# CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS MONDAY EVENING CITY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 18, 2002, 7:00 P.M. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

#### QUORUM

At 7:00 p.m., a quorum being present, Mayor James L. Gitz called the meeting to order.

#### **RECORD**

Present were Aldermen Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Leitzen Fye, Goley, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, and Rinehart. Absent was Alderman Gaulrapp.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

At this time, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderwoman Bender & Boy Scout Troop #448.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Journal of the Minutes of the regular meeting held on March, 2002 was presented for approval. Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman Rinehart the approval of the minutes. The motion carried.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval to Receive and Place on File:
  - 1. Fire Department Activities, February 2002
  - 2. City Planning Commission Report
  - 3. Police Department Activities, February 2002
- B. Approval of Water & Sewer Disbursements for February 2002 \$217,016.93
- C. Approval of Bills Payable for February 2002
- D. Approval of Payroll for Pay Period February 24, 2002 March 9, 2002

Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman Rinehart to approve the consent agenda. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Leitzen Fye, Goley, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, and Rinehart voted yea. The motion carried.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> READING ORDINANCE #2002-11

## AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE JOING CITY OF FREEPORT-COUNTY OF STEPHENSON CERTIFIED ENTERPRISE ZONE

This Ordinance was laid over from the meeting of March 4, 2002 when it was moved by Alderman Boldt, seconded by Alderwoman Leitzen Fye for approval. On the role call of yeas and nays to approve this ordinance, Aldermen Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Leitzen Fye, Goley, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins and Rinehart voted yea. The Ordinance was approved.

#### **RESOLUTION #R-2002-09**

## RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN AMENDMENT TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE OPERATION OF AN ENTERPRISE ZONE

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Operation of an Enterprise

Zone, (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement") between the City of Freeport, a Municipal Corporation and a home rule unit of local government of the State of Illinois, (hereinafter referred to as the "City"), and the County of Stephenson, a body politic and corporate and a unit of government of the State of Illinois, (hereinafter referred to as the "County"), was executed on December 18, 1989; and

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the Agreement includes a Description of the Zone; and WHEREAS, the City and County wish to add 62.68 acres (more or less) to the City of Freeport-Stephenson County Enterprise Zone; and

**WHEREAS**, the expansion of the Enterprise Zone will allow and assist Interactive Teleservices in establishing an outbound call center, which will create an estimated 100 new full time jobs and 150 new part-time jobs, and will assist Thompson's Pearl Valley Eggs, Inc. in locating an egg processing facility, which will employ an estimated 15-20 skilled laborers and will indirectly create an additional 10-20 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois' Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "DCCA") requires that the Section 3 of the Agreement must be amended to include the description of the 62.68 acres more or less be added to the City of Freeport-Stephenson County Enterprise Zone in addition to both the City and the County adopting ordinances amending the boundaries of the joint City of Freeport-County of Stephenson Certified Enterprise Zone.

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS THAT:

- 1. Section 3 of the Agreement is hereby amended to add the proposed expansion of the Enterprise Zone as described on the attached map, which is marked as "Exhibit A" and as described on the attached map, which is marked as "Exhibit B", attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.
- 2. All Resolutions or motions in conflict with the Resolution are repealed insofar as they conflict.
- 3. If any section, clause or provision of this Resolution be declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, said decision shall both affect the validity of the Resolution as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part declared invalid, and the City of Freeport hereby expressly declares that it would have enacted this Resolution even with the invalid portion deleted.

This Ordinance was laid over from the meeting of March 4, 2002 when it was moved by Alderwoman Steele moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender to adopt this Resolution. On the roll call of yeas and nays to adopt this resolution, Aldermen Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Leitzen Fye, Goley, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, and Rinehart voted yea. The motion carried.

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> READING ORDINANCE #2002-12**

AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE AN AGREEMENT FOR DEED WITH DEREK SYMANEK FOR PROPERTY CONTIGUOUS TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND COMMONLY KNOWN AS 417 SOUTH HANCOCK, FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Alderman Jenkins, Public Works Vice Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 11, 2002. Water & Sewer Director, Alice Orhtmann, informed the committee that since 1969 the Waste Water Treatment Plant has been encroaching on the neighbor's

property to the southeast. She presented an ordinance to transfer deed from Derek Symanek to the City of Freeport. The property in question was appraised at \$5,000 and payment, including damages is \$7,000. Damages result from the property owner losing most of his river frontage that he bought the property for. Additionally, Mr. Symanek was given an easement to cross the property to access the river. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Jenkins so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Moore-Howard. The Ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> READING ORDINANCE #2002-13**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1044 (WATER RATES AND REVENUE), CHAPTER 1046 (SEWERS GENERALLY), AND CHAPTER 1048 (SEWER RATES AND REVENUES) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Alderman Bush, Finance Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 12, 2002. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Bush so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Leitzen Fye. This Ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> READING ORDINANCE #2002-14

## AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 290 (COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Alderman Dawson, Public Works Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on March 18, 2002. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Dawson so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender. Alderman Bush, Finance Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 12, 2002. Police Chief Kentner stated that he would like to create a Telecommunications Supervisor in order to free up an officer for street patrol. The position would be filled by a current employee and save the city \$52,000. The Finance Committee also voted unanimously to approve this Ordinance. This Ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> READING ORDINANCE #2002-15

## AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 608 (ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Alderwoman Steele, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a joint meeting with the Liquor Commission on March 14, 2002. The committee and commission discussed a possible ordinance to prevent employees selling liquor from drinking alcohol while on duty. Wayne Oliver stated that a question of impaired judgment when carding individuals and being able to determine when to cease serving an individual was an issue. A draft ordinance regarding this issue will be reviewed at a special meeting on March 18, 2002.

The Community Development Committee held a special meeting on March 18, 2002. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderwoman Steele so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Veer. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> READING ORDINANCE #2002-16

## AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 480 (PARKING GENERALLY), SECTION 480.25 (CONTRACTOR PARKING PERMITS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT. ILLINOIS

Alderman Jenkins, Public Works Vice Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 11, 2002. An existing ordinance providing parking permits for contractors working in the downtown area was re-worded to include all of Freeport. There seems to be an issue with contractors who need their trucks and/or trailers parked on the street when building new houses or remodeling. This ordinance will be presented at a special meeting on March 18, 2002.

The Public Works Committee held a special meeting on March 18, 2002. The voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Jenkins so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Veer. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> READING ORDINANCE #2002-17

## AN ORDINANCE DECLARING A MORATORIUM ON ISSUANCE OF LIQUOR LICENSES TO BUSINESSES ENGAGED IN THE SELLING OF GASOLINE, PENDING SPECIFIC STUDIES REGARDING THE EFFECT OF THE SAME ON PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE

The members of the Liquor Commission and the committee discussed possible solutions to concerns regarding the number of liquor licenses extended to businesses that also sell gasoline. Alderwoman Leitzen Fye stated that she did not feel comfortable making any suggestions for ordinance changes until hard facts could be compiled from the Police Department. Alderwoman Leitzen Fye and Alderman Dawson stated that they did not want to make any changes on emotion only. The issue of selling single cans of beer was not addressed at this meeting, however a Moratorium on the selling of packaged liquor licenses to business also selling gasoline was requested. The committee voted unanimously to approve the creation of a draft moratorium. Corporation Counsel will be presenting a draft of the Moratorium at a special meeting on March 18, 2002.

The Community Development Committee held a special meeting on March 18, 2002. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderwoman Steele so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Moore-Howard. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

#### REPORT

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals was held on Thursday, March 7, 2002 in the City Hall Building. At 6:30 pm, a public hearing was held on a petition by the Housing Authority of the City of Freeport, 1052 West Galena Avenue, Freeport, requesting a nine-foot front yard variance in order to construct a front porch on the existing structure at 131 N. Adelbert Avenue. Present representing the Housing Authority was Stephanie Lang, manager. The request meets all requirements of the City of Freeport Codified Ordinances; there were no objectors present. Ms. Lang brought a sketch of the building and the plans for the project. The Zoning Board unanimously recommends the request be approved.

Alderwoman Steele moved, seconded by Alderwoman Veer that this report be received and placed on file. The motion carried.

