



City Council

City Council Chambers ◊ 524 West Stephenson Street ◊ Freeport, IL 61032

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 12, 2014**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Freeport, Illinois, Committee of the Whole was called to order by Mayor James Gitz with a quorum being present at 6:11 p.m. on Monday, May 12, 2014, in council chambers.

2. ROLL CALL

Present on roll call: Mayor James Gitz and council members Tom Klemm, Ronnie Bush, Jennie DeVine, Dennis Endress, Sally Brashaw, Michael Koester and Alderperson Crutchfield (7). Alderperson Boldt was absent.

City Staff Present: Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin, City Clerk Meg Zuravel, Community Development Director Jim Brown, City Engineer Shaun Gallagher, City Accountant Duane Price, Public Works Director Tom Dole, Fire Chief Scott Miller, Chief of Police Todd Barkalow.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson Bush, chairperson of meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderperson Crutchfield moved for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 28, 2014, seconded by Alderperson Koester. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

There was no one signed on the sheet for public comments on agenda items this evening.

6. REPORT FROM STEERING COMMITTEE OF CITY HALL PUBLIC OUTREACH

Alderperson Klemm reviewed a written plan from Steering Committee of City Hall Public Outreach for input to City Hall Decision Process. The information contained input tools and a listing of events in the 15 week timetable. He stated these are items five and six of the Mayor's eleven point plan. The idea of the committee is to send postcards and then to have town hall meetings, church meetings, and other public outreach meetings. The postcards would be a referral to website where residents could complete a survey. The handout also included proposed questions for a survey bases on the Task Force meeting held on May 5, 2014. Discussion was held that the survey participants should only be those residents within City limits that are taxpayers. Also discussed was that the survey participant would need to provide their address so that there are not duplications or a limit on multiple voting. The Committee also suggested media notification to get the word out about the survey. Mayor Gitz provided information about a tour of the Sterling, Illinois City Hall and the methods they used to bring "green energy" grants to the table for the rehabilitation. Discussion was held as the cost of the survey and its consultant and Corporation

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Counsel Griffin stated that if the contract is more than \$5,000 it would need council action and otherwise it could be processed through City Engineer Gallagher subject to the Purchasing Policy.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE 2014-2015 CITY BUDGET (DRAFT BUDGET DATED MAY 8, 2014) WITH ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM DATED MAY, 2014)

City Accountant Duane Price stated that he has provided the council with paper copies of the 2014-2015 City of Freeport Budget and this is a working preliminary document. Since last meeting's discussion was held on Public Safety including Police and Fire Department, this discussion will focus on the other departments including Public Works, Community Development, and then Economic Development and the other remaining departments.

Dave Young of Northwest Illinois Development Alliance was present to answer questions from the council. Mayor Gitz stated that in the budget are \$50,000 from the General Fund to reimburse NIDA for projects within the plan and a possible \$50,000 from the TIF spending plans for work performed in the TIF's. He and NIDA board have been reviewing the draft goals. The council was provided the opportunity to ask questions of Dave Young regarding the corridor of Route 20 and Illinois 75 and the opportunity of retail expansion.

Each council member was provided an opportunity to ask department heads questions regarding their departments. Discussion was held on the sidewalk program reimbursement, tub grinder, tree removal, building inspector, nuisance inspector, grants, diesel costs, electric aggregation, street lighting, mill and overlay program. City Treasurer Buss was called to the podium to present her budget.

Mayor Gitz explained that the appropriation ordinance will be prepared for the May 19, 2014 council meeting and a public hearing will be held on June 2, 2014. He stated this is a very tight budget. He stated that once the appropriation ordinance passes (which could be on June 2, 2014), then two – three weeks later they will put forth the spending plan for council.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEM ON POSSIBLE BOND REFINANCING

Accountant Duane Price stated there are \$12.3 million in bonds that are callable on December 1, 2014. The administration has been contacted on refinancing these bonds through Bernardi Securities. This would have a potential savings between \$1.3 to \$1.4 over the life of the bond which has 15 years left on the bonds. They are working on having the bond refinancing ready in September and council will be kept informed of the process.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Steve Carroll, 811 S. Oak, Freeport Illinois, spoke about the positions of the Nuisance Inspector and the Animal Control officer positions. He stated there would be no need for additional inspectors if each of the persons in the position does their jobs. He spoke about bad landlords and bad tenants that make chronic nuisances a problem for all the departments in the City.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion (Koester) duly made and seconded (Crutchfield), the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

S/ Meg Zuravel
Meg Zuravel, City Clerk