



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, December 1, 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 December 1, 2014. Previous to this meeting was a special Committee of the Whole meeting ending later than expected.

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 Brashaw.

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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The minutes of November 17, 2014 were presented. Alderperson Brashaw moved for approval, seconded by Alderperson DeVine. City Clerk Zuravel stated Mayor Gitz requested an amendment to page 6, paragraph 5 to end the paragraph with the words, "other airport commissioners that were present." He explained one of the persons will be confirmed tonight. Mayor Gitz asked for a voice vote on the minutes as changed. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

Deb Elzinga was signed on the sheet and it was noted that she would be called to the podium during the resolution for the Blight Grant.

PRESENTATIONS

City Clerk Zuravel read aloud the honorary resolution to recognize the 140th Anniversary of Flachtemeier Monument in the City of Freeport. For many years, the Flachtemeier Bros. Monument Works specialized in plain and ornamental stone cutting, employed 10-15 men year around, and served several counties in the northern-Illinois area. The business was carried on by Frederick Flachtemeier's son, Arthur Flachtemeier, and eventually sold to today's owners, the Peter Troost Monument Company, which continues this family-owned tradition. The Flachtemeier Monument Company was commended for their

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140th Anniversary and reliable service to the people of Freeport. Alderperson Crutchfield moved for approval of the honorary resolution, seconded by Alderperson Klemm. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent. Mayor Gitz presented the honorary resolution to representatives of Flachtemeier Monument.

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 October 2014
 - 2) Police Department Report on Activities for September 2014
 - 3) Police Department Report on Activities for October 2014
- B. Approval of Motor Fuel Tax Fund Bills Payable (Registers #051) ---\$7,393.43
- C. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (Registers #251, 254, 255, 257) ---\$551,320.79
- D. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending November 15, 2014 --- \$404,585.09
- E. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #252, 253, 256, 258) --- \$1,510,475.84

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

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

Nays: none

APPOINTMENT

Alderperson Endress moved for approval of an appointment of appointment of Ruth Frankenfield to the Airport Commission effective immediately through November 30, 2018, seconded by Alderperson Klemm. Mayor Gitz noted that Ms. Frankenfield as a member of the Planning Commission has attended every Airport Commission meeting since he began his term. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

ORDINANCES –SECOND READING

2nd 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](#))

The first reading of this ordinance was held on November 17, 2014. A motion to approve was given by Alderperson Klemm, seconded by Alderperson Bush and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the second reading, Alderperson Koester stated he had the opportunity to talk to area residents and after the discussion they removed their objections to the parking restrictions. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Ordinance 2014-49 passed.

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2nd READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-50:

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

The first reading of this ordinance was held on November 17, 2014. A motion to approve was given by Alderperson Koester, seconded by Alderperson Endress and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the second reading and no discussion, the motion prevailed by a roll call vote of; Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (8)

Nays: none

Ordinance 2014-50 passed.

2nd 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

The first reading of this ordinance was held on November 17, 2014. A motion to approve was given by Alderperson Klemm, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the second reading Director Haggard stated at the last meeting she had been asked to provide to the council the relative costs for the increase in wages and PEHP. The Fire Department amount is \$13,000 the Police Department amount is \$34,000, the other non-bargaining employees cost for the 1.5% increase is \$24,000. Alderperson Boldt asked where the money is coming from and whether it is coming from contingency. Mayor Gitz answered that it is not coming out of contingency and this amount will need to be absorbed into the budget. There was some original planning that was done before the budget was adopted last year and he stated that it is fair to say that we have updated budget numbers and this is going to be a challenge. He stated in regard to contingency it is not cash that we have available from current year revenues and contingency is basically reserves. Anything that we don't balance would come out of reserves, which is not a pleasant situation to be in. Alderperson Boldt asked if there would be an ordinance adjustment in the near future to cover this or is there enough other line items to cover it. Mayor Gitz stated what we have done in the past, if it is a major budget amendment, and the item can be absorbed into a line item, then there are adjustments that can be made within line items perhaps as late as the end of the year. Alderperson Koester stated this covers non-bargaining personnel and he understands this is something we need to move on and put through even if we have to look for the financing for it. Mayor Gitz requested a roll call vote on the motion on the motion to approve the ordinance. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Ordinance 2014-52 passed.

ORDINANCES –FIRST READING

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-53:

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2014, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2015 FOR THE CITY OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON, AND STATE OF ILLINOIS – [view summary](#)

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This ordinance was presented at the Committee of the Whole special meeting held on December 1, 2014. At that meeting, the draft ordinance as presented was recommended to council floor by majority vote. Corporation Counsel Griffin noted that in section 6 need to be amended to state it is for the 2014-2015 fiscal year and it needs to be filed by the last Tuesday in December 2014. She noted each of the corrections on the ordinance. Alderperson Klemm moved for approval of the ordinance, seconded by Alderperson Endress. Alderperson Koester asked if this ordinance could be placed on the Committee of the Whole agenda for the next regular meeting. Mayor Gitz stated he will place it on the agenda for discussion.

Mayor Gitz stated that at the Committee of the Whole meeting there was a lengthy discussion on the tax levy. The ordinance as presented is the levy that sets the property taxes that are payable to the City next year. We are not the only governing body in the property tax mix, we are one of eight. Currently the City's share of the property taxes is 9.208% of the total tax bill with the other taxing bodies accounting for 90.792% of the tax bill. The Committee of the Whole discussed this and this council agreed on a levy that is a significant reduction. It takes into consideration a lower assessed valuation for the coming year than we had this year so that the intent of the ordinance in its present form is a \$0.00 increase in taxes on city corporate tax bill. There would be no increase in taxes. We recognize the decrease in the assessed valuation by also decreasing our money. There was also discussion of alternatives to that as to whether that was wise because of the negative impact to our corporate fund.

The following is a summary of documents provided to the council members:

	2014 Proposed Levy	2013 Tax Levy	2012 Tax Levy	2011 Tax Levy	2010 Tax Levy
Firefighters Pension	569,263	578,701	623,084	878,086	965,806
Police Pension	1,273,118	1,143,543	1,191,541	1,073,551	937,272
IMRF	136,000	257,000	286,400	256,000	240,000
Corporate Fund	469,660	544,470	544,470	464,470	489,540
Percentage Change	2,448,041 -3.0%	2,523,714 -4.6%	2,645,495 -1.0%	2,672,107 1.5%	2,632,318 2.7%

Alderperson Koester stated his concerns of consideration of the proposed tax levy. Alderperson Crutchfield verified that this tax levy is indeed a negative amount in comparison from last year's levy. The proposed overall tax levy is a -3.0% percentage change from last year. Mayor Gitz stated if we kept the tax levy the same as last year because of the reduction in the assessed valuation, then it would raise the property taxes paid by the average home or business to equal that same amount.

Alderperson Crutchfield asked if Director Haggard could run the figures for the Committee of the Whole meeting on the effect of a 3.0% increase to know what the impact would be on a sample home value of

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\$100,000. Alderperson Boldt asked her to obtain the CPI amount. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-54:

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2014, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2015 FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON, AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

Ordinance #2014-54 as presented for the tax levy for the Freeport Public Library included the following summary "There is hereby levied upon all taxable property within the corporate limits of said City of Freeport, Illinois, as the same is assessed and equalized for State and County taxation, for the fiscal year 2014-2015, certain property taxes in amounts as follows:

Property tax for general library purposes	\$900,413
Special tax for FICA/Medicare	49,000
Special tax for liability insurance	37,000
Special tax for unemployment insurance	5,000

The total amount will be levied in the amount of of Nine Hundred Ninety-One Thousand Four Hundred and Thirteen and 00/100 Dollars (\$991,413.00)."

Council was provided a document containing the amount levied for 2013-2014 is as follows:

Property tax for general library purposes	\$ 1,153,187
Special tax for FICA/Medicare	50,000
Special tax for liability insurance	42,500
Special tax for unemployment insurance	5,000

The total amount in the 2013-2014 levy for the Freeport Public Library was \$1,250,687.00."

Director Haggard provided a spreadsheet with 2008 through 2013 levy figures for the Freeport Public Library. She explained that in prior years the practice has been on the general fund to levy .50% when it is limited to .40% of the value of the taxable property in the City. Director Haggard stated she has made the decision to levy exactly as it is capped and use the .40% amount. She stated the way it was done you would be making an unrealistic amount as revenue in the budget. She stated so the realistic revenue for 2014-2015 is estimated for the general in the amount of \$900,413.00 and that is with that cap at .40%. She stated prior year would have been estimated to be \$916,000.

Mayor Gitz requested Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson to the podium. Alderperson Boldt stated the City Council can only pass the ordinance as presented and cannot change it and he asked if the Library Board had passed the levy using that .40%. Director Dickerson stated the Library Board this evening at a special board meeting passed the recommendation on the levy.

Alderperson Crutchfield asked if we can't change it then why do we need to pass it. It was noted that the library is also decreasing their levy over last year. Mayor Gitz stated by municipal code, the library is the municipal library and they are the extension of the City of Freeport. It serves the corporate limits of the

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City of Freeport. Mayor Gitz explained the limitation of the City per the state statutes for approval of the levy. Discussion was held on the spreadsheet showing 2008 through estimated 2014 library levies. Alderperson Klemm asked if this reflects wage increases. Director Dickerson stated this is the levy and not the budget and they are looking at a levy which is -3.0% less anticipated than our current year.

Alderperson Boldt moved to place the ordinance on the floor for adoption, seconded by Alderperson Bush. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-55:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 288 (OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES GENERALLY) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS – 2014 HEALTH INSURANCE

This ordinance was presented at the Committee of the Whole special meeting held this evening. Upon majority vote, it was recommended to council. City Clerk Zuravel noted that Corporation Counsel Griffin had placed an amended version of the ordinance on the council desks. This version was marked as: Ordinance: 2014 Health Insurance Changes 12-1-14. Debra Milliman, Human Resource Manager presented the ordinance by stating the administration is proposing to change the premiums that are paid per month. She stated no increases had been incurred since 2008 and there is no way this is sustainable in the future. She read portions aloud which amends Chapter 288, section 288.19 (b).

Ordinance 2014-55 as presented provided the following:

“WHEREAS, the terms of the current City of Freeport employee healthcare plan, including its coverage and cost distribution insurance terms, have not been revised since 2008, with the result that the current plan terms are financially unsustainable and now threaten the City’s solvency if they are not changed; and **WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that the following changes to the City’s health insurance program are consistent with the terms offered in the public sector by other public bodies and reflect market conditions for coverage terms; and

WHEREAS, this City Council finds that these changes to the City employee health insurance plan are in the best interests of the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the citizens and employees of the City of Freeport, Illinois.

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

Section 1. That Section 288.19 entitled “Medical and Life Insurance” of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport, Illinois shall be amended to read as follows:

“288.19MEDICAL AND LIFE INSURANCE

(a) Any employee of the City who retires with a total cumulative minimum of twenty years of service in the employment of the City and who, at the time of retirement, is covered by City group medical insurance coverage, may elect, in writing, at the time of retirement, to continue on the City group medical insurance coverage plan, provided that the retired employee, as a condition to continuing under such plan, will be required to pay, when due, all future premiums for his or her coverage.

(b) The City shall make available, to full-time employees and their dependents, group hospital and medical insurance, and to employees, fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in term life insurance coverage. The

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City will pay for the cost of the life insurance premium. If an employee chooses to participate in the City's group health and dental insurance coverage, the employee's cost ~~for single coverage shall be 5% shall be 12 % of the adopted COBRA single, single plus one, and family rate, respectively-rate beginning 30 days from the date of the adoption of this ordinance through December 31, 2015; 15% of the adopted COBRA single, single plus one, and family rate, respectively-rate from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016; and 18% of the adopted COBRA single, single plus one, and family rate, respectively-rate thereafter.~~ and shall not exceed thirty dollars and thirty-two cents (\$30.32) per month. The employee's cost for single plus one coverage and family coverage shall be 10% ~~15% of the adopted COBRA single plus one and family rates, respectively, from 30 days after the date of the adoption of this ordinance through December 31, 2015; and 18% of the adopted COBRA single plus one and family rates respectively, thereafter.~~ and shall not exceed one hundred forty-nine dollars and five cents (\$149.05) per month. The employee's cost for family coverage shall be 16% of the adopted COBRA family rate and shall not exceed two hundred thirty-eight dollars and thirty-eight cents (\$238.48) per month. The adopted COBRA rate shall mean, the COBRA rates as adopted by the City from time to time for single, single plus one, and/or family coverage. The employee shall be solely financially responsible for the amounts specified above for each group health and dental insurance coverage premium before the City's obligation to pay arises. ”.

The remaining sections are usual and customary to City ordinances.

Ms. Milliman noted that beginning 30 days from the date this ordinance is adopted that the increase to the premium would be 12% of the current COBRA rate and that would be through December 31, 2015, 15% of the adopted COBRA rate effective January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 and 18% of the adopted COBRA rate thereafter. She stated they are removing the caps which means each year when the COBRA rate is adjusted the premium would also be adjusted accordingly.

Aldersperson Koester stated in the Committee of the Whole meeting tonight he spoke about his concerns that we are once again starting out with the non-bargaining employees who continually take hits. He stated he is not in favor of it. Mayor Gitz explained the contracts and the timing of this change in that it is never a good time and we need to start and start now. He stated that without these changes we blow the budget apart and go bankrupt and that is how serious this is.

Aldersperson Klemm moved to place the ordinance on the floor for adoption, seconded by Aldersperson DeVine. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2014-56: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 290 (COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS) SECTION 290.01 (CLASSIFICATION PLAN OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT REGARDING CITY ACCOUNTANT

Finance Director Cynthia Haggard presented the ordinance and stated that the accountant position at grade 24 has been crossed out of the category and re-classed into a category where essentially the position is will not be longevity increase eligible and the annual increases will need to be negotiated. Mayor Gitz stated that currently an Accounts Payable clerk has been assisting with the functions and that person will shortly leave employment with the City. It has been recommended by Director Haggard to upgrade the position because there is more value to it. One of the difficulties we have had is because the budget is so tight that if we hire according to the ordinary classification we are locked into that salary and they in six months they receive an increase and then an annual increase. Because of the stress on this budget Director Haggard is recommending we take it out of the regular schedule put it into this classification and

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agree according to the credentials of that person to a salary that hopefully will be less than the standard classification, so this is a cost saving measure.

Aldersperson Klemm moved to place the ordinance on the floor for adoption, seconded by Aldersperson Boldt.

Discussion was held as to Director Haggard needing to hire someone for the position as soon as possible. Aldersperson Crutchfield moved for suspension of the rules for passage of the ordinance this evening, seconded by Aldersperson Koester. Motion on suspension of the rules prevailed by a roll call vote of:

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

Nays: none

Mayor Gitz stated the ordinance is properly on the floor for passage.

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

Nays: none

Ordinance 2014-56 was passed.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2014-78:

RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ESTIMATED TO BE NECESSARY TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 UPON TAXABLE PROPERTY IN ITS DISTRICT AND MAKING A DETERMINATION THAT IT INTENDS TO ADOPT AN AGGREGATE LEVY IN AN AMOUNT WHICH IS LESS THAN 105% OF THE AMOUNT EXTENDED OR ESTIMATED TO BE EXTENDED UPON THE FINAL AGGREGATE LEVY EXTENSIONS OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

The resolution determined that following; "It is hereby determined that the estimate to be necessary to be raised by taxation for the fiscal year 2014-2015 is the sum of Two Million Four Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand, Forty-One Dollars and 42/100 Dollars (\$2,448,041.42), which is less than 105% of the amount of the final aggregate levy of the preceding year, as determined through the methodology laid out in 35 ILCS 200/18-65." Corporation Counsel Griffin noted a correction under section 2 to read fiscal year 2014-2015 instead of fiscal year 2013-2014.

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

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

Nays: Koester (1)

Resolution #2014-78 was adopted

RESOLUTION #R-2014-79:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE IMLRMA GUARANTEED COST AGREEMENT

The resolution provided that the City Council of the City of Freeport finds it to be in the best interest of the municipality to continue making its IMLRMA contribution in accordance with the IMLRMA Guaranteed Cost Agreement which annual premium is Eight Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand and Eight Hundred Thirty-Six dollars and 00/100 Dollars (\$896,836.00), with the offer of an early renewal option of Eight Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Three and 46/100 Dollars (\$883,383.46).

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Director Haggard recommended the offer of early renewal option in the amount of \$883,383.46 and taking the 1.5% discount which would save the City over \$13,000. She analyzed previous years dating back to 2004 and the cost effectiveness of taking min/max the discount has come out to the advantage of the City.

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

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

Nays: none

Resolution #2014-79 was adopted

RESOLUTION #R-2014-80:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO CITY EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN, AND TO REPEAL ALL CONTRARY RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS [*\(memo\)*](#)

“WHEREAS, the City has been in the process of reviewing the City’s Health Insurance Plan offered for its employees; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the City and its health insurance carrier have negotiated changes in the City Employee Health Insurance Plan to be effective as of February 1, 2015, (hereinafter, the “2015 Amendments”) for employees of the City of Freeport, and a true, correct and complete statement of such amendments is contained in the attached document which is marked as “Exhibit A,” attached hereto and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, these changes will not be effective as to members of the certified collective bargaining units of City employees as represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local #3367, and as represented by the International Association of Firefighters Local #441, and as represented by the Policemen’s Benevolent Labor Committee, for the Police Benevolent & Protective Association, Unit No. 9, unless and until such amendments have been separately approved by same; and

WHEREAS, this City Council finds that its approval of the amendments including, but not limited to coverage and benefits changes including office visit co-payments, deductibles, out-of-pocket limits, prescription benefits, and annual maximums for chiropractic, to the City employee health insurance plan as stated in Exhibit A to be in the best interests of the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the citizens and employees of the City of Freeport, Illinois.

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

Section 1. The foregoing Recitals shall be and are hereby incorporated in this Section 1 as if said Recitals were fully set forth.

Section 2. That it does hereby approve Exhibit A hereto, the amendment to City employee health insurance plan as of February 1, 2015, as applicable to every employee of the City of Freeport, with the exception of the above-stated bargaining units, and that it does hereby authorize the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of Freeport, as well as any other City official or employee as may be required or convenient, to

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sign on behalf of the City of Freeport the amendment to said City employee health insurance plan and any other document necessary or convenient to fulfill the intent of this Resolution.

Section 3. That said Exhibit A shall be effective as of February 1, 2015.

Section 4. That the provisions of this Resolution are severable and if any court of competent jurisdiction shall declare any portion of this Resolution to be invalid or unenforceable, said decision shall not affect any portion of this Resolution, other than the part declared invalid or unenforceable. The City Council hereby declares that it would have enacted this Resolution even with the invalid or unenforceable portion deleted.

Section 5. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

Section 6. That this Resolution is expressly adopted pursuant to the Home Rule authority of the City of Freeport under Section 6(a) of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, and that all Resolutions or motions in conflict with this Resolution are repealed insofar as they conflict.

Section 7. That any resolution or motion in conflict with this Resolution is hereby repealed insofar as it conflicts with this Resolution.

Exhibit A - 2015 Amendments

NON-BARGAINING ONLY	Current	2015	2016	2017		Estimated Savings or Cost 2015
<u>Deductible</u>						
Single	\$ 300	\$ 500	\$ 750	\$1,000		\$ 4,800.00
Employee + 1	\$ 600	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000		
Family	\$ 600	\$1,500	\$2,250	\$3,000		
<u>Out of Pocket</u>						
Single	\$1,400	\$1,500	\$1,750	\$2,000		\$ 600.00
Employee + 1 Family	\$2,800	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000		
	\$2,800	\$4,500	\$5,250	\$6,000		
Primary copay	\$20	\$ 30				\$1,430.00
Specialist copay	\$20	\$ 50				\$4,380.00
ER copay	\$75	\$ 150				\$1,200.00
Chiro annual max	No max	\$2,000				\$ 0.00
Generic Prescription	\$ 5	\$10				Unknown
Preferred Brand	\$12	\$25				Unknown
Non-preferred Brand	\$30	\$50				Unknown
Prescription Management						Unknown

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Spousal Carve-Out*	Estimate 7 of 28	Covered Spouses (@ \$5,526.47)	\$38,685.30
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Health Insurance Committee

- Disease Management Program – Diabetes
- Wellness Get Fit Program

* Spousal Carve-Out Plan: If the spouse of a City of Freeport employee is (or becomes) eligible for coverage under another group health plan (e.g., another employer's group health plan or a group health plan sponsored by a union), the spouse must enroll in the employer plan and is not eligible to enroll in this plan. This provision will apply whether enrolled in the other employer group plan or not."

Council members voiced their concerns for the non-bargaining employees and noted this is not an easy decision. Alderperson Brashaw noted with the healthcare costs over the last four years the City's budget has experienced a shortfall and the healthcare costs have escalated to cost the City a million dollars while the out-of-pocket cost to the employees have stayed the same. The chart provided by the healthcare consultant showed the City's healthcare costs at \$2.5 million in 2010 and through 2013 and 2014 the cost was \$3.5 million. Council was also provided a summary of plan which showed the current deductible amount to be \$300 since 2006, out of pocket at \$1,400 since 2006, office visit copayment at \$20 since 2006, fastcare at 100% with no copayment since 2009, vision at \$250 every two years since 2008.

Alderperson Klemm moved for approval of the resolution as presented, seconded by Alderperson Boldt. The motion to approve the resolution as presented prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: Koester (1)

Resolution #2014-80 was adopted

RESOLUTION #R-2014-81: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING JOINT APPLICATION TO THE ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S BLIGHT REDUCTION PROGRAM BY HOME START AND THE CITY OF FREEPORT ([view memo](#))

Director Brown provided a written summary for the resolution Authorizing Joint Application to The Illinois Housing Development Authority's Blight Reduction Program By Home Start And The City Of Freeport. It stated the "Hardest Hit Fund Program" is a U.S. Treasury managed resource dedicated to foreclosure prevention and neighborhood stabilization. Under the Hardest Hit Fund, the Illinois Housing Development Authority of the State of Illinois (IHDA) has created the 2014 Blight Reduction Program (BRP) with goals to decrease preventable foreclosures, stabilize neighborhoods, support partnerships between Illinois units of local government and their not-for-profit partners, and provide funding to target blighted, vacant, residential properties in specific communities.

Director Brown explained that over the past few months the Community Development Department has discussed with HomeStart the potential for a joint application to the Blight Reduction Program. The Freeport Area Church Cooperative and the Freeport Park District have also been engaged, particularly in discussions involving the potential re-use of properties once homes are demolished. An agreement between the City of Freeport and HomeStart would be required as part of the program application. This program offers the potential to receive more than a \$250,000 for the demolition of single-family homes

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and the greening of the sites. The City's current demolition budget is \$100,000. Under this program and agreement, HomeStart would take title to the properties. If, after three years following demolition, a suitable use had not been found for any of the properties, their ownership would be transferred to the City.

Ms. Deb Elzinga was asked to the podium. She stated HomeStart and the board are very supportive of partnering with the City. In addition to the City, they have been working with FACC on the grant. She described the efforts and outlook for the grant in an area of State, Galena, and Iroquois. They will be asking for a grant of \$250,000 with a goal to decrease preventable foreclosures, stabilize neighborhoods, support partnerships between Illinois units of local government and their not-for-profit partners, and provide funding to target blighted, vacant, residential properties in specific communities. If they were to receive funds for demolition of the property then the intent would be to put in its place a community garden or a park but to make it a neighborhood project so each neighbor has ownership in the upkeep. In some cases the vacant property could be sold to an adjacent property owner. She stated that FACC has received support of nine area churches along that same corridor.

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

Nays: none

Resolution #2014-81 was adopted

OTHER

Reports of Department Heads

Community Development

Director Brown reported that Home Buyer Trust has a new program and he explained the details of the program allowing for a lesser down payment on a loan.

Finance

Finance Director Cynthia Haggard stated the audit draft will should be forwarded to her this week.

Public Works

Director Dole provided a written summary of the Leaf Removal Totals. The total loads were 634 for the season and the total work hours it took for the leaf pickup this season was 1,978. These totals are for six weeks of leaf pickup because this year it snowed which ended the season early. The trucks were transferred to snow plowing. The crews have been filling pot holes and street sweeping.

Director Dole provided an update on the Albertus Airport maintenance hangar and the office. He stated the maintenance hangar had been damaged in a storm and the office has had mold remediation. In the meantime, the Fixed Base Operator has been using a temporary trailer for their office. The contractor has been hired to clean the flooring, ceiling, and furniture.

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Library

Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson was present and had no further report.

Fire

Fire Chief Scott Miller reported that a fire occurred at 1500 Route 75 which the department responded. He stated there was extensive damage to semis and trucks amounting to an estimated \$200,000. The fire was confined to the outside.

Police

Deputy Chief of Police Jim Drehoble explained that fundraising efforts have begun for the Friends of the Canine. They will have introductions of the program at a meeting to be held on December 3, 2014.

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. City Engineer Gallagher reported the Adams and Clark project is nearing completion. The construction company has put down the 4" binder and final paving will be completed this week. It was expected to have the road open by December 5, 2014. That project will not be fully completed this year but they are working to get Illinois 75 back up and running. City Engineer Gallagher provided an update on the Roundabout payments that he has invoiced. He stated overall the project came in \$30,000 less than the estimated cost. The county was invoiced for their share and their payment has been received. He recently invoiced Heritage Wood and Citizen State Bank for their portions. He provided a report and accidents in the area of the roundabout and noted there were three accidents in the first 60 days of the roundabout being open. There was recently on accident about two weeks ago on a snowy day. All told there have been four weather related accidents mostly caused by drivers coming in from Pearl City Road approaching eastbound and taking it too fast. He has talked to the County Engineer about placing cautionary signs prior to the roundabout. City Engineer Gallagher reminded council that the purpose of the roundabout was to deflect from the T-bone more serious accidents and it has done its job on that part. He noted that just because someone is traveling into the roundabout from Pearl City Road they do not have the right of way. Discussion was held that a driver must yield to the vehicle in the roundabout before proceeding into it.

City Engineer Gallagher provided an update on roadway striping and cold weather related issues.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gitz stated his thanks to the council for their support of the healthcare changes. He asked council members if they have any questions or require additional information for the tax levy to get those to him so administration can get the information out in advance of the next meeting. Aldererpson Koester requested a listing of possible revenue sources besides the sales tax for the Committee of the Whole meeting. Mayor Gitz stated he will also place discussion of the City Hall issues on the Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.

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NEW BUSINESS/COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Alderperson Brashaw spoke about the generosity of the people from Freeport as they give to families in need.
- Alderperson Koester spoke about his concerns with the healthcare changes and the non-bargaining employees.
- Crutchfield spoke about his 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.
- Alderperson Klemm asked about the store on the south side of Stephenson in the Downtown. Mayor Gitz provided an update of a case pending in the court with a hearing set for December 16, 2014. Discussion was held as to the status of the building on the north side of Stephenson on Galena with bare wall where a building was taken down. Mayor Gitz provided a status on that case and stated they are working with the owner of the building.
- Alderperson Endress congratulated the football teams from Forreston and Eastland-Pearl City for bringing home the class 1A and 2A IHSA State Championship title at the end of November 2014.

City Clerk Zuravel stated the City of Freeport will be accepting candidate petitions or certificates for the Consolidated Election from candidates for wards one through 7 and the alderperson-at-large. These petitions will be accepted from December 15 through 22, 2014, in the office of the City Clerk, 524 W. Stephenson Street, 3rd Floor. The city clerk's office will be open regular business hours from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm each day during the filing period.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Frankenfield thanked the council members for their support of her appointment to the Airport Commission.

Tom Teich spoke about a mold issue at the Presence Provena chapel.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed Session)

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity

At 7:51 pm, Alderperson Brashaw moved to enter executive session, seconded by Alderperson Koester. The motion to approve the resolution as presented prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

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At 8:18 pm, Alderperson Koester moved to return executive session, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw. The motion to approve the resolution as presented prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (8)
Nays: none

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk