

CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
MONDAY EVENING
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
May 7, 2007 AT 7:00PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

QUORUM

At 7:00 pm, a quorum being present, Mayor Gaulrapp called the meeting to order.

RECORD

Present were Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Klemm, Threadgill, Toepfer, and Endress were present. Absent were Aldermen Boldt and Bender.

INVOCATION

There was an invocation by Pastor Varner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At this time, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderman Helms.

DO THE RIGHT THING PRESENTATION

Seargent Quincy Carter, Police Chief, Jerry Whitmore, and Deputy Fire Chief Steve Mooney presented the nominees and top winner for Do the Right Thing.

PRESENTATIONS

There was a presentation to Lona Kniskern from the Township and City, for her years of service as Director of the Stephenson County Senior Center. Aldermen Toepfer and Threadgill were also recognized for their service to the City of Freeport.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Alderman Helms moved, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill to approve the agenda. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Klemm, Threadgill, Toepfer, and Endress voted yea. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Journal of the Minutes of the regular meeting of April 16, 2007, was presented for approval. Alderman O'Neill moved, seconded by Alderman Helms to approve. The motion carried.

ALDERMAN COMMENTS

Alderman Helms moved, seconded by Alderman Klemm to make the special meeting on Monday, May 15, 2007, a council meeting instead of committee of the whole. The motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

SWEARING IN

Judge Mike Bald swore in Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress.

ROLL CALL

Present was Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress. Absent was Alderman Boldt.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval to Receive and Place on File:
 - 1. Treasurer's Report for March 2007
 - 2. Treasurer's Monthly Investment Report for March 2007
 - 3. Community Development Cash Receipts for April 2007
 - 4. Community Development Building Permits for April 2007
 - 5. Police Department Monthly Activities for March 2007
- B. Approval of Water & Sewer Disbursements for April 2007- - \$333,146.06
- C. Approval of Bills Payable (#986-#990) for April 2007-\$648,193.94
- D. Approval of Payroll for period ended April 7, 2007 - \$368,979.63 & April 28, 2007 - \$389,403.78

Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Endress to approve. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The motion carried.

1st READING ORDINANCE #2007-32

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 290 (COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS) SECTION 290.01 (CLASSIFICATION PLAN) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

The committee held a meeting on April 16, 2007. This ordinance changes the Nuisance Inspector position from non-union to union. The union has added a side letter of acceptance. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Helms so moved, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Endress to suspend the rules for immediate consideration. On the roll call of yeas and nays to suspend the rules, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The motion carried. On the roll call of yeas and nays to approve this ordinance, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The motion carried.

1ST READING ORDINANCE #2007-33

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 806 (ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR SALES) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

This ordinance would allow an existing liquor license holder to transfer their license to a new location for a fee of \$500.00. The current ordinance does not allow a transfer. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Helms to approve. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

1st READING ORDINANCE #2007-34

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 650 (MINORS), SECTION 650.08 (CURFEW) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

The committee held a meeting on April 16, 2007. Curfew hours are tiered by age groups. Alderwoman O'Neill moved, seconded by Alderman Helms to approve. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

1ST READING ORDINANCE #2007-35

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1044 (WATER RATES AND REVENUES) AND CHAPTER 1048 (SEWER RATES AND REVENUES) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

The committee held a meeting on April 16, 2007. Denise Ihrig presented the recommendation from the Water & Sewer Commission and the Commission was

present to answer all questions of the committee. The committee voted unanimously to approve and Alderwoman O'Neill moved, seconded by Alderman Helms. Corporation Counsel explained that she was uncomfortable approving rates for one year. Alderman Helms moved, seconded by Alderman Klemm to extend to 2009. The motion carried. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Helms to suspend the rules. On the roll call of yeas and nays to suspend the rules, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The motion carried. On the roll call of yeas and nays to approve the ordinance Aldermen Helms, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. Alderwoman O'Neill voted nay. There were six yeas and one nay. The motion carried.

1ST READING ORDINANCE #2007-36

AN ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 1052 (WATER & SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

The committee held a meeting on April 16, 2007. Denise Ihrig presented a surcharge on residential and business water bills in order to fund capital improvements. The Water & Sewer Commission answered all questions from the council. The committee voted to approve and Alderman O'Neill so moved, seconded by Alderman Helms to approve. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Endress to suspend the rules for immediate consideration. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Alderman Helms, Klemm, and Endress voted yea. Aldermen O'Neill, Corbin, Bush, and Devine voted nay. There were three yeas and four nays. The motion failed.

APPOINTMENTS

Effectively immediately, Mayor Gaulrapp hereby appoints Craig Joesten to the Housing Authority Board. Mr. Joesten shall replace Jenny Devine who has resigned the position. This appointment shall be effective until October 31, 2007. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Endress to accept this appointment. There were concerns that appointing a member of the administration could be a conflict. After further discussion, Craig Joesten withdrew his acceptance of the appointment.

Effective immediately, Mayor Gaulrapp hereby appoints Marilyn Smit to the Historic Preservation Commission. This is a three year term and will expire on February 28, 2010. Alderwoman O'Neill moved, seconded by Alderman Corbin to accept this appointment. The motion carried.

