



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, November 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Freeport Illinois City Council was called to order at 6:00 pm on Monday, November 2, 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, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill and Corbin (8). Also present was Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was by Alderman Boldt.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman O'Neill moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 19, 2009, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

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

RE-APPOINTMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS

Alderman O'Neill moved to accept the reappointment of Tiffany Vondra to the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority effective immediately through October 31, 2014, seconded Alderman DeVine. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Alderman Klemm moved to accept the reappointment of Jennifer Birkholz to the Planning Commission effective immediately through October 31, 2013, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

By leave of council, the following appointments were presented together:

- An appointment of Roy Sellers to the Planning Commission effective immediately through October 31, 2013
- An appointment of Sally Hoak to the Planning Commission effective immediately through October 31, 2013

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- An appointment of Terry Feinberg to the Planning Commission effective immediately through October 31, 2013

Alderman Helms moved to accept the appointments as presented, seconded by Alderman Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) – Pending Litigation was read into the record.

At 6:03 pm, a motion to enter executive session was given by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, and Klemm (8)

Nays – None

At 6:32 pm, a motion to return from executive session was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Corbin. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, and Klemm (8)

Nays – None

ADDRESS TO COUNCIL

Mayor George Gaulrapp introduced Roy Sellers whose appointment to the Planning Commission was accepted this evening. Mayor Gaulrapp also introduced Sally Hoak whose appointment to the Planning Commission was accepted this evening.

Terry Brashaw introduced himself to council as the newly elected president of the International Association of Firefighters Local Union #441.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

A. Approval to receive and place on file:

1) Water and Sewer Report of Activities for September 2009

B. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (#324, 326, 328) ----\$218,557.12

C. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending October 24, 2009 --- \$403,515.05

D. Approval of Finance Department Bills Payable (#325, 327, 329) ---- \$361,388.93

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: Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, and Klemm (8)

Nays – None

ORDINANCES - THIRD READING

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-65:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 486 Winter Parking Regulations – Clarifying Central Business District and Adding Van Buren North of E. Clark

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The first reading of this ordinance was held on October 5, 2009. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Boldt, seconded by Alderman Endress. The second reading was held on October 19, 2009 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading and no discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

Yeas: Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, and Klemm (8)

Nays – None

Ordinance 2009-65 was adopted.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-66:

An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year beginning May 1, 2009, and ending April 30, 2010 for the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson, and State of Illinois

The first reading of this ordinance was held on October 19, 2009. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. The second reading was held this evening and discussion was held regarding the percentage increase for personnel services. Finance Director Craig Joesten stated the Spending Plan includes raises for the year for non-bargaining, AFSCME and International Association of Firefighters Local Union #441 employees calculated at a 3% increase for a period of ninety days then it reverted back to zero percentage for the remaining nine months. The police raises remain what were negotiated. Upon no further discussion, the ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-67:

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

The first reading of this ordinance was held on October 19, 2009. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress. The second reading was held this evening.

Alderman Klemm moved to amend Ordinance 2009-67 to include the following amendment:

480.11 Prohibited Parking Streets

- Demeter ~~both sides~~ east side, Empire to 120 feet south
- Demeter, ~~both sides~~ west side, from Empire ~~60 feet south~~ to LaCresta Drive
- Empire, north side, east of McKinley for a distance of ~~110 feet~~ 135 feet

The purpose would be to open three parking places on Empire Street and closing those on the west side of Demeter. Alderman Endress seconded the motion. Alderman Klemm answered that the three parking places now available would be on the south side of Empire where the curb and sidewalk have been redone which would bring parking back five feet from Dr. Tolliver's drive. The amendment to the ordinance was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, and Klemm (8)

Nays – None

Upon no further discussion, the ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 2009-68:

An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2009, and ending April 30, 2010 for the Public Library of the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson, and State of Illinois

Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson presented the ordinance by stating that the Library Board has approved an amount the same as last year's levy. By show of good faith, the Library Board has decided to leave the levy in the amount of one million on hundred and ninety-nine thousand eight hundred and nine (\$1,199,809.00) which constitutes the total amount that the City of Freeport requires to be raised by taxation for the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year for Public Library purposes. \$1,107,809 is for property tax for library purposes, \$27,000 is for special tax for liability insurance, and \$65,000 is for special tax for FICA/Medicare. The Library Board is working to have the budget work with the levy.

Alderman Helms moved to adopt Ordinance 2009-68 as presented, seconded by Alderman Corbin. Upon no further discussion, the ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2009-79:

Resolution to Adopt City of Freeport Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 (including Finance Department Report on Spending Plan Adjustments Fiscal Year 2010)

Included with the resolution was a listing provided by the Finance Department of spending plan adjustments for fiscal year 2010. These items include a reduction in income tax and sales tax revenue in the amount of \$500,000; a net savings of \$37,500 from the retirement of Craig LeBaron as Public Works Director; \$100,000 due to reduction of four sworn police officers; the AFSCME wage freeze amounting to \$14,500; the fire union wage freeze amounting to \$27,000; the non-union wage freeze amounting to \$36,000; payment of PEHP for Police Union for a cost of \$24,000; payment of PEHP for Fire Union for a period of three months for a cost of \$8,000; elimination of a budgeted street department truck for a savings of \$50,000; Fire Department operational cuts in the amount of \$10,000; police union wage increase of 3.34% costing \$24,000; Mayor, City Clerk and City Treasurer payback of wage increase in the amount of \$2,900; increase in sales tax of $\frac{3}{4}$ % in the amount of \$250,000, and reduction of food and beverage tax of $\frac{3}{4}$ % amounting to a reduction of \$112,000. The overall net loss is \$59,882.

Finance Director Craig Joesten stated the slide in the revenue has flattened out; we are months behind in receiving income tax and the spending well within plan. Projections are estimated to be a deficit of around \$60,000, contingent upon health insurance experience. Alderman Boldt moved to layover Resolution 2009-79 to the first meeting in December, seconded by Alderman Helms. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

RESOLUTION #R-2009-103:

Resolution Authorizing the Execution of IMLRMA (Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association) Minimum/ Maximum Contribution Agreement (including Finance Department memo regarding Insurance Renewal with IMLRMA)

Finance Director Craig Joesten stated this resolution is for the property casualty, worker's compensation

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and liability insurance through the Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Association (IMLRMA) for fiscal year 2010 for policy year beginning January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. Formal quotes were obtained from private insurance carriers in addition to the IML. A cost analysis was performed based on our current insurance program and the best alternative is the IML with the minimum-maximum option. The IML offers the City a minimum-maximum option in which the insurance company will pay for all losses up to \$564,326, and then the City is responsible for claims between \$564,326 and \$752,654. IMLRMA pays all claims over the maximum \$752,654. The City will save money if our claims are below the standard contribution of \$658,490. The City of Freeport has opted for the minimum-maximum option for the past 13 years and through 2008 we have save \$180,055. It is the administration's recommendation that the City renew our insurance coverage with the IMLRMA, select the minimum-maximum option and pay before November 20, 2009, to take advantage of a 1% discount provided by the carrier. If we pay the premiums by November 20, 2009 the amount is \$558,682.74, a savings of \$5,643.26.

Alderman Helms moved to adopt Resolution 2009-103 as presented, seconded by Alderman Klemm. The resolution was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, and Klemm (8)

Nays – None

Resolution 2009-103 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2009-104:

Resolution Appointing George Gaulrapp Agent of the City of Freeport, Illinois, to Act on Behalf of Said City in All or Any Matters Affecting Administration of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund
Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin stated an agent is needed to replace the Human Resource Manager to act on behalf of the City in all or any matters affecting administration of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. This would be a temporary appointment while the City is in between HR Managers. Alderman Helms moved to adopt Resolution 2009-103 as presented, seconded by Alderman Klemm. The resolution was approved by voice vote without dissent. Resolution 2009-104 was adopted

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Fire

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman stated that the City will hold Firefighter/Paramedic Testing and to apply you must attend a mandatory orientation session. One was held on October 31, 2009 and the next one will be Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 6:00 pm at the Freeport Public Library.

Water & Sewer

Water and Sewer Utility Project Manager Denise Ihrig provided an update on the draft capital improvement projects of the utility and the Water & Sewer Commission is in the process of reviewing it. The rates would be the same as currently, but the list of projects is out growing the funds available. The commission has had to prioritize the projects. Notification of receipt of two grants is expected in the next two weeks.

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Community Development

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold provided an update on the landfill cover project. The liner is all the way done, the drainage layer of compacted clay is on, and top soil is expected soon with weather permitting. A mailing was distributed to every residential address in Freeport explaining bulky waste pickup, fall leaf pickup, winter parking regulations and housing needs survey.

The Comprehensive Plan is available for viewing on the City of Freeport website – Recent News. The next step will be a public comment period. This public meeting to review Comprehensive Plan will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 6:00 pm at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau. An agenda has been posted due to a majority of a quorum of the public body that may be present at this meeting.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor George Gaulrapp provided a recap of the City retreat goals and strategy planning session held last week. Mayor Gaulrapp stated he will be attending a Brownfield’s grant conference beginning on November 15, 2009 and so he will not be able to attend the November 16, 2009 council meeting and will need a council member to be mayor pro tem. He stated street crews are busy picking up leaves and working to make one complete pass around the City. After this is done, the street crews will come around to do an area again.

NEW BUSINESS

Each council member was provided the opportunity to publicly address significant items of interest. An all neighborhood watch will be held on November 7, 2009 at the Freeport Public Library with a presentation of identity theft being provided by Detective Schroeder.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Alex Dvorak, 669 E. Jefferson Street spoke about bringing businesses into the City of Freeport.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

s/ Meg Zuravel
Meg Zuravel, City Clerk