



City Council

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

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING Monday, May 12, 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, May 12, 2014.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call: Mayor Gitz and council members Tom Klemm, Ronnie Bush, Jennie DeVine, Sally Brashaw, Michael Koester and Andrew Crutchfield (6). Alderperson Boldt and Endress were absent upon roll call (*see below for entrance of Alderperson Endress at 5:47 pm*). Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson Koester.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderperson Brashaw moved for approval of the agenda, seconded by Alderperson Koester. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

At 5:47 p.m., Alderperson Endress entered council chambers bringing the number of member present to seven.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

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

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-19:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT AND THROUGHOUT STEPHENSON COUNT (FY 2015)

The first reading was held on May 5, 2014. A motion to move forward the ordinance for approval was given by Alderperson Brashaw and seconded by Alderperson Boldt. Alderperson Brashaw then made a motion to lay it over to the next regular meeting or special meeting, if we have one next week. This motion was seconded by Alderperson Klemm. The motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

The agenda stated that administration has requested this ordinance be laid over to the regular council meeting to be held on May 19, 2014 to be read in conjunction with the public hearing as publicized by Transit Coordinator Kevin Cooley. Alderperson Brashaw made a motion to layover the ordinance to the

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regular meeting scheduled on May 19, 2014, to coincide with the public hearing, seconded by Alderperson Koester. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-22:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE CITY CODE TO CREATE A NEW LIQUOR LICENSE CLASSIFICATION (BREW PUB) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT Corporation Counsel Griffin presented the ordinance and provided a written memorandum regarding the Brew Pub which stated; “Per request by Generations Brewery for a retail license for their upcoming beer distilling operation, the Ordinance before City Council this evening has been drafted to create a new liquor license classification. The retail license itself will still have to go through the regular channels of the liquor commission including background checks, resident managers, etc., once such a classification is created. The definition of “Brew Pub” in the ordinance mirrors the Illinois Liquor Control Commission language fitting what the proposed applicant will be doing. This new retail classification allows for alcoholic liquor sales, not just beer and wine. It allows for sales to begin at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays, which is similar to what we currently allow for restaurants. The proposed applicant envisions an outdoor porch area as part of its retail operations, and as such this ordinance excludes the new classification from the 50% food requirement for outdoor sales. This Ordinance was recommended by a 3-0 vote of the Liquor Commission at their meeting held on Thursday, May 8, 2014.”

Alderperson Brashaw moved to approval of the ordinance, seconded by Alderperson Koester. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2014-37:

RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSED FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CHANGES REGARDING INTERNET REGULATIONS

Mayor Gitz stated he is presenting this resolution to urge the Federal Communications Commission to oppose any changes to the current “net neutrality” regulation. Resolution R-2014-37 provided the following:

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission is considering an abandonment of the so-called “net neutrality” regulations—rules to ensure that Internet providers are prevented from discriminating based on content; and

WHEREAS, under the new proposed system, telecommunications companies would be able to create a tiered Internet in which websites will have to pay more money for faster speeds; and

WHEREAS, in today’s society, the internet should be considered a public utility and regulated as such so that there is enough oversight to prevent policy changes from creating a disproportionate impact on those living at or below the poverty level or living in rural communities where there is naturally less competition; and

WHEREAS, small communities such as Freeport thrive on small business and not-for profit organizations, which have much smaller margins of profit than their competitors in larger cities and would be directly impacted by such a change in policy; and

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WHEREAS, communities such as Freeport, which has approximately 14.5% of its population living at or below the poverty level, would be disproportionately affected by such a change in policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Section 1. That the foregoing recitals shall be and are hereby incorporated in this Section 1 as if said recitals were fully set forth.

Section 2. That the City of Freeport finds that such proposed changes are not in the public interest and that, if enacted, would directly and negatively affect its citizenry.

Section 3. That the City of Freeport strongly urges the Federal Communications Commission to oppose any changes to the current "net neutrality" regulations.

Discussion was held as to the effect this change by the FCC would have on the use of availability of access to the internet by lower income individuals. Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson spoke about the impact on libraries and affordable access of our citizens. She also provided budgetary constraints of libraries as being another factor in support of this resolution.

Aldersperson Koester moved for approval of Resolution R-2014-37 as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. The motion for adoption prevailed by a roll call of;

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

Nays: none

Mayor Gitz stated he will be forwarding a copy of the resolution to the Federal Communications Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments this evening.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk