



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, August 2, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Freeport, Illinois, City Council was called to order by Mayor George Gaulrapp with a quorum being present at 6:00 pm on Monday, August 2, 2010, in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

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

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 Corbin. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderman Corbin moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 19, 2010, seconded by Alderman Helms. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Alderman Endress moved to approve the minutes of the Emergency Meeting for Flood Assessment held on July 24, 2010, seconded by Alderman Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

A presentation was given by the city administration as to the flood status and processes by each department. Fire Chief Kevin Countryman stated as of today, the Pecatonica River stands at 12.4 feet and Yellow Creek is below flood status.

At this time, Alderman Boldt entered council chambers bringing the number of alderman present to seven.

Over 900 Flood Damage Assessment Forms have been received by City Hall. Fire Chief Kevin Countryman stated the State of Illinois will be using the flood damage assessment forms to follow up with those affected by the flood. Clean-up kits are available at the American Red Cross, FACC, and the Salvation Army. Nonperishable food items are needed. Citizens who have flood damaged items may place them along the curbside for pickup by our Public Works Department and State of Illinois. During

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the flood, the Fire Department assisted with 40 voluntary evacuations and there were 16 emergency evacuations which totaled 56 evacuations assisted by the City.

Public Works Director Tom Dole stated all the streets are open with some streets still having pooling of storm water. Caution should be used to avoid splashing on to area properties. Street sweeping will begin when department workers have completed the curbside pick-up with the State of Illinois. The State of Illinois has sent three trucks and drivers to assist with the pick-up of flood debris. Yesterday, they picked up 26-30 loads. They are canvassing the City based on the plow routes and each street will be picked up at least once and some of the worst affected areas more than once.

Finance Director Craig Joesten reported that throughout the flood the drinking water in the City was safe to drink. The treatment plant has been processing over 18 million gallons of water per day and the system was built to have a capacity of 6 million gallons. The sanitary sewers are now receding. During the flood, a screen was damaged at the waste water treatment plant and additional damage incurred to the system was estimated to be \$1.4 million.

It was recommended by the administration that citizens complete the flood damage assessment form that is available by any staff members at City Hall and on the website. The city is gathering data to turn in to the State of Illinois and FEMA. It was noted that there were 25 homes destroyed throughout Stephenson County.

The City provided over 60 dumpsters strategically dispensed around the City accounting for the \$20,000 in emergency funds issued by the City Council at the special meeting held on July 26, 2010. So far, the cost of providing the dumpsters is \$120.00 over the budgeted \$20,000. Director Dole reported that the loads pick-up today would cost \$3,600 in tipping fees.

After the flood period is over, the emergency management team and the City administration will meet to re-assess the situation and look for methods to improve.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

John Gallagher, 27 N. Louis thanked the Fire Department for their response in handling the flood. He complained about the dumping at the end of the street and that it needs to stop because it has been going on for 20 to 30 years.

Pastor Lawanda, spoke on behalf of a resident who lives at 932 Jackson Street. This person is in need of people to help clear out the damage items from the flood. She was told to put the damaged items curbside and that volunteers are available through CONTACT.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- A. Approval to Receive and Place on File:
 - 1) Fire Department Report on Activities for June 2010
- B. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (#430 and 432) ---- \$298,544.15
- C. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending July 17, 2010 ---- \$385,617.43
- D. Approval of Finance Department Bills Payable (#429, 431, 433) ---- \$438,407.04

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Alderman Helms requested to have item D, Finance Department Bills Payable registers #429, 431, and 433 removed from the Consent Agenda items for discussion.

Alderman Helms moved to approve the consent agenda items all be item D, seconded by Alderman Endress. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Endress, Boldt, Helms, and DeVine (7)

Nays: None

Discussion was held regarding Consent Agenda Item D, Register List #431, payable to for vehicle repair in the amount of \$972.18. Deputy Chief Jeff Davis stated it was for repair of a squad car. Another item discussed as Register List #433 payable to Anne's Garden Center in the amount of \$2,600.00 in which Public Works Director Tom Dole stated it was for the rental and use of the tub grounder by the Public Works Department. Upon no further discussion, Alderman Helms moved to approve Consent Agenda item D, seconded by Alderman Endress. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Endress, Boldt, Helms, and DeVine (7)

Nays: None

The consent agenda items were approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (CLOSED SESSION)

The following was read into the record by the City Clerk, "An Executive Session will be held pursuant to 5 ILCS 120 (c) (11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of public body has been filed and is pending before a court and 5 ILCS 120 (c) (2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees."

At 6:37 pm, Alderman Endress moved to enter executive (closed) session, seconded by Alderman Helms. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Endress, Boldt, Helms, and DeVine (7)

Nays: None

At 7:39 pm, Alderman Endress moved to return from executive (closed) session, seconded by Alderman Klemm. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Endress, Boldt, Helms, and DeVine (7)

Nays: None

ORDINANCES - THIRD READING

There were no ordinances on council agenda for third reading this evening.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-43:

Ordinance for Variation, Permit or Amendment of Codified Ordinances of Freeport, Illinois – Type of Relief: Zoning Variance to allow an accessory building 18 ½ feet in height in an R7 (General

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Residence District) Zoning Classification; Owner or Applicant: Donald R. Veer; Property Located at 440 West Douglas Street, Freeport, IL

Mayor Gaulrapp stated the first reading of this ordinance was held on July 19, 2010. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Corbin, seconded by Alderman Endress and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Alderman Klemm stated he will be bringing forth information on the height of accessory buildings to the next meeting. Discussion was held regarding the public hearing transcription and it was requested that Community Development Director Shelly Griswold review the tape and provide additional information on the discussion held by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Upon no further discussion, the ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-45:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 290 (Compensation and Benefits) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport to Add Section 290.12 (Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Wage Freeze)

Mayor Gaulrapp stated the first reading of this ordinance was held on July 19, 2010. A motion to adopt was given by Alderman Helms, seconded by Alderman Endress and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE 2010-46:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 480, Section 480.11 (Prohibited Parking Streets) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport – W. Elk Street

The ordinance was presented by Public Works Director Tom Dole stating that there is a Water and Sewer lift station in the 300 block of West Elk and it became apparent during the flood that the workers needed to gain excess but there was a vehicle parked in front of the station. The no parking is requested on Elk (West), south side, 175' west of South Walnut. There is only one house that will be affected at 317 W. Elk. Alderman Helms moved to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Alderman Endress. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2010-53:

Resolution to Adopt City of Freeport Spending Plan for Fiscal Year 2010/2011

Finance Director Craig Joesten presented the resolution stating that this resolution was first presented to council on July 19, 2010 and it was laid over to this meeting. Since then, there has been clarification from the Freeport Police Department as to their budget numbers and the union negotiation of the Police union agreement. They will have a deficit of \$74,000 which will be offset by attrition and retirement. This is the suggested spending plan budget by the administration for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 and for possible contingencies for unforeseen expenses. This is an amended spending plan for the budgeted amount minus the salary actions that have already been implemented. Contained in this budget are schedules A and B which are the authorizations given by the City Council to the Finance Director for various contingencies that were originally listed in the appropriation ordinance that may be moved forward for use should the need arise. Discussion was held regarding funding for the flood. All the \$20,000 in emergency funding has been spent on dumpsters throughout the City for flood damaged items. The administration is recommending a wage freeze of non-bargaining employees reverting to a May 1, 2008 plus the

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elimination of the 3% salary increase that was originally included in the appropriation ordinance. In addition, it is recommended that PEHP be deferred for the period on May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011 (1% of salary). It is recommended that an addition 3.5% be reduced from the non-bargaining budget through management techniques including layoff/furlough days and attrition. The result of these actions puts the non-bargaining employees in a slightly less favorable position than the Police Union and equates to a total reduction of 7.5% in payroll/compensation (10% pro-rated beginning with the next payroll). The Fire Union is still in negotiations. Alderman Helms moved to layover the resolution to the second meeting in September, seconded by Alderman Endress.

Yeas: Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Endress, Boldt, Helms, and DeVine (7)

Nays: None

The resolution was laid over to the second meeting in September.

OTHER

Community Development

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold thanked the city hall staff members for their assistance in helping citizens calling with concerns and filing flood damage assessment forms throughout last week. It was a stressful time period for staff members who had more than 900 forms turned in. Special thanks were given to Michelle Countryman who volunteered to help people complete their forms.

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold requested that the council temporarily waive building permit fees for flood recovery work. Alderman Klemm moved to temporarily waive building permit fees, seconded by Alderman Corbin. It was clarified that the waiver of building permits was only for flood recovery work. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Endress, Boldt, Helms, and DeVine (7)

Nays: None

Finance

Finance Director Craig Joesten provided an update as to the money owed by the State of Illinois. On July 30, 2010 a check was received for \$130,000 and the State is still four months behind in payments owing the City \$800,000.

Public Works

Public Works Director Tom Dole stated that Gladewood Bridge is closed and will not be open until after a bridge inspection has been performed. Alderman Corbin requested information pertaining to Albertus Airport. The amended hangar leases were mailed last Wednesday and only a few have been signed and returned. A portion of Darrel Janssen's bonus has been paid and he has requested the remainder which may take an independent audit. Alderman Corbin requested a five year business plan of the airport.

City Engineer

City Engineer Denise Ihrig spoke in regard to an Illinois Enhancement Program grant which will need council approval before it is applied and the resolution will be on the next council agenda.

Police

Deputy Chief of Police Jeff Davis thanked the off-duty and auxiliary police for their assistance with flood victims and traffic control.

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Fire

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman thanked the police department and auxiliary for their assistance during the flood. The fire departments are collecting items for the Back to School backpacks. The city was a first responder at the Mount Carroll grain elevator with eight members of the tech rescue assisting in the rescue. Chief Countryman provided the status of Fire Station #3 due to the recent flooding that affected the station. The carpet and wet articles have been removed. A local mitigation company had their bid accepted and they are busy treating and drying out the station for a cost of \$16,000. The replacement of the drywall would cost another \$50,000 and the fire department has been working on alternative plans.

Library

Library Director Carole Dickerson was present at the meeting and had no further report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gaulrapp thanked the staff at city hall, the public safety personnel and public works for their dedication during the flood. The website has been updated with press releases so citizens can review up-to-date information. The staff has been in contact with FEMA and is hopeful their assistance will come through. Flood Damage Assessment Forms need to be completed and are available at City Hall, by calling 815-235-8200, or by downloading the form from the website.

NEW BUSINESS

Each council member was provided the opportunity to publicly address significant items of interest. Alderman Bush requested school supplies for the back to school back-pack program. An event will be held at the Martin Luther King Center on August 6. Leon Ishmon competed in Californian junior Olympics and did not place but had a once in a lifetime moment.

Alderman Boldt spoke about a furniture drive which will be held on August 14 and 15, 2010. Distribution of the collected items will be for flood victims who have completed the flood damage assessment forms and will be held on August 21 and 22, 2010. Volunteers are requested to help carry items from trucks and the auxiliary police to assist with traffic control.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Agenda or Non-Agenda Items (limited to 3 minutes per person)

- Tom Teich asked Director Griswold about a new restaurant coming across from Aquin High School.
- Windy Pearson, 711 S. Carroll, thanked Freeport Area Church Cooperative for their assistance with flood victims. She had a listing of disabled seniors, disabled people, and additional houses which requested help. Donations of boots, gloves and face masks are needed. She voiced her concern on the closing of Hancock Street Bridge because it was an exit point for flood victims.
- Isabell Park, 906 S. State Street, spoke about her concerns with the people loitering at State and Galena Avenue. She requested assistance to enforce the curfew laws to get younger kids off the streets. She also suggested that installing a street light at that corner.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk