



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, November 17, 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 6:17 p.m. on November 17, 2014.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call: Mayor Gitz and council members Tom Klemm, Ronnie Bush, Jennie DeVine, Dennis Endress, Sally Brashaw, Michael Koester and Andrew Crutchfield (7). Alderperson Shawn Boldt was absent. Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson DeVine.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderperson Koester moved for approval of the agenda, seconded by Alderperson Endress. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent. Mayor Gitz asked leave of council to move forward on the agenda the ordinance regarding compensation and benefits and to move it immediately following the consent agenda (item #14 to item #8) due to staff members being present in case there are questions.

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City Clerk Zuravel noted a correction to page 8, Mayor's Report under the first paragraph to change amount for additional water and sewer loans from \$1.4 million to \$6.4 million. Alderperson Brashaw moved for approval of the regular meeting minutes of November 3, 2014, seconded by Alderperson Endress. 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

City Clerk Zuravel read aloud the proclamation for Freeport Community Foundation and naming November as National Philanthropy Month and November 12 through 18, 2014 as Freeport Community Foundation Week. Dan Schmitt was present as executive director of the Freeport Community Foundation and stated the foundation provides and facilitates grants to not-for-profit organizations serving the City of Freeport and Stephenson County. The Freeport Community Foundation was established in 1975 and for forty years they have provided services to donors in the way of donor designated funds and charitable giving techniques. He stated they have a saying, "connecting people who care with causes that matter."

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Alderperson Brashaw thanked Dan Schmitt for the service he does for the community and for the philanthropy he and the foundation provides to those in need.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

A. City of Freeport Annual Treasurer's Report as published in the Journal Standard on October 24, 2014 [view 5A](#)

Linda Buss, City Treasurer stated she has placed into the packet and she provided a tear sheet from the publication in the Journal Standard for the City of Freeport Annual Treasurer's Report. She stated this is the report for fiscal year ending 2014. The state statutes require publication six months after the end of the fiscal year. She noted that the numbers are pending audit results, which is not finished as of today. She stated once the audit has been completed the council will receive a copy of that report. Alderperson Brashaw moved to place the annual Treasurer's Report on file, seconded by Alderperson Koester. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

B. Fire Pension Fund Required Reporting to Municipality by Pension Board - [view 5B](#)

Linda Buss, City Treasurer reviewed the distributed Fire Pension Fund Required Reporting to Municipality by the Pension Board. She stated the total assets for the Fire Pension Fund as of April 30, 2014, are \$33,691,954.00. The assumed investment return dictated by the State is 7.0% and the actual investment return the fund received is 10.74%. She noted the 7.0% is the amount necessary to fully fund the pensions. Under item number 6 it provides that there are 40 people receiving a regular pension, five on disability, and fourteen receiving widow's pensions or children's benefits. Treasurer Buss referred to item number 7 which provided the funded ratio of the fund showing 83.47%. She noted this is extremely good and any fund in the state would be proud to have that number for their funding ratio. Under item number 9 it stated, the investment policy of the pension board under the statutory investment restrictions imposed on the fund is available from Treasurer Buss and is the same as provided last year.

Alderperson Koester moved to place the Fire Pension Fund Required Reporting to Municipality by Pension Board on file, seconded by Alderperson Endress. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

C. Police Pension Fund Required Reporting to Municipality by Pension Board - [view 5C](#)

Linda Buss, City Treasurer reviewed the distributed Police Pension Fund Required Reporting to Municipality by the Pension Board. She stated the total assets for the Police Pension Fund as of April 30, 2014, are \$21,634,174.00. The assumed investment return dictated by the State is 7.0% and the actual investment return the fund received is 11.06%. She noted the 7.0% is the amount necessary to fully fund the pensions. Under item number 6 it provides that there are 32 people receiving a regular pension, six on disability, and thirteen receiving widow's pensions or children's benefits. Treasurer Buss referred to item number 7 which provided the funded ratio of the fund showing 50.61%. She noted this is lower than the Fire Pension Fund but if you take the 600+ funds across the state and look at the average they come out at

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about 50%. Under item number 9 it stated, the investment policy of the pension board under the statutory investment restrictions imposed on the fund is available from Treasurer Buss and is the same as provided last year.

Mayor Gitz asked based on the level of funding at 50% should the City consider funding at a higher level than the minimum required of the City. Treasurer Buss stated that would always be a recommendation. She noted the City has always given what they have been asked to give based on actuarial assumptions so at least we are not a municipality where they have chosen not to fund. With the funding at only 50% the City was able to give more than what the police pension fund will be asking for. Mayor Gitz stated as you know the City has made a very conscious choice to hold the line on its tax levy. That choice is to fund the pensions at a level required by the state and decrease the amount of money into the corporate fund. Mayor Gitz explained each year we are decreasing the amount of money to support our general operations and it has occurred over the last ten to twelve year period that this has been reduced by as much as over a million dollars over that period. Mayor Gitz asked Ms. Buss whether the benefit of funding the police pension at some level, even if it is modest, at the expense of the corporate fund net us a greater benefit over time (that is by reducing the unfunded liability) or would you suggest that because of the health of the corporate fund maybe it is a harder choice than it appears. City Treasurer Buss stated it is a hard choice because the corporate fund does get hit hard. She explained that the state wants us to be funded at 90% by the year 2034. She stated you could think of it as a house mortgage. When you buy a house and mortgage it out and at some point you are going to have it paid off. The part in between from what you owe now and the pay-off then it is your unfunded liability. If you have your house and want to pay down on the mortgage you pay down on the principal. The faster you get the principal to go down, the less interest you will pay and that is what would happen if the City opted to put more money into pension fund. Alderperson Crutchfield asked if we opt to pay more we would pay less on the back end. City Treasurer agreed. She stated keep in mind that the Tax Levy does not include just the Police and Fire Pension Funds but it also has a portion for IMRF.

Alderperson Brashaw moved to place the Police Pension Fund Required Reporting to Municipality by Pension Board on file, seconded by Alderperson DeVine. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

D. Memorandum from Director of Finance regarding Aggregate Savings 2014A and 2014B Bonds [view 5D](#)

Director Haggard provided a written summary of the Series 2014A and 2014B Bonds.

The Series 2004 was refunded by the Series 2014A with a Par Value of \$6,760,000, the rate improved from average coupon of 4.42% to 2.41%, and the dollar savings was \$595,095.83.

The Series 2005 was refunded by the Series 2014B with a Par Value: \$5,320,000, the rate improved from average coupon of 4.74% to 3.17%, and the dollar savings was \$780,633.32.

In summary, an aggregate savings of \$1,375,729.15 was realized for the refunding of the two bonds.

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| Calendar Year | Bond | | Total Savings |
|------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| | 2014A | 2014B | |
| 2014 | 106,650.83 | 108,794.44 | 215,445.27 |
| 2015 | 50,017.50 | 42,263.76 | 92,281.26 |
| 2016 | 50,017.50 | 46,576.26 | 96,593.76 |
| 2017 | 49,417.50 | 45,788.76 | 95,206.26 |
| 2018 | 48,117.50 | 45,001.26 | 93,118.76 |
| 2019 | 51,117.50 | 44,213.76 | 95,331.26 |
| 2020 | 46,692.50 | 43,393.76 | 90,086.26 |
| 2021 | 51,017.50 | 42,573.76 | 93,591.26 |
| 2022 | 47,317.50 | 46,703.76 | 94,021.26 |
| 2023 | 47,680.00 | 45,855.00 | 93,535.00 |
| 2024 | 47,050.00 | 45,006.26 | 92,056.26 |
| 2025 | - | 44,078.76 | 44,078.76 |
| 2026 | - | 44,303.76 | 44,303.76 |
| 2027 | - | 44,103.76 | 44,103.76 |
| 2028 | - | 47,253.76 | 47,253.76 |
| 2029 | - | 44,722.50 | 44,722.50 |
| | 595,095.83 | 780,633.32 | 1,375,729.15 |

E. Memorandum from Director of Finance regarding Cost Benefit of Obtaining Bond Insurance -

[view 5E](#)

Finance Director Haggard provided written memorandum stating, “In an attempt to increase our savings in refunding the Series 2004 and Series 2005 Bonds, we opted for bond insurance to raise the Bond Rating from A to AA. We took advantage of two separate insurance agencies to realize the best premium and used Assured Guaranty for Series 2014A and Build America Mutual Assurance Company for Series 2014B.

The result is as follows:

| Description | BOND | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2014A | 2014B |
| Dollar Savings as AA | \$ 595,000.00 | \$ 780,000.00 |
| Dollar Savings as A | 481,000.00 | 635,000.00 |
| Gross Savings | 114,000.00 | 145,000.00 |
| Cost of Insurance | (6,592.30) | (6,934.88) |
| Net Savings | \$ 107,407.70 | \$ 138,065.12 |
| Benefit over Cost: | \$ 245,472.82 | |

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Alderson Brashaw moved to receive and place the reports by Director Haggard regarding bonds on file, seconded by Alderson Koester. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

F. Recommendation by Airport Commission for Fixed Base Operator/Manager increase for 2014-2015 - [view 5F](#)

Airport Commission Chairperson, Shelly Griswold provided a written recommendation and presented to council dated November 7, 2014. Before presenting the documentation, Ms. Griswold introduced Airport Commission member, John Ginger, who was present at the meeting. She stated the contract Mr. Janssen is under is a three year contract and it is in its third year. In August 2015, this contract expires. She stated from now until August it will be time for the City to decide what is going to happen next. Ms. Griswold stated based on the review, he received "an exceeds" contract rating.

Ms. Griswold's memorandum stated; "In accordance with Article II, Section 15 of the Freeport Municipal Airport Fixed Base Operator Lease and Airport Management Contract between the City of Freeport and Darrell O. Janssen, d/b/a Freeport Flite Center, the Airport Commission conducted a contract compliance review covering the period of August 19, 2013 to August 18, 2014. Section 15 states that an "annual increase in the amount of up to five percent (5%) of the base service fees shall be paid to the Company, conditioned upon the Company receiving satisfactory contract compliance reviews. The actual amount of the increase shall be recommended by the Airport Commission and based upon such contract compliance review, and approved by the City". Darrell O. Janssen d/b/a Freeport Flite Center received an overall contract compliance rating of 3.6 (exceeds contract requirements). Some highlights from the compliance review include: Darrell is available six days a week and evenings, and Sundays by appointment, for flight instruction. Darrell makes himself available after hours to serve customers. Darrell is diligent in tracking down contractors for small contracts and makes extra efforts to get multiple, competitive bids. Darrell often makes minor repairs himself rather than contract them out, saving the City money. Despite equipment challenges, Darrell works hard to keep runways and taxiways clear of snow in the winter. Darrell and his staff are willing to come in during off hours for fueling requests or to make a hangar available when needed. Darrell works to diplomatically enforce rules while maintaining good customer relations. Darrell is required to host three public events per year. During this year, he doubled that number; there were six. Based on the contract compliance review, the Airport Commission respectfully recommends a five percent increase in the base service fee for Darrell O. Janssen d/b/a Freeport Flite Center for the contract period of August 19, 2014 to August 18, 2015."

Alderson Brashaw asked about the occupancy rate for the hangars. Ms. Griswold stated she does not know the exact number but we are hovering around 60 hangar tenants and the highest number has been 90 so we have a lot of vacancies. She stated they have been working hard on the perception of the aviation community because there was a lot of bad blood a couple of years back between them and the City and that word gets around. That relationship has been repaired this year and they are working really well together. It takes a while to turn those things around and we are just coming out of the recession. Alderson Brashaw asked about the hangar rates and advertising. Director Griswold stated post cards were mailed to prospective hangar tenants and because of the things going on it was difficult to track people. Our goal to improve the image of the airport for the aviation community including continued

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good relationships with the City and including getting a credit card reader at the fuel pumps. That has been part of the City's capital plan for the airport and moving items on the capital improvements list.

Aldersperson Klemm asked about the card reader system and wasn't this supposed to be implemented by the operator's thing to do. Ms. Griswold stated as far as she knows it has been on the City's capital improvement projects because it is part of the fixed assets of the facility that the City provides under the contract at the airport. She stated is it now part of the TIPS program with State of Illinois and it has been moved up this year and that process is underway right now. She estimates the project cost to be \$40,000.

Mayor Gitz stated the hangar issue was dropped from the contract the last time it was written and asked Ms. Griswold if she thinks that should be included. Ms. Griswold answered it is always good to provide incentives on something that you want to happen so if the City wants those hangars to be full and generate revenue then yes that would be good to do. Mayor Gitz asked Ms. Griswold what she thought are the things that the fixed based operator could do to facilitate economic development. Ms. Griswold answered that the Fixed Base Operator has to be an ambassador for the airport and Darrell does a good job of that now and he is well respected and liked in the aviation community. There is work that can be done with the FBO to teach him things that can be done to have that mindset. Discussion was held on costs of the credit card reader at the airport and the fuel sales of the airport. Ms. Griswold stated if there was a credit card reader installed at the airport then 24/7 people could stop in and fuel up. Mayor Gitz stated we are seeking to get that in place but there are several steps to get there. We would like to capture sales so aircraft can fly in and fuel up.

Aldersperson Crutchfield moved for approval of the recommendation of the Airport Commission for a 5% increase in base compensation for the Fixed Base Operator/Manager, seconded by Aldersperson Brashaw. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Aldersperson Crutchfield asked how soon before the next discussions start for the FBO contract. Mayor Gitz stated they will probably start next spring. Mayor Gitz stated he can assure you that there will be some modifications made to the contract. Mayor Gitz thanked the airport commissioners that were present.

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) City Treasurer's Schedule of Tax Receipts through October 31, 2014
- 2) City Treasurer's Monthly Investment Report for October 31, 2014
- 3) City Treasurer's Report of Cash and Fund Balances through October 31, 2014
- 4) Community Development Report on Activities for October 2014 including Building Permits, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing and Sign Permits for October 2014

B. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (Registers #246 and 250) ---\$122,520.77

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- C. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending November 1, 2014 --- \$409,747.10
- D. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #247, 248, 249) --- \$302,072.05

Aldersperson Brashaw moved for approval of the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Aldersperson DeVine. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)
Nays: none

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT TO THE TRANSIT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mayor Gitz requested the following appointments dated November 17, 2014 to be read together under one motion if there is no objection from the council:

- Effective immediately, Mayor James L. Gitz hereby appoints Julia Marynus of the Stephenson County Health Department to the Transit Advisory Council.
- Effective immediately, Mayor James L. Gitz hereby appoints Anita Daraska of Davita Dialysis to the Transit Advisory Council.
- Effective immediately, Mayor James L. Gitz hereby appoints Brian Babcock of Malcom Eaton Enterprises to the Transit Advisory Council.
- Effective immediately, Mayor James L. Gitz hereby appoints Whissper Trip a Highland Community College student to the Transit Advisory Council.

Aldersperson Endress moved for approval of the appointments as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Koester. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)
Nays: none

As requested by Mayor Gitz the following ordinance was moved forward on council agenda from item #14 on the agenda:

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-52:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 290 (COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS AND MODIFYING CERTAIN POST EMPLOYMENT HEALTH PLAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Ordinance 2014-52 was reviewed in the special meeting of the Committee of the Whole held this evening. During Committee of the Whole meeting the following text contained within the ordinance was read aloud by Corporation Counsel Griffin;

“WHEREAS, there has been a growing disparity between the union and non-union management pay increases over the past several years; and

“WHEREAS, such disparity has caused supervisory personnel in the Fire and Police departments to have an overall pay which is devalued in comparison to those they supervise; and

“WHEREAS, this disparity and devaluation has caused recruitment and morale issues when it comes to leaving the union and progressing to a management position; and

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“WHEREAS, in order to attract more qualified personnel to Fire and Police management, the Salary Schedules for Fire and Police management attached hereto allows for a ten percent initial differential when leaving the union and increases the Post Employment Health Plan contributions by the City for those same personnel.”

The ordinance continues with the following text:

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

Section 1. That Paragraph (d) of Section 290.02 entitled “Compensation Plan” of Chapter 290 (Compensation and Benefits) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport, Illinois shall be amended so that such Section shall read as follows:

"290.02 COMPENSATION PLAN."

(d) Adoption of Salary Schedule. The salary schedules as set forth in Attachment A are hereby adopted for all classes of position, except those specified in collective bargaining agreements or as specified in Section 290.01(e).

Section 2. That City Council does hereby authorize the Corporation Counsel and Employees of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners to be given a cost of living increase commensurate with other non-bargaining employees (Groups 1 through 4) for FY 14/15, as positions-not-covered pursuant to Section 290.01(e).

Section 3. That the City Council hereby authorizes an annual contribution of 1% of non-bargaining employees' salary to the Post Employment Health Plan, with the exception that for those non-bargaining management employees as reflected in the Fire and Police Department salary schedules attached hereto, the annual contribution shall be 1.5% of their respective salaries.

Section 4. 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, and the provisions herein shall be retroactive to May 1, 2014.” The remaining text of the ordinance is usual and customary.

Upon the first reading the ordinance, Alderperson Koester stated that this ordinance is written as a one-time shot with no longevity written into it and as he said earlier this evening it was discussed that we want to assure that we continue to review this and look at this every year because if we don't continue to keep up with it we will be in the same spot as we are right now.

Alderperson Klemm made a motion to place the ordinance on the floor for adoption, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw.

Discussion was held as to whether suspension of rules is necessary or if the council would need time to digest. Alderperson Klemm requested time for review.

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Corporation Counsel Griffin noted that the ordinance states that it is retroactive to May 1, 2014.

Aldersperson Brashaw asked if the employees would receive a lump sum payment for their retroactive pay and Mayor Gitz stated yes. Aldersperson Klemm requested all the amounts as to how much that will be prior to the next meeting.

Upon no further discussion, Mayor Gitz stated the ordinance will be automatically laid over to the next meeting.

ORDINANCES –SECOND READING

2nd 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 [\(view memos\)](#)

The first reading of this ordinance was held on November 3, 2014. A motion to approve was given by Klemm, seconded by Brashaw and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. City Engineer Gallagher has placed a memorandum from Chris Isbell, Stephenson County Engineer dated November 4, 2014 in the council packet.

City Engineer Gallagher noted he placed into the packet for this evening a letter written by Chris L. Isbell, Stephenson County Engineer regarding Jurisdictional Transfer Work, dated November 4, 2014.

Mr. Isbell's memorandum stated the Stephenson County Highway Department will be completing the work listed in the stipulations for the jurisdictional transfers of Fairgrounds Road, Forest Road and Pearl City Road on the following schedule:

1. The shoulder stone along Fairground Road will be place this week.
2. The hot mix and should stone on Forest Road will be completed between June 1 and September 1, 2015
3. The shoulder stone along Pearl City Road will be completed between June 1 and September 1, 2015.

The memorandum stated all material will be billed direct to the City of Freeport form the supplier and the Stephenson County Highway Department will furnish the equipment and labor required to haul and place the materials.

Aldersperson Klemm inquired about engineering work on Empire and Park Boulevard. City Engineer Gallagher stated that is sewer work going on right now using additional loan monies from the IEPA and what that they are doing is flagging for the survey. He recently met with Fehr Graham to go through all those corridors and projects determine all the topo's for that project and most of those are from the center line to the right of way line for the water lines in the area.

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Mayor Gitz stated there has been discussion of drainage on Pearl City Road and those ditches along there would be tied into a trail system if it ran along there.

At the meeting held on November 3, 2014, 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:

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.

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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.

The motion to approve the ordinance as presented prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)
Nays: none
Ordinance #2014-46 was passed.

2nd 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 ([view memo](#))

The first reading of this ordinance was held on November 3, 2014. A motion to approve was given by Koester, seconded by Endress and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

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Upon the second reading Mayor Gitz explained that this is for a school zone in front of Aquin's parking lot on Empire and it also strikes reference in the area of the old Harlem School and Lincoln School. Later in the meeting Director Dole will describe what is being done about parking restrictions in the area of their parking lot. Upon no further discussion, the motion to approve the ordinance prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Ordinance #2014-47 was passed.

ORDINANCES –FIRST READING

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-48:

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN PORTION OF FAIRVIEW ROAD IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT ILLINOIS ([view memo](#))

The public hearing for this street vacation was held at the October 20, 2014 council meeting. Mayor Gitz stated that there were some administrative details to take care of this ordinance. City Engineer Shaun Gallagher explained in his memorandum that the platted roadway had been partially vacated previously in order to build the adjacent Subway restaurant years ago leaving a 23' segment between Subway and Anne's and a 35' pie shaped segment between Sparkle Carwash and Anne's. Although Anne's requested to obtain ownership of the entire vacated roadway, Subway expressed interest in their remaining half of the original alley. Sparkle Car Wash has waived their interest in the property. City Engineer Gallagher stated their only concern was for snowplowing to be able to push the snow to the property line and Anne's Garden Center approved of that through a letter delivered to them.

City Engineer Gallagher explained that Subway owners had previously acquired about 12 feet and through this vacation they will receive the west corner portion with the remaining portion going to Anne's.

Aldersperson Klemm asked if there was discussion of paving at Anne's Garden Center. City Engineer Gallagher stated Anne's owner had cost estimated it a couple of years ago and it was extensive so what they have done is to pave back the entrances to keep the gravel from flowing onto Galena Avenue. He stated if you pave that large of a lot then you run into drainage issues and the expense that they have done to build that lot up to be used for truck turning radius. Ultimately for what they use on that facility it would not be a recommendation to pave it because it would get torn up with trucks and equipment. He had priced out concrete and he could not afford it at this time and he is aware of the City's concern.

Mayor Gitz stated the garden center would like very much for us to act on this so they can place items on the property.

Aldersperson Klemm stated if he votes against this it will be because of the paving issue and not because of the support for Anne's Garden Center. He stated he understands the cost for them to do that but at some point there should be more discussion on it. City Engineer Gallagher stated one of the things that he did discuss with Anne's was the property to the south side of Galena and they will have future discussions

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about that because of the mulch beds and in the storms we have had to do some clean up. Alderperson Klemm noted Anne's is a terrific supporter of the City and he would like to see the discussion continue.

Alderperson Koester moved for approval of the ordinance as presented, seconded by Alderperson Crutchfield.

Alderperson Klemm made a motion to waive the second reading for passage of the ordinance this evening, seconded by Alderperson Endress. Mayor Gitz stated that this ordinance will take a three-fourths majority for approval.

The motion to suspend the rules for passage this evening prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)
Nays: none

Mayor Gitz requested a roll call vote to approve the ordinance and it prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)
Nays: none
Ordinance #2014-48 was passed.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-49:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 480, SECTION 480.12 (RESTRICTED PARKING STREETS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT – BLACKHAWK SCHOOL ([view memo](#))

Presented by Public Works Director Tom Dole

Public Works Director Dole referred to his memorandum which stated Alderman Koester and Alderman Bush have requested review of parking in the 1400 block of S. Blackhawk Av. between Dewey and Winnifred. As a school bus driver, Alderman Bush stated he has a hard time maneuvering the bus through this area when both sides of the street are parked full of cars. The problem only exists twice each day when parents are dropping their students off and then picking them up after school.

Director Dole explained he spoke with the principal of Blackhawk School and all five of the resident's on the east side of Blackhawk that may be affected by restrictive parking. They all agree that there is a problem during drop off and pick up of students. They also agree that restricted parking for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon would be the best solution to the problem. None of the residents want to see "no parking" posted all the time. Currently there are signs directly in front of Blackhawk School that read "NO PARKING SCHOOL DAYS 7am-4pm". Director Dole stated his recommendation would be to post the east side of Blackhawk from Dewey to Winnifred "NO PARKING SCHOOL DAYS 7am to 9am and from 2pm to 4pm".

Alderperson Klemm stated one of the residents is where former Alderperson Stabenow lived and noted we were saddened to hear about his recent passing.

Alderperson Klemm made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented, seconded by Alderperson Bush.

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Aldersperson Koester asked if this does not take care of the situation whether other options can be considered. Mayor Gitz stated certainly. He stated the option of removing all parking during school days was considered but we are trying to avoid that upon the request of the residents.

Aldersperson Koester noted there is a large quantity of land behind the school that they should consider looking at that to put in driveways into the school which might be a viable option. Mayor Gitz stated he did not know how anxious the school would be to spend money on that.

Aldersperson Bush thanked Director Dole for his consideration that this is a good compromise due to the "s" curve in the area.

The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-50:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN ADDENDUM TO MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM AGREEMENT
(view MABAS cover letter and attachments)

Fire Chief Scott Miller provided a memorandum in the packet which describes the MABAS contract addendum. The memorandum stated this ordinance amendment is necessary to secure policy compliance assuring MABAS eligibility of Federal fund reimbursements for Declarations of Disaster responses. The policy implication for FEMA Recovery Policy (RP9523.6) reference Mutual Aid Agreements for Public Assistance and Fire Management Assistance. The intent is to establish a guideline for recouping and making financially whole communities who provide mutual aid for a prolonged period of time, eight hours or more to a stricken community therefore complying with noted FEMA policy. The intent is not to begin charging for mutual aid MABAS services on a daily basis.

Chief Miller stated the intent is to allow MABAS of Illinois to seek to recoup federal funding in the event of a large-scale incident. He used the example of deploying assistance out of state to the Katrina victims so it enables the State and, in turn, enables local governments such as the City of Freeport to be reimbursed for any expense that occur in responses out of the area.

Aldersperson Koester moved for approval of the ordinance as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Endress.

Aldersperson Koester asked Chief Miller, with these changes, if he will be able to recoup for man hours and travel. Chief Miller stated yes that is correct it will be ordinary customary reimbursement from MABAS and this is not specific to the City of Freeport, it is statewide amendment for all fire departments. He stated that is what triggered this was the wording was not quite right to stand the challenges from FEMA when they requested the reimbursement a few years back.

The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

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1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-51:

SPECIAL ORDINANCE FOR VARIATION, PERMIT OR AMENDMENT OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF FREEPORT ILLINOIS – 212 N. CHERRY PARKING ([view memo #083-14](#))

Type of Relief: Amendment of Zoning Ordinance from R-7 (Multi-Family Residence District) to B-3 (Commercial and Wholesale District); Owner or Applicant: Freeport Alano Club; Vote of Planning Commission at their November 6, 2014 meeting was unanimous and there were no written objections filed for the petition.

Community Development Director Jim Brown provided background information on the petition in the packet which stated the Alano Club's petition is for a zoning map amendment (rezoning) for a property at 212 N. Cherry Avenue. The property is currently zoned R-7, Multiple Family Residence and the requested zoning is B-3, Commercial and Wholesale Business. The purpose of the rezoning is to establish an accessory parking lot to serve the Alano Club. The Alano Club houses local Alcoholics Anonymous groups as well as other twelve-step programs. Frequent meetings and other events are held at the Alano Club, which is located on the fringe of Freeport's downtown. It is two blocks from office and civic uses along Stephenson Street and two blocks from commercial uses along Galena Avenue. Several surface off-street parking lots are within a two- or three-block distance from the Club and the subject site. The Alano Club is zoned B-3. Directly to the west, across Cherry Street, is a row of buildings, also zoned B-3. These buildings are mixed use and multi-family residential. Parking in the area is limited. Typically, a use like the Alano Club (a private club or lodge) is required to have parking spaces "equal in number to ten percent of the capacity in persons..." [1262.05]. The Club's site includes paved areas to accommodate approximately eight off-street parking spaces. (The spaces are not striped.) This off-street parking plus nearby on-street parking do not sufficiently accommodate parking demands frequently generated by the Alano Club. Thus the Club is seeking a nearby location for off-street parking. Director Brown noted not only did the Planning Commission review this request but the Board of Zoning Appeals reviewed it as well and it was recommended by both boards.

Mayor Gitz stated there was an agreement struck with the Alano Club because there was a lien on that property due to demolition costs and because this is a not-for-profit we have waived the lien because they already have substantial construction costs for the parking lot improvements and it includes landscaping appropriately.

Aldersperson Koester stated this is taking a property that was an eyesore in the community and making it the parking lot improvements to enhance the neighborhood. Aldersperson Koester moved for approval of the ordinance as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. Aldersperson Klemm noted this organization provides support to a great number of people and this is a worthwhile endeavor. Upon no further discussion, the motion to approve the ordinance as presented prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Ordinance #2014-51 was passed.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2014-75:

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RESOLUTION FOR THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF FREEPORT AND MCCLURE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING SERVICES (PECATONICA PRAIRIE TRAIL)

City Engineer Shaun Gallagher provided a written memorandum which stated this spring we were notified by the Illinois Department of Transportation that the ITEP grant we submitted in August of 2013 was approved. This grant was based on an estimated \$1.9 million trail project from Tutty's Crossing to the US 20 Bypass, including structures and trail amenities. The ITEP grant we received is an 80/20 split between Federal and Local funds, of which the Local Funds are divided evenly between the Freeport Park District, Stephenson County, and the City of Freeport. Construction on the project is estimated to begin as early as the spring of 2016, provided the engineering is expedited on the front end. Starting design this fall will allow us the ability to seek additional ITEP grants next year, in order to fund construction of the remaining sections of the Trail from US 20 to Ridott. These local funds will be paid out of the Capital Improvement Fund for Bike Trails which was originally set up for the Jane Addams Trail.

The attached proposal is for the Preliminary Engineering Phase I to be provided by McClure Engineering with Fehr Graham being retained for environmental work. Fehr Graham will also assist in environmental work under our existing Brownfield Cleanup Grant and through a separate contract for the design of the Tutty's Crossing amenities. By selecting both Fehr Graham and McClure to work on this project, we will be able to utilize the body of work and experience already gained on the design and construction of the Jane Addams Trail and the Winnebago County portion of Pecatonica Prairie Trail. This will avoid wasting funds on duplicate work and allow the design of the new trail to be consistent with the sections already completed.

City Engineer Gallagher stated this is the first step in extending the Pecatonica Prairie Path from the City of Freeport at Tutty's Crossing to U.S. 20. He stated what he has tried to do is put together a design team that not only benefits the City from prior work but salvage what they have done the previous years constructability of what was the Pec Path design from Freeport to Rockford back in 1998 in which McClure began that design and that was recently completed in Winnebago County portion. His hope is to not only retain them for their work on the project development portion but to bring in Fehr Graham, a local firm, to do the engineering because they have done a lot of environmental work in this corridor to hopefully shed some of these costs onto our Brownfields Grants. He hopes this will also expedite this process based on the knowledge of two design firms that have done two of the largest path sections in Northwest Illinois. He explained why this is under the bike trail funding is because IDOT requests and when the original ITEP grant was put together to secure the funds preliminary engineering they did not put a lot of stock into that because we already had project development work from Winnebago to Freeport. His concern of putting a lot of the portion of the project into engineering is that you might not get it back or they might not honor it. He stated they had a budget of \$6,000 for the design contract and rather than utilize that and to expedite this and continue on the path to try to construct this in 2016. It is his recommendation to use carry over bike funds from what they will have left over from the completion of the Jane Addams Trail. This path runs from the Tutty's Crossing and includes an amenities package for construction at Tutty's Crossing and they are trying to team that up with a route along the southern portion along Album Street. This will include Brownfields Clean Up funding for sites and to utilize this project as a way to clean up that area and stop the illegal dumping.

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Alderperson Brashaw asked if this was applied for in 2013, then why is the project just beginning in 2016 and secondly she asked if the engineering and environmental cleanup work by Fehr Graham will begin immediately. City Engineer Gallagher stated everything you see here will begin this fall and into the spring of next year. This would be followed with a preliminary design phase two contract including proposals and specs and they will go out for bid for that. Because these are federal funds, there is a lot of back and forth with IDOT getting the approvals right. As a point of reference the funding for the Jane Addams Trail was acquired in the 2000's and that is being constructed today. By teaming these two firms he is trying to get past the difficulties from past projects. He stated what we are trying to do is move as much of the money from the Brownfield Cleanup Funds to this project as they are available and that is yet to be determined because that project has not taken off yet. Since the Jane Addams Trail is still under construction he does not have firm numbers from that and he is estimating \$40,000-\$50,000 under. Since we are lead agency we shift things around and pay for things up front but there should be a carry over into this project. Mayor Gitz stated they hope to clean up the area and vacate Album Street in the future.

Alderperson Klemm moved for approval of the resolution as presented, seconded by Alderperson Bush. The motion to approve the resolution as presented prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)
Nays: none
Resolution #2014-75 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2014-76:

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH LOADING ZONE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (752 W. AMERICAN STREET)

Director Dole stated Alderperson Devine has requested a restricted parking area at 752 W. American for a partially blind grade school student to get on and off the school bus. Upon review of the area he found this request to be quite simple. He recommended blocking out an area 14' in length in front of the sidewalk that leads from the apartment building out to the street. The curb in front of this building measures 140 feet. This will maintain five (5) 20' parking spaces. Director Dole has visited this location four times since the request was made. Twice the street was full of cars on both sides, twice the north side was nearly empty. The last time he was there to layout potential parking the student in question just happened to be waiting for the bus. Currently this area is posted "2 Hour Parking 9am to 5pm Except Sat. and Sun."

Director Dole stated he believes this is a reasonable request that should be granted. It will require two new signs the read "NO PARKING BETWEEN SIGNS" on either side of the courtesy sidewalk.

The resolution #2014-76 provides for the following: "**Section 2.** That a loading zone for persons with disabilities shall be established pursuant to the provisions of Ordinance No. 96-76 at the following location within the City of Freeport, Illinois, as follows: "752 W. American beginning at the front sidewalk leading from the apartment building to the street sidewalk, and consisting of seven feet to the east and seven feet to the west. The loading zone would be 14 feet in length."

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Aldersperson Koester moved for approval of the resolution as presented, seconded by Aldersperson DeVine.

Aldersperson Bush asked Mayor Gitz how it would come about that a parking consideration was requested on Adams Avenue and you said it needed a loading zone. Then this request comes through and another area can't. Mayor Gitz stated that no one is opposed to a loading zone on Adams but the question is that they have a pull-in driveway and it seems to be unresolved why it is preferable to declare a loading zone at the end of the street versus pulling into the driveway where it is closer to get out. In this case we have a bus that is leaving off a blind young person who is not in a transportation situation except to get out and to safely be able to enter into the apartment building. He stated we can certainly look at the situation. Aldersperson Bush stated he showed photos that the person can't get out in their driveway because it is so narrow. Director Dole stated the difference is between a handicap parking and a loading zone and your original request was for loading zone and normally we only do that in the business district and the handicap parking would allow anyone that is handicap to park there. The loading zone would be for someone to drop her off there and then move the car to the driveway. Aldersperson Bush stated he is still getting phone calls. Mayor Gitz stated that he, Director Dole, and Aldersperson Bush will revisit that issue. He stated if we put a loading zone in a residential district that would be setting a precedent and we will meet to discuss options.

Mayor Gitz stated there is a motion and a second for approval of Resolution R-2014-76. The motion to approve the resolution as presented prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Resolution #2014-76 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2014-77:

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH VANDEWALLE & ASSOCIATES FOR SERVICES RELATED TO RAWLEIGH AND RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Director Brown explained that in July 2012, the City of Freeport and Vandewalle & Associates entered into an agreement for a scope of work related to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities program. Activities under this grant have included the creation of CAPS, a Third Ward neighborhood group, and the completion of the Third Ward Healthy Neighborhoods Report. The grant is set to end January 31, 2015.

Throughout the lifetime of this grant, its focus has shifted. In April of this year the City submitted an amendment to the scope of work. The amendment request was subsequently approved. The approved change in grant activities include:

- Reduction in scope of architecture and engineering activities at Rawleigh, since these tasks are now part of a separate grant;

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- Refinement of the Riverfront Enterprise Area Plan scope to include a webpage illustrating the various planning and implementation activities on the East Side and Third Ward, e.g. Tutty's Crossing, brownfield assessment and clean-up activities;
- Riverfront neighborhood housing redevelopment strategy;
- Identify strategic next steps for capitalizing on the various trail implementation efforts.

Additionally, a major task remaining under the grant includes the completion of the final public outreach requirements. These public outreach efforts will be a meeting with the Riverfront Enterprise Advisory Team and an open house for the public. Additional administrative work is also required to finalize changes in the scope that were submitted in April 2014 and approved by HUD this summer.

Vandewalle & Associates has submitted Work Order Number 0003 for completion of grant-required activities. While the work order has a not-to-exceed price of \$70,000, both a principal from the consulting firm and I, believe the remaining work can be completed for about half of that amount. Grant funds remain to cover the \$70,000, i.e. the City will not be required to pay for any of this work out of its own funds.

The resolution provided the following background:

“WHEREAS, on July 16, 2012, the City Council of the City of Freeport approved Resolution R-2012-65, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Vandewalle & Associates for work related to the Freeport Enterprise Initiative, a project funded through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Sustainable Communities program; and

“WHEREAS, the Mayor of Freeport and Vandewalle & Associates duly entered into an agreement for said work; and

“WHEREAS, Vandewalle & Associates has completed all work under the scope of the 2012 agreement; and

“WHEREAS, Vandewalle & Associates has submitted Work Order Number 0003, attached hereto, for work necessary to complete the Freeport Enterprise Initiative which was not included in the 2012 agreement; and

“WHEREAS, work completed under Vandewalle & Associates Work Order Number 0003 will be funded by the HUD Sustainable Communities program.”

Aldersperson Koester moved for approval of the resolution as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Brashaw. The motion to approve the resolution as presented prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Resolution #2014-77 was adopted.

OTHER

Reports of Department Heads

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Library

Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson stated the Mistletoe Walk and the FHN Festival of Trees will host events at the library this Christmas season. The theme this year is "It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas". There will also be a community tree lighting at FHN on Sunday. There is a gingerbread decorating contest and the customary decorating of trees by not-for profits. People in the community are encouraged visit the library and vote for their favorites.

Community Development

Director Brown reported the department is working on a couple opportunities to increase the funding for demolitions. They will be applying for funding from IDNR for demolishing vacant and abandoned properties buildings in the floodway. They will be applying for funding through the Illinois Housing Authority in the amount of \$250,000 for a blight reduction program and this would be to demolish vacant and abandoned homes in green sites. This program will be in conjunction with a non-for-profit and for this endeavor they will be teaming with Homestart and FACC has been involved in the discussion, along with the Park District and the Art Museum. The deadline for application will be December. He will bring a draft agreement for the next meeting.

Finance

Finance Director Cynthia Haggard stated she continues to work to complete the audit and it is now in its final steps. There should be a draft at the end of the month. She continues to work on the tax levy calculation. She stated they are looking at the 2006 bond refunding and is for the 2003 storm sewer and library, so that could begin in January. There could be a potential \$750,000 savings on the balance of the \$9.5 million bond. Mayor Gitz stated he appreciates the work Director Haggard has done on working with the different firms in refinancing the bonds.

Public Works

Director Dole provided an informational item regarding Aquin parking restriction on Empire Street as it relates to Codified Ordinances section 480.03 (v) - school entrances.). He stated we already dealt with the school speed zone earlier this evening. He stated the Chief of Police met with the principal because they are having an issue with the line of sight coming out of their parking lot. They requested no parking from 60 feet of this parking exit or entrance. Director Dole stated at the entrance and exit from school parking lots, he is allowed to post areas as "school entrance – no parking". Reference was made to section 480.03 (v) which provides at a school entrance or between signs designating school entrances and school loading zones. If such signs designate the no parking place at a school to be a tow away zone, then the vehicle may be towed away under the provisions of 480.10 (a).

Director Dole stated they will continue to pick up leaves for this week and next week in spite of the snow. It will be a slow process due to the snow and ice. He needs to transfer the trucks into slow plowing mode. This week, the Street Department has 8 trucks that they are using for leave pick-up and there are 7 trucks ready for snow. When snow is imminent the remainder will be transferred by taking off the leaf boxes and trucks will be used for plowing for the rest of the year.

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Alderperson Klemm commented on the volume of leaves the crews have to pick up and some streets take two to three truckloads of leaves. Director Dole stated because of the leaves along the curb-line, he asked the crews to only plow the center lanes but if they had a higher volume of snow that would make it difficult. If we did have a higher volume of snow, then they will have to plow fully to the curbs.

Fire

Fire Chief Scott Miller reported the ambulance that was ordered back in January is scheduled to be delivered tomorrow. There will be an IDPH inspection to receive the proper licensing and then the vehicle will be put into service in a week.

Chief Miller stated the new engine that was ordered will be finished production sometime in December.

Police

Chief Barkalow reported on the recent events on November 13, 2014 involving a homicide at 11½ E. Iroquois. Based on investigation this was not a drug or gang related crime. These acts of violence are hard to understand and our thoughts and prayers go victim's family. There is an active arrest warrant out for the perpetrator and Chief Barkalow encouraged anyone knowing about his whereabouts to contact the Freeport Police Department or Stateline Area Crime Stoppers at 1-866-847-7669.

Chief Barkalow stated the Freeport Police Department recently established a community group which will be called the "Friends of the Canine". This group has partnered with the Freeport Community Foundation which is designated as a 501 (c) 3. A temporary project has been established for the Police Department for the canine fundraising efforts for the cost of the canine and to properly outfit a vehicle. The cost of for this canine unit is over \$50,000. Some businesses may be contacted by the Friends of the Canine. Businesses or private persons wishing to donate financially may do so by sending to the Freeport Community Foundation in care of Mr. Dan Schmitt. The dollars qualify as a donation under the IRS because it is to a not-for-profit organization. Chief Barkalow thanked Mr. Schmitt for his assistance. He noted the motto of FCCF is connecting people with causes that matter and this is an important one.

Water and Sewer

Water and Sewer Executive Director Tom Glendenning was present and had no report.

City Engineer

City Engineer Shaun Gallagher reported on two construction updates. For the Jane Addams Trail project, they completed the pavement last week. With the cold snap there are issues that remain for the striping in the downtown street sections and on the trail. The pavement markings and the signage for the trail system will be completed next year. They will follow that up with the restoration and lighting of the Tutty's Crossing as part of the contract. There is restoration to do on the north side of the Van Buren Street Bridge and up to Lancaster Road. He stated things in this project progressed fairly well given the weather conditions we experienced over the last two weeks.

City Engineer Gallagher reported the Adams and Clark project is moving forward. The construction company will complete curb this week. Paving will be completed next week. That is a lot of work to get

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in considering the temperatures. It was expected to have the road open November 24, 2014 and with the weather, IDOT has extended the project to Wednesday before Thanksgiving and possibly through December 5, 2014. That project will not be fully completed this year but they are working to get Illinois 75 back up and running. The trail portion of that project, the section that runs over to Linden Street will be completed next spring.

City Engineer Gallagher stated he posted a Twitter account on the website to provide project status updates. You can also follow it @cityoffreeport.

Aldersperson Crutchfield stated he has gone along with the bike trails because everyone says they are good. He did not realize until recently, when at his 25 year class reunion, and had a classmate explain to him how they used the trail. She told him that the classmate along with a couple of car loads of bikers started out in Freeport with their lodging. Then they took off on the Jane Addams Trail and rode their bikes all the way to Minnesota and back. They stayed at the Baymont Inn, filled their gas tanks, and ate at McDonalds. He stated that is testimony that the bike trail does create movement in terms of economic development. He is now a supporter of bike trails.

City Engineer provided information on cold construction of curbs by use of warm water in the concrete mix and blankets for warming the curbs. They will follow up that up with paving in which the temperature is warmed to about 300 degrees. The rolling pattern is performed at a closer pace to keep with the integrity of that product in the colder temperatures. The downside is that as we get into next week the chances of snow get more and more.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gitz stated that they will do their best to find a compromise to the solution for parking on Adams Avenue. Mayor Gitz spoke about second homicide and stated he feels a personal sense of loss. In cities across America this has become a frequent event and he does not want that happening here. There have been meetings by the Chief of Police and Aldersperson Bush along with local variations of groups that are fighting with one and other. They are seeking to involve the parents and families to tell them to exert influence on your relative or one or two things are going to happen. They will end up dead or in penitentiary. We don't want that to happen. He spoke about the senseless act of this homicide and there are no grants or no programs to guard against this behavior. One of the things recently announced at the federal level is a program called "My Brother's Keeper" which ties in with local churches. He will work to facilitate this program locally. Mayor Gitz stated he will redouble his efforts towards the goals of the Public Safety Plan. Mayor Gitz stated, until the entire City succeeds, then none of us can succeed. We have to secure our neighborhoods and make them safe.

He spoke about he comments listed on the N.I.U. surveys in which 80% of those surveyed feel we need to concentrate of public safety. Yes, he agrees with the comment earlier this evening that public safety is a given and it doesn't eliminate our obligation to look at our buildings and do what is right.

Another comment that he heard was the reference to the fence around City Hall. He also considers this to be an extension on the building at the end of the block -- across from the courthouse. Every member of

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this council joins me in wanting a solution to the building. Our problem is that the owner can't expect us to pay 100% of the tab. He has to put something into it too. We are willing to help make that building façade (which was never designed as an exterior building wall) to be an asset to the city. He stated he does not think the City should assume all the costs. His position is the building owner has to come to the table (no they did not ask for the building next to it to fall down) but they have to bring some money to the table to help fix it.

Mayor Gitz stated it is his opinion that the fence around City Hall should come down but noted that it should not come down if we have any indication (as in the engineer's reports) of the stability of the soffits. He spoke about the fence as being necessary to protect the public for safety reasons. He asked why would we spend a lot of money on the upper portion of the building to fix the soffits until after we have figured out the fate of the building itself. We live in a society where everyone wants instant gratification and wants some results right now. Tom Dole can tell us that you cannot move tons of leaves immediately. It takes one person picking up a load and then someone else takes another load and so on. These buildings were not occupied when he came to office and the council was just beginning their terms. He doesn't make any apologies for taking the time to do this once and do it right. We have done the space needs study to figure out what our needs are, we have done engineering reports to figure out what the conditions of the buildings are and what it is likely to cost. We have done cost analysis to figure out what the likely rehab cost is going to be. We have consulted the public in order to say -- let's make sure we are all on the same page. We have done this, maybe a little slower than all of us like. It has been done with the best of intentions. Now, we are ready to close the circle. As we decide what are the repairs that we are going to make to these buildings or which building we are going to use all these things will fall into place. He appreciates the council advice that they have put into this and the patience that has been shown. Whatever the results over the next several weeks as we decide the fate of the buildings, he does not think that we can be legitimately accused of what we were accused of with the original library in that you rammed it down our throat and you did it fast and you didn't consider other building alternatives. He talked about the contradictory items in the surveys. Mayor Gitz stated no matter what we do, there will be criticism. He noted the opinions on the surveys are all over the place. We need to make the best decision that we know for the benefit of the people for the future. The other message of this document is let's spend our money with great care. He stated to Alderperson Koester that he takes it to heart that whatever the decision is made it is going to have ongoing maintenance built into it.

Mayor Gitz hopes to share with council in the very near future a list of major issues coming up over the next two to three months. He will provide list of items to finish out through to the end year. He invited council to share their list with him. He stated this will be plan our work and work our plan.

Since this is the last meeting in November before Thanksgiving, Mayor Gitz stated his wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving. He stated it is a privilege to serve with this council and his thanks for the time and service of the council. He disagrees with the comments that they are rubber stamping things. He stated you can disagree without being disagreeable and that is the way this council works. In terms of moving an organization along that is worth a lot.

NEW BUSINESS/COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 17, 2014

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

- Alderperson Endress reported there will be a Neighborhood Watch of the 5th Ward on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the First Church of the Nazarene.
- Alderperson Brashaw stated there are a lot of people who don't know what wards they are in and where their wards start and stop. If anyone has any questions, they can call City Hall, get that information and attend some of these watch meetings. There will be a combined 1st and 6th Ward meeting on November 25, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Schwarz Funeral Home. Their meetings are open to the public.
- Alderperson Koester stated he needs to check his work schedule to determine a date for the meetings in his ward.
- Alderperson Crutchfield spoke about the plea a couple of weeks ago to help feed the food pantry and that was successful and the citizens of Freeport should be commended. At this time he is putting out a call for the annual toy drive to benefit children in need. At Slumberland, they donate beds for children who have none and are sleeping on the floor. Gifts for the toy drive can be dropped off at all three Fire Stations and at Slumberland from November 18 to December 22, 2014. He stated sometimes these are the only toy a child receives for Christmas. If a cash donation, they will do the shopping and buy and wrap a toy.
- Alderperson Klemm stated we ought to do something about the Union School building because it is an eyesore and we need to take a serious look at what we can do. He stated years ago Representative Sacia was through the building and it was in rough shape at that time and places like this magnify crime and give people a place to stay. Mayor Gitz stated he had tasked our grant writer previously with looking at Union School in terms of federal and state grants to see if there is anything in demolition and to see if we can take it down or provide funds for a reuse. He stated we are trying to get firm numbers for the IDNR for structures in the floodway, like the old MLK Center and some of the homes along east Stephenson.
- Alderperson Bush reported the Arcade Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held on Thursday at the VFW at 6:00 pm.
- Alderperson DeVine wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and with the generosity of the people of Freeport there are a lot of people who will have a nice Thanksgiving.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk