



## ***City Council***

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

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### **MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, February 1, 2010**

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#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Freeport, Illinois, City Council was called to order by Mayor George Gaulrapp at 6:01 pm on Monday, February 1, 2010, in Council Chambers with a quorum being present.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call were Mayor George Gaulrapp and council members Klemm, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, and Corbin (7). Aldermen Boldt's absence was excused this evening (1). Also present was Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Corbin.

#### **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 Bush moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 19, 2010, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

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

Steve Carroll signed his name on the list for public comments on a non-agenda item. Mayor Gaulrapp asked for leave of council to move it forward on the agenda.

Steve Carroll, 811 S. Oak Street, stated that tonight he had a list of the top five property owners that Community Development wrote citations for the year of 2009. He stated he obtained this information through a Freedom of Information Act request. He stated these are citations not fines. If certain cited issues are not corrected, they then become fines. He listed them as 5) George Verner 4) Billy Shroyer 3) Brian and Marci Borchardt 2) Ronnie and Lucretia London and 1) Doug Hastings.

#### **RECOGNITION/PROCLAMATION/PRESENTATION**

The Freeport Police Department welcomed back and thanked Freeport Police Officer Adam Wichman (a U.S. Army Staff Sergeant) upon his return from Afghanistan after a one year tour of duty. This was Officer Wichman's second tour of duty. Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore spoke about the City's pride in those who serve for their Country.

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A proclamation was read into the record declaring February 2010 as Black History Month.

A presentation was given Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) Executive Director Deb Elzinga and board member Bill Leibman. They provided information on Neighborhood Housing Services and the results of 2009 in which 25 families achieved first time home ownership, 17 foreclosures were prevented, \$72,959 in NHS and USDA facilitated lending for home improvement and home purchase \$3,000 in local funding commitments; and Executive Director, Deb Elzinga completed course work for the Achieving Excellence program at the Kennedy School Government at Harvard University. The council was provided an opportunity to ask questions regarding the number of staff members and the amount of time spent in Rockford and the relationship and funding of Neighbor Works.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- A. Approval to receive and place on file:
  - 1) City Treasurer's Monthly Investment Report for period ended December 31, 2009
  - 2) City Treasurer's Fund Report for period ended December 31, 2009
  - 3) Fire Department Report on Activities for period ending December 2009
- B. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (#364 & 366) ---- \$246,220.46
- C. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending January 16, 2010 ---- \$416,871.36
- D. Approval of Finance Department Bills Payable (#363, 365, 367) ---- \$608,088.05

Alderman O'Neill moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented, seconded by Alderman Endress. The Consent Agenda items were approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

**COMMUNICATION TO COUNCIL**

Alderman Helms moved to place on file a memorandum dated January 22, 2010, from Water and Sewer Project/Utility Manager Denise Ihrig regarding summary of active projects for Water and Sewer Department, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

**ORDINANCES - THIRD READING**

**3<sup>RD</sup> 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. The second reading was held on January 19, 2010 and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading and no discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance 2010-07 was adopted 7-0.

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**3<sup>RD</sup> 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 on January 19, 2010 and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading and no discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance 2010-08 was adopted 7-0.

**3<sup>RD</sup> 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 on January 19, 2010 and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading and no discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance 2010-09 was adopted 7-0.

**3<sup>RD</sup> 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 on January 19, 2010 and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading and no discussion, a roll call vote was taken.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance 2010-10 was adopted 7-0.

**ORDINANCES - SECOND READING**

**2<sup>ND</sup> 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**

The first reading of this ordinance was held on January 19, 2010. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Helms and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the second reading and no discussion, the ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

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**2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-12:**

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

The first reading of this ordinance was held on January 19, 2010. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Klemm, seconded by Alderman Endress and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the second reading and no discussion, the ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

**ORDINANCES – FIRST READING**

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-13:**

**An Ordinance Amending Chapter 486, Section 486.03 (Parking Prohibited Under Certain Conditions) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport – Harlem Avenue**

Mayor Gaulrapp presented the ordinance stating that it was brought forth by Alderman Boldt and another alderman asking for relief of the "odd even" Winter Parking Regulations on Harlem Avenue in the area of Cannova's Restaurant. He added that Patrick Beckman, owner of Cannova's, is not asking for special favors. The customers have been upset because they have received parking fines while bringing business to the City of Freeport. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that when we passed this ordinance for Winter Parking there would be special considerations in certain areas, but they were not sure where it would be. This would allow parking on either side of the street on Harlem Avenue from Empire south to LaCresta between the hours of 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm during the Winter Parking Regulations which are December through the end of March. All other times the restrictions would apply.

Alderman Klemm moved to place the ordinance on the floor, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. Alderman Helms stated that he had spoken with a resident and he requested that the homeowners on that street and the business owners have an opportunity to work this out prior to final action. There was a discussion regarding a lot at the Fieldstone that could be paved to allow for additional parking in the area. It was suggested that the residents in the area be spoken to by the Aldermen. Some of the neighbors were concerned about parking when the Fieldstone added their deck area on the front of the building. It was stated that when vehicles are parked on both the east and west side of Harlem there is only one lane available. Discussion continued as to whether an emergency vehicle would have a difficult time getting through. Mayor Gaulrapp stated an emergency vehicle will drive down Harlem when vehicles are parked on both sides to make sure we have valid points on the floor. Alderman Helms requested that Pat and Linda Beckman come to the next reading of this ordinance. Corporation Counsel stated that although voluntarily when there is a snow emergency, there is no longer wording in the ordinance for a snow emergency it would be up to the customers which side to park on. Upon no further discussion, it was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION #R-2010-02:**

**Resolution to Authorize Agreement with Neighborhood Housing Services of Freeport, NFP**

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold presented the resolution referring to the presentation provided by NHS this evening. This agreement is for May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010 although NHS fiscal year is calendar year the agreement follows the City's fiscal year. Schedule A breaks down the

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categories for reimbursement showing that \$25,000 is for general operating expenses to be paid within twenty-one days of the execution of the agreement. Up to \$10,000 may be reimbursed for accomplishment of six different activities including successful foreclosure outcomes, completion of homebuyer education, mortgage underwritten or facilitated by NHS, underwritten home improvement loans and completion of an itemized statement by NHS.