Effective immediately, Mayor Gaulrapp hereby appoints Stacy Fernstaedt to the Planning Commission. This appointment will expire on October 31, 2009. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Endress. The motion carried.

Effective immediately, Mayor Gaulrapp hereby appoints Carl Lingle to the Historic Preservation Commission. This is a three year term and will expire on February 28, 2010. Alderman Endress moved, seconded by Alderman Corbin to accept this appointment. The motion carried.

Effective immediately Mayor Gaulrapp hereby appoints Scott Helms as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole and Linda O'Neill as Vice-Chair.

REMOVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER

Pursuant to Section 1220.04 of the City Code, Mayor Gaulrapp removes Ronda Scott from the Planning Commission for lack of attendance. Alderman Helms moved, seconded by

Alderwoman O'Neill to read and place on file a letter received by Ronda Scott. City Clerk, Latacia Ishmon then read into the record the following letter received from Ronda Scott:

To All City Council and Members of the Public:

I fully intended to continue serving the people of Freeport on the Planning Commission for my full term.

Since the election has taken place I have been informed by Mayor Gaulrapp that I have not attended enough of the regular meetings to remain on the board. However, it is a common practice for volunteer board members to miss routine monthly meetings provided there is a quorum. I made special effort to actively participate in all of the public hearings for all of the major development projects. I have devoted considerable time to research the issues and I've appreciated working with the other Planning Commissioners.

Although I am appointed by the mayor, it is my duty as a member of the Planning Commission to think independently, to possess the courage to disagree, and to act in the best interests of the community. There are times where it is appropriate to disagree and it can result in improved ideas.

I publicly disagreed with the mayor's agenda to offer tax incentives to the Wal-Mart Development. It was an unnecessary give-away of money for 23 years. I expressed my concern that the Mayor is operating with no Comprehensive Plan for the City and we definitely need a new 20-year plan. When I campaigned that the city would be better served by a professional city manager instead of an elected mayor I received two important endorsements by both the Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee and the Journal Standard editorial board.

It is the mayor's strategy to remove any opposition to his political agenda. However, I will continue to be a vocal participant in our community regardless of any official position I hold.

I disagree with the mayor's decision to silence ideas that do not support his own and I encourage the city council to retain my voice on the Planning Commission.

Signed and dated by Ronda Scott on May 7, 2007

Alderman Corbin moved, seconded by Alderman Endress to concur with the removal of Ronda Scott from the Planning Commission. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #R-2007-32

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

The committee held a meeting on April 16, 2007. The committee voted unanimously to adopt this resolution and Alderman Klemm so moved, seconded by Alderman Endress. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2007-33

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TREASURER OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT TO INVEST FUNDS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

City Treasurer, Linda Buss, stated that this resolution allows her to invest at any of the banks listed in the resolution. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Endress to approve. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2007-34

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH TRI-RIVERS HEALTH PARTNERS, LLC

The committee held a meeting on April 16, 2007. This resolution authorizes an agreement with Tri-Rivers Health Partners to place fiber optic within the City of Freeport rights-of way. The committee voted unanimously to adopt this resolution and Alderwoman O'Neill so moved, seconded by Alderman Helms. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2007-35

AMENDED RESOLUTION TO REQUEST TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF STREETS FOR ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

This resolution amends the route for the Memorial Day Parade. The previous route runs on the portion of Main that is closed due to a fire. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Helms. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #R-2007-36

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY MOBILIZATION SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

This grant would reimburse the city \$1,920.00 of the City's overtime payroll costs for a Memorial Day Mobilization Seat Belt Enforcement Program. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Endress to adopt this resolution. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2007-37

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT OF THE WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS BETWEEN UNITED WATER SERVICES, INC. AND THE CITY OF FREEPORT

The committee held a meeting on April 16, 2007. This resolution extends the contract with United Water for 30 days. Alderman Helms moved, seconded by Alderman Klemm to approve. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2007-38

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN

The Human Relations Commission has approved the Affirmative Action Plan and Alderman Bush so moved, seconded by Alderman Helms. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Denise Ihrig stated that a 16 inch gate valve failed at Campus lift station located on Carthage Drive. The costs associated with the project total \$18,331.64. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Endress to approve expenditure of funds. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The motion carried.

Shelly Griswold stated that four bids were received for the demolition of Cheaters. Bids were received from Alber & Son Trucking in the amount of \$71,500; Civil Constructors in the amount of \$319,450.00; Fischer Excavating, Inc in the amount of \$55,479.68; and Northern Illinois Service Company in the amount of \$129,982.00. Also, alternate bids were received from Civil in the amount of \$219,450.00 and Northern Illinois Service Company in the amount of \$114,982.00. The recommendation is to accept the low bid from Fischer Excavating in the amount of \$55,479.68. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Endress to accept this bid. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The motion carried.

The administration is requesting to hire a part-time cemetery employee. Alderman Klemm moved, seconded by Alderman Helms to approve. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, Bush, Devine, and Endress voted yea. The motion carried.

As there was no other business to be transacted by the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

LATACIA M. ISHMON, CMC