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, DeVine, and Endress (7)

Nays – None (0)

The motion passed 7-0.

Finance Director Craig Joesten requested approval to transfer \$50,000 from Capital Equipment Fund. Alderman Corbin moved to transfer \$50,000.00 from the Capital Equipment Fund to the general fund, seconded by Alderman Klemm. Upon no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, DeVine, and Endress (7)

Nays – None (0)

The motion passed 7-0.

Finance Director Craig Joesten provided information regarding the Property and Casualty Insurance renewable options that have been requested of three brokers and he will be bringing these to council upon receipt. He also informed the public that Water & Sewer Commission does not have written document which would change the water and sewer bills as the landlord's responsibility. There is discussion about increasing the deposit and reducing the amount of time when bills are left unpaid.

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated that recent statistics show that 75-80% of the fines for weeds, grass, and trash are for non-owner occupied properties and landlords need to be more responsible for the actions of their tenants.

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**Public Works**

Interim Public Works Director Tom Dole provided an update regarding a tentative Intergovernmental Agreement with Stephenson County. Recently the City has been working with Stephenson County to draft an agreement to share costs to improve the intersection of Kiwanis Drive and Pearl City Road. These improvements include realignment, reconstruction and signalization. Since the first draft, there have been some differences of opinion as to what the shared percentages should be. The City feels a 50% - 50% split is appropriate. The City has jurisdiction over Kiwanis and Forest Road. The County has jurisdiction over Pearl City Road. The last offer from the County was a split of 62.5% for the City and 37.5% for the County for the cost of construction. An estimated cost for the engineering and construction is \$1.2 million. Construction costs make up about \$96,000 of the overall cost.

Alderman Boldt entered the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Many streets will be resurfaced over the next couple of weeks including Empire Street (Float to West Avenue) Carroll Avenue (Empire Street to Galena Avenue) and McKinley Avenue (Empire to Stephenson Street) and this work is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. In addition many streets are scheduled to be resurfaced including Park Boulevard, Apple and Park Crest.

**Water & Sewer**

Water & Sewer Project/Utility Manager Denise Ihrig stated that work is being performed on Walnut and Avon Street which will close off that intersection due to problems with a storm sewer.

**Library**

Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson spoke about upcoming computer classes available to the public. There are also upcoming seminars through the Stephenson County Historical Society.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Gaulrapp gave compliments to local retailers. He thanked the Police and Fire Departments and the auxiliary police for their help with the Aquin Homecoming Parade. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that an ordinance will be brought forth to include the 300 block of Van Buren in the business district.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Helms requested a date for the leaf pickup and it was answered that it hasn't been set yet. He also asked about the capacity levels of the Water & Sewer treatment plant. Discussion was held about the estimated \$13 to \$15 million investment to bring capacity to the level needed for population of 37,000. Alderman Klemm complimented all the volunteers for their work on Extreme Makeover Home Edition.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Tom Teich, 659 E. Jefferson, asked about the Slumberland and Sonic opening. Mayor Gaulrapp stated the public opening would be September 26, 2009 with the ribbon cutting on Thursday. Sonic opens this week.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

*s/ Meg Zuravel*  
Meg Zuravel, City Clerk