Director Griswold referred to areas which need the dates changed on the agreement referencing the opening paragraph for the date the agreement will be entered into being February 2010, and report due dates changing from January 19, 2010 to February 1, 2010 and the second date being April 19, 2010. Alderman Klemm moved to accept the amendments, seconded by Alderman Bush. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Alderman Klemm moved to adopt Resolution #R-2010-02 as presented, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken to adopt the resolution as presented. Discussion continued with an opening on the NHS Board by a council member. Currently this position is open.

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

Nays: None

Ordinance 2010-02 was adopted 7-0.

**OTHER**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Community Development

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated that this month the Planning Commission meeting has been moved to the second Thursday which is February 11, 2010 and the meeting will be held at 6:00 pm. There will be two public hearings one for the draft Comprehensive Plan and this draft has been on the website for public viewing since November. There will be a public hearing in front of the Planning Commission and upon its approval from them; it will come to the City Council for approval. Council members were encouraged to attend the Planning Commission meeting.

The second public hearing will be on the Freeport Raceway for their application of special use permit.

Water & Sewer

Director Joesten stated action was taken by the Water & Sewer Commission on January 26, 2010. For the last ten years we have had a contract with United Water and because they felt very good about the stability of the department, the Water & Sewer Commission has elected to non-renew their contract. April 30, 2010 will be the non-renewal date.

The City will be hiring an engineer for the Water & Sewer Department to handle the capital improvement program, Cottonwood drainage basin program, and, hopefully, many other projects to continue with the integrity of the system. The City would also be able to have use of the engineer and will pay the W&S for portions of salary as used. Discussion was held regarding the cost savings of hiring an engineer.

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The Water and Sewer Commission will be attending the next City Council meeting and present the line-up of Big Four Projects and recommended funding.

Fire

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman stated the spring session of the Fire Academy will begin on April 15, 2010 and interested parties should contact his office at 815-235-8217 for an application.

Library

Library Director Carole Dickerson promoted an exhibit at the Freeport Public Library for Black History Month which displays panels of significant members of the Freeport community. These panels will be on display during the month of February on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library. February is "Food for Fine" and by bringing in a non-perishable food item your fine up to \$1.00 will be forgiven. The American History Speaker Series hosted by the Freeport Library Foundation Board featuring 5 lectures on history which will begin at 7:00 pm and admission is open to the public free of charge.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor George Gaulrapp stated that the Mayor's Hunger Luncheon is scheduled for April 13, 2010 and the cost is \$20.00 per person with the proceeds going to Freeport Area Church Cooperative. He stated that he would have liked to coordinate donations with other area food banks but it did not work out this time, so he hopes to have an event for the Salvation Army and Northern Illinois Food Bank at another time.

During the Mayor's trip to Washington D.C., he was able to meet with Senator Dick Durbin and during this time he was presented \$13 million dollars worth of projects including the Big Four Water & Sewer Projects and the intersection of Kiwanis and Pearl City Road. He also met with George Ryan of Illinois Department of Transportation this week regarding the Cottonwood project and some additional monies in the amount of \$200,000 we will be applying for. Mayor Gaulrapp spoke about the recent announcement of rail projects in which Northern Illinois received \$60 million funding from the State of Illinois for the route from Chicago to Rockford to Freeport and on to Dubuque, Iowa. Construction could begin in the next couple of months.

Mayor Gaulrapp spoke about the Crosstown Classic, an event held at Aquin High School over the weekend in which the community and firefighters came together to raise funds for one of our own fallen firefighters, Mike Pontius.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Each council member was provided the opportunity to publicly address significant items of interest. Reminders were given to citizens to vote tomorrow in the primary.

Alderman Bush asked about the Management Letter included in the Financial Audit for 2009. Director Joesten provided additional information regarding payments for the airport hangar leases and the division of personnel highlighted in the letter. Alderman Bush spoke about the Winter Parking and stated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward he feels it has been going well.

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Discussion was held regarding creation of a fund in which public agencies would need to apply to the City and would be in competition for the funds with other agencies. Currently the budget does not allow for this idea.

Alderman Helms requested if there has been any progress in writing an ordinance for placing fines on the Stephenson County Taxes and if any progress was made by State's Attorney. Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin stated she had received an email today from the State's Attorney with the comment that they are in the process of reviewing.

Mayor Gaulrapp stated there had been a meeting of the Airport Commission and the subcommittee presented amendments to the hangar leases. They are asking the commissioners to do their job and make recommendations to the council after the next Airport Commission meeting the end of February.

Diane Cominski of Savanna, Illinois, is looking for support of the RLA redevelopment in resolution form which will be brought forth in the next meeting.

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

Tom Teich spoke about the event at Aquin High School over the weekend. Alex Dvorak spoke about NHS and moving out on his own when he will be paying for his living expenses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

s/ Meg Zuravel  
Meg Zuravel, City Clerk