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> READING ORDINANCE #2002-18**

SPECIAL ORDINANCE FOR VARIATION, PERMIT, OR AMENDMENT OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS (VARIANCE, HOUSING AUTHORITY, 131 NORTH ADELBERT AVENUE)

Alderwoman Steele, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 14, 2002. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommended a nine-foot yard variance for 131 North Adelbert (Freeport Housing Authority) to construct front porches for each unit. Ken Brierre and Stephanie Lange from the Housing Authority made a presentation showing the upgrade to the building. The committee voted to concur with the Zoning Board of Appeals, and Alderwoman Steele so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Veer. On the roll call of yeas and nays to approve this ordinance, Aldermen Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, and Rinehart voted yea. Alderwoman Bender and Leitzen Fye abstained. There were eleven yeas and two abstentions. The ordinance was approved.

#### **RESOLUTION #R-2002-12**

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCLUSION OF THE ALL VETERAN'S MEMBERAL PARK IN THE PLANS FOR TUTTY'S CROSSING

WHEREAS, there are thousands of Veterans from Stephenson County who served in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam Conflict, the Persian Gulf Wars, and other peace-keeping missions, and more than 250,000 who have served in these wars across Northern Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel J. Steele, who passed away while serving in the office of Alderman for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, was the first Veteran in Illinois to have Gulf War Syndrome stated as one of the causes of death; and

**WHEREAS**, Alderman Steele and the over 250,000 Veterans in Northwestern Illinois should not be forgotten for their service to our Country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that the City of Freeport hereby formally endorses the inclusion of the All Veterans' Memorial Park, to include a Memorial Plaque for Daniel J. Steele, commemorating his inspiration and dream of a park honoring all Veterans, in the plans for the Tutty's Crossing Trailhead, to be located on approximately one-half acre at the Northwest corner of what is known as the Burgess Battery site.

Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman Dawson that this resolution be adopted. Alderman Jenkins, Public Works Vice Chair stated that the committee held a special meeting on March 18, 2002. The committee voted unanimously to adopt this resolution. On the roll call of yeas and nays to adopt this resolution, Aldermen Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Leitzen Fye, Goley, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, and Rinehart voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

#### **RESOLUTION #R-2002-13**

## RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT BETWEEN VERTICAL PARTNERS AND THE CITY OF FREEPORT

**WHEREAS**, the City of Freeport is the owner of certain parcels of land located at various locations throughout the City; and

**WHEREAS**, requests for telecommunications sitings are becoming more and more prevalent throughout the country; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Freeport does not currently have a way to control the proliferation of such towers; and

**WHEREAS**, the attached brokerage agreement is one way to utilize City owned property in an effort to market specific sites for such towers, and to retain control over the siting of same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that the Mayor is authorized to execute, and the City Clerk to attest, the attached agreement with Vertical Partners, to provide brokering services in relation to telecommunication sites.

**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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if any section, clause or provision of this Resolution be declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Resolution as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid, and this City Council expressly declares that it would have enacted this Resolution even with the invalid portion deleted.

Alderman Jenkins, Public Works Vice Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 11, 2002. The agreement would earn the city 25% of all rents collected on cellular towers erected on city property. This agreement encourages the use of city property and ultimately will prompt competition with more providers and give the city an extra level of control on tower locations. The committee voted unanimously to adopt this resolution and Alderman Jenkins so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Veer. On the roll call of yeas and nays to adopt this resolution, Aldermen Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Leitzen Fye, Goley, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, and Rinehart voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

#### RESOLUTION #R-2002-14

## RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT REGARDING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT WITH COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

**WHEREAS**, the City of Freeport, Stephenson County, Illinois (the "City") finds that the proper management of vegetation near the electric power lines in the City will promote the efficient, reliable, and safe delivery of electricity at the least cost, and is a benefit to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, Commonwealth Edison Company distributes electrical power to residents in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City hereby finds and determines that entering into an Agreement regarding vegetation management with Commonwealth Edison Company will serve the public purposes of the City.

## NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS as follows:

1. The City intends to enter into an Agreement, in the form attached hereto, with Commonwealth Edison Company, regarding the management of vegetation near the electric power lines in the City.

2. The Mayor is authorized and directed to sign the Agreement on the City's behalf.

**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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if any section, clause or provision of this Resolution be declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Resolution as a whole or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid, and this City Council expressly declares that it would have enacted this Resolution even with the invalid portion deleted.

Alderman Jenkins, Public Works Vice Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 11, 2002. Jim Fox from ComEd presented the committee with a "Vegetation Management Agreement." The city already has such an agreement but has been somewhat informal. The agreement defines higher standards of trimming trees and allows property owners to approach ComEd with requests to have them remove private trees at no cost for cutting it down and cutting the wood into firewood lengths. The property owner would be responsible for stump grinding. Also ComEd may contact property owners to ask permission to remove trees that endanger power lines. In either case, ComEd will mail a planting guide and a \$50 voucher to purchase anew tree. The vouchers are currently for Home Depot and the committee urged ComEd to find a Freeport vendor. The committee voted unanimously to adopt this resolution and Alderman Jenkins so moved, seconded by Alderman Moore-Howard. On the roll call of yeas and nays to adopt this resolution, Aldermen Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Leitzen Fye, Goley, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, and Rinehart voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

#### RESOLTUION #R-2002-15

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, THE FREEPORT PARK DISTRICT, THE COUNTY OF STEPHENSON, THE ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT, AND THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO REGARDING THE PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH

WHEREAS, the City of Freeport has been working in conjunction with the Freeport Park District, Stephenson County, the Rockford Park District, and Winnebago County in an effort to create a Commission to oversee the Pecatonica Prairie Path which will be a trail connection between the former Burgess site in Freeport to Liberty Park in Rockford; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pecatonica Prairie Path will be of regional importance as the single largest section of the Grand Illinois Trail; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pecatonica Prairie Path would be an asset to the citizens of Stephenson County, the City of Freeport, Winnebago County and the entire region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Interim Commission for the Pecatonica Prairie Path has studied the trail and submitted a recommendation to the participating entities recommending the attached Intergovernmental Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the affected counties and municipal corporations are governmental entities as defined in the Illinois Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (5 ILCS 220/3.01 <u>et seq.</u>) and each has authority to enter into agreements pursuant to said Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS that the Mayor of the City of Freeport is authorized to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Freeport, the Freeport Park District, Stephenson County, the Rockford Park District, and Winnebago County, as set forth herein and attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in accordance with such Agreement the City of Freeport hereby designates James L. Gitz, its Mayor, as its delegate to the Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission, and Craig LeBaron, its Public Works Director as the Alternate delegate.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption by each of the entities as stated herein and shall be of no effect without such adoption.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk shall transmit an originally executed Agreement to each of the participating entities and shall an originally executed Agreement in the City file.

**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; and all Resolutions or motions in conflict with this Resolution are repealed insofar as they conflict.

Alderman Jenkins, Public Works Vice Chair stated that the committee held a meeting on March 11, 2002. Public Works Director, Craig LeBaron passed out copies of an official commission for the Pecatonica Prairie Path. There is already an interim commission and this agreement is basically identical to the Jane Addams Trail. The only costs involved are annual maintenance fees that would be similar to The Jane Addams Trail, \$2,000 per year. This item will be looked at in a special meeting on March 18, 2002.

The committee held a special meeting on March 18, 2002. The committee voted unanimously to adopt this resolution and Alderman Jenkins so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Leitzen Fye. On the roll call of yeas and nays to adopt this resolution, Aldermen Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Leitzen Fye, Goley, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, and Rinehart voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Alderman Dawson, Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on March 18, 2002. There were two bids received for police squad cars on March 13, 2002. They were as follows: Fairway Ford, \$74,395 (2003 Crown Victoria) and Tormohlen - \$78,334 (2002 Crown Victoria). Alderman Dawson moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender to accept the low bid from Fairway Ford. On the roll call of yeas and nays to accept this bid, Aldermen Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, Leitzen Fye, Goley, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, and Rinehart voted yea. The bid was accepted.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Alderman Jenkins, Vice Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 11, 2002. Lyle Krug and Nicole Bauer presented their case for parking problems at the Lincoln Douglas Center. This was before the committee in February when a request for two loading zones was denied. Instead the committee and Public Works Director are

pursuing the county about the need for "Police Car Only" spaces (4 or 5) in front of the old jail. Mr. Krug and Ms. Bauer agreed this would be some progress. Also noted was that Freeport Downtown Development has not completed their study and recommendations on downtown parking.

Bids for work on the Van Buren Street bridge were opened on March 11, 2002. Bids were received from Civil (\$179,843) and Ron Moring Construction (\$182,485). The engineer's two-year-old estimate was \$175,000. One hundred percent would be paid by a grant for \$2000,000, as well as most of the \$22,000 for engineering. This work includes some structural rebuilding, a new deck surface, and railings. The committee voted unanimously to accept the low bid from Civil Construction.

A portion of Grant Street in the Newell industrial park was no longer needed for street right of way. The proper action is to vacate the area after a public hearing. The committee voted unanimously to vacate the property.

Public Works Director, Craig LeBaron, reported status of Action Request Forms. Alderman Rinehart requested a 20-Mile school zone on Galena for Aquin because of new policies on dismissals. This will have to go through IDOT since it is a state highway.

Mayor Gitz asked the committee about Stephenson Street. It is being paved from West to Park Street for \$300,000. Eighty percent will be paid with federal funds from the LAPP Program from last year. There is a bid for curb on the same stretch for about \$300,00. After discussion on funding the project from MFT funds, the committee felt strongly that curbs need to start being replaced somewhere. Also, the LAPP funds for this year will probably go to Adams Street and the committee believes this should also get curbing also. Even though this may decrease the distance of streets that are paved yearly, the committee feels that curb and gutter are a step to a more complete program of street maintenance.

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Alderwoman Steele, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 14, 2002. Devin Moore and Paul Kowalski from Envirogen made a presentation with regard to the proposed transfer station to be located next to the current landfill location, on the corner of Walnut Road and Fairgrounds Road. The transfer building will not have windows along the roads to help prevent odor from invading the area outside of the station. The station is designed to be user friendly in the fact that the floor will be tilted toward the transfer trailer and the floor itself will be cleaned within 3-4 hours of handling refuse. The building will also have landscaping and trees to help beautify the area and make it more pleasing to see.

The recycling area will also be situated so that it will not interfere with the normal operation of the transfer station. The flow of traffic is in a circular fashion with plenty of room for trucks and trailers to park and wait to enter the transfer area.

The topic of requesting bids was thoroughly discussed. The transfer station will not be in operation until the fall of 2003 due to the length of time it takes to get permits from the IEPA. Licensing and permits take up to one year and construction of the station will take

approximately 4-6 months. The current haulers are contracted to handle waste until June 30, 2003. The current landfill is projected to close in May of 2002. The independent haulers will need to use another source for garbage until the end of their contract. The RFP will be for garbage collection and development of the transfer sight. The city will maintain deed to the property, but the contractor will be responsible for the buildings and equipment for the transportation station, and for hauling garbage for the City of Freeport. In return, the city will offer a fifteen-year contract for the operator/owner of the transfer station. Alderwoman Steele voiced concern for the current haulers, and if they have the ability to successfully bid for this project or if there were a possibility that they could be subcontracted for hauling. Mr. Moose stated that he had spoken with the haulers and believes that they have the financial ability to make a proposal. He did not feel subcontracting the hauling would be advantageous for the contractor.

The question of possibly expanding the current landfill was also answered. According to Mr. Moose, the cost of expanding the current landfill is approximately \$1 million per acre just for the liner. This makes it cost prohibitive to do.

The transfer station does not include any plan for yard waste disposal. Community Development Director, Jeff Mikkelsen, stated that the yard wasted would be used to make mulch and placed as a topper for the current landfill. It will take some time to fill the top of the landfill, so the yard waste issue will be handled at a later time.

Debbie Leininger and Kay Yde requested that the committee create a resolution for filtering on computers that are in use at the Freeport Library. The committee did not feel it was necessary at this time since the Library Board approved the application of filters the evening prior to meeting.

Alderwoman Leitzen Fye requested that the ordinances that are in place for standing water be reviewed to prevent any unnecessary mosquito infestation this spring due to the threat of the West Nile Virus. This issue will be reviewed at the next months meeting.

Alderwoman Steele announced that the next meeting would be April 11, 2002 at 5:30 pm, in City Council Chambers.

#### **FINANCE**

Alderman Bush, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on March 12, 2002. The committee discussed the MIN/MAX Insurance Program. If the city goes over 100% of the minimum claim, then we will have to pay an additional payment up to 100%, but not exceeding 120%. From December 2000 to December 2001, claim dollars paid are at 60.8%.

Jim Leitzinger, Finance Director, reported that revenues are growing, however, expenses are still being controlled.

Jim Leitzinger, Finance Director, reported that the company that the city is purchasing the fire truck from has a 4.8% fixed rate for ten years. Payments do not start until the truck is received. He said that he would continue checking with local financial institution to see if they might provide the same rates (at this time they did not). The committee

vote unanimously to accept the rates from the company the truck is being purchased from.

The Finance Director handed out a report from 3M regarding healthcare. This report will be discussed at the next meeting.

The committee received a draft of the budget. The Finance Director stated that he is still working with department heads to finalize it. There was some discussion on having a workshop or special meeting with the council members before the budget went to committees.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Police Chief, Dave Kentner, thanked the council for approving the squad car bids. He also thanked the bidders for the competitive bids and all the work they put into completing them.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Alderwoman Bender stated that she is not against a new library. She clarified what a "yes" vote means for the referendum question. She also reminded everyone to vote.

Alderwoman Steele stated that she is not against a new library. She encouraged everyone to vote on their own conscience and to be sure to collect all the facts.

Alderman Bush thanked the Water & Sewer, Mayor Gitz, and Lamorne Morris to grant received for sewers on the east side of town. He also encouraged everyone to get out to vote.

Alderwoman Moore-Howard encouraged every to vote. She stated that your vote does make a difference.

Alderwoman Leitzen Fye stated that regarding downtown parking, the FDD parking subcommittee should have solid parking recommendations by the next Public Works meeting. She said that it is a very complex process.

Alderman Goley stated that there has been a swell of patriotism these last few months and that there is no better way to show it than to get out to vote. He stated that he sees the liquor ordinance as a way to tie the hands of local businesses.

Alderwoman Veer encouraged everyone to get out to vote. She reminded everyone that the referendum to be voted on is not binding, but it gives the council a chance to find out what the voters want.

Alderwoman Jones thanked Stephenson County for putting on a Teen Conference, inviting eighth graders from area high schools. She stated that it was a wonderful session. She also encouraged everyone to let their vote be their voice.

Alderman Boldt reminded liquor license owners and any other interested parties that the mayor and the liquor commission would be hosting a hearing regarding the proposed

liquor ordinance before the next meeting. He encouraged all interested parties to attend the meeting. He also encouraged everyone to get out to have your voice heard.

Alderman Urban stated that he understood that there would be some corporate and individual donations at risk if there were no city participation in the funding of the new library. He then urged people to get out to vote.

Alderman Dawson stated that the city of Freeport needs a new library, but he feels that a quality library can be built for less money and without the risk of loosing donations.

Alderman Jenkins asked if the resolution passed for the library stated specifically that the money would come from the Health and Environment fund.

Alderman Rinehart thanked Tom Tyke and staff member for the invitation to the winter ball. He also stated that in order to build a new library, he believes the city has to make a commitment.

Mayor Gitz stated that there was a suggestion to have a work session for the council to receive information in regards to the budget. This meeting is tentatively set for Saturday, 23, 2002 at 10:00 am.

He also encouraged everyone to get out to vote.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jenny Devine thanked the firefighters and police department for staying and comforting the family of Shawn Devine during his final trip to the hospital. Shawn was the Illinois Poster Child for MDA. Ms. Devine presented a poster to Fire Chief, Jim Blackbourn, and Police Chief, Dave Kentner to thank them.

Jim Gulovich, 145 Knollwood Drive, part-time bartender, stated that he does not believe that there is problem in the taverns in the city of Freeport. He asked if the proposed ordinance were passed, how would it be enforced.

Police Chief, Dave Kentner, stated it would be enforced by the Police Department making periodic checks. He also stated that ordinance is based upon very specific problems and originated from the patrol units.

Tom Tyke thanked Alderman Rinehart for attending the winter ball. He also thanked the Council for allowing the boy scout troop to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

LATACIA M. ISHMON CITY CLERK