



City Council

City Council Chambers ♦ 230 West Stephenson Street ♦ Freeport, IL 61032

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 1, 2007, at 5:15 p.m.

Call to Order

Roll Call by Mayor Gaulrapp

Members present were Aldermen DeVine, Endress, Helms, O'Neill, Corbin, Klemm, and Boldt. Absent was Alderman Bush

Due to a large number of public members attending the meeting, Mayor Gaulrapp asked the committee to allow Alderman Klemm to speak prior to the public comments. Alderman Klemm stated the purpose of bringing the Ordinance amending Chapter 1242 (Administration, Enforcement and Penalty) and Chapter 1262 (Off-Street Parking and Loading) forward to this meeting was to suggest that a committee be formed who would review the ordinance. He stated there are too many unregistered vehicles parked in front, side, and back-yards throughout the City and some for long time periods without moving. He stated that although the police department has been called upon to ticket these nuisances, many times their hands are tied due to way the current ordinance is written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Committee of the Whole Chairman Helms stated that although 37 people had signed in to address topics, pursuant to Council rules only six public comments per subject will be allowed with a limit of 3 minutes per person. He also added that he would like to see issues handled by talking to the owner and recommended better communication by the City.

Mr. Dan Miller, 722 N. Turner Avenue, Freeport, Illinois, came to the meeting to address motor home parking. He asked the committee if they are not going to let people park them in the driveways, then are they going to help pay for storage of these vehicles.

Ms. Rose Trickle of 1551 W. Empire Street, Freeport, Illinois, stated she is an owner of a recreational vehicle and they paved an addition to their driveway in order to accommodate. She stated that it is ridiculous for the City to say that her relatives can't park their vehicle there over a couple month time period.

Mr. Kenneth Spencer of 308 N. Stewart, Freeport, Illinois, stated that he owns a fishing boat and he asked the committee not to move in the direction where people would have to store recreational vehicles outside city limits. He stated that people need to be able to park them in their driveways in order to be able to flush the tanks and prepare them for use.

Mr. Brook Wagner of 762 Shimer Drive, Freeport, Illinois, stated the committee needs to stop this right now. He went all over town handing out flyers for tonight's meeting and only found one person in violation. He stated this whole matter is a waste of time and you should be spending your time on things that matter more to the City.

Mr. Kenneth Roach of 806 S. Burchard Avenue, Freeport, Illinois, stated that he owns a travel trailer and his neighbor doesn't complain. He asked the committee not to go forward with any changes to the ordinance.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS (CONT.)

Ms. Paula Moring of 1210 S. Burchard Avenue, Freeport, Illinois and she is also the owner of Stephenson Street Station. Ms. Moring came to the meeting about RV parking and stated if a vehicle is not licensed then the police should give them a ticket but to leave the ordinance the way it is.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. *An Ordinance amending Section 1442.24 (Demolition Permits) of Chapter 1442 (Permits and Fees) regarding demolition of accessory buildings*
Community Development Director Shelly Griswold presented information that the wording was changed to make the ordinance less cumbersome when demolition is done to a garage – it would exempt accessory buildings. Alderman Boldt motioned and this was seconded by Alderwoman O’Neill. Vote in favor of the changes 7-0. Director Griswold asked that the Ordinance be moved forward to the Council Meeting this evening – the committee was not inclined.
2. *An Ordinance amending Chapter 1242 (Administration, Enforcement and Penalty) and Chapter 1262 (Off-Street Parking and Loading) of the Codified Ordinance of the City of Freeport, Illinois*
A motion was made by Alderman Klemm to table the wording changes of the ordinance and instead a committee should be formed by appointment by the Mayor to further review the wording of the ordinance. This motion was seconded by Alderman Endress. Vote in favor 6-1. Alderman Helms voting against.
3. *A Resolution to Authorize an Agreement with Artspace Projects, Inc. for a Preliminary Feasibility Evaluation of New Multipurpose Arts Facility Development*
Community Development Director Shelly Griswold presented a resolution to enter an agreement with Artspace Projects, Inc. and the cost will be \$7,500.00. Bob Skurla, FAEDF was introduced to answer any questions. Alderman Boldt stated that he had the opportunity to visit the Artspace project in Michigan and was most impressed with the facility. He asked Director Griswold to give the committee a detailed listing of what has been spent to this date. A motion was made by Alderwoman O’Neill to accept the resolution with a second by Alderman Corbin. Vote in favor 7-0.
4. *An informational item on the Historic Preservation Commission’s nomination of the Carnegie Library as an historic landmark*
Community Development Director Shelly Griswold presented information to the committee stating that after a public hearing to designate a building as an historic landmark, it then becomes binding. A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is binding for historic landmarks when municipal funds are used for the project. Alderwoman O’Neill asked if the local designation is different from the state designation. Director Griswold answered yes. There was no action by the committee at this point since the Historic Preservation Commission will have another meeting about this topic.
5. *An informational item regarding the Historic Preservation’s recommendation to make Commission design review decisions binding for signs in an historic district.*
Community Development Director Shelly Griswold presented this informational item regarding the use of signs in an historic district such as neon signs, poorly hand-drawn signs, or signs that are not esthetically pleasing. She asked the committee if they would like her to draft an ordinance for signs in a historic district. Alderwoman O’Neill said she would like to see this move forward. Chairman Helms asked if it was her intent to have the property owner fund the cost for changes to signs.

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6. *An informational item on Community Development Department research on regulations for licensing of contractors and issuance of building permits among other similarly-sized Illinois home-rule municipalities.*

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold presented a spreadsheet showing a comparison of building permit costs and application requirements among similarly-sized Illinois home-rule municipalities. Director Griswold asked the Aldermen to give their input to her about the spreadsheet data.

7. *An informational item on the Residential Housing Advisory Board's efforts to develop recommended housing and neighborhood goals to the City Council.*

Community Development Specialist Leslie Mastroianni presented the information to the committee and stated that the board consists of seven members of the community as appointed by the Mayor. They have a goal to pair up with an Alderman with a member of the board to make sure items are addressed in all of the wards in the City. Their meetings are open to the public and are scheduled for the second Monday of the month in Council Chambers with the next meeting scheduled for October 15, 2007.

8. *An informational item on Nuisance Enforcement.*

Community Development Director presented that the nuisance code enforcement over the last couple of years has increased. Credit was given to the accomplishments of the current Nuisance Inspector, Kevin Kramer and also the previous two Nuisance Inspectors. Ordinance violation based on ownership status is greater among renters compared to property owners. Alderman Boldt asked to see a dollar figure collections.

FINANCE

1. *Approval of Changes to Resolution to authorize agreement with Neighborhood Housing Services of Freeport, NFP*

Mayor Gaulrapp presented the information to the committee and introduced Ms. Deb Elzinga of the Neighborhood Housing Services. Ms. Elzinga stated that NHS is happy with the contract changes. Alderman Klemm motioned to move forward with the NHS resolution as written with a second by Alderman Endress. Alderwoman O'Neill asked if a report will be given as to the operation. Vote 6-1 in favor of the resolution. Alderman Helms voting against. This resolution was asked to move forward to tonight's City Council Meeting and was approved 6-1. Alderman Helms voting against.

OTHER

1. *An Ordinance amending Chapter 220 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport to modify the meeting times from 7:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., or as shortly thereafter as the City Council Committee of the Whole completes its meeting*

Alderman Boldt presented this Ordinance change to move the meeting time of the City Council Meeting so that it is immediately following the Committee of the Whole Meeting noting that there would be a short period of 10-15 minutes in between meetings. Alderman Boldt gave the motion to approve. This motion was seconded by Alderman Corbin and the vote 7-0 in favor.

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OTHER

2. City Council Retreat

The information for the retreat was handed to each Alderman prior to the meeting by Alderman Bush.

Adjourn