



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Tuesday, February 17, 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 17, 2015.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call: Mayor Gitz and council members Tom Klemm, Shawn Boldt, Ronnie Bush, Dennis Endress, Sally Brashaw, Michael Koester and Andrew Crutchfield (7). Alderperson DeVine was absent. Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson Bush.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gitz asked for leave of council to provide an introduction of a Freeport Police Officer promotion during presentations this evening and with that addition asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Alderperson Koester moved for approval of the agenda, seconded by Alderperson Endress. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

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Alderperson Endress moved for approval of the minutes from the February 2, 2015 regular meeting and the February 9, 2015 special meeting, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw. 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.

PRESENTATIONS

An honorary resolution was read aloud to recognize Steven Cole for his contribution to Black History Month. The honorary resolution recognized and commended Steven Cole for his continuing contributions to Black History Month by his portrayal of Frederick Douglass, a famous African-American antislavery orator of the Civil War era at various historical readings, debates, and events across the United States, representing Freeport and spreading the history of Stephenson County. Alderperson Bush moved for approval of the honorary resolution, seconded by Alderperson Crutchfield. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

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Mr. Cole came dressed in his Frederick Douglass in his period costume and provided a brief summary of the Right to Freedom speech. He stated Stephenson County is rich in its history because of local citizens such as John Addams, Oscar Taylor, and Dexter Knowlton who requested Frederick Douglass to come to Freeport to encourage the support of abolition of slavery. Mr. Cole stated there should be a historical marker placed at the Lincoln-Douglas Debate site with information on the visit of Frederick Douglass. He recommended placing brochures at the visitor's center to educate about what took place over 150 years ago. Alderperson Bush congratulated Steven Cole and stated he recognizes his work representing Freeport throughout the United States.

Finance Director Cynthia Haggard introduced Michelle Richter as the newly hired City Accountant. Ms. Richter is a graduate of Freeport High School and Western Illinois University. She stated she is looking forward to working for the City of Freeport as accountant in the Finance Department.

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 Schedule of Tax Receipts for period ending January 31, 2015
- 2) City Treasurer's Monthly Investment Report for January 31, 2015
- 3) City Treasurer's Report of Cash and Fund Balances through January 31, 2015
- 4) Fire Department Report of Activities for January 2015
- 5) Building Permits Report of Activities for January 2015

B. Approval of Motor Fuel Tax Register 0056 --- \$1,024.87

C. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (Registers #289, 290, 294) --- \$810,254.58

D. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending February 7, 2015 --- \$414,667.24

E. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #283 & 284) --- \$349,453.29

F. Approval of Resolution R-2015-07: Resolution to Request Temporary Closure of Streets for Annual Memorial Day Parade – *to be held on May 25, 2015*

Mayor Gitz noted the Water and Sewer Bills payable has on it payments for the Adams and Clark construction project reimbursable through a DCEO grant. Alderperson Koester moved for approval of the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Alderperson Endress.

The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)

Nays: none

The Consent Agenda items were approved.

COMMUNICATION TO COUNCIL

Finance Director Cynthia Haggard presented the financial report for the first nine months ending January 31, 2015 and council members were provided the opportunity to ask questions. She stated in some areas we are over budget and some areas we are under budget for the most part the City is balance. It was noted that the revenue from the video gaming has been leveling off. Director Haggard explained the healthcare

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expenses continue to be a drain on the City's finances and last year contributed to the inability to balance the budget.

ORDINANCES - SECOND READING

2nd 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

The first reading was held on February 2, 2015. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Koester, seconded by Alderperson Klemm and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. 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 because it was not being used and if they had to the commission could run the line somewhere else. Mayor Gitz stated that a representative of the professional center is present and they are in support of the vacation easement. Upon no discussion, the motion to approve prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)

Nays: none

Ordinance #2015-10 passed.

2nd READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-11:

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

The first reading was held on February 2, 2015. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Klemm, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. 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 has now been completed. The expanded easement was adopted and recorded by the Water and Sewer Commission. 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. This was part of the Water and Sewer Commission sanitary sewer lining project completed with the Big 4 projects. The motion to approve prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)

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Nays: none
Ordinance #2015-11 passed.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-14:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 806 – ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR SALES SECTION 806.03 (CLASSIFICATION OF LICENSES) CLASS V LICENSING AND LIMITATION (VIDEO GAMING) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

Ordinance 2015-14 amends section 806.03, Classification of Licenses to add section i) Class V Licenses as follows:

(i) Class V Licenses.

