

CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
MONDAY EVENING
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2003 AT 6:00PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

QUORUM

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

RECORD

Present were Aldermen Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Urban, Dawson, and Jenkins. Absent were Alderwoman Steele and Alderman Boldt. Alderman Boldt was absent due to a family emergency.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Journal of the Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 3, 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. Treasurer's Monthly Investment Report for period ending February 28, 2003
 - 2. Planning Commission Reports
 - 3. Treasurer's Report for period ending February 2003
 - 4. Police Department Activity Report for February 2003
 - 5. Fire Department Activity Report for February 2003
 - 6. Treasurer's Schedule of Tax Receipts for period ending February 28, 2003
- B. Approval of Water & Sewer Disbursements for February 2003 - \$133,370.67
- 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 Goley moved, seconded by Alderwoman Moore-Howard for approval of the consent agenda. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Alderman Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Urban, Dawson, and Jenkins voted yea. The motion carried.

2nd 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

This ordinance was laid over from the meeting on March 3, 2003, when it was moved by Alderman Bush, seconded by Alderman Goley for approval. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Urban, Dawson, and Jenkins voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

2nd 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)

This ordinance was laid over from the meeting of March 3, 2003, when it was moved by Alderman Bush, seconded by Alderman Jenkins for approval. After some discussion, Alderman Bush moved, seconded by Alderman Gaulrapp that this ordinance be laid over for a special meeting to be had before March 31, 2003. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Urban, Dawson, and Jenkins voted yea. The motion carried.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-20

SPECIAL ORDINANCE FOR VARIATION, PERMIT, OR AMENDMENT OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS (SPECIAL USE PERMIT, 1645 S WEST AVE)

Alderwoman Veer, Public Works Vice-Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on March 17, 2003. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Veer so moved, seconded by Alderman Dawson. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Urban, Dawson, and Jenkins voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-21

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT SCHEDULE OF AMBULANCE RATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 242.46 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

Alderman Dawson, Public Safety Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 12, 2003. Ambulance fees were discussed and changes were proposed. These changes were made in order to match what the government will reimburse. The committee voted unanimously to approve the new schedule and Alderman Dawson so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Urban, Dawson, and Jenkins voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2033-22

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 480 (PARKING GENERALLY) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

Alderman Jenkins, Public Works Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 10, 2003. The Park District requested that the existing No Parking on Empire (across from Cannova's) be extended, for a total of 60 feet. This is consistent with other changes made around summer recreation area. There should be different traffic patterns because of the Skate Park closing on the north end of this street. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Jenkins so

moved, seconded by Alderman Urban. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-23

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH FREEPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR SUMMER OF 2003

Alderman Dawson, Public Safety Chair, stated the committee held a meeting on March 12, 2003. The Housing Authority of Freeport enters into an agreement with the City of Freeport Police Department for the use of callback Community Policing at the Parkside, Westview, and Willow Apartments during the period of May 11 – September 8, 2003. The agreement will not exceed 10000 hours at a pay rate of \$30 per hour. Both units will mutually agree upon the patrol schedule. The agreement is funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. This the third year for this agreement. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Dawson so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-24

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

Alderman Dawson, Public Safety Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 12, 2003. It has been proposed to eliminate the Telecommunications Supervisor position at the police department and shift the job duties to other positions as a cost saving measure. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Dawson so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

RESOLUTION #R-2003-22

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE HEALTHWORK'S COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE DRUG SCREEN CONSORTIUM

WHEREAS, the City of Freeport is required by the Illinois Department of Transportation that employees who are required to possess a Commercial Drivers License be screened or tested for use of abuse of alcohol and/or drugs; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to enter into an agreement with Healthworks to provide services for participation in their drug screen consortium; and

WHEREAS, such drug and alcohol tests shall be for the purpose of post-accident examination, post-offer employment examination, Department of Transportation examination, and fulfillment of random testing and reasonable suspicion testing requirements; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that the City of Freeport enter into an Agreement with Healthworks, to provide alcohol and/or drug testing services per the attached Agreement, marked as Exhibit A and made a part hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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.

Alderman Bush, Finance Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 11, 2003. Human Resource Director, Roberta Rogers, received two bids for drug and alcohol testing, which is mandated by the US Department of Transportation. The bids were from IML for \$1,724 and Healthworks for \$1,550. The committee voted unanimously to accept the low bid from Healthworks and Alderman Bush so moved, seconded by Alderman Goley. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Veer, Urban, Dawson, and Jenkins voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Alderman Bush, Finance Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 11, 2003. Human Resource Director, Rogers, reported that two bids were received from Better Business Planning and Freeport Regional Health Plan. She informed the committee that the bids would be taken to the Health Care Committee in order to negotiate a contract and then it will come back to committee for approval.

City Accountant, Duane Price, presented to the committee a spreadsheet of the history of natural gas usage for a residential and committee users.

The committee discussed budget issues. Alderman Boldt presented to the committee a proposal to save jobs. He suggested using the \$200,000 landfill closure money to pay for the library instead of bonds. This was referred to Community Development Director, Jeff Mikkelsen and City Accountant, Duane Price to look into.

There was also discussion on whether or not to approve the budget before May 1, 2003 or wait until the newly elected aldermen were seated. It was expressed that the committees should continue reviewing budget items.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Alderman Veer stated that the committee held a meeting on March 10, 2003. The committee reviewed the Building Department, Community Development and Airport line items for the 2003-04 budget. She stated that the next meeting would be April 14, 2003 at 5:30pm.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Alderman Dawson, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 12, 2003, at 6:00pm, in City Council Chambers. Fire Chief, Jim Blackboun gave the committee a year-end report of the Fire Department activities. A map was shown displaying locations of fires. Most were in older neighborhoods around the downtown area. Freeport Ambulance received approximately 2000 calls in the last two years, compare to 1700 in the previous four years.

Mr. Walsh and Mr. Dommel of Crime Stop were invited to the meeting to bring the committee up to speed on their organization. A private meeting was suggested after a short discussion.

The committee reviewed the budget for the Police and Fire Departments, line by line. The departments have done a very good job in cutting their expenses for the upcoming fiscal year. A lot more work and discussion will be needed in order to try to save jobs in both departments.

Alderman Boldt presented a proposal to save ten out of the thirteen Public Safety positions marked for cuts.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Alderman Jenkins, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 10, 2003. The committee reviewed the Public Works portion of the budget and voted unanimously to send it to the Finance Committee for final approval.

Public Works Director, Craig LeBaron shared information regarding Fruit Street closing as a part of the Galena Avenue improvements. The School District has expressed no concerns since this street is not used for buses.

Water & Sewer Director, Alice Ohrtmann and Assistant Director, Denise Blakely were joined by two representatives from Black & Veatch to answer questions and give information about the need for a database of properties for a fair and just structure. The committee has concerns about the impact on corporations and other businesses under this type of rate structure as opposed to a "fixed rate" interim fee. The committee feels that the whole council needs to hear this information before a voted could be cast concerning this issue. Director Ohrtmann promised to supply all documentation and to talk with any member of the council as needed. No action was taken. The issue will be on April's agenda.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Alderman Gaulrapp, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 4, 2003. The committee discussed the addition of production courses at the Freeport High School being funded fully through Insight Communications. No action was taken.

There was some discussion on increasing the Cable Franchise fee from 3% to 5%. The impact of the tax will be presented to the committee. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Powers, Freeport Police Department Union President, presented and distributed a proposal using the guidelines established by the Task Force of maintaining the Corporate Fund between 25%-35%, Alderman Boldt's proposal, and his own ideas in order to save the proposed public safety cuts.

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 8:00pm.

LATACIA M. ISHMON, CITY CLERK