



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Tuesday, September 2, 2014

An invocation was given by Reverend Lynn Hawkins.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular 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 6:00 p.m. on September 2, 2014.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call: Mayor Gitz and council members Tom Klemm, Shawn Boldt, Ronnie Bush, Jennie DeVine, Dennis Endress, Sally Brashaw, Michael Koester and Andrew Crutchfield (8). Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson Crutchfield

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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Alderperson Endress moved for approval of the regular meeting minutes of August 18, 2014, seconded by Alderperson DeVine. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

Conor Brown, 24 W. Stephenson Street, spoke in regard to the Vacant Property Ordinance. He stated he is the Government Affairs Director for the Realtor Association of Northwestern Illinois. He stated they were very involved when the Vacant Property Ordinance was last presented to council and, as part of the negotiation; it was in a good place. At that time council decided not to move forward with the ordinance. The framework in front of council this evening was largely what had been negotiated. One area of concern which may be alleviated tonight was on the fee schedule, one being inspections and the other with registration costs. Mr. Brown stated he spoke with Director Brown that he will be asking council to consider having only the registration fee and no inspection fee. There are some concerns as to why a commercial property with the same registration information would be required to cough up about ten times the amount to simply register the property. We understand there might be something more going into the inspection. They recommend the residential to be a flat fee. He understands that only in extreme circumstances will there be a sign and they are fairly comfortable with that.

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PRESENTATION

Shelly Griswold of Fehr Graham provided a summary of the City of Freeport HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant Application that was submitted last month. The Choice Neighborhoods grants will primarily fund the transformation, rehabilitation and replacement of distressed public and/or HUD-assisted housing and will support communities working to revitalize neighborhoods. There are three different areas of focus including housing, people, and neighborhoods. These grants assist communities in developing a successful neighborhood transformation plans and building the support structure necessary to successfully implement the plans. They also assist communities in identifying community needs and properly planning for the provision of services and assets that improve a neighborhood's condition. These grants also help increase the capacity of the grantee and bring community stakeholders together for a comprehensive planning process in order to make successful implementation of the plan more likely. It helps to improve public housing in the target neighborhood. In partnership with the Freeport Housing Authority, the City of Freeport has applied for HUD's Choice Neighborhoods grant program. This highly competitive program offers communities up to \$500,000 to address housing and neighborhood revitalization efforts. Ms. Griswold provided a map of the proposed target neighborhood including Taylor Park School, E. Park, E. Crocker, and E. Orin Street across Route 75 and as far south as Galena Avenue towards Armstrong and Adams. She stated that this area is a good part of the 3rd Ward. The public housing in the area is Parkside and part of the grant requirement was a thorough inspection of that housing unit to know what has to be corrected and improved in that area and to develop a plan for this improvement.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were presented on the Consent Agenda in the council packet and Mayor Gitz read the listed items into the record; [Consent Agenda PDF](#)

A. Approval to receive and place on file:

1) Freeport/Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau 2014 Semi-Annual Report for January through June 2014

2) Fire Department Report on Activities for July 2014

B. Approval of Motor Fuel Tax Fund Bills Payable (Register #0048) --- \$31,080.32

C. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (Registers #209, 211, 214) ---\$251,182.66

D. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending August 23, 2014 --- \$413,651.33

F. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #210, 212, 213, 215) --- \$290,956.64

G. Approval of Resolution #R-2014-68: Resolution to Request Temporary Closure of Streets for Aquin Catholic High School Homecoming Parade (*scheduled on Wednesday, October 1, 2014*)

Alderperson Bush moved for approval of the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Alderperson Koester. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester and Crutchfield (8)

Nays: none

ORDINANCES –THIRD READING

3RD READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-38:

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1060 (GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT ([view memo](#))

