

CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
MONDAY EVENING
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 3, 2003 AT 7:00PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

QUORUM

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

RECORD

Present were Aldermen Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Boldt, Urban, and Dawson. Alderwoman Steele entered the meeting at 7:20pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

DO THE RIGHT THING PRESENTATION

Michelle Countryman acknowledged all the sponsors for the Do the Right Thing Program. Police Chief, Jerry Whitmore then read the nominees for the month of February and announced the top winner.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was an public hearing conducted by the Grants/Administrative Hearings Officer, Reggie Taylor, for the purpose of gathering public opinion regarding applying for financial assistance under Section 5311. Lona Kniskern, representing the Stephenson County Senior Center, voiced her support for the city applying for this grant. John Cook expressed his concern with the process in choosing the recipients of the grant money. Alderwoman Bender stated both taxicab companies should be subsidized with this grant money. Reggie Taylor explained that only one company responded to the RFP. Mr. Taylor addressed all questions by the public and council. There being no further comments, Alderman Dawson moved, seconded by Alderman Bush that this public hearing be closed. The motion carried.

HONORARY RESOLUTION #R-2003-21

HONORARY RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING PAUL WHITAKER FOR HIS SERVICE & DEDICATION

WHEREAS, Paul Whitaker has served with distinction as Chairman of the City of Freeport Airport Commission; and

WHEREAS, Paul Whitaker has worked tirelessly to improve the Airport and has played a major role in its continuing growth, including doubling the number of airplanes based at the Airport to 84, building new safety zones, and adding several new hangars; and

WHEREAS, Paul Whitaker played a crucial role in the successful relocation of Hollywood Road by involving Silver Creek Township and adjacent property owners in the planning process; and

WHEREAS, the people of Freeport have greatly benefited from Paul Whitaker's sense of vision and his continuing service, dedication and commitment to Albertus Airport and to our community; and

WHEREAS, Paul Whitaker is retiring from the Airport Commission after serving with distinction,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that we hereby honor Paul Whitaker for his service to the people of Freeport and to Albertus Airport. We further extend our best wishes to Paul, his wife, Lorna, and his children for their continued health and success.

Alderman Rinehart moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender to accept this resolution. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Boldt, Urban, and Dawson voted yea. The motion carried.

Mayor Gitz then presented the resolution to Mr. Whitaker in a plaque.

COMMUNICATION

The following memo was submitted by Carla Jones and read by the City Clerk:

Please accept this notice as my formal resignation as 5th Ward Alderperson. This resignation is effective immediately.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve with my fellow council members and the citizens of Freeport. While my work as a city councilperson has ended, my commitment to the community has not. I will continue to be actively involved with activities and organizations that serve our community.

Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman Dawson that this communication be received and placed on file. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Journal of the Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 18, 2003, was presented for approval. Alderman Gaulrapp moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender for approval of the minutes. The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval to Receive and Place on file:
 - 1. Department of Community Development Cash
- B. Approval of Water & Sewer Disbursements for February 2003 - \$487,521.35
- C. Approval of Bills Payable for February 2003 -\$745,171.90
- D. Approval of Payroll for Pay Period ending February 22, 2003- \$293,968.10

Alderman Gaulrapp moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender for approval of the consent agenda. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Boldt, Urban, and Dawson voted yea. The motion carried.

2nd READING

ORDINANCE #2003-15

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT ALARM SYSTEM MUTUAL AID INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

This ordinance was laid over from the meeting of February 18, 2003, when it was moved by Alderman Dawson, seconded by Alderwoman Bender. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Alderman Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Boldt, Urban, and Dawson voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

2nd READING

ORDINANCE #2003-16

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL TASK FORCE INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT

This ordinance was laid over from the meeting of February 18, 2003, when it was moved by Alderman Dawson, seconded by Alderwoman Bender for approval. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Alderman Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Boldt, Urban, and Dawson voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

2nd READING

ORDINANCE #2003-17

AN ORDINANCE TO ISSUE A SPECIAL USE PERMIT UNDER THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT (SPECIAL USE PERMIT, FREEPORT RACEWAY PARK)

This ordinance was laid over from the meeting of February 18, 2003, when it was moved by Alderwoman Steele, seconded Alderwoman Moore-Howard for approval. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Alderman Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Boldt, Urban, and Dawson voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-18

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Alderman Bush moved, seconded by Alderman Goley for approval of this ordinance. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 891 (TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE FEE) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS BY REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 891 WITH A NEW CHAPTER 891 (SIMPLIFIED MUNICIPAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS TAX)

Alderman Bush, Finance Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on February 19, 2003. Alderman Goley explained to the committee that the task recommendation was to increase the telecommunications tax. The city has to approve an ordinance by March 31, 2003, in order to have the change in the tax rate take affect on July 1, 2003. The recommendation from the task force was 3%, however, the committee felt after hearing from Fire Chief, Jim Blackbourn and Police, Jerry Whitmore that the tax should be increased by 4%, in order to provide services that the citizens of Freeport are accustomed to. The committee was concerned about possible lay-offs in the Police and

Fire Departments and stated that this option should be the last resource. The committee approved this ordinance and Alderman Bush so moved, seconded by Alderman Jenkins. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

RESOLUTION #R-2003-20

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER SECTION 5311 OF THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ACT OF 1991

Alderman Boldt, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on March 3, 2003. Reggie Taylor explained the grant application process to the committee. He stated that he did not what the award dollar amount would be, but that it would probably be less than last year's dollar amount. He explained the current voucher system that the city has with the transportation providers. There was much discussion, most of which were reiterated during the public hearing. The deadline to apply for this grant is March 15, 2003 for the state's 2004 fiscal year. The committee voted unanimously to adopt this resolution and Alderman Boldt so moved, seconded by Alderman Dawson. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Alderman Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Boldt, Urban, and Dawson voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Alderman Dawson, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 12, 2003, at 6:00pm, in City Council Chambers.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Alderman Jenkins, Chair, stated that the next meeting would be March 10, 2003, at 7:00pm, in City Council Chambers.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Alderman Gaulrapp, Chair, stated that the next meeting would be March 4, 2003, at 6:30pm, in City Council Chambers. The committee will then convene to the conference room in order have a conference call with John Lanpfer, instead of paying for travel expenses, to discuss the current contract with Insight Communications.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Alderwoman Steele, Chair, stated that the report for demolition was given at the last council meeting. RFPs were received for five properties: 411 South Adams, 472 Kenwood, 833 East Stephenson, 23 South Hooker, and 512 South State. The bid totals were as follows: Brokhausen - \$24,629; Alber - \$32,500, and Northern Illinois Service \$44,208. Because the city is collecting insurance money on 411 South Adams, shifting line items in the Building Department's budget will allow enough money to pay for the demolition of four properties (without touching contingency funds). The committee recommended approval of the low bid for four properties from Brokhausen, excluding 523 South State and Alderwoman Steele so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Veer.

Alderman Bush stated that he has received several calls on the property located at 523 South State Street. Alderman Bush moved, seconded by Alderman Jenkins to include demolition of the fifth property and use contingency funds. After some discussion, Alderman Bush and Jenkins withdrew the motion.

On the roll call of yeas and nays to accept the low bid from Brokhausen, excluding 523 South State, Alderman Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Boldt, Urban, and Dawson voted yea. The bid was accepted.

Alderman Steele stated that the next meeting would be March 10, 2003, at 5:30pm, in City Council Chambers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Alderman Bush, Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on February 19, 2003. Bill Morris gave the committee an overview of the bond issue for the commitment to the library, storm sewer project, and Rawleigh building. The committee agreed to enter into a letter of engagement with Kirkpatrick Pettis in order to structure a tax-exempt bond and Alderman Bush so moved, seconded by Alderman Jenkins. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Boldt, and Urban voted yea. Alderman Dawson voted nay and Alderman Bender abstained. There were eleven yeas, one nay, and one abstention. The motion carried.

Alderman Gaulrapp asked if the bond was legally binding. Mayor Gitz responded that the firm would prepare the issue and take it to the market. The firm will determine what documents have to be prepared at different levels and then the final document will be presented to the council for approval.

Alderman Bush stated that the committee also interviewed the candidate for the position of Finance Director.

Alderman Bush stated that the next meeting would be March 11, 2003, at 5:00pm.

NEW BUSINESS

The aldermen made comments. There was no new business presented that required action from the council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Cook stated his opposition to city charging .25 for photocopies.

Marianne Garvens stated that in her opinion, the task force meetings were a violation of the open meetings act. She stated that individual department budgets have greatly increased over the years.

Mayor Gitz made comments regarding various city issues.

As there was no other business to be transacted by the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

LATACIA M. ISHMON, CITY CLERK

