



City Council

City Council Chambers ♦ 524 West Stephenson Street ♦ Freeport, IL 61032

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday February 2, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Freeport, Illinois, City Council was called to order in council chambers by Mayor James L. Gitz with a quorum being present at 6:00 p.m. on February 2, 2015.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call: Mayor Gitz and council members Tom Klemm, Shawn Boldt, Ronnie Bush, Jennie DeVine, Dennis Endress, Sally Brashaw, Michael Koester and Andrew Crutchfield (8). Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson Boldt

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderperson Endress moved for approval of the agenda, seconded by Alderperson Koester. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

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Alderperson DeVine moved for approval of January 20, 2015 minutes, seconded by Alderperson Koester. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

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

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR WYATT MARTIN

An honorary memorial resolution for Wyatt Martin was read aloud. Wyatt Martin was instrumental in youth leadership in the Freeport area and most recently was serving in the United States Army. He was fatally injured in a motor vehicle accident in January 2015, which ended his life all too soon for a loss of our community. Alderperson Brashaw made a motion to approve the honorary resolution, seconded by Alderperson Koester. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

PRESENTATION OF CITY OF FREEPORT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The City of Freeport 2014 year end reports were provided by the department heads in the City of Freeport including reports for Police Department, Fire Department, Community Development Department, Public Works Department, Water and Sewer Department, Freeport Public Library, City Engineer, Legal Department, Human Resources, City Clerk, and City Treasurer. The 2014 year-end included goals and

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accomplishments in a power point presentation with statistical summaries, photos, and narrative. After the presentation was complete, the council members were provided an opportunity to ask questions of the department heads.

Mayor Gitz requested council members to forward to him any further question. He expects the next step to be a reformat by M45 and then the formal publication will be available for viewing on the City of Freeport website and also printed media. The intent of the presentation was to summarize 2014 and to give an accounting to communicate what the City is doing. He stated he hopes this gives the council a good overview of how the City set the goals, carried them out and provided a report as to what we did.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were presented on the Consent Agenda in the council packet and Mayor Gitz read the listed items into the record: [Consent Agenda PDF](#)

A. Approval to receive and place on file:

- 1) City Treasurer's Monthly Investment Report for December 31, 2014
- 2) City Treasurer's Report of Cash and Fund Balances through December 31, 2014

B. Approval of Resolution R-2015-06: Resolution to Co-Sponsor Memorial Day Parade With Allied Veterans Council

C. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (Registers #282, 285, 286) --- \$1,465,937.82

D. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending January 24, 2015 --- \$403,474.35

E. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #283 & 284) --- \$383,186.28

Aldersperson Brashaw moved for approval of the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Crutchfield. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (8)

Nays: none

The Consent Agenda items were approved.

APPROVAL OF AN APPOINTMENT

The following was read aloud: "Mayor James L. Gitz hereby appoints Nikki Sands to Planning Commission. She will replace Terry Feinberg who previously resigned from the Commission. This appointment will be effective immediately through October 31, 2017." Aldersperson Brashaw moved to accept the appointment, seconded by Aldersperson Koester. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (8)

Nays: none

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING

There are no ordinances on second reading this evening

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-09:

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AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, TO BORROW FUNDS FROM THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING LOAN AGREEMENT (HOME RULE ENTITY – CITY OF FREEPORT)

Administration requested suspension of rules for passage on first reading. Director Glendenning included in the council packet a memorandum stating the following items are in regard to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Public Water Supply Loan Program, its application and the ordinance authorizing the necessary loan agreements;

1. Project has been found to be in the best interest of public health, safety and welfare to improve the City's water system.
2. City does not have sufficient funds "on hand" to pay for the project.
3. Authorizes the Mayor to make a full loan application to the IEPA.
4. Authorizes the City to borrow \$8,000,000 in funds from the IEPA Public Water Supply Loan Program.
5. City needs the loan to complete the project and agrees to pay back the loan over 20 years at an interest rate of approximately 2.2%. Payments to be made semi-annually over the 20 years (principal & interest).
6. Payments will be made utilizing revenues generated by an increase to the system users through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
7. City agrees that it will maintain a separate account to maintain sufficient funding to pay back the loan.
8. Authorizes the City to enter into a formal loan agreement for the project as detailed in this Ordinance.
9. Authorizes the Mayor to execute the Loan Agreement.

Mayor Gitz stated this is the next step for the City to apply for the \$7.9 million loan and asked if there were any questions of council members.

Alderperson Koester asked how much it is going to cost to the citizens and asked why it is open as to what the increase is going to be to pay the loan. He stated because we know the loan and the interest rate then asked why we can't set some figure so we know what the impact will be. He stated he is concerned if we vote on this we don't know what the increase will be.

Mayor Gitz stated the estimated cost he believes is \$4.00 per household and that is not a firm number. He stated as we previously discussed, there is a rate study going on to look at all of our finances. He stated one of the things that we have been concerned about is to make sure we have everything out on the table because there are more things that need to be taken care of for the Water and Sewer Commission than simply this one low interest loan. There is a provision for the Big 4 and the first interest payments, in fact one of them was approved tonight, but Director Glendenning has apprised the Mayor that there are some major investments to make for energy savings at the sewer treatment plant. Those grants and those expenditures are now being tracked down. He stated that hopefully those will come through a DCEO

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energy program grants at a substantial savings and they will save us 1,000's dollars. Mayor Gitz stated we can give you rough figures on what it takes to service this loan. The total package in terms of impact of fees is being prepared so that you can look at everything together as for how the pieces fit. Alderperson Koester asked if there is an idea as to how soon that package will be available for the council to look at. Director Glendenning stated between he and the commission they would like to have that ready before the end of the fiscal year so he is hoping April.

Alderperson Klemm made a motion to move forward the ordinance for approval, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw.

Mayor Gitz stated Director Glendenning asked to move this forward for processing by the IEPA, so if the council wishes we ask for a motion to suspend the rules for passage this evening.

Alderperson Klemm moved for suspension of the rules for immediate consideration, seconded by Alderperson Endress. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw (6)
Nays: Koester and Crutchfield (2)

Alderperson Boldt stated in regard to the indebtedness if we are taking on another \$7.9 million and then we refinance the other set of bonds, does this jeopardize our bond rating for any of the rates that we may get for refinancing. Mayor Gitz stated no. He stated that is a fair question to be made about bond indebtedness from the IEPA's view of this but this is a necessary adjunct to the Big 4 Project. Mayor Gitz stated we cannot fully utilize the water tower and the new well and all of the other efforts that have been made to increase the water pressure on the western half of the City unless we make the necessary changes in the larger water main and we also have the added benefit of taking care of some of the weak. Mayor Gitz stated speaking for all of us, there is no desire to increase bonded indebtedness above what is absolutely essential. He stated we can go the market and I would doubt if Director Haggard would tell you that you are going to get a better bond package than the 2.2%. We are very fortunate to have that kind of loan. In the case of the Big 4 Projects, we have the loan forgiveness in that we borrowed \$20,000,000 and we have the loan forgiveness of \$5.0 million. Mayor Gitz stated consequently these investments we are making on the infrastructure are timely because there are no guarantees in the future that we will be able to finance those kind of improvements at a later date and move favorable terms.

Director Glendenning stated he would like to add that there is a possible chance that we may get some forgiveness on this loan. That has not been determined by the IEPA as to whether that is going to happen. The essence of us getting this loan without any of the pre-work because it was all completed with the Big 4. Director Glendenning explained the fact that the water system improvement will not work unless we do this we have to get those larger lines or the capacity function of Well #9 and Willow Booster Station a large facility won't get to Burchard Tank so it is a matter that is essential.

Director Haggard stated as far as bond indebtedness and future rates, it is hard to tell because the 2006 Series refunding is scheduled for October 2015 and the market is up and down. She stated she noted the question and will be asking Bernardi Securities.

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Mayor Gitz stated there is conflict in the necessity to move this along and to get it signed for the IEPA funding in order get through for the engineering so to make construction season this fall and at the same time he would like the members of this council to have a comfort level and clarity about what we are doing. There is no intent here to hide anything and if the council has any questions.