The first reading was held on August 4, 2014. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Brshaw seconded by Alderperson Boldt. The second reading was held on August 18, 2014 and, upon request from the administration, the ordinance was laid over to September 2, 2014. A note on the agenda stated the administration requests layover to September 15, 2014. Mayor Gitz related that Corporation Counsel met with their attorney, Nicole Bauer (the attorney for the Moring and Gills haulers) and they would like tweak their contract in order to mirror what the wording is in the proposed ordinance. Therefore it is requested to layover to September 15, 2014. Alderperson Klemm moved to layover the ordinance to September 15, 2014, seconded by Alderperson Bush. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

ORDINANCES –SECOND READING

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-39:

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE CHAPTER 1430 (VACANT PROPERTY) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

The first reading was held on August 18, 2014. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Bush, seconded by Alderperson Endress and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Jim Brown, Community Development Director provided a memo for the packet ([view memo #44-14](#)).

Director Brown stated the draft that was included and placed on council floor had inspection fees included and he would recommend that inspection fees be removed. Director Brown stated that under the code there is a registration fee and then upon inspection we would be asking for another fee for an inspection and he would like to avoid that situation. Currently in the Building Department they do permit and license fees, we do not charge for an inspection fee so this would be inconsistent with our practice.

Director Brown stated that it was noted that a typographical error was contained in the ordinance under the non-residential initial fee (correcting the amount from \$275.00 to \$225.00). Because this was a typo from what was presented to council at the last meeting the corrected version does not need to be placed on the floor. The correct wording in the 3rd paragraph of 1430.06 Owners Obligation to Register Vacant Buildings (b) should read as follows:

For all other vacant buildings registered and inspected within thirty (30) days of the date which the building has been determined to be a "vacant building", the initial registration fee shall be \$225.00. For such buildings registered and inspected after the initial thirty (30) days from the date which the building has been determined to be a "vacant building", the initial registration fee shall be \$275.00.

Corporation Counsel Griffin stated the first page is a typographical error and was included in the council's original version of the ordinance which is on the floor. The fees presented at the August 18, 2014 meeting were:

Fee	Residential	Commercial
Initial registration when paid within 30 days' notice	\$25.00	\$225.00
Initial registration when paid after 30 days' notice	\$50.00	\$275.00
Annual registration	\$50.00	\$200.00

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Same Fine as Rental Property Registration Ordinance: \$250 minimum/\$750 maximum per day

At the same time, it was recommended by the Administration to take out the inspection fee and council chose to leave it in.

Corporation Counsel Griffin explained the additional amendment recommended by the Administration. Prior to the meeting, she placed a copy of an amended version on the council desks which deletes 1430.04 (d) and under Section 1430.06, Owner's Obligation to Register Vacant Buildings, paragraph d) removal of inspection fees as provided below:

(d) Inspection: The City shall conduct a comprehensive code compliance inspection of the exterior and interior of the vacant building. ~~and the Owner shall pay an inspection fee to the City to defray the City's cost of same within thirty (30) days of the inspection. For one and two family dwellings, the inspection fee shall be \$75. For other buildings of 5,000 square feet or less, the inspection fee shall be \$150.00. For buildings greater than 5,000 square feet, the inspection fee shall be \$150.00 plus \$100.00 for each 5,000 square feet, or portion thereof, over 5,000 square feet, with a maximum inspection fee of \$450.00. Such inspection will determine the extent of compliance with City property maintenance, building, health, water, sewer and fire codes and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:~~

Aldersperson Brashaw asked for a clarification of the registration and inspection fees. Director Brown explained that the registration fees are the same as presented on August 18, 2014. He reviewed the ordinance as follows:

For residentially zoned buildings registered and inspected within thirty (30) days of the date which the building has been determined to be a "vacant building", the initial registration fee shall be \$25.00. For residentially zoned buildings registered and inspected after the initial thirty (30) days from the date which the building has been determined to be a "vacant building", the initial registration fee shall be \$50.00

For all other vacant buildings registered and inspected within thirty (30) days of the date which the building has been determined to be a "vacant building", the initial registration fee shall be \$225.00. For such buildings registered and inspected after the initial thirty (30) days from the date which the building has been determined to be a "vacant building", the initial registration fee shall be \$275.00

The renewal date for all vacant property registrations shall be May 1. The annual renewal fee shall be \$50.00 for residentially zoned buildings and \$200.00 for all other vacant buildings. Owners of buildings that have been determined to be vacant buildings on or after November 1 of any given year shall pay a pro-rated initial registration fee calculated based on the number of total or partial months remaining between the registration date and May 1 of the next year.