- (1) A Class V license shall authorize holders of Class A, A-R, P, and W to operate video gaming devices upon the licensed premises provided they have obtained a current license from the City pursuant to Section 844.02, of Chapter 844 (Mechanical and Electronic Games and Devices).
- (2) The number of Class V liquor licenses shall be limited to the number of Class V licenses at the time of the effective date of this ordinance and those qualifying under section (6) below. Such total number shall be reduced by one license through attrition.
- (3) Any denial, revocation, or suspension by the Illinois Gaming Board or the License Officer of the City of Freeport shall constitute a revocation of a Class V license.
- (4) Every establishment issued a Class V License to operate video gaming shall comply with the provisions of Chapter 844 of these codified ordinances and with all rules, regulations and restrictions imposed by the Illinois Gaming Board.
- (5) There will not be additional fees for a Class V License add-on to the underlying liquor Class designation, as fees are separately charged under Chapter 844 for the license thereunder. 806 Amend for Class V
- (6) Any Class A, A-R, P, or W Liquor License holder currently holding, a valid license pursuant to Section 844.02 shall have a V License added to their current liquor license and shall be counted toward the total number of V licenses allowed under subsection (2) above. In addition, anyone in the process of obtaining an A, A-R, P, or W liquor license or holding a valid A, A-R, P, or W liquor license and in the process of obtaining a valid license pursuant to Section 844.02, and has all appropriate application paperwork on file with the City on the effective date of this ordinance, and that actually obtains both licenses within six (6) months of the date of the passage of this ordinance, shall be counted toward the total number of V licenses allowed under subsection (2) above, once they meet the requisites hereunder.

Mayor Gitz presented the ordinance by stating the Liquor Commission unanimously recommended this ordinance to council in their meeting held on February 10, 2015 and their recommendation was that there should be a limitation placed on video gaming license and it would be appropriate to limit those to the number of outstanding liquor licenses that we presently have. Mayor Gitz stated we now face the phenomena that we are encountering establishments that are freely using the liquor license as a method to create the equivalent of gambling parlors. Frankly, historically he has been opposed to legislation that limits the number of establishments with video gaming licenses, however, recently events have persuaded him to support the following recommendation of the Liquor Commission. In addition, there has been communication sent to all the current liquor license holders and one of them is with us tonight giving his

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support of this legislation. Mayor Gitz explained that our action on what we can do is limited by State law.

Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin stated that this has been discussed for about eighteen months now in the Liquor Commission level and she has communicated with various council members on this. Technically, the way the video gaming law was passed it does not allow us to limit the number of video gaming licenses that we have but they can only have a video gaming license if they have a liquor license and we are allowed to limit the number of liquor licenses. Corporation Counsel Griffin stated what this does is add-on a license for video gaming to certain classifications that we already had in existence. License A is your typically bar, License A-R which is a bar- restaurant, P which is the brewery, and W which is your beer and wine license. She stated this is an add-on license called a "V". What it does is limit the numbers for just those add-on "V" licenses. It does not limit the number of regular bars or restaurants that want to come in, it only places a limit on the "V" portion of the license to add on video gaming license. What the Liquor Commission decided is to try to keep it hovering right around where it is right now. She stated that is at 21 and noted that we have a couple of clean-up on the current licenses that we have and so that what that is would be the total number as of the effective date of this ordinance and then lose one through attrition. She explained we have one that is going out of business, one that has already applied for a liquor license and coming in for their gaming devices, and one that needs be separated to match the state video gaming licenses. She stated the number is going to be about 21 and we can come back later after we know the actual number if you feel better in our ordinances to have a number. She stated for the moment it is going to be about 21 and that will be defined on the effective date of the ordinance. Corporation Counsel Griffin stated they need to comply with the State regulations and we have a local gaming license as well that would need to be applied for under Chapter 844. The floor was opened for questions from the council.

Aldersperson Crutchfield asked if there are 21 places that will have licenses then how many gaming devices can each of them have. Corporation Counsel Griffin stated they can have no more than five under the State Statutes and that is what most of them have. She stated we separately license that portion as well so the City Clerk can tell you how many and most of them have the maximum allowed.

Alderman Koester stated he understands the intent of this but what concerns him is that we have been talking about aggressively going after retail businesses and also going after a truck stop on 26 and 20 corridor. This would lock it in so that if we bring in businesses they can't get this license. He suggested working through our legislator to try and get the state level loosened up so that we can do something about just gambling establishments coming in. He stated this is going to be a detriment to us in the future, today it looks good but down the road when we start going after business and start bringing in restaurants/bars that want video gaming then what are we going to do. He thinks this will be a negative for us.

Aldersperson Klemm explained that he was at the Liquor Commission meeting and there was support by various current liquor license holders. He and Liquor Commissioner who he noted was Bob Dahms have had conversations on it. He stated in reference to what Aldersperson Koester said if it is truly a restaurant then they can apply for it. There is a limit on the number of licenses but if one is available and then it

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could possibly happen. He noted that the last couple of licenses have limited interest in Freeport, or tax dollars being spent in Freeport and one of them you have to have a liquor license to obtain this video gaming license and they have a two drink limit. He stated that does not promote sales of anything, doesn't promote anything about the community, and it only promotes gambling. There is only x number of video gambling dollars that can be spent and if we can't spend it in twenty one places with 100 machines, then we had better stop and take a look at that. He stated he goes by many of these places during the daytime and some you see very few and some you see packed. He stated finally this is to the point where you have to say enough is enough. He stated there were three to four licenses that spoke on this that own businesses and everyone one of them that spoke it wasn't that they don't want more competition it was a matter of these are from out of town and they have no interest in the City of Freeport other than video gaming.

Aldersperson Boldt asked to clarify whether A-R licenses are limited. Mayor Gitz stated that the A-R licenses are not limited but what you won't be able to do is tack on a video gaming license. He asked the council to consider whether you want a business to come and open a restaurant to fill a market or are they coming for the video gaming. There is no one here that is opposed to additional restaurants. Aldersperson Boldt asked if procedurally whether there would be waiting list and how it will be decided who gets the next license. Corporation Counsel Griffin stated that they would have to be on a waiting list that goes before the Liquor Commission to get the add on V license. She explained the Liquor Commission could not deny it absent any valid reason and this is a problematic situation that we are in not being able to regulate video gaming only liquor so it would in essence be a waiting list and then as some drop off, they would move up in line. Aldersperson Boldt asked in terms of a truck stop coming in then can the City Council change the number if there was that kind of opportunity. Corporation Counsel Griffin stated you can change your own ordinance as long as you are not arbitrary and capricious so it can be reconsidered.

Aldersperson Brashaw asked if someone was on the waiting list as businesses fail or give up their licenses then you have someone in line for it would you go by first qualified applicant, by date or how are you going to determine it. Corporation Counsel Griffin stated you would go by date of a full application of being turned in for the next open available license. They would obviously not get it if they are not qualified.

Aldersperson Crutchfield asked about businesses coming in to open gaming parlor and our residents are dumping their money into a chance and he would rather they dump their money into a store and he was wondering if anyone else is doing this. Mayor Gitz stated it is not only been done but it has gone to circuit court and been upheld. Corporation Counsel Griffin stated this one has an appellate court decision.

Aldersperson Koester stated he agrees about those businesses coming in only to open the casino types and wondered if anything has been done with our legislators to see if we can put regulations on there so we can do something on it. Mayor Gitz stated yes it has been discussed with legislators by the Illinois Municipal League and to date no legislation has seen the light of day and one of the reasons is there is a pretty strong lobby that supports the present system as it is. There are different mechanisms to be discussed and until there is a strong push throughout the State, then he does not see the present legislation being changed and that limits our options that are considered constitutional to address the situation.

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Aldersperson Boldt stated he will be abstaining due to financial consideration and ties with working with the license holders and encouraged the council to act on it and act on it tonight.

Aldersperson Klemm made a motion to move forward the ordinance for approval, seconded by Aldersperson Endress. Mayor Gitz noted Bob Dahms is a valued liquor commission member but he is the head of the Liquor Commissioner. He stated the Liquor Commission's recommendation was in support of immediate consideration so as to not have various people submitting their papers and loading the system while this is pending so it is your disposal as to what to do with it.

Aldersperson Klemm moved for suspension of the rules for immediate consideration, seconded by Aldersperson Endress. The motion for suspension of the rules prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Bush, Endress, Brashaw and Crutchfield (5)

Abstain: Boldt (1)

Nays: Koester (1)

Absent: DeVine (1)

Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin stated the abstaining vote goes with the majority and so it passes by a vote of six to one. Mayor Gitz stated the motion passes because the abstention counts with the majority by procedural law so the ordinance is now before the council for passage.

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, Bush, Endress, Brashaw and Crutchfield (5)

Abstain: Boldt (1)

Nays: Koester (1)

Absent: DeVine (1)

Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin stated the abstaining vote goes with the majority and so it passes by a vote of six to one. Ordinance #2015-14 passed.

Aldersperson Koester stated he agrees with what we are trying to accomplish here his problem is that this could cause us problems five years down the road. He hopes he is wrong but he is willing to bet he is not.

OTHER

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

Community Development

Community Development Director Jim Brown stated they have recently completed the logos on the rural transit busses and the name is known as Pretzel City Area Transit and thanks to Senior Resource Center, Kevin Cooley, and Tom Dole, there are new logos on the busses. He stated we received from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources a draft intergovernmental agreement to provide funding for demolition of approximately half dozen homes located on the east side that are in the flood plain. He explained that virtually all of our costs would be covered by this agreement if we go ahead and approve this. Mayor Gitz noted one of the building submitted to the IDNR is the old king center. This building will have a

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hefty tab to take down and it will be very positive to have it down. Director Brown clarified all the properties that have been identified by the City are on the east side.

Aldersperson Boldt asked if the vehicles that were owned by the Senior Center if they were re-logoed to coordinate. Director Brown stated they were not and they still contain the Senior Center wording.

Finance Department

Approval of engagement letter for bond underwriter

Finance Director Cynthia Haggard presented a Bond Engagement Letter with Bernardi Securities and stated the City has the opportunity to engage in debt service savings by bond refunding and included in the packet is the engagement letter and the disclosure agreement for the Mayor to sign in order to move forward. Director Haggard provided a memorandum stating this is for the 2006 series refunding as we prepare for October refunding. At a previous meeting the council was presented three options for refunding: refund series in an amount of \$9.4M, refund \$9.4 M and build in new money for City Hall, refund \$9.4M and issue a separate bond for City Hall. Council chose to refund the Series 2006 and build in new money for Carnegie Library and City Hall.

Aldersperson Koester moved to confirm the letter of engagement and for approval to move forward, seconded by Aldersperson Brashaw.

The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)

Nays: none

Director Haggard in an effort to save money this year she emailed Food and Beverage tax forms and the Hotel Motel Tax forms so that if there is someone that did not receive it would be because of an error in an email address.

Public Works

Approval of Material Bids for 15-00000-00-GM

Public Works Director Tom Dole presented a Bid Tabulation for Materials. Director Dole provided a cover letter in the packet explaining his recommendation for acceptance of all the bids. He was pleased with the dollar amounts of bids for hot mix. The cold mix bids came in higher than last year. He received four bids from Martin & Company, Conmat, Rock Road Companies and Fisher Excavating. Director Dole recommended acceptance of all the bids. Aldersperson Koester moved to accept approval of all the bids from the companies as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm.

Director Dole explained he needs to have multiple bids and the bid by Civil (Conmat) was less than the other. He needs the other bids accepted because the Conmat plant (Civil) is only open on days their projects are running and based on project location they may be using the plant located in Elizabeth IL. To ease transportation costs during that time, it is better to obtain hot mix from the plant owned by Martin & Company in Oregon. As for the cold patch, every load comes from the Conmat quarry because they

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patch with the good high performance mix and they are local and it is quicker to obtain it there and their prices are competitive.

The motion to approve the bids from all four bidders prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, Endress, Brashaw, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)
Nays: none

Director Dole reported the demo on 737 Float debris has been hauled away and the crews are working on back-filling. This morning the crews started the demolition of 620 Iroquois and it was taken down and cleared away today.

Aldersperson Klemm asked about tree trimming and forestry. Director Dole stated they will be trimming low hanging branches but they do not do a lot of work taking down trees. They do a lot of inspections this time of the year. It is hard to do much more than that in the sub-zero weather.

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. Director Dickerson provided an overview of the One Book One Freeport. The title of this year's book is "Rocket Boy" and she encouraged participation throughout Freeport. The council was provided books to participate. She spoke about the sponsors of this project and the grants they received for which she is very grateful. Director Dickerson also provided an update of the history movies available at the Lindo Classic Cinemas.

Fire

Fire Chief Scott Miller reported on a house fire in the 400 block of Concord the fire was confined to a bedroom, bathroom and attic area. There was an estimated \$70,000 loss on the property. The firefighters did an excellent job and kept it from getting worse than it was.

Police

Chief of Police Todd Barkalow reported Officer Matt Anderson will be the new canine handler and will be sent to training along with the new canine on February 23, 2015. Aldersperson Koester commended Chief Barkalow for getting the canine program back in service in Freeport. Chief Barkalow stated upon completion of the classes they will have a demonstration for the council. They have not completed their fundraising but they have raised enough to purchase the canine and with the council's approval of the used vehicles that were surplus, they are moving full speed ahead with the program.

Aldersperson Klemm congratulated Chief Barkalow on his completion of the Command School Training.

Water and Sewer

Water and Sewer Executive Director Tom Glendenning reported on the energy audit and the grant funding they are going after for energy efficiency. They are working on a comprehensive facility plan for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This will assist in determining further funding for the future

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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.

The first project they are going after is in terms of lighting and replacing the inefficient fluorescent fixtures. There is a projection that funding for that area could end at the next fiscal year for the grant funding so they are using that as a priority. At the Waste Water Plant they will be investing \$7,000 to change that lighting out and they will receive a \$3,500 incentive from DCEO and that will contribute to a \$4,000 annual savings in electrical costs and motion sensors, so that has an eight month payback. The second lighting project is for the high intensity lighting outside and throughout the facilities and that investment is \$50,000 with less incentive from the DCEO in an amount of \$15,000 and will contribute annual savings of \$11,760, which is a 2.6 year payback. But after these are all done it will reduce operations cost from that point forward.

Director Glendenning stated he briefly touched on the tertiary process that is referred to as the biological air filter used for the aerated filter. We currently have 750 horse power at the plant. He finished the initial design for the application and they will be able to replace the 750 horse blowers with a 200 horse turbo blower which is basically like a jet engine. These old blowers the seven that are there are very mechanical using oil and run on belts. They are like running your car at 150 miles per hour on a roller on your driveway, 365 days per year and 24 hours per day and only stopping to change the oil. That is the kind of energy we put into this one particular process. The new turbo blowers have no oil, no belts, no gears and their bearings ride on air. It is the most efficient process out there. So instead of applying 350 horse they will be applying 186 horse to accomplish the same job. They are looking at an almost \$75,000 savings per year. The investment to get this started is \$500,000 and they are looking at a return almost equal to that with the DCEO incentives and the Illinois Clean Energy Funding that is out there.

At the Waste Water Treatment plant what they use is anaerobic digestion. They actually heat the treatment cells to 98 degrees and hold it there and that creates a biology to treat our waste. This is a gas producing process and the methane produced off of those units was returned to boilers that they used to reheat the digesters and that process was eliminated by United Water (about 10 years ago). This was because there is a lot of process control to do that so at that time they switched to natural gas. When and if we do this, we have to first finish the facility plan to understand the design of the old digesters getting back up to efficiency but there is an incentive of over \$100,000 from Illinois Clean Air Act and DCEO. This would reduce the amount of therms that they use by over 33,000. That is equivalent to a carbon footprint of 1300 metric tons or the equivalent of removing 244 cars off the road. The whole goal is to go to energy neutral and to be the most efficient as possible to keep the operating costs. They are applying for money and going after it as hard as they can.

Alderperson Brashaw stated she is encouraged to hear that Director Glendenning can see through his goal of reutilizing the gas to create the energy that he spoke about. She asked if there have been water main

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breaks this year as bad as last year due to the cold. Director Glendenning stated that due to the cold we are at ten water main breaks compared to 38 main breaks last year. The frost is not nearly to the level pushing downward the way it was last year causing so many breaks but there continues to be a lot of shifting going on so they are holding at 10 water main breaks.

Alderson Koester asked about replacing seven blowers with one blower. Director Glendenning stated we will be replacing the seven blowers with two – 200 horsepower blowers. You have to have redundancy because you cannot be down at all. One will be operating at 186 horsepower to provide the same amount of work as the 350 horsepower of the seven they run constantly now. They blow up two of those blowers per year. They generate a lot of heat and noise. The decibel level will be reduced tenfold. The projected time frame is to complete the electrical upgrades by the end of this year.

City Engineer

City Engineer Shaun Gallagher stated there was a Jane Addams Trail meeting last week for what might be the grand opening festivities for the trail nearing its completion and they are looking at the tentative weekend of June 13th. That does give enough time for both contracts (Adams and Clark and the Jane Addams Trail) to get them completed in time. For the JAT they need to do seeding and striping and there will be signs placed. In the Adams and Clark project the trail section needs to be completed along the frontage of Adams and Clark and that should be completed by Memorial Day.

City Engineer Gallagher reported on the first payment towards demolition costs for the property at 608 E. Stephenson and we received our first payment of the contract negotiated tipping fees for the big two story gray house across the street from the church so that is the next one on the list to take down by the Public Works crews. The goal is for it to come down in February.

City Engineer Gallagher noted the bids approved tonight for materials is the first of many bids that will need council's approval over the next couple of months; including crack sealing and micro-surfacing

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gitz provided an overview of the goals for the demolition projects and stated there is a pattern to take down homes in a corridor and they are looking for ways to find funding for these structures. The intent through this fiscal year is to stretch the resources to the maximum advantage and where possible they look to strike a deal with an owner to pay for tipping fees. He gave Director Brown credit for the working relationship with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to assist with removing structures that have to be done by agreement in floodways. These would then have covenants to prevent reconstruction. There is also a home on Cherry Street that is on the February demolition list as well.

Mayor Gitz stated there will be a meeting next week of the Committee of the Whole to present the project list as well as the rental property registration fee discussion. He will be making changes to the project list and will be sending that out through his office to the council members.

Mayor Gitz stated the healthcare costs throughout the year are unstable and sometimes we are ahead and sometimes we are behind, depending on the claims coming in. We also have labor contracts that are

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unsettled which means that money if there is a settlement will be have a future impact to the budget. We have been very frugal with our budget by trading full time personnel with part time personnel. We can't do that indefinitely we are trying to do that to make sure that our budget will end in the black and we will be able to balance this budget.

Mayor Gitz stated that next week will be asked to approve the most recent change to the Mill Race Crossing agreement with the County for the medical cannabis. The winning company is an LLC and is called In-Grown Farms. They are consummating their contract with the County and there are some changes in that contract in the cost of the electrical service. These are changes that are favorable to the County and to the City. Our intergovernmental agreement with the County requires the confirmation of any incentives that are offered. That will be placed on the agenda for this coming Monday.

Aldersperson Koester asked if they council can get a copy of the operating costs and the projected costs for the Rental Registration Program. Mayor Gitz stated that is part of the presentation.

NEW BUSINESS/COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Aldersperson Endress wished the Freeport High School girls bowling team success as they enter the IHSA bowling tournament this weekend.
- Aldersperson Brashaw stated she has received a lot of compliments on the recent sidewalk clearing on Stephenson Street in downtown and she offered those compliments to whoever took care of that business. Mayor Gitz stated the court proceeding that pertain to this will continue but the action taken downtown was to clear the sidewalks and was applied indiscriminately across the board.
- Aldersperson Klemm stated there will be a meet the candidates for the school board next week at Schwarz Funeral Home.
- Aldersperson Boldt stated there are two neighborhood watch meetings scheduled this week for the first ward.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tom Teich spoke about winning a medal in the snow shoeing event for the Special Olympics. He asked for a report on the progress on the outbuilding in front of the Menards.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel
City Clerk