Aldersperson Crutchfield stated he has an issue with the language and not disclosing an amount and asked Director Glendenning when the loan application is completed and/or submitted, then the amount will be on the loan application, is that correct. Director Glendenning stated that is correct.

Aldersperson Crutchfield asked Director Glendenning to state where we rank in terms of water rates. Director Glendenning stated we are substantially below the median average of rates across the state at least in the range of 30% if not greater in commercial and industrial areas. The way the EPA looks at this is they are looking at a percentage that we are charging in our water and our waste water rate structure based on the median income level. They look at 1½% for each utility of the median income level. He stated we are sitting at a .67% of that currently with these increases that we are looking at right now. It would have to go all the way to 1½% before they say there is an undue financial impact on the community and they would want to review project even more.

Aldersperson Boldt asked about the forgiveness portion of this loan and with the last loan that was one of the reasons we were going after it and you say there is a possibility for the forgiveness on this and he asked if that could be pursued more before we go down this road. Director Glendenning stated we can't assume that we are going to see any forgiveness in this. The program is going through a phased upgrade and there was another billion dollars added to the revolving loan for water/waste water and it is going to add storm water now so it is entering another venue. There are 1600 to 1800 facilities in the State of Illinois that are after this money. Basically you get in line and the first one in with the proper project gets the funding for that year. IEPA more than obliged they did not want to see us walking away from the Big 4 projects, not being successful with capacity or how it was designed. That is why there had no reservations about continuing on and making that a quality project with the loan. Director Glendenning explained the forgiveness of it has yet to be seen and it depends on how the rest of the state programs work out for the proportional need for that money.

Aldersperson Klemm asked Director Glendenning to provide how important is this part of the project in the areas of the hospital, in the areas for emergencies, and in the areas with the spun cast pipes amounting to miles of it. Director Glendenning referred to his memo and the nine key points as far as getting the application in to the loan. The reason he asked for suspension of the rules is to be able to finish the application we need to get it in and he is 100% confident we are going to get this money we still have to get the steps of those programs. With that we have identified both the Big 4 shortcomings of what this is going to do but also identified the impact in other areas that only the hydraulic model and the GIS system could provide. We identified all these items throughout the new pressure zone and the areas adjacent to it with one being Freeport Memorial Hospital and the critical areas that need supply better. Director Glendenning stated he was asked once we do this \$7.9 million project how close are we to being done and he stated we have not even started we are doing 31,000 feet of what he knows of the 350,000 feet so we are barely at 8% at this point and that is just distribution system; we are not talking the water plant and we

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are not talking about the waste water. This is a small portion of what is yet to come. He stated getting this at our best rate and timing is everything to get that fully functional to be able to do a phased approach for the other things at a critical level how we move forward.

Aldersperson Koester stated he understands the water pressure issues and stated his issue is with leaving this open ended like this.

Upon no further discussion, Mayor Gitz asked for a roll call vote for passage of the ordinance. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw (6)

Nays: Koester and Crutchfield (2)

Ordinance #2015-09 passed by a vote of 6-2.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-10:

AN ORDINANCE VACATING CERTAIN UNUSED PORTIONS OF SANITARY SEWER AND WATER MAIN EASEMENTS - LOTS 6 & 7 HIGHLAND PROFESSIONAL CENTER SUBDIVISION PLAT 2

City Engineer Gallagher provided a written memorandum with this ordinance stating; "In an effort to allow for the expansion over several lots within the Highland Professional Center Subdivision, it was requested that water and sewer easements that were created during the original platting process, be vacated. After further investigation, it was determined that these easements were either no longer in use or had never been in use by Commission utilities and their vacation would not impact the ability to provide services within the subdivision. In order to not inhibit future use of Lots 6 & 7 of Highland Professional Center Subdivision, it is recommended that these easements be vacated at request of the owner." City Engineer Gallagher explained this will allow future expansion across property lines. It is not necessary to keep the water main easement as it is not being used. Aldersperson Koester moved to adopt the ordinance as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-11:

AN ORDINANCE VACATING TWO SEWER EASEMENTS AND ACCEPTING A NEW EASEMENT UPON THE FREEPORT COUNTRY CLUB PROPERTY

City Engineer Gallagher provided a written memorandum with this ordinance stating; "In order to complete the sanitary sewer lining project within the Freeport Country Club, the existing sanitary sewer easements required expanding an additional 10 feet along the alignment of the pipe. As a condition of the negotiations, the prior sanitary sewer easements on this parcel were requested by the owner to be vacated. Since the expanded easement was recorded on December 29, 2014, it is recommended that the prior easements be vacated in order to honor this agreement. As a result of this successful negotiation, the lining project is now underway which will complete lining within the Big 4 project. City Engineer Gallagher explained two of the sewer easements which currently exist on the Country Club property are no longer needed and it is recommended to vacate. Aldersperson Klemm moved to adopt the ordinance as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Brashaw. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

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1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-12:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN ADDENDUM TO MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM AGREEMENT

Mayor Gitz explained that the council may recall an ordinance was presented in December. The attached ordinance was prepared for council adoption on December 1, 2014. MABAS required the City of Freeport to pass language identical to their sample ordinance. Unfortunately, the ordinance passed on December 1, 2014 used wording from a previous MABAS agreement and, therefore, missed the mark by a couple of words or phrases. The addendum agreement attached to the ordinance is identical to the document presented for December 1st adoption.

Aldersperson Koester moved for approval of Ordinance #2015-12, seconded by Aldersperson Brashaw.

Aldersperson Brashaw made a motion to suspend the rules for passage of the ordinance on first reading, seconded by Aldersperson Koester. Motion prevailed voice vote without dissent.

Mayor Gitz asked for a roll call vote for passage of the ordinance. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Brashaw, Koester and Crutchfield (8)

Nays: none

Ordinance #2015-12 passed by a vote of 8-0.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-13:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE JOINT CITY OF FREEPORT – COUNTY OF STEPHENSON CERTIFIED ENTERPRISE ZONE

Provided in the council packet was a memorandum which explained this ordinance is to expand the Enterprise Zone to facilitate the Swift Hospitality Group's development of a Senior Residence in Freeport, IL. Swift Hospitality Group is a family business headquartered in Citizens Plaza on Forest Road in Freeport, Illinois. Its corporate staff of ten is dedicated to the development and management of select hospitality properties across the country. Mayor Gitz provided a letter of support of the Swift Hospitality Group's request to expand the Enterprise Zone to facilitate their 3.38 acre development. This development will create 25 – 30 new jobs and stimulate \$12.0 million in new capital investment in the construction of a 53 unit Senior Residence. It will allow Swift Hospitality Group to enter an emerging market - this project will combine independent and assisted care units with memory care units within the same physical structure, which will allow its residents to "age in place" - and create an opportunity for this local company to develop a new product offering that it can replicate elsewhere. These are all positive contributions to the sustainability of the region's economy. Mayor Gitz explained this facility will be built behind the Citizens Bank on the southeast corner of the property and this ordinance amends the Enterprise Zone to include this property. He stated there will be a public hearing through the Enterprise Zone committee on February 6, 2015 and if the council so choses this can be placed on the floor for approval and then the second reading can be held next Monday before the Committee of the Whole meeting next Monday. Director Brown explained that by expanding into the Enterprise Zone the developer will have a waiver of permit fees and tax break on building materials. This project entails an investment of \$12 million and will create 25-30 full time healthcare professional, culinary, facilities maintenance and support positions. Aldersperson Koester moved for approval of the ordinance as

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presented and to delay the second reading until after the public hearing, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw. Mayor Gitz stated we will see this at a special meeting next Monday.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #R-2015-05:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN AMENDMENT TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE OPERATION OF AN ENTERPRISE ZONE

Director Brown explained that this resolution amends the intergovernmental agreement of the Enterprise Zone. Mayor Gitz suggested placing this resolution on the special meeting next Monday after the public hearing to coincide with the aforementioned ordinance. Alderperson Koester moved to defer the resolution to the special meeting next Monday evening, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

OTHER

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

Community Development

Director Brown provided information on a meeting to continue neighborhood renewal in the City's 3rd Ward, at the Rawleigh Complex, Downtown, on the East Side, and along the Riverfront. He stated an open house will be held at the Freeport Public Library on February 4, 2015 beginning at 5:30 pm and will consist of an open house and an informational meeting.

