



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, December 6, 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 p.m. on Monday, December 6, 2010, in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were council members Tom Klemm, Ronnie Bush, Dennis Endress, Shawn Boldt, Scott Helms, Jennie DeVine and Randy Corbin (7). Linda O'Neill was absent. Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson Klemm. The Star Spangled Banner was song by David Wubben.

PUBLIC HEARING

The following notice was published in the Journal Standard on November 24, 2010, emailed to media notice listing on November 30, 2010, included as notice of public hearing on the council agenda posted on December 2, 2010 and read into the record on December 6, 2010.

A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson, State of Illinois for fiscal year beginning on May 1, 2010 and ending on April 30, 2011 will be held on December 6, 2010 at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers, City Hall, 230 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, Illinois. Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Meg Zuravel, City Clerk, 230 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, Illinois or phone 815-235-8203

- The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2009 were \$2,563,403.
- The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2010 are \$3,140,954. This represents a 22.53% increase over the previous year.
- The property taxes extended for debt service & public building commission leases for 2009 were \$0.
- The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service & public building commission leases for 2010 are \$0. This represents a 0% change over the previous year.
- The total property taxes extended or abated for 2009 were \$2,563,403.
- The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2010 are \$3,140,954. This represents a 22.53% increase over the previous year.

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Attendees signed attendance sheets at the public hearing and speakers were provided sheets for which they signed in to speak at the public hearing.

At 6:05 p.m., Alderperson Klemm moved to open the public hearing on the proposed tax levy increase for the City of Freeport, seconded by Alderperson Endress. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Signed in to speak during the public hearing were the following:

- Richard Knox was signed in on the sheet and did not attend the meeting.
- Roger Kerr, 148 Whistler, Freeport, Illinois spoke on behalf of the Realtor Association of Northwestern Illinois and spoke against the proposed tax levy stating that it would hit an already hard hit real estate market, continue to devalue property, and give unintended consequences from tax hikes making it hard for people to afford their mortgage and property taxes. He stated that this is the wrong tax at the wrong time.
- Bill Dietz, 13416 W. Pin Hook Road, Lena Illinois, spoke as a landlord of five properties in Freeport and against the proposed tax levy. Mr. Dietz spoke against building inspectors, SLANT police breaking down doors and stop work orders for fixing roof on properties. He stated we have a chance in Stephenson County to make a difference or we are going to fire you all and start over. He asked the council to think real hard and before you do it with this increase and there are places where you can cut.
- Nickee Bender, 542 N Hunt, Freeport, Illinois, spoke stating she had twenty-four years of experience on council and she knows how hard it is to make these decisions but this property tax is a no-brainer. Ms. Bender stated let's start at City Hall when we had a population of 26,000 and we never had an in-house attorney, an assistant, an extracurricular assignment department nor did we have two grant writers and the City ran just fine. At the Salvation Army we have 590 new families asking for groceries.
- Barbara Burns, 710 E. Garden Street, Freeport, Illinois, spoke asking the council to reconsider the property tax levy of 22% with an actual 2% impact on property taxes. She stated that property taxes are hurting a lot of people with the unemployment at 11% and Titan Tire situation is very tenuous. She stated we learn to live within our means, so she asked council to do the same.
- Richard Kort, 1229 S. Blackhawk Avenue, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the sales tax increase and the property tax increase. He stated that taxing people is not working and projected tax auctions and foreclosures.
- Walter Maass, 2671 Cherokee Court, Freeport, Illinois, spoke in opposition to the proposed increase in the property tax assessment. He asked the City to look at efficiencies and combine departments. He referred to the city planning cost of \$90,000 and legal fees of \$27,000 due to the library problem when there is a counsel on our payroll. He stated that the airport for hobby fliers should be closed or sold. Due to the slow economy, there should be things done to conserve expenses, reduce department management and combine department operations. He suggested that if the state owes the city money, it should be deducted from what is mandated for the City pensions.
- Bernie Mrujala, 1310 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois, requested that the City annual report include an organizational chart with the first level being citizens. He stated that he felt business is being driven out of town by over a \$50,000 issue not the tax levy. He quoted employment figures from the NIDA website. He stated that the City pensions are funded by about 50 people in the police and fire department and 33 people are being paid by the pension, nearly a one to one

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relationship. We need to find solutions to bring business here to export products out. The 22% will not cut it and the percentage that the school district is asking will not cut it.

- Blair Senneff, 2165 Middle Court, Freeport, Illinois, spoke as a member of the fire department and the pension board that pension boards are under strict laws to be very responsible for what is done with the pensions. Currently, the Fire Department supports 57 retirees that make an average of \$2,700 per month. Those firefighters pay for their own insurance and they also pay taxes. Our retirees are not getting rich. There is a myth that our pensions are making us rich, in Freeport there is no firefighter is making \$100,000 retired or \$200,000 working. He stated that he does not want to see a tax increase but on behalf of the pensions, the pensions are a good thing. Imagine the hard times we are going through right now if no one was collecting a pension. Without the pension, those 57 people would not be making their house payments, not going out to eat, not supporting the local economy so pensions do have their purpose. Mr. Senneff stated he takes pride in knowing that in hard times and in good that we have do very well with our pension funds. Firefighters contribute 9.5% of their salary into their pensions. A firefighter usually works 35 to 30 years and that is equivalent to 10 years of living in the fire station. When it comes to fighting a fire, experience means everything.
- Brad Grant, 1276 W. Stover, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the tax increase stating that it is very easy to raise taxes but it takes guts to make cuts. Mr. Grant stated There are lots of opportunities to cut costs including outsourcing street department jobs including painting lines on the road, tree cutting. He stated the city should look into a volunteer ambulance company. No more fire trucks going out with an ambulance. He stated that we need to cut costs and pensions because for a lot of businesses that is what they are doing, cutting pensions.
- John Pollock, 1262 American, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the property tax increase on the back of property owner. There are people on social security that need to make decisions as to whether to spend money on food or medicine and many people can not afford a tax increase. He stated the 22.5% increase is unrealistic, unfair, unjust, and un-Godly.

Mayor George Gaulrapp thanked the people for their comments and stated that the 22.5% increase was what we talked about last year and it was to be 10% last year and 10% this year. Last year, our rate was 0%. It did not increase, it decrease. Some of the things mentioned tonight we do have one grant writer at City Hall and that grant writer's position is paid for by the administration cost through the grants received as well as portions of two other people's salaries. The grant writer's salary does not cost money from the general fund. The was a \$90,000 study done last year and that did not come out of the general fund it came out of economic development line item which came out of developers contributing to that line item. Mayor Gaulrapp stated we have not given pay raises, I took a 10%, city council took 10%, city clerk took 10% and the city treasurer took 7.5% and the rest of the department head took between 6% and 7.5%. We saved a half million dollars last year. Mayor Gaulrapp asked the public to tell us what services you want provided to you. Do you want your home protected by the police department and the fire department? Do you want your streets maintained by the street department? Do you want your infrastructure maintain by the water department? We need to take care of our infrastructure to attract businesses. Mayor Gaulrapp requested people to contact his office over the next two weeks and provide suggestions.

The council was provided the opportunity to make their comments. At 6:42 p.m., Alderperson Endress moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Alderperson Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Aldersperson Endress moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Aldersperson Endress moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 15, 2010, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Aldersperson Corbin motioned that confidential treatment is not required for the second, third, and fourth paragraphs, and first sentence of the fifth paragraph of Subject Matter #1 of the August 2, 2010, Executive Session minutes and that such portions should be made available for public inspection. This motion was seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were presented in the council packet for the Consent Agenda this evening;

A. Approval to receive and place on file:

- 1) Police Department Report on Activities through October 2010
- B. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (Registers #477) --- \$64,674.59
- C. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending November 20, 2010 --- \$398,926.62
- D. Approval of Finance Department Bills Payable (Registers #474, 475, 476, 478, 480) --- \$580,086.21

Aldersperson Helms motioned to remove of Consent Agenda Item D for discussion, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent. Discussion was held regarding Item D. Register #475 Finance Department Bills Payable. Aldersperson Helms requested information on the engineering categories able to be performed by Denise Ihrig and it was stated that she can not perform the services for the aeronautical engineering or landfill engineering, which are outside her area of expertise. The bill for Hinshaw Culbertson was an employment issue. Discussion was held regarding the bill payable for Northern Illinois Service an expense paid for the road at the landfill. Discussion was held regarding item on #478 for Fehr-Graham & Associates landfill closure expenses.

Aldersperson Helms moved to approve the Consent Agenda items, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. Motion prevailed by roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

Aldersperson Helms moved to approve the Consent agenda item D, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. Motion prevailed by roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

The consent agenda items were approved.

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COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

Included in the council packet and read into the record were the titles for:

- A. City of Freeport Holiday Schedule for Calendar Year 2011
- B. Regular Meetings of the Freeport City Council for Calendar Year 2011
- C. Memorandum dated December 1, 2010, from Duane Price, Finance Department regarding six months financial results for the City of Freeport

Aldersperson Klemm moved to place the above items on record, seconded by Aldersperson Endress.

Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

The final item was presented, Item D. Memorandum dated December 3, 2010, from Linda Buss, City Treasurer and Treasurer for Freeport Police and Fire Pension Fund regarding required reporting to municipality by the Freeport Police Pension Fund and the Freeport Fire Pension Fund as of April 30, 2010 Fiscal Year End.

Aldersperson Klemm moved to place the Police Pension Fund Required Reporting to Municipality by the Freeport Police Pension Fund as of April 30, 2010 Fiscal Year End on the record, seconded by Aldersperson Endress. Motion prevailed by roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

Aldersperson Klemm moved to place the Fire Pension Fund Required Reporting to Municipality by the Freeport Fire Pension Fund as of April 30, 2010 Fiscal Year End on the record, seconded by Aldersperson Endress. Motion prevailed by roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

Aldersperson Helms requested that the publication of these reports be added to the City website.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor George Gaulrapp requested approval of the appointment of Nicole Bauer to the Freeport Library Board of Trustees effective immediately through May 31, 2013. Aldersperson Corbin moved to accept the appointment as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Mayor Gaulrapp requested approval of the appointment of Sally Hoak to the Housing Authority Board effective immediately through October 31, 2015. Aldersperson Helms moved to accept the appointment as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Corbin. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Mayor Gaulrapp requested approval of the appointment of Connie Witte to the Historic Preservation Commission effective immediately. Aldersperson Endress moved to accept the appointment as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

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ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2010-50:

An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2010, and Ending April 30, 2011 for the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson, and State of Illinois – Mayor George Gaulrapp stated the first reading was held on November 15, 2010. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Corbin, seconded by Alderperson Klemm. The proposed levy and assessment of taxes for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2010 and ending April 30, 2011 is on council floor as follows:

	2011/2010 Tax Levy	2010/2009 Tax Levy	Increase (Decrease)	Percent Change
Firefighters Pension	\$965,806	\$722,392	\$243,414	+33.70%
Police Pension	937,272	906,618	30,654	3.38%
IMRF	240,000	212,000	28,000	13.21%
Corporate Fund	997,876	722,393	275,483	38.13%
	\$3,140,954	\$2,563,403	\$577,551	22.53%

Upon the second reading held this evening, discussion was led by Mayor George Gaulrapp proposing that the City consider reducing the tax levy. He suggested that instead of the proposed 25.53% increase in the tax levy, the council should consider a proposed increase of 11.8%. With the 11.8% tax levy every city employee would necessitate the equivalent of a 6% reduction to wages. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that with all union contracts up for negotiation, we can't say this is how the cuts will happen. This would be a responsible proposed tax levy to the taxpayers in order to be able to provide for services that they expect.

Alderperson Klemm spoke about a meeting point for the tax levy. He stated that the Alderpersons are charged with running a \$16 million dollar business. Before we take a reduction in the tax levy we should look to see if there are other options. He asked people to look at their property tax bills. Alderperson Klemm provided an example in which on a \$5,000.00 tax bill in the City of Freeport received less than \$500 to:

- Provide a full time Fire Department
- Provide a full time Police Department
- Provide a full time Ambulance Service
- Provide & try to maintain over 220 miles of roads (This also includes plowing)
- Maintain a City Cemetery
- Provide a fully staffed City Hall for your needs
- Provide mowing for all the delinquent properties in Freeport
- Provide a hearing officer to try and over see complaints on properties
- Provide City Water & Sewer for every house in Freeport
- Provide a city sewage plant
- Maintain a closed land fill (thousands of dollars yearly and growing)
- Provide leaf pick-up & disposal
- Provide a transportation service
- Provide a Community Development Department that deals with building issues, complaints, concerns and helps bring in new business. This department, along with obtaining grants in the

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amount of \$2.4 Million or more, last year obtained grants for home repair, for needy, elderly, and physically and mentally challenged individuals.

- Provide a nuisance inspector
- Provide a dog catcher
- Maintain (3) fire stations and (1) police department building and seven other buildings.
- Pay all the bills for an “abandoned” library since 2003, which has cost over \$18,000 in legal fees, compliments of one gentleman. It has also cost (2) boilers and has mold mildew and is not legally handicap accessible for people. But in people’s minds it’s worth a fortune.
- Provide enough personnel to meet every mandated unfunded state requirement
- Provide property for an Art Center and associated agencies in a building.

Aldersperson Klemm stated the city budget is over 87% to 89% personnel; this includes pensions for Fire, Police, and AFSCME workers which are mandated by the State of Illinois. Most of the pensions are mandated by the State of Illinois.

Aldersperson Helms stated that if the City was home rule, we would be forced to take a look at the cuts and requested that administration take a look at what other municipalities are doing.

Mayor George Gaulrapp stated there is \$80 billion in arrears to the pension program throughout the state. Mayor Gaulrapp had a 90 minute conversation today with Representative Jim Sacia and county representatives to talk about the pension programs. On January 26, 2011, the City will be holding a Financial Summit for municipalities to come together to discuss with mayors and city managers what they have experienced, what works, and alternatives to get through these tough economic times. Ninety minutes of this summit will be dedicated to what the State of Illinois is doing.

Mayor George Gaulrapp requested citizen input. He stated we have cut and cut and cut. Now we need you to tell us what services you can do without.

Aldersperson Corbin commended the city and the administration for what they have done to get the city through these times but it isn’t working especially with the union negotiation coming up next year, pension going up, and we keep sinking and sinking. The only way to is to make cuts either in the administration or, in services Aldersperson Corbin stated the cancer is in the continually growing salaries and pensions. Mayor Gaulrapp requested Aldersperson Corbin to present his suggested cuts by the next council meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the age of retirement and that the pensions need to be reformed due to the life expectancy as it is today versus what it was in the past.

Mayor Gaulrapp requested people to come forth with suggestion on what they are willing to take a cut in services. Discussion was held whether further layoffs will be necessary, outsourcing, and closing City Hall for certain days of the week. Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin stated that the tax levy is written in dollar amounts and if there are any changes to the overall percentage a different ordinance will need to be written which accounts for twelve pages of numbers. Mayor Gaulrapp challenged people to pull out their last five tax bills and look at what the City of Freeport’s portion that is paid and many times it is equal to

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or less than the year before because of the assessed valuation. Because the school district has requested a ¼ to ½% increase which would account for a 3% reduction to assessed values.

Upon no further discussion, Ordinance #2010-50 was automatically laid over to the next meeting on December 20, 2010.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2010-51:

An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2010, and Ending April 30, 2011 for the Public Library of the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson, and State of Illinois

Mayor Gaulrapp stated the first reading of this ordinance was held on November 15, 2010 with a motion to adopt given by Alderperson Endress, seconded by Alderperson Klemm. The ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the second reading, Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson was called to the podium and asked if a wage increase is projected for library employees. Director Dickerson stated that the board has not presented non-bargaining adjustments. Director Dickerson stated in an effort to cut budget that the library did not fill a programming library aid position and changed an administrative assistant position to a part-time. Upon no further discussion, the ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2010-52:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 893 (Motor Fuel Tax) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport

Mayor Gaulrapp stated the first reading was held on November 15, 2010. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Endress, seconded by Alderperson Klemm and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the second reading, discussion was held regarding the date the money would be needed for the purchase of the vehicle and the purposes requested. It was stated that there are vehicles in the Community Development Department that continue to be fixed and eventually they will need to be replaced but currently they are still running. The plow for the airport has already been purchased in preparation for winter. Upon no further discussion, the ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2010-53:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1242 (Administration, Enforcement and Penalty), Section 1242.01 (Building and Demolition Permits) to Amend Title of Building Code; Section 1242.06 (Variances) to Repeal and Replace the Standards for Granting Variances; Section 1242.07 (Special Permits) to Repeal and Replace the Standards for Granting Special Permits; Section 1242.09 (Standards for Granting Applications) to Repeal the Section; Section 1242.11 (Expiration of Authorization) to Delete Language Referring to the Community Development Committee; Section 1242.12 (Variations, Permits, Planned Developments and Amendments) to Amend Application and Notice Requirements

Mayor Gaulrapp stated that the first reading was held on November 15, 2010. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Klemm, seconded by Alderperson Corbin and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the second reading of the ordinance, discussion was held regarding the type of material that will be required for the signage to notice a public hearing on the property, the number of notices that will need to be mailed within 250 feet of the property, and whether it will be required for the

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applicant to mail notice via certified mail or if standard mail will suffice. It was recommended that Community Development Director Shelly Griswold remove the certified mail requirement and bring the ordinance back to the next meeting as amended. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

ORDINANCES –FIRST READING

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2011-01:

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 806 (Alcoholic Liquor Sales), Section 806.13 “Transfer of Licenses” of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Freeport

Mayor Gaulrapp copies were provided to council with wording that the definition of child was corrected in this ordinance to immediate family member shall mean a spouse, parent, sibling, or child by blood, adoption, or marriage. Mayor Gaulrapp stated the ordinance was recommended to the Freeport City Council by the Liquor Commission in their meeting held on November 10, 2010. Through this amendment, it would allow a license to transfer to an immediate family member of the licensee when held by an individual, provided the licensee and the transferee make formal joint application to the liquor commission and the transferee is otherwise eligible. Wording was also added to allow a transfer upon the death of an individual license holder if formal application is made within six months after the death and the transferee is otherwise eligible. For each of these transfers a \$100 transfer fee would apply but the \$10,000 initial fee would not apply.

Aldersperson Klemm motioned to move forward the ordinance as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Endress. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2010-80:

Resolution Authorizing Vehicles Lease Agreement Between the City of Freeport and Pretzel City Transit, LLC – Vehicle 11 and Vehicle 12

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated that the City has been granted two 12 passenger handicap accessible transit vehicles and they were 100% grant funded and they will become part of the Pretzel City transit fleet and this resolution provide for their use. They will be \$100 per year to the City and Pretzel City Transit pays for the insurance and operate them on our behalf for the transportation program. Aldersperson Klemm moved to place the Resolution #R-2010-80 on the floor for approval, seconded by Aldersperson Helms. Motion prevailed by roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

OTHER

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Community Development

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated there will be Board of Zoning Appeals and a Planning Commission meeting this Thursday.

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Finance

Finance Director Craig Joesten presented his recommendation for the City Property and Casualty Insurance because it is due for renewal effective January 1, 2011. Finance Director Craig Joesten stated that his recommendation is to renew the IMLRMA with their fixed cost program with an annual premium of \$745,975. All coverage under this program will remain the same as the expiring program.

While Director Joesten recommended the IMLRMA fixed cost program, another firm was present at the meeting to present another option under Self Insured (SIR). Director Joesten explained that the self-insured program is where the risk is transferred to the insured subject to excess limits where the insurance company would respond. The cost for the Gallagher Bassett SIR would be \$428,000 to the City and the City would pay all the worker's compensation claims up to \$400,000 each occurrence and have a \$1.9 million total aggregate over a two year period.

Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services Inc. representative Tyler LaMantia presented their options to the City. He spoke about the issues facing the City including security of carriers/rating, adverse selection, loss control, claims management and cash flow. Gallagher Bassett risk control has resources available to assist with training for various city functions.

Discussion was held regarding the two options for the City Property and Casualty insurance in particular the worker's compensation portion of the insurance, the claim history and the City being placed on a watch list due to claim history.

Director Joesten recommended the IMLRMA fixed cost program at a cost of \$745,000. With the IML the City would pay \$745,000 up front versus \$428,000 with Gallagher. However with the self insured, for each occurrence the city could pay the workers comp claim costs up to \$400,000 each occurrence.

The council recommended that this item be continued at a special meeting and provided suggested dates to the Mayor George Gaulrapp. Discussion was held to have special meeting on Thursday, December 9, 2010 which would be based on council schedules. There were was no final action taken on this item.

Public Works

Public Works Director Tom Dole stated the leaf pick-up was at 514 loads and cost 2,000 in hours. He provided a written report of 2010 hot mix patching locations. There were 296 locations in need of repair and this year 134 locations on the list along with several others were added along the way. Each year it is budgeted to use 1,000 ton of hot mix but in the past two years only 500—600 ton have been able to be placed. This year the department placed 595.35 ton for general maintenance and over 100 ton for the water and sewer service cuts (of which they paid for). status of the leaf pickup in the City and provided an update of the Stephenson Street sidewalk removal which is being performed by the department in conjunction with Water and Sewer Department work in the same area.

Water and Sewer/City Engineer

City Engineer Denise Ihrig stated she will provide a report of activities in the next council packet.

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Police

Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore was present and had no further report.

Fire

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman was present and had no further report.

Library

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gaulrapp stated that although we had a public hearing on the tax levy he needs to hear solutions. People are urged to come forth with solutions by calling, stopping in the mayor's office, leaving a message on voice mail, or by email.

NEW BUSINESS

Each council member was provided the opportunity to publicly address significant items of interest. Alderperson Boldt stated the gas line referred to at the last previous council meetings has been covered and will be capped next spring.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bernie Mrujala, 1310 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois spoke about the insurance decision facing the council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (CLOSED SESSION)

The following was read into the record by the City Clerk, "An Executive Session will be held pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120 (c) (11) Pending Litigation.

At 9:07 pm, Alderperson Boldt motioned to enter executive (closed) session, seconded by Alderperson Klemm. Motion prevailed by roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

At 9:24 pm, Alderperson Klemm made a motion to return from executive (closed) session, seconded by Alderperson Endress. Motion prevailed by roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk