

CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
MONDAY EVENING
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 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 Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Griswold, Boldt, O'Neill, and Wright. Absent was Alderman Clark.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Alderswoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman Varner to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Journal of the Minutes of the special meeting held on February 23, 2005 was presented for approval. Alderswoman Bender moved, seconded by Alderswoman 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, February 2005
 - 2. Community Development Building Permits, February 2005
 - 3. Community Development report
- B. Approval of Water & Sewer Disbursements for February 2005 - \$200,764.26
- C. Approval of Bills Payable for February 2005 - \$144,769.82
- D. Approval of Payroll for period ending February 28, 2005 - \$313,665.85

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

2nd READING

ORDINANCE #2005-07

AN ORDINANCE TO ISSUE A SPECIAL USE PERMIT UNDER THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT (1910 S WALNUT AVE, FREEPORT RACEWAY PARK)

This ordinance was laid over from the meeting of February 23, 2005, when it was moved by Alderman Gaulrapp, seconded by Alderswoman Bender for approval. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Griswold, Boldt, O'Neill, and Wright voted yea. The ordinance was approved.

RESOLUTION #R-2005-07

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH APPRAISAL OF PROPERTY APPEALED TO PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD

WHEREAS, currently there are four owners of property with a valuation in excess of \$100,000.00 who have formally appealed their valuations to the Stephenson County Property Tax Appeal Board; and

WHEREAS, the Property Tax Appeal Board will favor appraisals from an MAI appraiser during its hearing; and

WHEREAS, the eventual outcome of the hearing before the Property Tax Appeal Board will set the basis for taxes for each of the taxing bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Freeport Township Assessor and Stephenson County Chief Assessment Officer have requested that each of the taxing bodies share the costs of MAI appraisals on a pro-rata basis.

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

Section 1. The City Council hereby authorizes the Freeport Township Assessor and Stephenson County Chief Assessment Officer to cause MAI appraisals to be done on all properties with valuations in excess of \$100,000.00 which have been appealed to the Stephenson County Property Tax Appeal Board.

Section 2. The City Council agrees that the City will pay its pro-rata share, based on a ratio that represents the City's proportionate share of tax revenue for the cases being appealed, for such MAI appraisals up to an amount of \$5,000.00.

Section 3. If any section, paragraph, clause or provisions of the Resolution shall be held invalid, said invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Resolution.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

Alderman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman Griswold to adopt this resolution. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Griswold, Boldt, O'Neill, and Wright voted yea. The resolution was adopted.

REAPPOINTMENT

Effective immediately, Mayor Gitz hereby reappoints Joan Flynn to the Historic Preservation Commission. This appointment shall be effective for three (3) years.

Alderman Bender moved, seconded by Alderman O'Neill to accept this reappointment. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Griswold, Boldt, O'Neill, and Wright voted yea. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY

Alderman Bender, Chair, stated that the committee had a special meeting on meeting on February 28, 2005. Bids were received for squad cars from Miles Chevrolet in the amount of \$48,415.60 and from Bocker in the amount of \$54,269.05. The committee voted unanimously to accept the low bid from Miles Chevrolet and Alderman Bender so moved, seconded by Alderman O'Neill. On the roll call of yeas and nays, Aldermen Gaulrapp, Bender, Varner, Griswold, Boldt, O'Neill, and Wright voted yea. The motion carried.

FINANCE

Alderman Wright, Vice Chair, stated that the committee held a meeting on February 28, 2005. The committee continued Q&A sessions regarding the proposed 2005-2006 budget.

The Public Works referred the request for a used van for Animal Control to the Finance Committee. The committee agreed that the van should be purchased out of cash.

Duane Price distributed a proposed fix asset policy for review. It will be discussed at the next regular meeting.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

Alderwoman Bender, Chair, stated that the committee held a special meeting on February 28, 2005. The committee agreed that reducing firemen is not an option and directed Fire Chief Blackburn to find other monies to cover overtime costs.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The mayor then discussed the following items:

- Brownsfield Grants
- Phase I Environmental Report presented to Community Development Committee—will be presented to City Council
- Land Use Plan-upcoming public hearing
- Trim Rite update

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Gitz acknowledged former Alderwoman Pat Leitzen Fye and Boy Scout Troop 4.

As there was no other business to be transacted by the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

LATACIA M. ISHMON, CMC