

CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
MONDAY EVENING
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2005 AT 7:00PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

QUORUM

At 7:00pm, a quorum being present, Mayor Gitz called the meeting to order.

RECORD

Present were Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, Bender, Clark, Griswold, and Boldt. Alderman Varner entered the meeting at 7:04pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At this time, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderwoman O'Neill.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was a letter read by Pastor Bowden in support of the Willowglen facility, located at 239 Winnefred St.

PRESENTATION

There was a presentation of \$500 from Wal-Mart to the Freeport Fire Department.

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Mayor Gitz presented the State of the City Address.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Journal of the Minutes of the regular meeting held on January 18, 2005 was presented for approval. Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderwoman O'Neill for approval. The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval to Receive and Place on File:

- A. Approval to Receive and Place on File:
 - 1. Community Development Cash Receipts for January 2005
 - 2. Community Development Building Permits for January 2005
 - 3. Community Development Report
 - 4. Fire Department 2004 Year end totals
- B. Approval of Water & Sewer Disbursements for February 2005 - \$345,796.46
- C. Approval of Bills Payable for January & February 2005 - \$360,289.85
- D. Approval of Payroll for period ending January 22, 2005 - \$314,834.32

Alderwoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman Gaulrapp for approval of the consent agenda. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Clark, Griswold, and Boldt voted yea. The motion carried.

2nd READING

ORDINANCE #2004-71

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN TERRITORY INTO THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS AND ASSIGNING A ZONING CLASSIFICATION AND ELECTION WARD TO THE PROPERTY

On the roll call of yeas and nays to approve this ordinance, Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Clark, Griswold, and Boldt voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

2nd READING

ORDINANCE #2005-02

SPECIAL ORDINANCE FOR VARIATION, PERMIT, OR AMENDMENT OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS (Special Use Permit, 1 W Stephenson)

This ordinance was laid over from the meeting of January 18, 2005, when it was moved by Alderman Gaulrapp, seconded by Alderwoman Bender for approval. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, Bender Varner, Clark, and Griswold voted yea. Alderman Boldt abstained.

2nd READING

ORDINANCE #2005-03

SPECIAL ORDINANCE FOR VARIATION, PERMIT, OR AMENDMENT OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS (Amendment of Zoning, R-2 to R-3, west of Meadows Dr and south of Lawn Place and Hillcrest Drive)

This ordinance was laid over from the meeting of January 18, 2005, when it was moved by Alderman Gaulrapp, seconded by Alderwoman Griswold for approval. Since this request was withdrawn, Alderman Gaulrapp withdrew his motion and Alderwoman Griswold withdrew her second.

1st READING

ORDINANCE #2005-04

AN ORDINANCE TO ABATE THE 2004 REAL ESTATE TAX LEVY FOR THE REPAYMENT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2003

Alderman Clark, Finance Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on January 24, 2005. The committee voted unanimously to approve this ordinance and Alderman Clark so moved, seconded by Alderman Wright. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

1ST READING

ORDINANCE #2005-05

SPECIAL ORDINANCE FOR VARIATION, PERMIT OR AMENDMENT OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS (SPECIAL USE PERMIT, WILLOWGLEN ACADEMY)

Alderman Gaulrapp, Community Development Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on January 19, 2005. The committee voted unanimously to concur with the Zoning Commission and Alderman Gaulrapp so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Griswold. This ordinance was automatically laid over to the next regular meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Clark moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender to go into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) in order to discuss personnel. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Clark, Griswold, and Boldt voted yea. The motion carried.

Alderman Wright requested that Brian Borger, Police & Fire Commissioner Chair be present in the executive session. The motion carried.

The Mayor requested that Deputy Fire Chief, Lynn Ocker be present in the executive session. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Clark, Griswold, and Boldt voted nay. The request was denied.

The council then convened in the mayor's office. After reconvening in Council Chambers, Alderman Clark moved, seconded by Alderwoman Bender to come out of executive session. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Clark, Griswold, and Boldt voted yea. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION #R-2005-03

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING MAYOR TO ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF FIRE CHIEF
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

Alderman Clark moved, seconded by Alderman Wright to amend this resolution, striking the third paragraph and removing the words "the investigative information identifies" and adding "there are." On the roll call of yeas and nays to accept the amendment, Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Bender, Varner, Clark, Griswold, and Boldt voted yea. Alderman Gaulrapp voted nay. There were seven yeas and one nay. The motion carried.

On the roll call of yeas and nays to adopt this resolution, Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Clark, Griswold, and Boldt voted yea. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Alderman Clark, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on January 24, 2005. Tom Dole requested that the committee release contingency funds for the dog pound building. The present building is inadequate and not tied to sanitary sewer line. The committee voted unanimously to approve this request and Alderman Clark so moved, seconded by Alderman Wright. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Clark, Griswold, and Boldt voted yea. The motion carried.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Alderwoman Bender, Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on February 7, 2005. Bids were received for the installation of traffic preemption devices from Morse Electric in the amount of \$15,860 and Rock Electric in the amount of \$32,530. The committee voted unanimously to accept the low bid from Morse Electric and Alderwoman Bender so moved, seconded by Alderwoman Griswold. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Clark, Griswold, and Boldt voted yea. The motion carried.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Alderman Gaulrapp, Chair, stated that the next meeting would be February 14, 2005 at 5:30pm, in City Council Chambers.

PUBLIC WORKS

Alderman Boldt, Chair, stated that the next meeting would be February 22, 2005 at 5:30pm, in City Council Chambers.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The mayor then discussed the following items:

- Open House, February 12, 2005 at Freeport Public Library

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Clark stated that the Executive Committee is one member short. The ordinance states that one of the members will be the senior alderperson, but there is a tie for seniority.

Alderman Clark also recommended that the Fire & Police Commissioners be involved with the Fire Chief selection process.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Diana Roemer from the Journal Standard asked if the council would still meet on February 22, 2005, which is Election Day.

Alderman Boldt moved, seconded by Alderman Gaulrapp to reschedule the committee and council meetings to February 23, 2005. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen O'Neill, Wright, Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Clark, Griswold, and Boldt voted yea. The motion carried.

As there was no other business to be transacted by the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

LATACIA M. ISHMON, CMC