

CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
MONDAY EVENING
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2002 at 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 Toepfer, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, and Goley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At this time, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderwoman Toepfer.

PRESENTATION

Freeport First Robotics Team made a presentation to the council. They will be designing and building a robot to be entered into Regional and National Competitions. They are seeking donations to help fund the costs for the competition, as well as for parts to build the robot.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Journal of the Minutes of the regular meeting held on November 18, 2002, were presented for approval. Alderman Gaulrapp moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender the approval of the minutes. The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval to Receive and Place on File:
 - 1. Community Development Report
 - 2. Community Development Cash Receipts for period ending November 30, 2002
 - 3. Community Development Building Permits for period ending November 30, 2002
 - 4. Treasurer's Tax Receipts for the period ending November 30, 2002
- B. Approval of Water & Sewer Disbursements for November 2002 - \$104,342.92
- C. Approval of Bills Payable for November 2002 – \$273,174.89
- D. Approval of Payroll for Pay Period October 20- November 2, 2002 - \$287,762.78

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

2nd READING

ORDINANCE #2002-70

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 480 (PARKING GENERALLY) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

This ordinance was laid over from the meeting of November 18, 2002 when it was moved by Alderman Jenkins, Alderwoman Veer for approval. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Toepfer, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, and Goley voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

2nd READING

ORDINANCE #2002-71

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 299, ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION, SECTION 299.10 OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGMENTS PRIOR TO ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL OF LICENSES AND PERMITS

This ordinance was laid over from the meeting of November 18, 2002, when it was moved by Alderwoman Steele, seconded by Alderman Boldt for approval. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Toepfer, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, and Goley voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

RESOLUTION #2002-70

RESOLUTION TO RATIFY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS (IAFF)

WHEREAS, the City's bargaining team has in good faith negotiated a three-year collective bargaining agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters ("IAFF") Local No. 441, a copy of which agreement will be available for public review in the City Clerk's Office by November 21, 2002; and

WHEREAS, at a special meeting of the Finance Committee held November 18, 2002, the provisions of said collective bargaining agreement were reviewed; and the members of the Finance Committee voted to recommend ratification of the collective bargaining agreement by this City Council.

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

Section 1: The City Council formally ratifies the negotiated three-year collective bargaining agreement between the City of Freeport and IAFF Local No. 441; and

Section 2: The Mayor of the City of Freeport and the City Clerk are authorized to execute said collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the City of Freeport, and to execute any other documents necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of said agreement and this Resolution.

Section 3: The City Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Scott Townsend, President, International Association of Fire Fighters Local No. 441.

Section 4: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage by the City Council and its approval by the Mayor, and it shall remain in full force and affect until its amendment or revocation, in whole or in part, by a subsequent ordinance or resolution of this City Council; and

Section 5: 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

Section 6: All Resolutions or motions in conflict with this Resolution are repealed insofar as they conflict; and

Section 7: 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.

This resolution was laid over from the meeting of November 18, 2002, when it was moved by Alderman Bush, seconded by Alderman Goley for approval.

Alderman Goley moved, seconded by Alderman Gaulrapp to go into executive session. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Toepfer, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, and Goley voted yea. The council then convened in the conference room. After reconvening in council chambers, Alderwoman Steele moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender to come out of executive session. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Toepfer, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, and Goley voted yea.

On the roll call of yeas and nays to adopt this resolution, Aldermen Toepfer, Veer, Jones, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, Moore-Howard, and Goley voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

REAPPOINTMENT

Effective immediately, James L. Gitz, hereby reappoints Mary Jo Wright to the Library Board. This appointment shall be effective until May 31, 2005.

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

1st READING

ORDINANCE #2002-72

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2002, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2003 FOR THE CITY OF FREEPORT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON, AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

Alderman Bush, Finance Chair, stated that committee held a special finance committee meeting on November 26, 2002. City Accountant, Duane Price, presented the committee two scenarios to decide on for the tax levy. The state mandated contribution to the police pension fund increased 15% and the contribution for the fire pension fund increased 17%. The contribution for the IMRF will remain the same. The rest of the tax will go to the corporate fund. One scenario is to increase the tax levy by 2%, which will keep the tax rate the same as last year. However, the city would receive \$100,000 less than last year in the corporate fund. If the city increases the tax levy by 6.6%, the tax rate will increase 4.5%, which is \$14 for a \$100,00 home. The city will receive in the corporate fund the same amount as last year. Alderman Goley requested that this decision be held over to allow time to discuss this issue with the Financial Task Force.

Alderman Bush stated that the committee also held a special committee meeting on December 2, 2002. City Accountant, Duane Price, presented two scenarios to the committee: (1) 2% increase, in which the city would lose about \$100,000 in the corporate fund; (2) 5% increase, in which the city would lose about \$35,000 in the corporate fund. This option would increase property tax by about \$9 on a \$100,000 home.

Alderman Goley consulted with the financial task force members, and suggested that the city increase the levy by 2%. Alderman Bush stated that he was in agreement because of a recent vote against the increase in the Telecommunications Tax and the Sales Tax referendum. The committee voted unanimously to approve a 2% increase, which is

\$2,184,741 and Alderman Bush so moved, seconded by Alderman Goley. This ordinance will be automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

Consideration of Rawleigh Redevelopment Loan

Alderman Bush, Finance Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on November 26, 2002. There is a short-term loan on the agreement that the city made with the developers of the Rawleigh building. The city agreed to advance the project \$50,000 and when the project was complete, \$450,000. There were three bids received from local banks for the financing: Fifth Third Bank – 1.9%, US Bank – 2.3%, and Old Kent Bank – 3.06%. The committee voted unanimously to accept the low bid from Fifth Third Bank at 1.9% financing and Alderman Bush so moved, seconded by Alderman Goley. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Toepfer, Veer, Boldt, Dawson, Jenkins, Gaulrapp, Rinehart, Bender, Steele, Bush, and Moore-Howard voted yea. Aldermen Jones, Urban, and Goley abstained. There were eleven yeas and three abstentions. The motion carried.

Consideration of Attorney fees for Rawleigh Redevelopment Loan Documents

Alderman Bush, Finance Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on November 26, 2002. Bill Morris recommended that the city obtain a bond lawyer, in order to draft the paperwork for a tax-exempt loan. Kurt Froehlich, from Evans, Froehlich, Beth & Chamley, has agreed to prepare the necessary paperwork for \$3,000. The committee voted unanimously to accept this attorney and Alderman Bush so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Steel. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Toepfer, Veer, Boldt, Urban, Dawson, Jenkins, Rinehart, Steele, Bush, and Moore-Howard voted yea. Aldermen Gaulrapp and Bender voted nay. Aldermen Jones and Goley abstained. There were ten yeas, two nays, and two abstentions. The motion carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Alderman Bush, Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on November 26, 2002. The committee took no action on the library tax levy. The committee expressed frustration with the Director, Frank Novak, for not getting the levy to the library board in time for the meeting so that it to be approved by the Finance Committee.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Alderman Jenkins, Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on November 25, 2002. Public Works Director, Craig LeBaron, compiled all the proposed changes onto the spreadsheet and worked with Corporation Counsel, Sarah Griffin on the ordinance changes. The existing parking ordinances had not been updated since before the angled parking was put in downtown. There will be considerably more work to get the ordinances ready. The first step was making sure all of the downtown was 2-hour parking by ordinance, then to write additional ordinance for all of the exceptions.

Our intent was to go through all the ordinances first then talk about a few other changes needed. We were not able to get all the way through since when we got to “mid-block” loading zones those present from the FDDF parking sub committee did not like the changes suggested by PW works committee. The PW works committee had decided these mid block spaces should have a 30 minute time limit to curb abuse and the should be intended for the same purpose as the 15 minute courtesy spaces at the ends of the block. FDDF said they should be for loading and unloading only and can be used for that purpose for any amount of time; their concern is that the merchants would not be able to have delivery trucks deliver their products for sale. The PW works committee suggested

that most delivery trucks would not pull into a single space (parallel parking), instead they are already double-parking to make deliveries.

Since FDDF felt so strongly, these mid block spaces will carry the same definition as the commercial or business loading zones, available to any vehicle for loading and unloading only.

Director LeBaron and Corporation Counsel will do more work on the ordinances and the committee will meet again at the regular meeting on December 9th at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Alderman Dawson, Chair, stated that the next meeting would be December 11, 2002, at 6:00pm, in City Council Chambers

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Alderman Gaulrapp, Chair, stated that the next meeting would be January 7, 2003, at 7:00pm.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Alderman Bush, Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on November 21, 2002. Mayor Gitz presented several possibilities of a mission statement for the city. The mission statement will be printed on the city's letterhead and anything else that pertains to the city. The committee requested additional time to review the mission statements.

The committee received a letter from Mayor Gitz and a report that was compiled by the city intern on committee structures of other similar sized cities. Mayor Gitz felt that both models could work for the city. However, he stated that the best alternative would be to reduce the committees to three with five members on each. The committee requested additional time to review the information. The three committees would be: Finance/Intergovernmental, Public Works/Utilities & Technology, and Community Development/Public Safety. The Executive Committee would include the three chairpersons and the two senior aldermen. He felt that forming a committee as a whole would deter individuals from running for office because of the time commitment.

Mayor Gitz informed the committee on the development of the Stephenson Hotel.

The committee also held a special meeting on December 2, 2002. Mayor Gitz presented several possibilities to the committee for a mission statement. The committee voted unanimously to recommend the following mission statement to the council:

“The mission of the City of Freeport is to provide sound municipal leadership and efficient, high quality services that enhance the safety, economic prosperity, quality of life, and public health of our community.”

Alderman Jenkins suggested reducing the five committees that the city currently has, to three committees. Alderwomen Bender and Steele were in favor of having chairpersons for each committee. Alderman Bush was in favor of forming a committee as a whole. The committee voted to combine committees, in order to have three committees. The committees will be: Finance/Intergovernmental, Public Works/Utilities & Technology,

and Community Development/Public Safety. The Executive Committee will be made up of three chairpersons and the two senior aldermen.

It was decided that the City Council would continue to meet on the first and third Monday of each month. The committees will meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Fire Chief, Jim Blackbourn, thanked the council for unanimous approval of the Firefighters union contract.

Street Superintendent, Tom Dole, updated the council on the progress of the leaf pickup program.

NEW BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Debbie Doelker expressed her concerns regarding the city's water.

Scott Townsend thanked the council for ratifying the fire union contract.

As there was no other business to be transacted by the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

LATACIA M. ISHMON, CITY CLERK