

CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
MONDAY EVENING
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 16, 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 Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

HONORARY RESOLUTION #R-2003-36

HONORARY RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ROBERTA ROGERS FOR HER SERVICE

WHEREAS, Roberta Rogers has worked for the City of Freeport for more than seven years in various capacities; and

WHEREAS, Roberta Rogers has faithfully executed her duties as a secretary in the City's Health & Environment Department, as an administrative assistant to the mayor, and most recently, as Director of the Human Resources Department; and

WHEREAS, Roberta Rogers has distinguished herself in many areas, including, her tireless efforts to reduce the cost spiral of the City's Health Insurance plan while maintaining comprehensive employee benefits and accessibility; and

WHEREAS, the City of Freeport and its employees have benefited from the hard work, dedication and diligence which Ms. Rogers exerted in reorganizing and improving the Human Resources Department; and

WHEREAS, Roberta Rogers has also ably represented the City of Freeport in such community efforts as the Heart Walk, Red Cross and the United Way; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the City Council would like to express our appreciation to Roberta Rogers for her hard work, her dedication and her commitment to the people and the employees of the City of Freeport,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that we hereby honor and commend Roberta Rogers for her years of service and commitment to the City of Freeport. We further wish her and her family our best wishes for their happiness and continuing success.

Alderman Wright moved, seconded by Alderman Gaulrapp that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried.

HONORARY RESOLUTION #R-2003-37

HONORARY RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JEFF MIKKELSEN FOR HIS SERVICE

WHEREAS, Jeff Mikkelsen served as Director of the Community Development Department from 1997 until 2003, having previously served as an alderman for the Fifth Ward for fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mikkelsen’s responsibilities included supervision for Albertus Airport, the Freeport Municipal Landfill, the regional Enterprise Zone, the Freeport Tax Increment Finance District, the City zoning and planning boards, the City’s Building Department, and other activities related to the health and vitality of Freeport neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mikkelsen was a guiding hand in the expansion of the airport, the siting of a new transfer station at the landfill, the extension of the Enterprise Zone to benefit surrounding communities, the growth of the downtown TIF District, and increased attention to neighborhood revitalization and building code enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mikkelsen has given generously of his time and knowledge to the people of Freeport with the express objective of making Freeport a better community for everyone,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that we hereby honor and commend Jeff Mikkelsen for his years of service and commitment to the City of Freeport. We further wish him and his wife, Kathy, our best wishes for their happiness and continuing success.

Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman Gaulrapp to adopt this Resolution. The motion carried. Mayor Gitz then presented this resolution in a plaque to Jeff Mikkelsen.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Journal of the Minutes of the regular meeting held on June 2, 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. Fire Department Monthly Activities for May 2003
 - 2. City Planning Commission Reports
 - 3. Zoning Board of Appeals Report
 - 4. Treasurer’s Monthly Investment Report for period ending May 31, 2003
 - 5. Police Department Monthly Activities for May 2003
 - 6. Treasurer’s Monthly Investment Report for period ending May 31, 2003
 - 7. Treasurer’s Tax Receipts for period ending May 31, 2003
- B. Approval of Water & Sewer Disbursements for June 2003 - \$318,691.32
- C. Approval of Bills Payable for June, 2003 - \$105,121.09
- D. Approval of Payroll for period ending May 17, 2003 - \$296,169.36

Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman Varner for approval of the consent agenda. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, O’Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. The motion carried.

COMMUNICATION

City Clerk, Latacia Ishmon, read a letter received from the Freeport Area Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee regarding building codes. FACCPAC made several recommendations to the Council. Alderman Gaulrapp moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender this communication be referred to the Community Development Committee. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #R-2003-23

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE NOTICE TO INSIGHT COMMUNICATION MIDWEST, LLC TO INCREASE THE CABLE FRANCHISE FEE

Alderman Clark moved, seconded by Alderman Gaulrapp to adopt this resolution. Alderwoman Bender stated that she would like to see this resolution laid over until the revenue enhancement package is presented. Alderman Clark withdrew his motion and Alderman Wright withdrew his second. Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender that this resolution be laid over until the full budget is presented. The motion carried.

2nd READING

ORDINANCE #2003-43

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 220 (COUNCIL) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

This ordinance was laid over from the meeting of June 2, 2003, when it was moved by Alderwoman Bender, seconded by Alderman Clark for approval. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Bolt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. The motion carried.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-44

AN ORDINANCE TO ASCERTAIN THE PREVAILING RATE OF WAGES FOR LABORERS, WORKMEN, AND MECHANIC EMPLOYED ON PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

This ordinance was automatically laid over the next regular meeting.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-45

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

Alderman Boldt, Public Works Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on June 16, 2003. This is a request from Alderman Gaulrapp on behalf a homeowner on Bradmar Drive to change the area in front of their home to No Parking. There were several reasons discussed, including fire safety. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Boldt so moved, seconded by Alderman Wright. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-46

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SALE OF REAL ESTATE TO RISSA VENTURE, LLC (4 E LINDEN)

Alderman Gaulrapp, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on June 9, 2003. The committee voted unanimously to approve the sale of this property in the amount of \$95,000 and Alderman Gaulrapp so moved, seconded by Alderman Varner. Alderman Gaulrapp moved, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill to suspend the rules in order to vote on this ordinance at this meeting. On the roll call of yeas and nays to suspend the rules, Aldermen O'Neill and Gaulrapp voted yea. Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, Wright, and Bender voted nay. There were two yeas and six nays. The motion failed. This ordinance will be laid over to the next regular meeting.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-47

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SALE OF REAL ESTATE TO LOUISE CRASE (816 E PLEASANT)

Alderman Gaulrapp, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on June 9, 2003. The committee voted unanimously to approve the sale of this property in the amount of \$200.00 and Alderman Gaulrapp so moved, seconded by Alderman Dawson. Alderman Gaulrapp moved, seconded by Alderman Dawson to suspend the rules in order to vote on this ordinance at this meeting. On the roll call of yeas and nays to suspend the rules, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. The motion carried. On the roll call of yeas and nays to approve the ordinance, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-48

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SALE OF REAL ESTATE TO JERRY & AUDREY HOWARD (415 S CARROLL AVE)

Alderman Gaulrapp, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on June 9, 2003. The committee voted unanimously to approve the sale of this property in the amount of \$350.00 and Alderman Gaulrapp so moved, seconded by Alderman Dawson. Alderman Gaulrapp moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender to suspend the rules in order to vote on this ordinance at this meeting. On the roll call of yeas and nays to suspend the rules, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. The motion carried. On the roll call of yeas and nays to approve the ordinance, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2003-49

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A SANITARY SEWER METERING SYTEM

Alderman Boldt, Public Works Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on June 16, 2003. The estimate for the Water & Sewer's metering devices came in at a higher cost than anticipated. The total amount needed for this project is \$108,000. This amount will be paid for by Water & Sewer, but must be appropriated through Public Works and Council since the budget has not been approved. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Boldt so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender. Alderman Boldt moved, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill to suspend the rules in order consider this ordinance at this meeting. On the roll call of yeas and nays to suspend the rules, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. The motion carried. On the roll call of yeas and nays to approve this ordinance, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

RESOLUTION #R-2003-38

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST A PERMIT FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INSTALL A STORM SEWER UNDER BUSINESS ROUTE 20

WHEREAS, the City of Freeport located in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, wishes to install a storm sewer under Business Route 20 which by law comes under the jurisdiction and control of the Department of Transportation of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, a permit from said Department is required before said work can be legally undertaken by the City of Freeport.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that we hereby request from the Department of Transportation, State of Illinois, a permit authorizing the City of Freeport to proceed with the work herein described.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we hereby pledge the good faith of the City of Freeport and guarantee that all work shall be performed in accordance with the conditions of the permit to be granted by the Department of Transportation of the State of Illinois and to hold the State of Illinois, Department of Transportation, harmless on account of any damages that may occur to persons or property during the prosecution of such work and assume all liability for the damages to persons or property due to accidents or otherwise by reason of the work which is to be performed under the provisions of said permit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we hereby state the proposed work is not to be performed by the employees of the City of Freeport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper officers of the City of Freeport are hereby instructed and authorized to sign said permit on behalf of the City of Freeport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution along with a copy of the request for permit, to the State of Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Highways, District Engineer.

Alderman Boldt, Public Works Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on June 16, 2003. The committee voted unanimously to adopt this resolution and Alderman Boldt so moved, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill. On the roll call of yeas and nays to adopt this resolution, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2003-39
RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONSULTING AGREEMENT FOR HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

WHEREAS, the resignation of Human Resources Director Roberta Rogers, has resulted in a need for an consultant to provide the City and its employees with human resource services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Freeport is in need of an consultant to provide advice and assistance in handling the day to day human resource issues, healthcare plan management and employee enrichment; and

WHEREAS, Tim Mickel is a fully qualified expert in the field of human resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that it enter into an Consulting Agreement with Tim Mickel for Human Resource services, which Agreement is attached as Exhibit A and made a part hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 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

Alderman Clark, Finance Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on June 12, 2003. The proposed Consulting Agreement for HR Services with Tim Mickel was briefly summarized to the committee. The committee voted unanimously to recommend council approval as presented and Alderman Clark so moved, seconded by Alderman Wright. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Boldt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. Alderman Dawson voted nay. There were seven yeas and one nay. The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2003-40

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE ILLINOIS JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Freeport Police Department has recognized that there is a reoccurring problem every summer during the months of May, June, July and August. During this period call levels rise dramatically on nights due to heat and alcohol consumption; and

WHEREAS, with the conclusion of school, juveniles are present on the streets much later at night than during the school year; and

WHEREAS, police calls during this period, over the last three years have averaged up to 1300 on the night shift. This peaks in mid July averaging 1550 calls per month on nights and drops to an average of 1350 at the end of August; and

WHEREAS, police officers are spending more time going from call to call and not enforcing the curfew laws as strenuously as they can when not responding to the high influx of calls.

WHEREAS, the Police Department proposes to hire back at overtime, two officers to enforce only curfew violations. This will occur 33 days during the summer months June, July and August coinciding with our peak calls during the week.

WHEREAS, this action will have the effect of increasing arrests for curfew and thereby reducing the incidents of burglary to motor vehicles and damage to property.

WHEREAS, in order to fund this action the Freeport Police Department wishes to enter into an agreement with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, to receive grant funds in the amount of \$8,202.00. These funds are available and do require a \$911.00 match from the City of Freeport.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that City of Freeport Police Department enter into an agreement with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority to obtain grant funds in the amount of \$8,202.00, and that the City of Freeport match this grant in the amount of \$911.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Chief of Police of the City of Freeport are hereby authorized and directed to execute all documents necessary to enter into this Agreement a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A.

Alderwoman Bender, Public Safety Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on June 16, 2003. The committee voted unanimously to adopt this Resolution and Alderwoman Bender so moved, seconded by Alderman Dawson. On the roll call of yeas and nays to approve this grant, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2003-41

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ILLINOIS VIOLENCE PREVENTION AUTHORITY FOR GRANT FUNDS

WHEREAS, Section 15 of the Illinois Violence Prevention Act (20 ILCS 4027/15) authorizes the Authority to award grants to agencies to conduct violence prevention activities as outlined in Section 15 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has developed a process for requesting reviewing and approving applications for funding; and

WHEREAS, the City of Freeport has submitted a grant proposal to the Authority dated April 30, 2003, together with plans and specifications for the operation of violence prevention activities in Stephenson County in the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the grant proposal is acceptable to the Authority and appears to comport with the goals, and objectives of the Illinois Violence Prevention Act; and

WHEREAS, the Authority desires that the City of Freeport perform services as hereinafter set forth in accordance with the terms and conditions as stated in the Grant Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that the Chief of Police of the City of Freeport execute all documents necessary to enter into an Agreement with the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority to obtain grant funds in the amount of \$22,000.00, and to fulfill all requirements as stated in Grant Agreement #04-CPO002-02, which is attached as Exhibit A and made a part hereof.

