



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, November 3, 2014

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 November 3, 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 DeVine.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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Alderperson DeVine moved for approval of the regular meeting minutes of October 20, 2014, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

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

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Gitz introduced Cub Scout Pack #839 and their webelos leader as they work towards their citizenship badge. He met with the pack prior to the meeting and gave them a tour of City Hall.

Mayor Gitz introduced the Freeport Middle School 8th Grade Football Team players and coaches and presented to each a certificate. An honorary resolution recognizing the 8th Grade Football Team on their season commending them on their record of 10 and 0 was read aloud. The 8th grade football coaches are Anthony Dedmond, David Lawrence, and Marty Sellers. Alderperson Koester moved for approval of the honorary resolution for the Freeport Middle School 8th Grade Football Team, seconded by Alderperson Klemm. The motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

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Mayor Gitz introduced the Freeport Middle School 8th Grade Football Team players and coaches and presented to each a certificate. An honorary resolution recognizing the 7th Grade Football Team on their season was read aloud. Alderperson Endress moved for approval of the honorary resolution for the Freeport Middle School 7th Grade Football Team, seconded by Alderperson Koester. The 7th Grade Football Team and their coaches, Ronnie Bush, Huck Bohett, and Johnny Johnson, earned a record of seven wins, two losses, and one tie. The motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

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) Fire Department Report on Activities for September 2014
- B. Approval of Motor Fuel Bills Payable (Registers #0050) ---\$56,024.49
- C. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (Registers #242 & 245) ---\$80,664.97
- D. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending October 28, 2014 --- \$407,172.29
- E. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #238, 239, 240, 241, 243, 244) --- \$352,405.16

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

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

Nays: none

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT TO THE TRANSIT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mayor Gitz requested that item #6, Approval of Appointment to the Transit Advisory Council be taken off the council agenda. He stated there were some appointments from Highland Community College that you would like to present and will provide this information at the next meeting.

ORDINANCES –SIXTH READING

6TH READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2014-38: 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 Brashaw seconded by Alderperson Boldt. The second reading was held on August 18, 2014, the third reading was held on September 2, 2014, the fourth reading was held on September 15, 2014 and the fifth reading was held on October 6, 2014. Upon request by Mayor Gitz and approval by council, the ordinance was laid over to tonight's meeting.

Mayor Gitz asked that this item be tabled. He has not been able to meet with representatives from the haulers. Alderperson Boldt moved to approve tabling the ordinance, seconded by Alderperson Crutchfield. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

ORDINANCES –FIRST READING

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1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-46:

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD PORTIONS OF PEARL CITY ROAD TO THE CITY OF FREEPORT'S MUNICIPAL STREET SYSTEM AND TRANSFER PORTIONS OF FOREST ROAD AND FAIRGROUNDS ROAD TO THE STEPHENSON COUNTY HIGHWAY SYSTEM AND RESPECTIVELY ACCEPT JURISDICTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SAME

City Engineer Gallagher provided a written memorandum containing the following presentation of the Jurisdictional Transfer - Pearl City Road, Forest Road & Fairgrounds Road. "Last fall, City staff was approached by the Stephenson County Highway Department regarding a future jurisdictional transfer involving Pearl City Road, Forest Road, and Fairgrounds Road. Jurisdictional transfers provide an opportunity to improve roadways during a transfer to the benefit public safety and aid in reducing lifetime maintenance costs by increasing the efficiency of both agencies.

"In this proposal, the City would receive Pearl City Road from the westerly right-of-way limits of Park Boulevard to the west entrance at Highland Community College, which would include the newly constructed roundabout. In turn, the County would receive Forest Road from the City limits to the southerly right-of-way limits of Pearl City Road and Fairgrounds Road from the westerly right-of-way limits of IL 26 to the City limits. This would result in the transfer of 7054' of roadway to the City and 6663' of roadway to the County.

"Upon receipt of the County's formal agreement this summer, I not only verified the lengths of roadway to be transferred, but calculated the overall paved surface area in order to determine the long-term maintenance and overall fairness of the transfer. After reviewing the quantities of each roadway, it was determined that the transfer was relatively equal, however Forest Road was more deteriorated than that of Pearl City Road or Fairgrounds Road.

"Included in the agreement was a request for materials to improve Forest Road and Fairgrounds Road for an estimated \$60,250 to the benefit of the County. These improvements were changed to a not to exceed limit for a 1.5" HMA overlay on Forest Road and 4' aggregate shoulders of varying depths on all 3 roadways. This reduced the estimated improvements to \$36,500 which will be installed by the County.

"The attached Ordinance and agreements will require formal review and approval by the Illinois Department of Transportation prior to transfer."

Ordinance #2014-46, Section 1 stated:

The following shall be added to the municipal street system of the City of Freeport, Stephenson County, Illinois:

A. Pearl City Road, from the westerly ROW line of Park Boulevard westerly to the west entrance to Highland Community College

The following shall be removed from the municipal street system and transferred to Stephenson County:

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- A. Forest Road from the southerly ROW of Pearl City Road southerly to the corporate limits.
- B. Fairgrounds Road from the westerly ROW line of IL Rt. 26 westerly to the corporate limits.

Under the IDOT agreement for Jurisdictional Transfer from City of Freeport to County of Stephenson of Fairgrounds Road (.73 miles/3860 feet), from the westerly ROW line of IL Rt. 26 westerly to the corporate limits; Supplement B agreement between the City of Freeport and Stephenson County for work associated with Jurisdictional Transfer, it is hereby agreed that the parties to the Jurisdictional Transfer agree to the following stipulations. The City of Freeport agrees that it will pay for the following material to be placed upon Fairground Road, 1) 885 ton of CA-10 shoulder stone, not to exceed. Stephenson County hereby agrees that it will furnish the labor and equipment to haul, place, and compact the above listed materials. All water and sanitary sewer utilities shall remain under the jurisdiction of the City of Freeport Water and Sewer Commission and are not part of this transfer.

Under the IDOT agreement for Jurisdictional Transfer from City of Freeport to County of Stephenson of Forest Road (.53 miles/2803 feet), from the southerly ROW of Pearl City Road southerly to the corporate limits; Supplement B agreement between the City of Freeport and Stephenson County for work associated with Jurisdictional Transfer, it is hereby agreed that the parties to the Jurisdictional Transfer agree to the following stipulations. The City of Freeport agrees that it will pay for the following material to be placed upon Forest Road, 1) 535 ton of Hot-Mix Surface Course, not to exceed and 235 ton of CA-10 shoulder stone, not to exceed. Stephenson County hereby agrees that it will furnish the labor and equipment to haul, place, and compact the above listed materials. All water and sanitary sewer utilities shall remain under the jurisdiction of the City of Freeport Water and Sewer Commission and are not part of this transfer.

Under the IDOT agreement for Jurisdictional Transfer from County of Stephenson to City of Freeport of Pearl City Road (1.34 miles/7054 feet), from the westerly ROW of Park Blvd westerly to the west entrance to Highland Community College in its entirety; Supplement B agreement between the City of Freeport and Stephenson County for work associated with Jurisdictional Transfer, it is hereby agreed that the parties to the Jurisdictional Transfer agree to the following stipulations. The City of Freeport agrees that it will pay for the following material to be placed upon Pearl City Road, 1) 575 ton of CA-10 shoulder stone, not to exceed. Stephenson County hereby agrees that it will furnish the labor and equipment to haul, place, and compact the above listed materials. All water and sanitary sewer utilities shall remain under the jurisdiction of the City of Freeport Water and Sewer Commission and are not part of this transfer.

Discussion was held as to the improvement of efficiency of within the department in the County and the City and overall it makes sense with snow plowing. City Engineer Gallagher stated we receive a lot of phone calls on the plowing on Pearl City Road and it is not within our jurisdiction. Discussion was held on the drainage on Pearl City Road and City Engineer Gallagher stated there was also about 870 feet of guard rail on Forest Road in need of replacement and he is aware that there is drainage issue on Pearl City Road which will need to be contended with. There is also an exchange to the surface course to equal it out. With the exchange the City would no longer have maintenance on Forest Road but would drive on it to plow on Marvin Lane.

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Discussion was held as to whether the county had passed this as presented. City Engineer Gallagher stated what we have changed was the materials quantities listed in the supplements and he is trying to verify that they are approving the same quantities for the trade off so there is no misunderstanding as we move forward. He had indicated to the County Engineer at that time that this was still being negotiated and it depends on how he presented it to his board. Mayor Gitz stated his understanding is that Chris Isbel is ok with these modifications, and if in the interim, the resolution has been taken to the county board and the resolution is different. He stated if the county board is not going to equalize those numbers then he does not see this jurisdictional transfer as being approved and if on the other hand we have an agreement on the amounts and quantities (as we both know the streets and roads being exchanged need work) the question is equalized the work and the burden then he thinks this will proceed. We have another two weeks to look at this and we should know by the time this reaches its second reading where they are at with it. Alderperson Boldt asked about the work and its timing, City Engineer stated that the City is interested in completing a leveling binder in the summer and the county will be putting the road stone shoulder this fall and they would pave right away in the spring and they will do the center line striping on Forest Road as well. City Engineer Gallagher stated this is pending IDOT approval and they have the final say. Alderperson Boldt asked is there anything that mandates that the County has to complete this next year because it is a hazard. City Engineer Gallagher stated we are supplying the materials and they want to get it taken care of right away because it is a hazard. He stated he will obtain a timeline in writing.

Alderperson Klemm moved to approve the ordinance as presented, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw and the ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-47:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 460 (OPERATION GENERALLY), SECTION 460.05 "SCHOOL ZONES" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

Public Works Director Tom Dole stated we are in receipt of a request from Aquin High School and they also met with both he and Chief of Police Todd Barkalow in a request that a school zone be designated for Aquin High School on East Empire Street. In addition, they have requested restricting three parking places to the east and three parking places to the west of the east entrance of the Aquin parking lot on the south side of Empire Street to improve visibility for cars exiting the lot at that point. Director Dole stated this ordinance will reduce the speed zone during school hours between Miami and Bauscher (E. Empire beginning 240 feet east of Galena and continuing east for 890 feet to a point 120 feet west of S. Bauscher). Alderperson Endress asked about taking out parking places and Director Dole stated he will be speaking with area residents and will need to bring that forward for the next meeting.

A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Koester, seconded by Alderperson Endress. Mayor Gitz noted there are also amendments made to section 460.05 to strike areas on Harlem and Lincoln not in need of school zones that no longer exist. Corporation Counsel Griffin noted there are a couple other areas listing in 460.05 that will be reviewed by Chief Barkalow and Director Dole and they will bring any corrections forward in the next couple of months. Discussion was held as to whether Director Dole will be bringing forward changes in parking on Blackhawk. Director Dole stated he reviewed each house along Blackhawk School and they have off street parking along with double wide/double length driveways and it has been suggested to eliminate parking during school hours. Alderperson Koester

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stated with winter coming we need to do something to restrict it either on school days or during school hours and we need to pursue this further. Alderperson Koester stated he was there with Chief Barkalow and school representatives and it was suggested to have no parking during school hours and if that is too complicated to area residents then we need to look at where the school busses park and have no parking so that it is easier for them to get in and out. Alderperson Koester stated Blackhawk Street is not a very wide street and it makes the buses difficult to get in and out in front of the school. Alderperson Bush stated there is an “S” curve on Blackhawk and it makes it difficult and it is all about the safety of the children and he recommends no parking during the school hours.

Mayor Gitz stated he would like to have input from residents on the parking around Aquin. Upon no further discussion, the ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

OTHER

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

Community Development

Director Brown stated the Community Development Department has registration forms ready for the Vacant Property registration and it will need to be vetted by department staff. They also have an informational sheet and they will publish those through a variety of media sources to get the program rolling. He has been contacted four financial institutions eager to comply with the vacant property registration.

Finance

Director Haggard stated she has a memo for notice on the bond closing taking place on Tuesday, November 4, 2014. That bond closing is the 2014B bond. The aggregate savings of those bonds and the bonds recently closed (2014) was a total of \$1.4 million, so that equates to a savings per year of \$92,000. The auditors will be returning this week to finalize their field work and to finalize the audit by month end.

Public Works

Director Dole stated the battle continues for leaf pick up and we don't seem to be winning at this point. We are into the fourth week now and we have to date taking 265 loads out in those three weeks and they will continue to do that so residents should put their leaves out to the curb.

Director Dole noted they have a long list of surplus vehicle/s and equipment and upon the mayor's signature they will be going out for bid on the items and he will present to council in the near future.

Library

Library Director Carole Dickerson was present and had no report.

Fire

Fire Chief Scott Miller stated there were no fire reports or calls due to Trick or Treating in the City. He will present at the next council meeting a MABAS agreement amendment to allow for reimbursement items from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

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Police

Jim Drehoble, Deputy Chief of Police reported there were no police incidents on October 31, 2014. The Police Department is wrapping up Red Ribbon Campaign and collected 9,950 non-perishable food items to be donated to the Salvation Army, Gospel Outreach Food Pantry and Freeport Area Church Cooperative.

Water and Sewer

Water and Sewer Executive Director Tom Glendenning reported that recently the commission sent out a request for bids for their energy contract and at their meeting held last week approved the bid from Homefield Energy. This will be about a 20-24% increase in energy charges over previous pricing. The current energy provider's bid was higher than Homefield Energy. The commission has electrical bills close to one half a million dollars so this increase is substantial for their budget. Director Glendenning noted this will be a challenge and will be monitored closely.

Director Glendenning stated they recently advertised for a new service vehicle due to an accident and the commission approved the purchase of the new vehicle. The Commission will also publish notice of a surplus vehicle which is a back hoe and it could be worth about \$10,000 to put money back into their line item for vehicles.

Director Glendenning reported his disappointment with the WREX news clips and hype it created about the Freeport water. The actual subsequent report after all that news hype was really about the water infrastructure and the need for improvements in the mains. He stated the commission spends tens of thousands of dollars annually on water testing and are under the strictest guidelines and requirements. Many times the City of Freeport has been used by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as a template and rest assured our water is safe for drinking.

Director Glendenning is working on the criticality of piping to help reduce the energy costs and chemical purchases by being able to identify areas with leakage. They want to be able to determine how much is lost and at this point they estimate it to be over 20 million gallons per year.

City Engineer

City Engineer Shaun Gallagher reported he been working on the street vacation plat and he will have that ready for the council meeting on November 17, 2014. He provided an update on the Jane Addams Trail project and stated the milling and paving will be done next week and much of the paving of the trail should be complete by the end of the week. He will have the Northern Illinois Public Outreach Survey results for the Committee of the Whole meeting next week. Alderperson Klemm asked if the county and other partners have paid their reimbursement for the Jane Addams Trail. Engineer Gallagher stated that Orangeville has paid 100% of their share and the Freeport Park District has outstanding invoices. Stephenson County paid the engineering portion and they used \$11,000 from a cleanup grant for a portion. Stephenson County currently has a bill for \$34,000 which is being reviewed by a committee at this time.

MAYOR'S REPORT

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Mayor Gitz stated Illinois Department of Transportation has completed the project on Route 20 west on Galena Avenue. Because of this project the hot mix plant at Civil has remained open longer and it has allowed street crew to complete patching on service cuts. He will be working with Director Glendenning to secure \$6.4 million in loans so that the infrastructure improvements can be made on the water mains to allow for the pressure project to be completed. At the Committee of the Whole meeting, he has asked Director Haggard to present the Spending Plan with her revisions and the Tax Levy preliminary numbers because she has the numbers from the pension plans. There will be a Retail Consultant presentation as well as a Health Plan presentation. The Freeport Downtown Development Foundation has an agreement which needs to be presented for 2014 and they are working on plans for the 2015 calendar year. He will also request a public hearing for the City Hall survey before the next council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS/COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Alderperson DeVine reminded residents to vote on Tuesday.
- Alderperson Brashaw asked area residents to note that the Freeport Area Church Cooperative had to close their food pantry because they ran out of non-perishable items. She asked residents to clean out their pantry and consider a donation.
- Alderperson Koester reminded residents to vote as there are some pivotal choices on the ballot for this election. He noted the City Hall survey questions were done very well and he looks forward to the results.
- Alderperson Crutchfield asked if there could be a public meeting at the Committee of the Whole to review the survey results.
- Alderperson Klemm reminded residents about their right to vote.
- Alderperson Boldt spoke about the food pantries and noted there are various foods in the dollar aisles at the grocery store which will go a long way to fill the food pantries. Deputy Chief Drehoble stated the police food drive donated 9,950 non-perishable items to three food pantries in town.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Deb Elzinga, 1147 W. Lincoln, stated as a member of the Save City Hall that they are working on submitting to the State consideration to add the City Hall building on the National Historic Preservation registry. Their submittal passed two of the four criteria and it bodes well for the next step for the full application to the go to the National Registry of Historical Places.

Desta Munz, stated we need to keep the building in up to date repairs and the longer we wait it could burn or fall down. It is a shame that Monroe can keep their old building in good shape and we can't. We need to keep the building maintained for our children. Valeria Wiegand would be running up and down the street shouting at the top of her lungs about this historical building and the need to save it. Ms. Munz

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noted she was very vocal against the installation of the roundabout and she has to say now that she has tried it if is wonderful.

Tom Teich thanked Mayor Gitz for attending the Special Olympic banquet and for giving a speech. He was disappointed Aquin lost their playoff game.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk