



City Council

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

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING Monday, April 28, 2014

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 28, 2014.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call: Mayor Gitz and council members Tom Klemm, Shawn Boldt, Ronnie Bush, Dennis Endress, Sally Brashaw, and Andrew Crutchfield (6). Alderperson DeVine and Koester were absent upon roll call (*see below for entrance at 5:52 pm*). Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson Endress.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

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

RECOGNITION OF “FREEPORT IN ACTION”

Mark Diddens was the spokesperson for “Freeport In Action” and he introduced the group of volunteers present at the meeting. Mark Diddens stated he along with Bob Nickels and Kathy Knodle joined together back in February to come up with ways to help improve Freeport and one of the ways they came up with was a spring cleaning of the downtown area. They worked together to organize the clean-up on April 19th and had the assistance of 60-70 volunteers who collected 16,000 pounds of sand/dirt/debris. The “Freeport In Action” group is planning on working on various projects and will have future opportunities for volunteers to come on board. They have plans for hanging baskets on downtown light poles, weeding program, and more clean-ups around the City. Mayor Gitz and council members were provided the opportunity to extend their appreciation to “Freeport In Action”.

Alderperson Koester entered council chambers at 5:52 p.m. bringing the number of members present to seven (7).

RECOGNITION OF “MAKING A DIFFERENCE” MEN

Terry Steenrod and Denny Garkey were the spokespersons for “MADmen” – “Making a Difference” a local group of citizens set out to make things better. They updated the council on the projects they have worked on since forming three years ago including cleaning up the Carnegie Library property, removing debris from the corridors, trimming brush at the Van Buren Street Bridge in preparation for the Jane Addams Trail, assisting with repairs at the Amity playground, and seasonal changes at Amity’s Attic. Last Wednesday, the “Madmen” along with members of Highland Community College’s choir worked on cleaning the corridors including Route 20 (Galena Avenue) and Illinois 26 (West Avenue). Mayor Gitz

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, April 28, 2014

and council members were provided the opportunity to extend their appreciation to “Making A Difference” Men.

Mayor Gitz spoke about addressing issues of illegal dumping a looking for ways for a depository for brush and yard waste.

Mayor Gitz requested leave of council to move forward on council agenda the item for the Electrical Service due to a consultant being present.

RATIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR CITY OWNED STREET LIGHTS – [view doc](#)

Accountant Duane Price presented a letter dated April 24, 2014 in regard to Street Lights Electricity. The memorandum stated the following;

“The contract with Homefield Energy for electricity for the street lights will lock in our per kilowatt cost at 3.925 cents. When trying to determine potential savings there are a few things that has to be understood:

1) Our current rate with Commonwealth Edison varies from month to month. In the winter months the cost per kilowatt goes up and in the summer it goes down. In the last 3 months, the cost per kilowatt was between 4.9 cents and 5.7 cents. However last May the cost we paid Commonwealth Edison was 2.7 cents. Because our rate with Homefield is locked in at 3.925 cents, there will be times when we save money and other times when we might pay more. However, since all electrical supply rates are headed upward, the future Commonwealth Edison rates are unlikely to be below the aggregation rate very often.

2) The cost of the electricity on our monthly bill averages 27% of the total bill. On our March bill, the cost of the electricity was \$8,000, the delivery cost was \$12,000 and tax was \$1,000. The cost of the electricity is the only part of the bill which is affected by the cost per kilowatt hour.

I looked at some of the electric bills for the last year and if we had locked in our rate at 3.925 cents we would have saved \$1,800 in March, \$2,500 in February and \$1,700 in January. Mike Mudge feels that there will be great volatility in the rates going forward for the next couple years and that the off-peak months, summer, will see higher rates than what we saw the last few years. He feels that by locking in our rate and avoiding the volatility of future rates the City will save money in the long run.”

Mayor Gitz explained that the paperwork had been executed for the offer to the City of Freeport for street lighting by Illinois Power Marketing Company d/b/a Home field Energy representing a price for the customer’s full requirement retail power needs which was offered to the City on April 23, 2014 at a rate of 3.925 beginning on May 2014 with the term ending May 2017. Alderperson Boldt made a motion for Ratification of electrical service agreement for city owned street lights, seconded by Alderperson Koester. Mayor Gitz explained that this would be effective May 1, 2014 and the City would be locking in electrical costs at a fixed rate. The motion prevailed by a roll call of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, Endress, Brashaw, Koester and Crutchfield (7)

Nays: none

Mike Mudge of Rock River Energy Services Company provided an update on the electrical aggregation rates and forecast that the aggregation rate will need to be increased beginning in August. At this time the

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, April 28, 2014

numbers are around 7.38 cents per kilowatt and currently the City's aggregation rate is 4.76 cents per kilowatt.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-18:

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF LEASE FOR PROPERTY TO BE UTILIZED FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES (JANE ADDAMS TRAIL), PIN NO. 07-14-19-300-009, LANCASTER TOWNSHIP, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

City Engineer Gallagher presented the following ordinance for what he thought would be an easement with Commonwealth Edison and now he has been asked to present it to the council as a lease. He explained the terms of the lease with Commonwealth Edison for a certain tract of land described as the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, in Township 27 North, Range 8 East, of the third principal meridian located in Stephenson County, Lancaster Township, Illinois with a Permanent Index Number 07-14-19-300-009 and stated it would be acquired through a twenty (20) year recreational lease with Commonwealth Edison Company for the purposes of the Jane Addams Trail. This lease will have a fee of \$1.00 per year for twenty years. City Engineer Gallagher stated he needs this lease in order to move forward with the bid letting of the Jane Addams Trail project.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 5/2-2-12 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/2-2-12), the City of Freeport, Illinois, a unit of local government of the State of Illinois, may acquire and hold real property for corporate purposes, and may authorize an officer to accept deeds or grants of interest in real property offered to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Freeport has determined that a certain tract of land further described as the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, in Township 27 North, Range 8 East, of the third principal meridian located in Stephenson County, Lancaster Township, Illinois with a Permanent Index Number 07-14-19-300-009, should be acquired through a twenty (20) year recreational lease with Commonwealth Edison Company for the purposes of the Jane Addams Trail; and

WHEREAS, this Council has determined that acquisition of such property through said lease would be in the best interest of the City of Freeport.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS as follows:

Section 1. The City Council hereby finds and determines that the representations contained in the preamble of this Ordinance are true and correct, and hereby incorporates them by reference as if fully set forth at this place.

Section 2. The Mayor of the City of Freeport is hereby authorized to enter into a Recreational Lease for the property described as, the Southwest Quarter of Section 19, in Township 27 North, Range 8 East, of the third principal meridian located in Stephenson County, Lancaster Township, Illinois, PIN No. 07-14-19-300-009, located in Lancaster Township, Stephenson County, Illinois.

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, April 28, 2014

Section 3. The Mayor is further authorized to accept and consent to the recordation of such conveyance and to execute all required documents to effectuate said lease; and to take all other actions necessary to complete acceptance of said lease.

Section 4. The City Clerk is hereby directed to certify a copy of this Ordinance and record it with the County Recorder of Stephenson County, Illinois.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its passage by the City Council, its approval by the Mayor, and its publication as provided by law.

Section 6. This Ordinance is expressly adopted pursuant to the Home Rule Powers of the City of Freeport under Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970.

Section 7. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed insofar as they conflict.

Section 8. If any section, clause or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid, and this City Council hereby expressly declares that it would have enacted this Ordinance even with the invalid portion deleted.

Aldersperson Klemm moved for approval of Ordinance #2014-18 as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Brashaw. Mayor Gitz stated the administration requests suspension of the rules for passage on the first reading.

Aldersperson Klemm moved for suspension of the rules for passage this evening, seconded by Aldersperson Brashaw. The motion prevailed by a roll call of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, Endress, Brashaw, Koester and Crutchfield (7)

Nays: none

The motion for passage Ordinance #2014-18 prevailed by a roll call of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, Endress, Brashaw, Koester and Crutchfield (7)

Nays: none

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OF POLICE

Mayor Gitz stated the acceptance of mayor's appointment of Chief of Police will be removed from the council agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bob Nickels, 2645 East Drive, Freeport, Illinois, provided his thanks for the "Freeport In Action" group being recognized this evening. He stated that when one volunteers that person then has an ownership in the project. He lauded the praises of volunteerism and their past projects which brought the community

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, April 28, 2014

together including Kid's Kastle at Krape Park and Little Cubs Field in Read Park. He stated the next project is to create Tutty's Crossing into a tourist attraction.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk