



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Tuesday, January 19, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Freeport, Illinois, City Council was called to order by Mayor George Gaulrapp at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, in Council Chambers with a quorum being present.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were Mayor George Gaulrapp and council members Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Helms and O'Neill (6). Aldermen Endress and Corbin were absent (Alderman Endress entered later). Also present was Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman O'Neill.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman O'Neill moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 21, 2009, seconded by Alderman DeVine. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Alderman O'Neill moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 4, 2010, seconded by Alderman DeVine. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

There was no one signed on the sheet for public comments this evening.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5) - Purchase of Real Estate and 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) - Pending Litigation was read into the record.

At 6:04 pm, Alderman Klemm moved to enter Executive Session, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: O'Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, and Helms (6)

Nays: None

While in Executive Session at 6:09 pm Alderman Endress entered the meeting.

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At 6:28 pm, Alderman Klemm moved to return from Executive Session, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

A. Approval to receive and place on file:

- 1) Schedule of Ambulance Rates effective January 2010 for Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support and Non-Resident
- 2) Community Development Reports including Building Permits; Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing and Sign Permits; and Cash and Miscellaneous Receipts
- 3) Police Department Report on Activities for period ending December 2009

B. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (#360) ---- \$81,688.11

C. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending January 2, 2010 ---- \$428,797.79

D. Approval of Finance Department Bills Payable (#359, 361, 362) ---- \$486,590.86

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

Nays: None

COMMUNICATION TO COUNCIL

City Clerk Meg Zuravel read into the record a letter from Mayor George Gaulrapp regarding current openings on Boards and Commissions. At this time there are openings on the Historic Preservation Committee, Housing Authority Board and Liquor Commission. Mayor Gaulrapp encouraged citizens to come forth and contact his office if interested in filling an opening.

RE-APPOINTMENT

Alderman Klemm moved to accept the re-appointment of John Ginger to the Airport Commission effective immediately through November 31, 2014, seconded by Alderman Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

ORDINANCES - THIRD READING

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-01

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1240 (General Provisions and Definitions) and Chapter 1250 (Residence Districts) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport

The first reading of this ordinance was held on December 21, 2009. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman O'Neill, seconded by Alderman Klemm. The second reading was held on January 4, 2010 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

Upon the third reading, Alderman Helms asked for clarification of the ordinance amendments. Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated this ordinance amends the wording in two areas where our zoning code was not appropriate with the Fair Housing Act in the way that we deal with group homes. There are two areas where HUD and the Department of Justice require changes to the definition of unrelated people and whether group homes can't be within so many feet from each other.

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A roll call vote was taken to approve the ordinance as presented.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance 2010-01 was adopted.

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-02:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1240 (General Provisions and Definitions) and Chapter 1252 (Business Districts) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport

The first reading of this ordinance was held on December 21, 2009. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress. The second reading was held on January 4, 2010 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading and no discussion, a roll call vote was taken to approve the ordinance as presented.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance 2010-02 was adopted.

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-03:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 869 (Teen Dance Centers) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport

The first reading of this ordinance was held on December 21, 2009. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress. The second reading was held on January 4, 2010 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading and no discussion, a roll call vote was taken to approve the ordinance as presented.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance 2010-03 was adopted.

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-04:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 242 (Fire Department) of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Freeport, Illinois (Removing Deputy Chief and Adding Battalion Chiefs)

The first reading of this ordinance was held on December 21, 2009. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Helm, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. The second reading was held on January 4, 2010 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading and no discussion, a roll call vote was taken to approve the ordinance as presented.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance 2010-04 was adopted.

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-06 (renumbered from 2009-75 on December 21, 2009):

An Ordinance to Authorize Acquisition and Acceptance of Quitclaim Deed for Property Commonly Known as the Carnegie Library, Freeport, Illinois (PIN 18-14-31-177-003)

The first reading of this ordinance was held on December 21, 2009. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Boldt, seconded by Alderman Klemm. The second reading was held on January 4, 2010 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. The third reading was held this evening. Alderman

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Boldt stated his disagreement about the ordinance. A roll call vote was taken to approve the ordinance as presented.

Yeas: O'Neill, Klemm, Bush, DeVine, Endress and Helms (6)

Nays: Boldt (1)

Ordinance 2010-06 was adopted 6-1.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-07:

An Ordinance to Abate the 2009 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2000

The first reading of this ordinance was held on January 2, 2010. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. Upon the second reading a discussion was held regarding the abatement or non-abatement of the real estate tax levy for the repayment of the general obligation bonds. Alderman Klemm passed out an informational item to each council member including information on how sales decline will affect the sales taxes, the sustainability of pension funds and a spreadsheet showing a snapshot of the 2011 projected one million dollar deficit in the budget. Discussion was held regarding the 0% tax levy that was approved at the meeting in December 2009 and the projected deficit of \$275,000 in the budget by adopting this levy. Discussion was held regarding the number of cuts to the budget the City has already incurred. Discussion was held asking what services the citizens want cut to accommodate the budget that we are faced with due to the tax levy that was adopted.

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

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-08:

An Ordinance to Abate the 2009 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2003

The first reading of this ordinance was held on January 2, 2010. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. The second reading was held this evening and upon no discussion, it was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-09:

An Ordinance to Abate the 2009 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2004

The first reading of this ordinance was held on January 2, 2010. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Endress, seconded by Alderman Helms. The second reading was held this evening and upon no discussion, it was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-10:

An Ordinance to Abate the 2009 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2006

The first reading of this ordinance was held on January 2, 2010. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Corbin, 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

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-11:

An Ordinance Amending Section 1426.01 (2000 Edition Adopted) of Chapter 1426 (International Mechanical Code) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated that about five years ago the ordinances of the Plumbing and Building Codes adopted wording to include, “and as from time to time thereafter modified and amended.” This ordinance brings the mechanical systems up to date with the amendments to the other codes. Alderman Klemm moved to adopt Ordinance 2010-11 as presented, seconded by Alderman Helms. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-12:

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

Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore presented the ordinance and stated that wording was added regarding copies of documents and how they apply due to the revised Freedom of Information statutes. Alderman Klemm moved to adopt Ordinance 2010-12 as presented, seconded by Alderman Endress. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R- 2010-01:

Resolution Authorizing Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Freeport and the Stephenson County Health Department for a Brownfields Health Monitoring Study

This resolution was presented by Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stating that in 2008 the City was awarded Brownfields Grants for Rawleigh Buildings B, D and E. This resolution puts forth an agreement with the Stephenson County Health Department to perform health monitoring studies.

Alderman Klemm moved to adopt Resolution #R-2010-01 as presented, seconded by Alderman O’Neill. A roll call vote was taken to adopt the resolution as presented.

Yeas: O’Neill, Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress and Helms (7)

Nays: None

OTHER

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Public Works

Public Works Director Tom Dole stated that an ice storm is due in the area on Wednesday and his crews will be out sanding and salting until the event is over. In the meantime, the crews are busy filling pot holes. Director Dole spoke about the Cemetery Oversight Act and the effect it will have on the City Cemetery. In all likelihood, it will require new computer system to allow for GIS mapping of the grave sites. There will also be addition data entry and it was discussed which departments this will affect.

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Police

Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore stated there have been promotions in the Police Department. Deputy Chief of Police Bob Smith has retired after over 30 years on the department. Current Lieutenant of Operations Jeff Davis has been named Deputy Chief of Police. Sgt. Jim Drehoble was promoted to Lieutenant of Operations; Craig Wainman was promoted to Sergeant; and Sergeant Mastroianni was moved to Sergeant of the Detective Bureau.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor George Gaulrapp stated that Neighborhood Housing Services was not prepared with their report for Council so they will be presenting at the next meeting. Home Hardware is a community minded store and is expected to be opening at the Lincoln Mall on Galena Avenue the beginning of March 2010. Mayor Gaulrapp provided an update regarding the federal purchase of the Thomson Prison and the impact it could have on the area. Packets have been prepared to market real estate and businesses in Freeport. He spoke about economic development and wind manufacturers.

NEW BUSINESS

Each council member was provided the opportunity to publicly address significant items of interest. Alderman Klemm spoke about a recent a NIDA meeting and the Work Keys programs which will provide useful information for area businesses. Alderman Boldt requested a copy of the most recent budget, as did Alderman Helms. Alderman Helms asked for an update about placing delinquent fines from ordinance violations on the real estate tax bills at Stephenson County. Alderman Bush asked how many African Americans are sitting on the Boards and Commission. Mayor Gaulrapp stated his most recent appointment to the Board of Fire and Police Commission was an African American. Mayor Gaulrapp encouraged all people and requested anyone with interest to contact his office to serve on a commission. Mayor Gaulrapp also stated the City printed notices in bulletins of the predominately African American Churches to advertise for employment at the City.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tom Teich spoke about the new hardware store coming to Freeport and the new items added to Provena Center.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

s/ Meg Zuravel
Meg Zuravel, City Clerk