



**City Council**  
City Council Chambers    524 West Stephenson Street    Freeport, Illinois 61032

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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, April 9, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Freeport Illinois, City Council Committee of the Whole was called to order by Mayor George Gaulrapp at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 2012, in council chambers.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor George Gaulrapp, Alderperson Tom Klemm, Shawn Boldt, Ronnie Bush, Jennie DeVine, Dennis Endress, Michael Koester, Andrew Crutchfield (7)

Not present: Alderperson Scott Helms

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Shawn Boldt.

**BUDGET – FREEPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Chairperson Boldt asked for leave from the Committee of the Whole to hear from Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson in order to hear her presentation of the library's portion of the budget. Chairperson Boldt explained that due to a scheduling conflict, Director Dickerson would not be able to present during budget considerations scheduled for later in the meeting. Director Dickerson the Library Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget Worksheets included in the April 9, 2012 version, pages 15 and 16. Director Dickerson spoke about the property tax receipts that they will receive and Library Board estimates about \$140,000 less in tax receipts than last year. In order to accommodate less receipts from property taxes, Director Dickerson stated the board reduced a programming manager position in 2009, changed her administrative assistant position from full-time to part-time, eliminated a librarian-at-large position, and conformed to the City of Freeport holiday schedule. Director Dickerson stated her budget includes a 2% raise for bargaining employees (AFSCME) and no raises for non-bargaining employees. The Library budget presented is the same in most line items; except personnel costs have been reduced due to the elimination of positions, PEHP contributions have increased, and the line item for machinery and equipment has been reduced due to not renewing a service contract. Director Dickerson stated they would respond to the fluctuation of tax receipts by not ordering as much in the line item for materials or books, if necessary.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

City Clerk Meg Zuravel read into the record a letter dated March 16, 2012, written by Jeff Johnson, President, Freeport Lanes, Inc. regarding the Bowling and Billiard License. Mr. Johnson stated his opinion against the license fee of \$600.00 charged to the bowling alley based on the number of lanes in the building. He stated that this license fee has been on the books for decades. When this ordinance was introduced, there were at least four bowling centers in the City and numerous Pool Halls. At that time,

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, April 9, 2012**

this was used as a way to “fee or tax” those businesses who incurred large revenue from entertainment. Since this time, due to economic downturn and the anti-smoking, the revenues generated at bowling centers have deteriorated. Mr. Johnson asked for elimination of the required license for bowling alleys.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

1. Public Works Director Tom Dole presented two items dated April 5, 2012 one being the bid tabulation for mowing and weed whipping at the City Cemetery and the second item being the cost calculated for the Street Department workers to perform the duties. Director Dole stated he had received four bids for ground maintenance in the amounts of \$1,580.65 per week from T&L Preservation Services, \$2,332.00 per week from Precision Landscape, Inc., \$3,125.00 per week from EZ Care Services, \$3,500.00 per week from Guentner Lawn Care. Director Dole stated he had determined the four bids to be responsive and included the required documents. Director Dole stated that currently the Street Department uses three (3) full time employees for five days to maintain the grounds. With an average wage of \$21.39 per hour, this amounts to \$2,566.80 per week. This figure does not include costs of benefits (FICA, Medicare, Health and PEHP), in which Accountant Duane Price stated amounts to at least +20%. Director Dole stated that in summers past, he has had a Cemetery Manager and two part-time employees perform these duties. Accountant Price stated that part-time employee cost was about \$7,500.00 in his estimate.

Discussion was held regarding the position of the Cemetery Manager position in which the employee took a job with the Street Department, but is still performing duties since last fiscal year. This position was never replaced which dropped the department from 14 to 13. Adding in the Nuisance Inspector and Animal Control Officer would bring the department count to 15. Director Dole stated the department completed the mowing last year with 13 workers in the department, along with two part-time employees.

Mayor Gaulrapp stated that even if someone was hired to do the grounds maintenance (mowing and weed whipping) that duties of record keeping, meeting with the families of deceased, setting head stones, and maintenance of the roads and building will still need to be performed.

Accountant Price was asked to obtain the actual figures for hiring two part-time employees. He provided an amount of \$5,600.00 for two part-time employees. Director Dole stated they had supervision by one full-time Street Department employee who is working as the Cemetery Manager.

Aldersperson Koester made a motion to make a recommendation to council to reject the bids for grounds maintenance at the City Cemetery and to move this item forward to the city council recommending the use of two part-time workers, seconded by Aldersperson Bush. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

### **CITY ENGINEER**

1. Discussion of probable Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) funds application for Pearl City Road and Kiwanis Drive intersection. City Engineer Denise Ihrig reviewed options for possibly using ITEP program to supplement work on the intersection. City Engineer Ihrig stated that as she is working with the County they are looking into ways to fund the project and she would like to know the council’s feeling on her pursuing the use of ITEP funds. She stated that there are more things in this project beyond the curb including continuation of a bike path and

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, April 9, 2012**

sidewalks. She would could also approach funding from the Park District and Highland Community College. City Engineer Ihrig asked for opinions from the council and stated that she has a May 29, 2012, deadline to apply for funds but before she proceeded she wanted their opinion. Alderperson Bush provided his positive position on the enhancement project and thought perhaps that a round-about could work in that area. Alderperson Boldt stated that now that he has seen firsthand how the round-about are used in Wisconsin, he thinks they could work in that area. Alderperson Boldt stated that there will be several funding sources that need be considered including ITEP dollars.

Discussion was held regarding whether semis and farm equipment could use a round-about.

Alderperson Bush made a motion for the City Engineer to move forward in pursuing use enhancement dollars through the ITEP program, seconded by Alderperson Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCES**

1. Council discussion on amusement license fees through Chapter 812 – Bowling Billiards and Shooting; Chapter 826 - Dance Halls; Chapter 858 - Roller Rinks; Chapter 870 - Theaters and Shows. This was brought forward for discussion by Alderperson Endress and Alderperson Klemm and Corporation Counsel stated the committee would need to decide whether to get rid of the license fee altogether, reduce to \$25-\$50 per year, or leave the same.

Discussion was held regarding the income derived from the Chapter 812 for Bowling in the amount of \$600 per year from Freeport Lane's Inc., Dance Halls in the amount of \$50 per year from Munzy's and Eagles; and \$319 per year from the Lindo Theater for Chapter 870.

Discussion was held regarding Chapter 812 not requiring proof of insurance and it was noted that wording should be added for requiring insurance.

City Clerk Meg Zuravel stated she had already sent renewal notices for licenses for the bowling and theaters and shows because they are due to expire on April 30, 2012. Dance Hall licenses expire December 31.

Discussion was held to provide a 60-day extension while this item is being discussed. Alderperson Koester made a motion for corporation counsel to draft wording to extend the bowling and theater licenses for 60-days and also to draft a fee schedule for the chapters involved in the amusement fee license and recommended this item to council for the next meeting, seconded by Alderperson Klemm. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

### **FINANCE**

1. Finance Director Craig Joesten stated that he does not have the figures in order to have a discussion of Health Care Considerations at this meeting. He should have the information for the council meeting on Monday.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, April 9, 2012**

2. Discussion of Budget Considerations for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 – for this item of discussion it was suggested by Chairperson Boldt to use the roundtable rotation through of department heads and a couple of alderpersons. It was decided to rotate on a seven minute basis. This process was followed until each department head had an opportunity to speak with the seven members of the committee of the whole present at the meeting.

Aldersperson Crutchfield made a motion to add back into the budget for FY 2012-2013 a line item for the City Council – Education, Training and Travel, noting that this is line item 01-11-575.0, in an amount of \$3,000.00, seconded by Aldersperson Bush. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Aldersperson Klemm made a motion to recommend the budget FY 2012-2013 as amended to the City Council for Monday's meeting, seconded by Aldersperson Koester. Motion passed by voice vote without dissent.

Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin stated the council will see the budget in two forms with one being the Appropriation Ordinance (which must be passed) and the second being the Spending Plan (which is voluntarily passed by the council).

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no one signed on the sheet for public comments.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

*s/ Meg Zuravel*

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk