

CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
MONDAY EVENING
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2002 at 7:00 P.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

QUORUM

At 7:04 p.m., a quorum being present, Mayor James L. Gitz called the meeting to order.

RECORD

Present were Aldermen Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, and Steele. Alderman Bush entered the meeting at 7:02pm. Absent was Alderwoman Veer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

INTRO OF FOREIGN VISITORS

An Interpreter introduced guest mayors and other officials from Bulgaria. Mayor Gitz welcomed them to the council meeting.

COMMUNICATION

A written request for an excused absence was from Alderwoman Veer was read.

Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderwoman Moore-Howard to excuse his absence. The absence was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Journal of the Minutes of the regular meeting held on October 8, 2002, were presented for approval. Alderman Bush moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender the approval of the minutes. The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval to Receive and Place on File:
 - 1. Fire Department Activities for September 2002
- B. Approval of Water & Sewer Disbursements for October 2002 - \$199,502.83
- C. Approval of Bills Payable for October 2002 - \$468,221.50
- D. Approval of Payroll for Pay Period October 6-19, 2002 - \$289,664.87

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

PUBLIC HEARING

There was a public hearing for the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. Police Chief Whitmore explained the details of the grant. There being no questions or comments from the council or public, Alderman Gaulrapp moved, seconded by Alderwoman Moore-Howard to close the public hearing. The motion carried.

2ND READING

ORDINANCE #2002-61

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 236.03 (CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY) OF CHAPTER 236 (ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

This ordinance was referred back to the Finance Committee at the meeting of October 8, 2002. Alderman Bush, Finance Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on October 15, 2002. The committee agreed with the ordinance as it was written, in order to reflect how bills are currently being paid. The city has a Purchasing Policy for any items over \$500 and any items under \$500 have to be approved by the department heads, city accountant, and finance director. These items are budgeted items that were previously approved by the council. The committee felt that need to allow the department heads to do their jobs. The committee voted unanimously to send the ordinance back to council without any additional changes. At the meeting of September 16, 2002, it was moved by Alderman Bush, seconded by Alderwoman Steele for approval. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Jones, Urban, Jenkins, Rinehart, and Steele voted yea. Aldermen Boldt, Dawson, Gaulrapp, and Bender voted nay. There were nine yeas and four nays. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENT

Effective immediately, James L. Gitz, hereby appoints Kenneth Brierre to the City of Freeport Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Brierre's term will expire May 31, 2007.

Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman Gaulrapp to accept this appointment. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, and Steele voted yea. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENT

Effective immediately, James L. Gitz, hereby appoints Micahel Reichert to the City of Freeport Liquor Commission. Mr. Reichert will replace Wayne Oliver, who is moving from the Freeport area. Mr. Reichert's term will expire May 31, 2006.

Alderman Rinehart moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender to accept this appointment. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, and Steele voted yea. The motion carried.

APPOINTMENT

Effective immediately, James L. Gitz, hereby appoints James Medendorp Jr. to the City of Freeport Human Relations Commission. This term will expire on December 31, 2005.

Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman Gaulrapp to accept this appointment. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, and Steele voted yea. The motion carried.

REPORT

The regular meeting of the Freeport Planning Commission was held on Thursday, October 10, 2002, in the City Hall Building. At 7:30pm, a public hearing was held on a

petition by Indian Springs Subdivision, 1255 West Empire Street, Freeport, owner, and Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, 5105 I-Ah-Maytah, Oshkosh, WI, contract vendee. Petitioners are requesting a Special Use Permit under R-3, One Family Residence District zoning, to allow a large residential care home, for the property located at Lot #30, 1971 Navajo Drive, Freeport. Present representing the petitioners was Steve Hoopman and Kathleen Eulitz. The request meets all requirements of the Codified Ordinances; there were no objectors present. Mr. Hoopman described the proposed facility as a six-bedroom ranch of 2500 square feet, which would have fire sprinklers. Kathleen Eulitz of Bethesda Lutheran Services said that four of the residents are related and are already living in Freeport, but accessibility in their current home is a problem. The new facility would be fully accessible.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommends the request be approved.

Alderman Steele moved, seconded by Alderman Bender to receive this report and place it on file. The motion carried.

1st READING

ORDINANCE #2002-64

SPECIAL ORDINANCE FOR VARIATION, PERMIT, OR AMENDMENT OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS (Special Use Permit, Lot #30, 1971 Navajo Drive)

Alderman Steele, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on October 17, 2002. Bethesda is taking over for Rainbow Ridge in Freeport. Bethesda is requesting a permit to build a ranch house with six-bedrooms, 2500 square feet and the house will be equipped with sprinklers. The house is intended for six residents, four of whom are related. This house also is strongly supported by Immanuel Lutheran Church. Bethesda hopes construction can start in February, weather permitting. There were no objections filed and the Planning Commission unanimously approved the permit. The committee voted unanimously to concur with the Planning Commission and Alderman Steele so moved, seconded by Alderman Dawson. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, and Steele voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

REPORT

The regular meeting of the Freeport Planning Commission was held on Thursday, October 10, 2002 in the City Hall Building.

At 7:30 p.m., a public hearing was held on a petition by the City of Freeport, requesting an amendment adding the following, "Landscape supplies and firewood, but not including the processing of same, on an open lot or in a building" to Section 1252.03(a), Permitted Uses, of Chapter 1252, Business Districts, of the City of Freeport Codified Ordinances. Mr. Mikkelsen present the request and stated that this permitted use would cover two existing landscape supplies businesses, as well as any future businesses of this type.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommends the request be approved.

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

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2002-65

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1252 (BUSINESS DISTRICTS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Alderman Steele, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on October 17, 2002. An amendment to 1252.03(a) adding to Permitted Uses, "landscape supplies, etc." was presented to the committee. This amendment is to include the sale of landscape supplies and firewood to be added to B2 licensing. This does not include the processing of firewood. The Planning Commission approved this amendment. The committee voted unanimously to concur with the Planning Commission and Alderman Steele so moved, seconded by Alderman Dawson. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

REPORT

The regular meeting of the Freeport Planning Commission was held on Thursday, October 10, 2002 in the City Hall Building.

At 7:30 p.m., a public hearing was held on a petition by Earl L. Holden and Georgette E. Holden, 933 W. Galena Avenue, Freeport, requesting a change of zoning from R-6, Multiple Family Residence District, to B-2-1, Limited Service Business District; for the property located at 933 W. Galena Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Holden were present for the hearing, and the request meets all requirements of the Codified Ordinances. There were no objectors present.

The Planning Commission unanimously recommends the request be granted.

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

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2002-66

SPECIAL ORDINANCE FOR VARIATION, PERMIT, OR AMENDMENT OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS (Amendment of Zoning, 933 West Galena)

Alderman Steele, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on October 17, 2002. A request to allow the sale of firewood at 933 West Galena was presented. There is a U-shaped driveway that allows customers to drive to the rear of the property, purchase firewood, and exit at the front of the property. There were no objections filed and the Planning Commission unanimously approved this request. Alderman Steele moved, seconded by Alderman Bender to concur with the Planning Commission. 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, October 10, 2002 in the City Hall Building.

At 6:30 p.m., a public hearing was held on a petition by Michael and Connie Bicksler, 1334-1336 South Carroll Avenue, Freeport, requesting a variance to Section 1268.02(e)(1) of the City of Freeport Codified Ordinances, to allow a fence in the front yard on the Jefferson Street side of the property. Mr. and Mrs. Bicksler were present for

the hearing, and the request meets all requirements of the Codified Ordinances. There were no objectors present.

The Zoning Board unanimously recommends the request be granted.

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

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2002-67

SPECIAL ORDINANCE FOR VARIATION, PERMIT, OR AMENDMENT OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Alderwoman Steele, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on October 17, 2002. Connie Bicksler was present for any questions. This is a corner lot on Carroll and Jefferson with Jefferson Street having the fence. The Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously approved this variance. There are no problems with entry to the property in case of fire. The committee voted unanimously to concur with the Zoning Board of Appeals and Alderwoman Steele so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Alderman Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, and Steele voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

REPORT

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals was held on Thursday, October 10, 2002 in the City Hall Building.

At 6:30 p.m., a public hearing was held on a petition by Paul R. Reisen, Jr. and Manuel Escamilla, Jr. 401-403 S. Galena Avenue, Freeport, requesting a variance to Section 1268.02(e)(1) of the City of Freeport Codified Ordinances, to allow a fence in the front yard. The petitioners were present for the hearing, and the request meets all requirements of the Codified Ordinances. There were no objectors present. Ed Cowman, and adjacent property owner, stated the petitioners had greatly improved the property, and the fence would help maintain the improvements.

The Zoning Board unanimously recommends the request be granted.

Alderwoman Steele moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender that this report be received and placed on file.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2002-68

SPECIAL ORDINANCE FOR VARIATION, PERMIT, OR AMENDMENT OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS (Variance, 401-403 South Galena)

Alderwoman Steele, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on October 20, 2002. This lot is on the corner of Washington and Galena Avenue, with the Galena side fenced. The Zoning Board unanimously approved this variance. There are no problems with entry in case of fire. The committee voted unanimously to concur with the Zoning Board and Alderwoman Steele so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, and Steele voted yea. Alderman Jenkins voted nay. There were twelve yeas

and one nay. The ordinance was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Alderman Jenkins, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on October 14, 2002. Landscape engineering costs were presented from Tom Graceffa & Associates for the corridor grant. This is a grant that the city received, with assistance from Teng & Associates. This grant is for improvements to the appearance along IL 75 from Taylor Park to West Street and downtown Galena to South Street. The grant allows \$50,000 for engineering and the city's 20% match from the Motor Fuel Tax funds. The engineer's estimate is \$57,000. Any amount over the \$50,000 will be allocated from MFT funds and recovered from a reduction in construction costs. The city's upfront costs will be \$10,000, with no intention of cutting into construction. The committee voted unanimously to approve the costs and Alderman Jenkins so moved, seconded by Alderman Rinehart. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Bush, Moore-Howard, Goley, Toepfer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, and Steele voted yea. The motion carried.

The committee recommended that the Public Works Department take similar action to that along Read Park to assist in reducing the speed at this intersection. No committee action is necessary for this type of signage.

Alderman Urban discussed the committee's involvement in Vision 20/20. Some of the agenda items under "Infrastructure" are not under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Committee; therefore Alderman Urban will discuss removal of these items from the committee's expectations.

Alderman Moore-Howard requested the status of parking relief for Cole's Confectionery. The committee will be addressing this at the next regular meeting on November 12, 2002, at 7:00 p.m., along with all of the downtown parking recommendations.

Alderman Jenkins also mentioned parking relief for the Auto Clinic. Their request and recommendation from the FDD's Parking Sub-Committee, is for a 24-hour space for customers to drop off their cars in the evening without getting a ticket for parking between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. This will also be addressed the committee's next meeting.

Deb Doelker addressed the committee about the condition of the curve on Woodside Drive that goes downhill almost to the Yellow Creek. The Water & Sewer Department will inspect the culvert tubes and Public Works Director, Craig LeBaron, will inspect the condition of the pavement. There has always been discussion about how the road curves around. Attempts have been made to try to re-align the roadway, but residents have been hesitant for fear of increased speed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Alderman Steele, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on October 17, 2002. Deb Elzinga, Executive Director of NHS, gave the committee a tour of the NHS

targeted neighborhoods. There were many success stories and the improvement of the neighborhoods was evident in the fact that other houses near these areas have also improved. A tour of the Carroll Street houses was also given. Ms. Elzinga stated that the destiny of these locations will be discussed at the October 30, 2002 NHS meeting. The committee wishes to thank Ms. Elzinga for her time and dedication to this project and look forward to hearing from NHS as to the future plans for the Carroll Street area.

Information regarding the Historic Preservation ordinance was given to the committee to review for the next meeting.

FINANCE

Alderman Bush, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on October 15, 2002. Duane Price, City Accountant, reported that fifteen applications were received for the Finance Director position. Corporation Counsel, Human Resources, and the City Accountant reviewed the applications and narrowed it down to four applicants. The four were not local, so Mayor Gitz requested that the applications be reviewed in order to find someone local.

Alderman Bush informed the committee that he and the Mayor worked on a mission statement and objectives/deliverables for the task force. The task force has not yet been formed in its' entirety.

There were seven bids received for the leasing of a copy machine. Office Copy Products was the lowest bid at \$349.60 per month. The three-year total cost is \$12,585.60. The committee voted unanimously to accept this bid.

The Human Resource Director informed the committee, by memo that the city would be going out for bids for Illinois Municipal League Risk Management Insurance. This is for property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance. The current insurance expires on December 31, 2002.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Alderman Dawson, Chair, stated that the next meeting would be November 13, 2002, at 6:00pm, in City Council Chambers.

TECHNOLOGY

Alderman Gaulrapp, Chair, stated that the next meeting would be November 15, 2002, at 6:30m, in City Council Chambers.

NEW BUSINESS

The aldermen made comments. There was no new business presented that required action from the council.

As there was no other business to be transacted by the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

LATACIA M. ISHMON, CITY CLERK