Finance

Finance Director Cynthia Haggard provided that employee W'-2's were mailed. The accountant position was filled after being vacant for two months. She will introduce the new employee who starts this week at an upcoming council meeting.

Public Works

Director Dole was present stated he placed photos of a demolition of a property on the corner of Float and Shawnee. This demolition took place last week prior to the heavy snowfall and the crews still have clean-up to do of the area as they were only able to clear 75-80% before it snowed. It was noted that due to this demolition they are known as heroes of the neighborhood.

The Public Works department crews will be working on hauling snow out of the downtown area and finish clean up this week. They worked all day on Sunday during the snow storm and worked their way back through the routes twice today and will do another re-plow tomorrow. Alderperson Boldt asked if it would be more cost effective to stagger the crews. Director Dole stated they are scheduled to start work tomorrow at 5:00 am and work their shift of eight hours. Alderperson Boldt asked if crews could be pushed off until 3:00 pm or 4:00 pm in the afternoon.

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Alderperson Klemm stated he left Chicago this morning and based on what he drove in there, Freeport has wonderfully plowed streets. The neighborhoods he was in were never plowed in Chicago and it was every man for him-self.

Library

Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson stated February is “Food for Fines” month and if you bring in a can food or non-perishable food item then the library will forgive \$1.00 fine. These donations will be provided to FACC and the Salvation Army. The Freeport Public Library will have a special display in honor of “Black History Month.”

Fire

Fire Chief Scott Miller reported there was a basement fire in the 1000 block of Lincoln and any delay in calling it in would have resulted in tragic results for the property. Chief Miller reminded residents to “adopt a fire hydrant” and asked, those who are able, to assist the Fire Department by clearing snow away from the hydrants. He has instructed his crews to shovel out hydrants throughout the neighborhoods.

Police

Deputy Chief of Police Jim Drehoble reminded that vehicles parked on the streets more than 24 hours must be moved and with all of the snow it is pretty easy to tell which ones haven’t been moved. There is a new design for squad cars and they are now on the street with a black and white design. The Police Department will continue to turn over the fleet as vehicles need replacing.

Deputy Chief Drehoble announced his retirement after serving on the Freeport Police Department for over twenty-five years. He and his family will be moving to Florida where he has taken a new position. He stated it has been a pleasure working for the Freeport Police Department.

Water and Sewer

Water and Sewer Executive Director Tom Glendenning reported an update on the Big 4 projects that are being closed out. He stated the lining project is nearing completion after a final project on the Freeport Country Club property which was a massive undertaking. There was a large plumbing operation and this will reduce the inflow/infiltration in that area. The crews will continue working on man-holes in the area. There are still a few clean-up items left to do with that contract but it is almost time to close that out.

The Water and Sewer Commission will begin the Phase B project and they are working on a comprehensive facility plan for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This will assist in determining further funding for the future improvements that will need to be taken into consideration. It is a very extensive document, going through every process in the treatment plant and evaluating how it performs, how will it perform and what improvements need to be made. It will also contain future requirements. Director Glendenning and his staff are working on testing procedures to see the performance of each unit. He is also working on an energy audit with ComEd and that was recently completed. The goal is to upgrade the facility to bring it as close to energy neutral as possible. He stated this energy audit completed by ComEd was based on electrical use and they are reviewing in order to cut the cost for operations. Right now preliminary findings are that they could cut close to 1.5 million in kilowatt hours per year and that will be

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a savings of \$150,000 to \$187,000 in electrical costs including lighting, equipment cooling, additional flow we are taking on, aerator system. They are working on a design-build to replace inefficient equipment that they have and they have applied for a DCEO grant for funding to assist with that. That project alone could knock off \$75,000 worth of electrical charges and the efficiency would pay the project back in less than 2.7 year. Director Glendening has five to six weeks of reports to do for the State and Federal reporting for year-end 2014.

City Engineer

City Engineer Shaun Gallagher provided that he is working on the Carnegie Library design build request for qualifications and he hopes to have it in the mail on Friday or early next week.

Provided in the council packet was an informational item on vehicle purchase regarding City & Commission Vehicles. City Engineer Gallagher stated as we had discussed in prior meetings, the Water & Sewer Commission and the City are in need of replacement vehicles for the GIS Specialist, Building Inspector, and City Engineer. It is their intent to bid a package of vehicles as outlined below:

Driver: Building Inspector (City)

Current Vehicle: 2001 Dodge Neon, no longer salvageable, using 2006 Ford Taurus

Proposed Vehicle: Midsize Truck, 4-Wheel Drive, White

Trade-in: Salvage savings from the 2001 Dodge Neon

Budget: \$25,000 Maximum

Driver: City Engineer (City/Commission)

Current Vehicle: None, was using Pontiac that is currently being used by the Mayor

Proposed Vehicle: Midsize Truck, 4-Wheel Drive, White

Trade-in: 2006 Ford Taurus (Optional)

Budget: \$25,000 Maximum

Driver: GIS Specialist (Commission)

Current Vehicle: 1999 F250

Proposed Vehicle: Midsize Truck, 4-Wheel Drive, White

Trade-in: 1999 Ford F250

Budget: \$25,000 Maximum

The purpose of this transaction is to obtain three (3) new, leased, or late model (used) midsize trucks similar to a Canyon, Colorado, or Tacoma, by also trading in two (2) under performing vehicles and disposing of one (1) vehicle that is beyond repair. In turn the Water & Sewer Commission would transfer title of the 2008 Pontiac to the City for the Mayor's full use. In this scenario, the City would pay for two vehicles and the Commission would pay for one, given the amount of mileage spent by the City Engineer on City projects. We will also consider low mileage, high quality, used vehicles if they meet our purpose. The 2006 Taurus would be traded, if its value exceeds its use as an airport auxiliary car, as it still has transmission issues. Discussion was held as to how these purchases fit into the budget and the capital

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equipment purchase line items. If the vehicle was purchased (not the Water and Sewer vehicles) then which item in the capital equipment budget would have to wait for the next budget cycle.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gitz stated he would like to offer to Deputy Chief Drehoble acclamation and stated he will be missed. There was a round of applause for Deputy Chief Drehoble.

Mayor Gitz provided an overview of the Riverfront meeting which will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at the Freeport Public Library. At the last council meeting discussion was held on economic development. There are a number of contracts for economic development, including NIDA, Freeport Downtown Development and the Visitors Bureau and the staff has been discussing how to make all these pieces coordinate. He has been meeting with these entities (FDDF and CVB) to align the goals. He has scheduled a meeting with NIDA. At next Committee of the Whole we will discuss the economic development goals, public safety initiatives, there will be a presentation on the riverfront project and perhaps discussion on the rental registration fees.

NEW BUSINESS/COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council members were provided an opportunity to discuss matters of public concern or to make announcements for their wards.

- Alderperson Boldt apologized about the comment he made at the last meeting about the Fire Inspector's driving because he had the wrong inspector.
- Alderperson Endress thanked the department heads and administration for the annual report.
- Alderperson Brashaw thanked the nuisance inspector for his efforts in providing snow violation tickets for un-shoveled sidewalks. Discussion was held about how the Public Works crews have to move the snow and there is nothing they can do but push the snow back off the streets and it does go into people's driveways.
- Alderperson Crutchfield thanked the public works crews for the job they do.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Kay Ostberg, 1226 S. Homestead, Freeport, Illinois, spoke about how the City Hall decision has taken some years and now you are moving quickly to obtain an RFQ or RFP. She spoke about her concerns in this process not having public input and participation.

Deb Elzinga, 1147 W. Lincoln, Freeport, Illinois, spoke about her concerns for moving forward with this process for a proposal for the Carnegie building. She wondered where the input from this body is and from the public. She cautioned that you need to address the preservation aspect of the renovation of the Carnegie Library building. This process will need a preservation architect and that should be included as one of the qualifications requesting someone that is a qualified preservation architect having experience with historical buildings. Ms. Elzinga stated the Mayor said once we got a proposal then the public would be invited to a design charrette to provide their input and suggestions and she hopes that will happen.

Tom Teich spoke about the snow shoeing event he will participate in this week for the Special Olympics.

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Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel
City Clerk