Mayor Gitz stated the administration provided a memorandum regarding inspection fees. The council has not offered any amendments as to registration fees. It is recommended to have those paragraphs removed

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for inspection fees because the Building Inspector has stated that he can assume the inspections within the scope of his job responsibilities. The Fire Inspector will also share a burden on the inspections. He stated we do not see that as additional financial burden on the City since we do not anticipate additional personnel costs and so we are absorbing it into the workload. Alderperson Klemm stated he provided information last week and it sounds good if we are going to be able to take on this responsibility through the Building Inspector with help from the Fire Inspector but there will be time involved in all these inspections and time involved when we do run into issues. He will go along with not putting a fee in for inspections but if we are in the budget crisis that we are talking about, there has got to be money coming from somewhere. He stated make sure you have a plan to do the inspections because it really needs to be done. He only received one phone call from a realtor and that was about residential fees versus commercial property fees because it is the same amount of paperwork but he understands that a commercial property is bigger and there is much more to inspect which puts more time involved to it. He stated there is much more to the follow up too.

Alderperson Brashaw made a motion to place the amendment on the floor for approval removing the inspection fees, seconded by Alderperson Endress.

Alderperson Crutchfield asked for a clarification of the amendment. Corporation Counsel Griffin reviewed section 1430.04, all of section (d) is being deleted and under Section 1430.06 (d) the inspection fees are removed (*see page 4 of minutes*). Alderperson Koester stated he is not in favor doing away with the fees due to commercial inspection process, effort, and time. Discussion was held as to the inspection process in the works right now and per Director Brown this can be handled in a systematic way and in the winter they should be able to address in the current department work load so at this time he does not see it an issue. Director Brown stated the registration will be handled by the Administrative Assistant in the Community Development Department. Alderperson Klemm spoke about workloads and that he estimates the number outweighs what administration expects there to be. Director Brown stated he and the Building Inspector estimated about 20-25 properties would qualify for registration under the “other building category” Alderperson Koester state he thinks we are committing a mistake by doing away with the inspection fees.

Corporation Counsel Griffin clarified the initial and annual registration fees as written in the ordinance and currently on the floor:

Fee	Residential	Commercial
Initial registration when paid within 30 days’ notice	\$25.00	\$225.00
Initial registration when paid after 30 days’ notice	\$50.00	\$275.00
Annual registration	\$50.00	\$200.00

Upon no further discussion, the motion to place the amendment on the floor to remove inspection fees prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, and Brashaw (6)

Nays: Koester and Crutchfield (2)

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Mayor Gitz stated the amended version is on the floor for approval and, upon no discussion, he asked for a roll call vote to approve the ordinance. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester and Crutchfield (8)
Nays: none
Ordinance #2014-39 (as amended on floor September 2, 2014) was passed.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2014-69:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WORKING COOPERATIVELY WITH STEPHENSON COUNTY FOR REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR MEDICAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION CENTERS, LETTER(S) OF SUPPORT, AND POSSIBLE AGREEMENT REGARDING REVENUE SHARING

Mayor Gitz requested the following read aloud by the City Clerk:

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-69

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2014 this City Council approved Resolution 2014-58 approving development incentives included in the form Real Estate Contract which Stephenson County was presenting to prospective developers of certain properties at the Mill Race Crossing Project Area, such approval being required pursuant to the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement between Stephenson County and the City of Freeport regarding that area; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2014, the State of Illinois will begin taking applications for Medical Cannabis Cultivation Centers; and

WHEREAS, to date, there have been four (4) such Real Estate Contracts entered into by Stephenson County with prospective purchasers for the purpose of applications as a Medical Cannabis Cultivation Centers; and

WHEREAS, as part of the application process, such prospective purchasers are seeking letters of support from the City; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2014-58 was premised on the concept of the City receiving revenues from some type of legal host agreement as reflected in the minutes of the City Council meeting of July 21, 2014; and

WHEREAS, such an agreement is best negotiated in cooperation with the County.

