



City Council

City Council Chambers ♦ 314 West Stephenson Street ♦ Freeport, IL 61032

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the City of Freeport, Illinois, Committee of the Whole was called to order in Council chambers by Mayor Jodi Miller with a quorum being present at 6:02 p.m. on June 12, 2017.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call: Mayor Miller and Council members Tom Klemm, Peter McClanathan, Art Ross, Bob Smith, Patrick Busker, Sally Brashaw, and Andrew Chesney (7). Alderperson Mike Koester was absent.

Present from the City: City Manager Lowell Crow, Finance Director Guary Bernadelle, Public Works Director Tom Dole, Fire Chief Scott Miller, Chief of Police Todd Barkalow, City Clerk Dovie Anderson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson Brashaw, who then became the chairperson of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderperson Busker moved for approval of the agenda, seconded by Alderperson Ross. Motion prevailed 7-0 by voice vote without dissent

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ITEM #6 – AN INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION BY MICHAEL DUNN JR. FROM THE ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING.

Mr. Dunn spoke about the “Regional Planning Council” (RPC) of Northern Illinois, an “advance regionalism fostering a culture of collaboration through interactions on its board and committees”. The RPC would include a Metropolitan Planning Organization and an Economic Development District. He provided a Regional Planning Council packet for the Council to review. The RPC concept helps pool resources and assets for the regions they serve. In summary, he presented how the RPC currently functions and the short and long-term goals. Joining forces to

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help all Northern Illinois benefit and be heard in Springfield. He emphasized that the RPC strength is grant writing for funds from the State. He extended an offer to the City of Freeport Council to have a designated Freeport Council person seat on the RPC. Taking a seat on the RPC allows the City of Freeport to use some of their staff resources and mutual benefits in collaborations of northern Illinois.

The RPC presents two things: 1) region governance and 2) operation level. The RPC group would like to see their neighbor join. Regional government is not the primary reason that you would consider joining. There is no fee to be part of the RPC. However, any time you would have a project and would like RPC assistance, you would pay for those services. This is another way for cities and counties to develop business. Cities no longer compete with Cities and Counties no longer compete with Counties. Changing the status quo, whether it is County or whether it is Rockford, Freeport or another city in our region, one may wonder how is this going to help my city. That is not a political decision, it is a policy decision, and that is what you would have to consider.

The Council reached a consensus that they would like to be part of the RPC and will have further discussion in the future.

ITEM #7 – INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION BY NANCY JOHNSON FROM ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REGARDING AERIAL TREATMENTS FOR THE EUROPEAN GYPSY MOTH CONDUCTED IN JUNE IN THE FREEPORT AREA.

Ms. Nancy Johnson explained that Aerial Treatments for the European Gypsy Moth would be executed at the end of June in Stephenson County. They have received funding to service 4,000 acres. Therefore, they will be treating the area with “SPLAT” which will confuse the male and acts as a mating disrupter, it does not kill the moths. The product is an organic, biodegradable formulation and does not pose a risk to humans, animals, non-target organisms or the environment. The City residents may be woken up by the 3 to 5 airplanes flying 100 to 200 feet above the treetops. Her office would be sending a press release from Springfield to confirm dates.

ITEM #8 - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Aldersperson McClanathan moved for approval of the minutes from the meeting held on May 8, 2017, seconded by Aldersperson Ross. Motion prevailed 7-0 by voice vote without dissent.

ITEM #9 - DISCUSSION OF 2017-48: An Ordinance Amending Part Ten Streets, Utilities and Public Services Code Adding Chapter 1034 Outdoor Chapter 1034 Outdoor Parklets to the codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport, Illinois (Revised June 8, 2017) As forwarded from the City Council Meeting, first reading on June 5, 2017 voted to move forward. The second reading will be presented on the June 19th Council meeting.

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City Manager Crow stated that this ordinance would be amended to define some verbiage. The ordinance does state that the establishment would have to provide a layout as to how the outdoor space will be defined as part of the application process. It was stated as a suggestion only, that the business could use planters as barriers for the outdoor parklet area. This ordinance will remain tied to food, reference 1034.07 (7) "Alcohol shall not be dispensed within the Outdoor Parklet area, any alcohol consumed must be incidental to food service". We do not want the parklet area becoming a "beer garden" or patrons going outside the barriers with liquor. This does put notice on the restaurant owner and allows the police officer driving by to see clear boundaries. Any barriers that are put up by the establishment parklet would have to be removed prior to the first snowfall.

Mayor Miller stated that the Liquor Commission has reviewed this ordinance and had a few recommendations. The Liquor Commission recommended to increase the insurance to one million dollars coverage. She agreed with City Manager Lowell, liquor sales must be incidental with food service for the Outdoor Parklet area. Mayor stated, this brings a lot of opportunity to our downtown area; this is not restricted to restaurants. She encourages those interested to "Google" Parklets as there are many different opportunities and any establishment thinking outside the box could promote their business activity by utilizing an Outdoor Parklet.

Aldersperson Klemm asked if the recommendations made by the Liquor Commission would be added into this Ordinance. Mayor Miller and City Manger Crow confirmed that the recommendations made by the Liquor Commission were being added into the Ordinance with the exception of leaving the contingency in for ordering alcohol with food. The documentation will be updated accordingly before the June 19, 2017, Council meeting.

Aldersperson Busker expressed concerns of losing parking in the downtown area for the Outdoor Parklets. Manager Crow acknowledged that this is a valid concern, the benefit would be making the downtown more walkable. The Outdoor Parklets would provide a different environment and experience for the patrons and hopefully this will help to make the downtown grow.

Aldersperson McClanathan referred to 1034.01 first and second paragraph: "Sidewalk Café", Outdoor Parklets are not "Sidewalk Cafés" and asked Manager Crow to review and update verbiage prior to final approval of ordinance.

Aldersperson Chesney made a motion to move forward to Council meeting, June 19, 2017 with the amendments, seconded by Aldersperson Busker.

ITEM #10 - DISCUSSION OF DRAFT ORDINANCE: An Ordinance Amending Title Ten, Employment Provisions, Chapter 290, Compensation and Benefits, Section 290.01 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Freeport, Illinois Regarding Classification Plan

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City Manager Crow provided further input on this Ordinance. This amendment removes two temporary positions “Residential Rental Registration Police Liaison” and “Rental Property/Crime Free Housing Specialist”, in addition to cleaning up the Ordinance by removing the City Attorney, Paralegal and Employees of the Board of Water Commissioners. Initially, tracking of the rental properties and registration will be done by the Community Development Administrative Assistant. We are not looking to increase manpower, but to repurpose current manpower.

Aldersperson McClanathan requested two additional corrections to this Ordinance. City Manager Lowell Crow will update as follows:

“290.01(d)(3) Professional Group (40 hrs./week* ~~with the exception of the Rental Property/Crime Free Housing Specialist~~)”

shall read:

“290(d)(3) Professional Group (40 hrs./week* with the exception of the Transit Program Compliance Oversight Monitor ~~Rental Property/Crime Free Housing Specialist~~)”

And:

“290.01(d)(6) Police Department Group (171 hrs./28 days* ~~with the exception of the Residential Rental Registration Police Liaison and Evidence Officer~~)”

shall read:

“290.01(d)(6) Police Department Group (171 hrs./28 days* with the exception of the ~~Residential Rental Registration Police Liaison and Evidence Officer~~)”

Aldersperson McClanathan made a motion to lay on the table Item #10 temporarily until discussion of Item #11 was complete, seconded by Aldersperson Smith.

ITEM #11 - DISCUSSION OF DRAFT ORDINANCE: An Ordinance Amending Title Two, Business Regulation, Chapter 876, Residential Real Property Regulation, Section 867.08 Of the Codified Ordinances of The City Of Freeport, Illinois Regarding Annual Registration Fee

City Manager Crow provided further input on this Ordinance. He stated that opening the registration period to the landlords to come in and register the properties for free, only for a designated timeframe, recommend 30 days. Then any registration completed after the cutoff date, there will be a fee charged. Part two of this, which is not part of this ordinance, establish an inspection program done by Health and Safety, Code and Compliance and Fire Chief. The tenant would have 21 days to comply. Landlords like it, if they have problems with the resident they can use the inspection to evict non-compliance tenants. The City Attorney would review and advise prior to completing the ordinance.

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Economic development not only addresses rental property, but long term it would include single residences to maintain their property.

Aldersperson Chesney made a motion to move forward this draft Ordinance to first reading at the next Council meeting, June 19, 2017 with the amendments, seconded by Aldersperson Smith.

(CONCLUSION) ITEM #10 - DISCUSSION OF DRAFT ORDINANCE: An Ordinance Amending Title Ten, Employment Provisions, Chapter 290, Compensation and Benefits, Section 290.01 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Freeport, Illinois Regarding Classification Plan

Aldersperson Chesney made a motion to move forward draft Ordinance to first reading at the next Council meeting, June 19, 2017 with the amendments, seconded by Aldersperson McClanathan.

ITEM #12 - DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION: Resolution of The City Of Freeport, Illinois Authorizing The Amendment Of The City Loan To The Freeport Area Economic Development Foundation

Presented by Dave Young from NIDA, Aldersperson Chesney and City Manager Crow.

Aldersperson Chesney stated that this would be in agreement with NIDA to allow certain parcels of land, which pre-dates this Council, to sell below market value. It was hopeful that the purchase price would generate economic activity in that area. The flood zones repositioned, which have created negative impact of the overall values, which is the reason that they have sat vacant for quite some time. This resolution would still be subject to final Council approval. Once the parcel is sold it would have to be built upon within 12 months. The Council would need to come to agreement on this project. If resolution is approved, then the City Council would move to forgive NIDA's remaining outstanding loan.

Mr. Young provided the history regarding the parcels. The FEMA maps were revised and effective as of March 2015. Now 80% of the land is non-developable for three of the parcels; the fourth parcel is underwater. For the remaining 20%, the land size equals 60' by 600' long. NIDA pays the taxes on this property.

Aldersperson Busker made a motion to move forward to Council meeting, June 19, 2017 with the amendments, seconded by Aldersperson McClanathan.

ITEM #13 – DISCUSSION OF PURCHASE OF A STREET SWEEPER:

This topic originated at the City Council meeting on April 3, 2017, and was forwarded to the Committee of the Whole Meeting on April 10, 2017, and then forwarded to tonight's meeting

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City Manager Crow presented that one of the two street sweepers broke on June 12, 2017. Cost of new sweeper \$182,000 verses leasing would be estimated between \$15,000 - \$17, 000 per year, with a 7 to 10-year contract. The City would not be responsible for the repairs of the sweeper, City would be responsible for maintenance which presents another cost savings. Recommended going forward leasing this equipment, as it would be more beneficial than purchasing another machine.

Tom Dole, Public Works Director, the importance of sweeping the streets contributes to blight reduction because you are cleaning up your community and neighborhoods. Sweeping the street on a regular basis also helps to ensure the sewers are not clogged with debris. When a storm comes through the City, a traffic accident, fall debris and winter clean-up these street sweepers are ready to go. The entire City currently is swept every month, but requires 2 sweepers to accomplish.

Aldersperson McClanathan made a motion to allow City Manager Crow to pursue leasing options and then present options to Council, seconded by Aldersperson Busker.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Reverend Dixie Ditsworth announced City Prayer Breakfast, at 7:00 a.m., held every third Thursday of the month, at the Farm Bureau building, 210 W. Spring Street.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion duly made by Aldersperson Busker and seconded by Aldersperson Chesney, the Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

s/ Dawn E. Pontius

Dawn E. Pontius
Deputy Clerk