Alderman Bender, Public Safety Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on June 16, 2003. The committee voted unanimously to adopt this Resolution and Alderman Bender so moved, seconded by Alderman Dawson. On the roll call of yeas and nays to approve this grant, Aldermen Varner, Clark, Dawson, Boldt, O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES REVIEW

Mayor Gitz requested that this be delayed until Corporation Counsel, Sarah Griffin, has had a chance to review the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY

Alderman Bender, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on June 16, 2003. Fire Chief, Jim Blackburn would be going out for bids for towel and sanitation services.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Alderman Gaulrapp, Chair, stated that the Community Development held a meeting on June 9, 2003. A front yard variance on South Oak was presented and laid over until the next committee meeting. The Zoning Board unanimously denied this variance. It was suggested that a meeting be held with Corporation Counsel to review the current ordinance. Mrs. Griswold presented good reasoning for consideration of changing the current ordinance or at least alternate measures. The next meeting will be July 14, 2003 at 5:30pm.

PUBLIC WORKS

Alderman Boldt, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on June 16, 2003. The committee discussed deleting one Street Department position. Also, Water & Sewer Director, Alice Ohrtmann updated the committee on the hiring decisions to be made in the Water & Sewer Department. Alderman O'Neill suggested that this item be presented to the whole council for debate during the budget process.

The committee discussed chronic A/C problems in the Council Chambers. Public Works Director, Craig LeBaron will contact Honeywell on June 17, 2-003, to discuss the current problem and possible solutions for over-riding the system.

Alderman Boldt stated that he has received phone calls requesting that the Council meetings be broadcasted during the day, as well as replayed on Monday nights. He referred this item to the Community Development Committee.

Public Works, Craig LeBaron presented the Street Program for 2003. The repairs include 6.17 miles of resurfacing, for \$514,000.

Alderman Boldt presented a list of questions to be answered by the administration regarding the proposed plans for the Carnegie library building. He also asked for further input from the committee members.

Alderman Boldt stated that the next meeting would be July 24, 2003 at 5:00pm.

FINANCE

Alderman Clark, Chair, stated that the committee met on June 3, 10, and 12, 2003. Alderman Clark recommended final passage of the budget by the first meeting in July. He then summarized the details of the three meetings. (These minutes are available for review in the City Clerk's Office during regular business hours.)

Alderman Clark moved, seconded by Alderman Wright that the council hold a special meeting on June 23, 2003 at 7:00pm in order to discuss the 2003-04 Appropriation Ordinance. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Fire Chief, Jim Blackburn, reported that on June 14, 2003, storms passed through Freeport, but no tornadoes touched down in Stephenson County. He stated that the Storm Siren did not go off because it requires a confirmed siting within five miles, heading toward the city. He stated that the storm sirens were down due to a communication breakdown and that he accepts full responsibility. He stated that system is now receiving repair.

Alderwoman Bender requested that Chief Blackburn check on what type of systems other towns have. Alderman Boldt also asked for information regarding the five-mile protocol. Chief Blackburn stated that he would research other communities to see how their storm sirens are set up.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Gitz made comments regarding various city issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Hull, President of the AFSCME Union, stated that the union recognizes that the city is facing difficult economic times, but the union would like to be treated in a fair and equitable manner.

As there was no other business to be transacted by the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

LATACIA M. ISHMON, CITY CLERK