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

Section 1. That it hereby authorizes the City Administration and staff to jointly review with the County the applications for Medical Cannabis Cultivation Centers proposed by each applicant.

Section 2. That it hereby authorizes the Mayor to issue letter(s) of support for such applications, as long as they comply with the provisions of the Land Purchase Contract, the applicable City standards and codes and otherwise comply with the intent of Resolution 2014-58.

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Section 3. That it hereby authorizes working jointly with Stephenson County designated staff and attorneys to negotiate and bring a recommendation to this City Council and/or to the Stephenson County Board a possible form of host agreement for revenue sharing.

Section 4. The Corporate Authorities hereby authorize the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of Freeport, as well as any other City official or employee as may be required or convenient, to sign on behalf of the City of Freeport to execute any and all documents necessary to fulfill the intent of this Resolution.

City Clerk Zuravel stated all other sections were standardized wording in the resolution.

Corporation Counsel Griffin reviewed sections specifically: Section 1) that it hereby authorizes the City Administration and staff to jointly review with the County the applications for Medical Cannabis Cultivation Centers proposed by each applicant. She explained that basically the applicant has to turn in a host of documents to the State, including community outreach, and in order to do a letter of support we have to ensure that the applications are complete, they comply with what the County already requested of them, that we have taken them through what is required under the intergovernmental agreement – which are the building codes, water and sanitary sewer. She stated we have arranged with the County to be able to jointly review the site plans so that everyone is on the same page as to where the roads come in, where the electricity will be run, etc.

She then explained Section 2) that it hereby authorizes the Mayor to issue letter(s) of support for such applications, as long as they comply with the provisions of the Land Purchase Contract, the applicable City standards and codes and otherwise comply with the intent of Resolution 2014-58. Corporation Counsel Griffin stated they applicants actually receive letter from the County and the City separately as far as recommending that this is an appropriate location. They get points for everything they turn in. She stated then it gives the Mayor the authority to issue that letter of support for each of the applicant assuming that they comply. These start September 8th and end fourteen days later so with that short time period we can't come back to City Council for the letter of support but we don't have your authority for the Mayor to issue those letters presuming they do comply so that is what this resolution section says.

Corporation Counsel Griffin explained section 3) that it hereby authorizes working jointly with Stephenson County designated staff and attorneys to negotiate and bring a recommendation to this City Council and/or to the Stephenson County Board a possible form of host agreement for revenue sharing. She stated the mayor explained during the last resolution that there are different ways to get revenue in these situations one is increase in property tax, the other is jobs in the community, and the third is what the City itself is more interested in is through host agreements which is a revenue share concept. She reviewed for the council the process since she has been a part of it in June, for quite some time. They came out of a meeting on Friday with County partners and Mr. Vogt is hiring Rob Lesage who had done the original economic development plan in the TIF and he will work with Mary Riordan and draft the host agreement to be presented to the parties then it would be brought back to council and or the county board for final approval.

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Mayor Gitz stated that County in its incentives has requested the City to participate in infrastructure on the site. The estimated low cost option of this electrical service to the borderline is \$300,000. If it expanded to include the entire site, then that is \$600,000. This does not include the Water and Sewer, initially may be handled by a well and septic. If it is more expanded that too becomes a cost. One of the things that have been a concern to us from the beginning is the increment that is attributable to this project that it is unlikely to cover the cost of that infrastructure. He stated one of the questions we have to ask ourselves is whether that infrastructure will be required and how is it going to get paid. There has been a lot of discussion on host agreements and Corporation Counsel Griffin has sat in on the same meetings, not all of them, but most of them and this is an issue on the table from the very beginning. It is in the July 21st minutes of the council. At the meeting prior to this one last week there was discussion as to the percentage and the county set the percentage and the whole issue that some of the council has been contacted about arises from the State's Attorney stating that he is not in favor of this policy. It is not his call, it is the call of the County Board and the call of the City Council. He stated that host agreements have been discussed a lot of situations and it is not a tax but a voluntary arrangement. It goes as part of the review. You ask the applicant what is your position on a host agreement and many of them have worked with this into their business plan. This resolution commits us to working cooperatively with the County to fashion some type of agreement.

Discussion was held on whether host agreements would be optional. Mayor Gitz stated his position on that if the council has concurrence that we issue a different letter of support depending on whether it has revenue sharing that fits everyone's needs as opposed to someone that does not offer anything. He stated the production facilities are estimated to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars up to billions of dollars. If they do not have a host agreement we would not say to them fine don't apply it would mean that they do not have the same level of support from us. Mayor Gitz explained that the applications from the State have on them what they are planning to do for the host community.

Discussion was held as to the need to boost economic development in the State of Illinois and giving the wrong impression that to the applicants. Mayor Gitz stated one of the issues is that we need to safeguard ourselves for the future and do it in a way that is not at all harmful to the overall process. Discussion was held as to the council opinions on host agreements and the business plans of the applicants. Mayor Gitz stated that if you are going to do host agreements you have to do it up front as part of the application, it has to be incorporated within because once the license is awarded you have lost all leverage on this issue.

Alderpersion Endress moved for approval of the resolution as presented, seconded by Alderpersion Klemm. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, and Koester (7)
Nays: Crutchfield
Resolution #R-2014-69 was adopted.

OTHER

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

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Community Development

Director Jim Brown provided a summary of the Single Family Owner Occupied Rehabilitation (SFOOR) Program. The Illinois Housing Development Authority's HOME Program has awarded the City of Freeport \$168,000 for 2014-2015. In order for a homeowner to be eligible, they had to be income eligible (at or below the 80% median income for Stephenson County, Illinois as provided by HUD FY 2014 income limits), provide proof of homeowner insurance and prove that the home is their primary residence through tax/water bills. The SFOOR grant is a one year grant that guarantees that the City will be able to assist at least four homes with up to \$40,000 per property, or rehabilitation funds to meet Federal, State and Local Codes at the completion of the project. Over 80 applicants met with department to complete the required SFOOR application. Of those, 75 were eligible and then ranked according to the grant application. With the 2012-2014 SFOOR program, the City of Freeport was able to assist six homes at an average \$32,300 per home and Director Brown anticipates that these numbers will be met this year as well. He estimated that we may be able to assist up to ten homes. He explained the contractors and subcontractors in the program and the guidelines they must meet.

Mayor Gitz asked for leave of council to introduce the Boy Scouts, chartered through First Lutheran Church who attended the meeting tonight.

Finance

Finance Director Cynthia Haggard reported on the status of the bond refunding. The timeline for going to market has been pushed out by the unexpected passing of our bond counsel. She did not foresee an issue because the bonds are not callable until December 1, 2014. Director Haggard stated she hopes to have the spending plan completed this month. Discussion was held as to the gaming devices revenue and Director Haggard answered that the income had reached \$100,000.

Public Works

Public Works Director Tom Dole provided this past week the crews have been working on patching. They have been averaging 180 ton of hot mix per week because there have been a lot of road repairs. He provided an update on the IOCO station and noted it is still in rough shape but everything has been cleared out of there but there has been a lot of rain. There was a garage exposed behind the building and that is part of the IOCO station and they need to have it dry to get in there to get it removed.

Library

Public Library Director Carole Dickerson provided a summary of the Paws for Reading program for children at the Freeport Public Library.

Fire

Fire Chief Scott Miller reported on three separate structure fires in Freeport. The first was located on south Chicago Avenue and it was a basement fire. In that fire, two cats were rescued and resuscitated at the scene. This fire was attributed to a piece of electrical equipment. The second fire happened on Oak and that involved a candle and was confined to contents and a bedroom. He cautioned residents about burning unattended candles. The last fire was Sunday night on east Wyandotte and it was also a basement

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fire and attributed to electrical service. None of the structures were total losses and all of them can be saved and remodeled.

Police

Chief of Police Todd Barkalow stated that this week starts the fall session of the Citizen's Police Academy and it will be held over the next eight weeks. There is a full class that will be attending the session. The Police Department has squad bids coming in by the next council meeting for three new squad cars. Alderperson Endress requested an update on the candidates in Springfield. Chief Barkalow reported that the five patrol officers are expected to graduate on September 25, 2014 and they stop in each Friday. He reported all is going as planned.

Water and Sewer

Water and Sewer Director Tom Glendenning stated the construction on West Avenue (Illinois Rt. 26) has begun. The Water and Sewer crews have been working on a valve replacement program ahead of the milling and overlay project set to begin shortly. For Civil's portion, they are coming through and doing corner patches and subgrade improvements. The valve replacement has taken out one 1892 valve, two 1904 valves and three more broke in the outer parameters due to the isolation of the shutdown. He estimated they will be working in West Avenue area for another week-week and one half.

Director Glendenning reported that City Engineer Gallagher will be back tomorrow and he has been greatly missed. There is a preconstruction meeting tomorrow which will start off the Adams and Clark project and that is a huge project. They are working out traffic control and business coordination for ingress and egress to the business in the area.

Alderperson Brashaw reported she has had three complaints where the person did not know of the water shut off notice on the door. Once she explained things to the resident they understood. Director Glendenning stated there will be more shut offs in her ward, one being a large area due to the valve replacement and water breaks. Director Glendenning explained boil order protocol. He stated typically to clear out the pipes it would be the amount of time to bring about a temperature change.

Alderperson Brashaw asked about a street light pole that had been replaced on Stephenson and then the bulb was not replaced and Director Glendenning asked her to notify him of the address and a job work order will be applied through the internet of ComEd.

Mayor Gitz stated that for the project on West Street, Illinois Department of Transportation had provided notice that the hours of construction will be all hours except the busy traffic time of 1:00 pm through 6:00 p.m. and the mill, grind, and overlay will be done sequentially in sections. All the current work being done right now will be most of the day. The paving portion will be restricted on timing. They can't leave the concrete exposed over a period of time.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gitz discussed the inspection portion of the Vacant Property Ordinance. He stated he does not know whether the resources we have in the Building Department will be adequate. He is not sure whether

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we will have 35 properties on the commercial buildings. If we have issues with the amount of manpower to do the job, he will let the council know. He stated we will take the ordinance and line out what it takes to implement it and share that plan with council for their comment. He stated he is grateful for the council support because the Vacant Property Ordinance will be a helpful tool with our Public Safety Plan. He stated the administration is committed to collection of fines from administrative hearings and adjudication. He is pushing the staff to move forward with violators of the Rental Property Registration and with the help of the City Attorney we are moving forward on its enforcement through the Circuit Court. The Fire Department recently conducted a survey on burn out properties and they have worked out a protocol to follow up on status of properties.

Mayor Gitz provided there will be a presentation on transportation program and water system at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Mayor Gitz asked Director Glendenning to give a presentation on the next steps for improvement of the water system and the pressure zones along with providing important information on the effect reverse flow will have on sediment deposits in the pipes. Alderperson Crutchfield asked if there could be an update on the Transportation Program and Rental Property Registration on the next Committee of the Whole.

NEW BUSINESS/COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council members were provided an opportunity to discuss matters of public concern or to make announcements for their wards.

- Alderperson Crutchfield spoke about his disappointment with Mayor Gitz's newspaper article regarding School District #145. He stated we should be working to unify the City. He understands the Freeport School District #145 is 60% of the property taxes in the City of Freeport and wondered if you are complaining about the schools, then when was the last time you attended a School Board meeting.
- Alderperson Klemm spoke about his experience of being a member of the School District #145 board in the past. He stated this issue does divide us and there are a lot of people concerned.
- Alderperson DeVine reminded motorists to please watch for the school bus stop arm. She warned people to stay off cell phones in school zones.
- Alderperson Endress asked Director Brown whether there could be demolition grants applied for which could be with the resolution of the old Union School property. Director Brown stated that demolition grant dollars were burned through rather quickly with the brick house on Lincoln demolition's tipping fees.
- Alderperson Brashaw asked about the construction project on Illinois 26 and stated she had a couple people ask about the flashing stop lights. Discussion was held that motorists should stop at all flashing lights and then proceed with caution into an intersection. Alderperson Brashaw reminded motorists traveling on American Street to slow down in the school zone area near Empire School.
- Alderperson Koester spoke about the flashing lights on West Avenue (Illinois 26) and reminded people to stop. He spoke about an issue in his neighborhood in which the Police Department

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needed to be called. He spoke about cell phone usage and reminded motorists that all cell phone usage is dangerous and illegal in Illinois.

City Clerk Zuravel provided information regarding the upcoming election of the Alderpersons in Wards one through seven and the Alderperson At-Large. The terms for all eight positions expire in May 2015. Clerk Zuravel provided the following terms of office for Alderman in 2015:

First Ward – 4 year term
Second Ward – 2 year term
Third Ward – 4 year term
Fourth Ward - 2 year term
Fifth Ward – 4 year term
Sixth Ward – 2 year term
Seventh Ward – 4 year term
Alderman-At-Large – 4 year term

Note: Thereafter their successors shall be elected for terms of 4 years

For information to include with your nomination petitions, please consult the State of Illinois Candidate's Guide 2015. Please also refer to the Candidate's Guide 2015 for information regarding the Consolidated Primary on February 24, 2015 and the Consolidated Election on April 7, 2015.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Darrel Janssen, Albertus Airport Manager, spoke about an event that will be hosted at the airport on Sunday, September 14, 2014 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Pilots will be offering airplane rides as a charity event for the Human Society.
- Janice Crutchfield, 1204 S. Maple Avenue, Freeport, Illinois spoke about her disappointment in the Mayor's article in the Journal Standard which was published over the weekend. She read aloud a letter to Mayor Gitz regarding the Freeport School District #145 School Board and the Superintendent of Schools.
- Patricia Norman, 1113 W. Meadows, Freeport, Illinois, completed the letter regarding Freeport School District #145 board and the Superintendent of Schools. She noted there will be a school board meeting held on September 9, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the Junior High Conference Room.
- Steve Carroll, 811 Oak, Freeport, Illinois, spoke about a property across the street which has no water service since February 2014 and last week was rented out. This property was rented with no water service. He stated the persons renting the property are Ruth and Alan Penticoff of New Milford, Illinois. He stated he knows that he can count on Mayor Gitz in his leadership role to get this issued resolved and wonder if Alderperson Endress was aware. He stated this is a 5th Ward problem that the alderman should get involved.
- Tom Teich, 873 Jefferson, Freeport Illinois, spoke about a fundraiser that will be held at the Madonna Renewal Center on September 20, 2014 on Walnut Avenue.

CLOSED SESSION (EXECUTIVE SESSION)

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Tuesday, September 2, 2014

The following was read aloud by City Clerk Zuravel, "An executive session is called pursuant to 5 ILCS 120 (c) (5) The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired."

At 8:07 p.m., Alderperson Klemm moved to enter Executive (Closed) Session, seconded by Alderperson Endress. The motion prevailed by a roll call of;
Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester and Crutchfield (8)
Nays: none

The council members left council chambers for a conference room.

At 8:19 p.m., Alderperson Koester moved to return to open session, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw. The motion prevailed by a roll call of;
Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester and Crutchfield (8)
Nays: none

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk