



## **City Council**

City Council Chambers ♦ 524 West Stephenson Street ♦ Freeport, IL 61032

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### **MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING Monday, April 14, 2014**

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#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Freeport, Illinois, City Council was called to order in council chambers by Mayor James L. Gitz with a quorum being present at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2014.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present on roll call: Mayor Gitz and council members Tom Klemm, Shawn Boldt, Ronnie Bush, Jennie DeVine, Sally Brashaw, Michael Koester and Andrew Crutchfield (7). Alderperson Endress was absent upon roll call (*see below for entrance at 5:47 pm*). Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin was present.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson DeVine.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson spoke about an upcoming event sponsored by the Lincoln Douglas Society local chapter to host a bus trip to attend a conference featuring Freeport's own Lincoln and Douglas portrayed by George Buss and Tim Connors. She encouraged attendance to the event on April 26, 2014 at Xavier University.

Alderperson Endress entered council chambers at 5:47 pm bringing the number of council members present to eight.

#### **ACCEPTANCE OF AN APPOINTMENT OF JAMES BROWN AS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AT GRADE 24, STEP 2 – [view appt](#)**

The council was provided the following memorandum from Mayor James L. Gitz dated April 14, 2014: "Pursuant to Section 288.04 (a) I, James L. Gitz, hereby appoint James Brown as Community Development Director at a grade 24, step 2. This appointment shall be effective April 21, 2014." Mayor Gitz presented the appointment of James Brown then introduced him to the council members. Jim Brown spoke about his background and stated that he is originally from Freeport and was in the United States Army for twenty years beginning in 1981 and brings with him experience as the Community Development Director of Lemont Illinois. Mr. Brown stated the lure of the Pretzel City is strong and he is pleased to take on the responsibility that comes with the Community Development Director of the City of Freeport.

Alderperson Klemm moved for approval of the appointment of James Brown as Community Development Director, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw. The motion prevailed by a roll call of;

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Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester and Crutchfield (8)  
Nays: none

**RESOLUTION #-2014-25:**

**RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR'S RECONSIDERATION OF IMPROVED PASSENGER  
RAIL SERVICE FOR NORTHERN ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, passenger rail service is an integral part of a comprehensive transportation system for the State of Illinois and continuing west; and

WHEREAS, on July 5, 2006, Corporate Authorities of the City of Freeport passed Resolution 2006-52 supporting the creation of a comprehensive passenger rail system to serve the State of Illinois, with its ultimate objective to further economic development opportunities, the potential for increased commuter population, assist the public with high energy/gasoline prices, help preserve the environment, improve the quality of life and enhance public health, safety and welfare for all citizens, communities and regions, specifically reinstating roundtrip passenger train service from Chicago, Illinois through O'Hare International Airport, Rockford, Freeport, Galena, Illinois, Dubuque, Iowa and points west; and

WHEREAS, in recent months, the Illinois Department of Transportation and Canadian National Railway have been unable to agree on the terms and conditions of extending Amtrak service over the Railroad's property from Rockford to Dubuque with the result that Amtrak service through Freeport is now an unresolved issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that the City of Freeport does hereby urge the State of Illinois' continued negotiations with the Canadian National Railway for expanded passenger rail service to Freeport, Galena and points west.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Freeport hereby expresses its appreciation to Governor Quinn and the State of Illinois for bringing Amtrak service to Rockford and acknowledging that Amtrak service west of Rockford remains an open issue pending resolution of the property negotiations with Canadian National Railway.

Mayor Gitz presented the resolution by stated that he shares this resolution due to the recent announcement by Governor Quinn of the expansion of the passenger rail service in 2015 to Rockford Illinois. He stated there are issues that remain with Canadian National Railroad and the Illinois Department of Transportation. He would like to encourage immediate urgency in resuming negotiations with Canadian National Railway in an effort to bring passenger rail to Freeport, Galena, and as far west as Dubuque, Illinois.

Aldersperson Bush moved for approval of Resolution #2014-25 as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Brashaw. The motion prevailed by a roll call of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester and Crutchfield (8)  
Nays: none

Resolution #R-2014-25 was approved.

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

There were no public comments at this time.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk