



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, May 18, 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 6:02 p.m. on May 18, 2015.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call: Mayor Gitz and council members Tom Klemm, Peter McClanathan, Art Ross, Jodi Miller, Patrick Busker, Sally Brashaw, Michael Koester, and Andrew Chesney (8). Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson Ross.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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Alderperson Chesney requested a change to wording under page thirteen, Water and Sewer Department Head Reports, it says that Alderperson Chesney asked for clarification on the late fees on water bills and Director Glendenning stated there are late fees would be allocated after a period of thirty days but it has been some time due to clerical staff shortage and automated billing cycles since they have been collecting late fees, typically if they do not pay it is because they have moved out or receive a shut off. Alderperson Chesney made a motion to strike that from the minutes and replace with, "Alderperson Chesney stated he had a conversation with somebody on his staff and inquired about late fees and he then asked Director Glendenning if late fees are being charged and Director Glendenning stated yes. In addition to that, Alderperson Chesney asked the amount of time people are given to pay a water bill and Director Glendenning stated thirty days." City Clerk Zuravel stated she can make that amendment. Mayor Gitz asked for leave of the council to make that addition without a series of motions. He saw no objections and stated it is granted to include that wording and the amendment is accepted on its face. Alderperson McClanathan moved for approval of the amended minutes, seconded by Alderperson Miller. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

Multiple persons were signed on the sheet for public comments on agenda items;

- Wayne Fogel, 1915 S Kent Road, Pearl City, Illinois, spoke against passage of the Rauner Resolution. He stated he is a retired member of a union and a local realtor. He stated he is totally against the Rauner proposal. He provided an example of the cost to build a car wash with union labor came in

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18% under cost than the cost for non-union workers. He asked council to give consideration as to what we are signing up for and asked council to reject this proposal.

- Lance McGill, 4427 Linden Road, DeKalb, Illinois, spoke as a representative of local 3715 and stated he is against passage of the Turn Around Resolution. He provided that the reason is that this was not supported by the legislators and the closest thing was the right to work vote that did not pass. He asked why council would cast vote to override the prevailing wage and urged them to vote no on the resolution.
- Mark Szula, 4477 Linden Road, DeKalb, Illinois, stated he is the union rep for ASIP Local 150 representing Illinois and Iowa including local companies Civil and Fisher Excavating with 71 members in Stephenson County and 274 members all together. He spoke against his support of the Turn Around Resolution and read aloud passages of his copy. He spoke in support of having a skilled workforce and explained workers are trained in their training facility.
- Curt Coplien, 320 W. Exchange, Freeport, Illinois spoke against passage of the Rauner Resolution and stated he is an officer on the Freeport Police Department and president of their union. He asked council to vote no on the resolution.
- Don Hull, 4929 S. Cranes Grove Road, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against passage of the Rauner Resolution and stated he has been employed in the Public Works Department for the last twenty-one years. He stated he is also the president of AFSCME Local Union 3367 which includes public works, water and sewer, tele communicators and non-sworn police department workers and he encouraged the council to vote no. He stated he feels this resolution is not the right answer.
- Ed Sadlowski, 212 S, First Street, Rockford, Illinois, spoke against passage of the Rauner Resolution. He stated he is the AFSCME representative and explained the effect of what is happening in Wisconsin due to their policy choice. He stated this is a government of the people and for the people. He stated our governor needs to resolve issues. He encouraged the council to vote no on the Rauner Resolution.
- Kathy Lane, 212 S. First Street, Rockford Illinois, spoke against passage of the Rauner Resolution and provided statistic on the legislator vote on the resolution in Springfield last week. She stated on the average a non-union employee makes about \$500 less per year than a union employee. She stated there are a lot of people employed in union positions and without these workers the state will lower income tax receipts and will receive less in property taxes. She urged the council to vote no.
- Terry DeBoer, 1002 S. Chicago Avenue, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. He explained he is employed as an employee of the City of Freeport and member of AFSCME. He asked the council to vote no on the resolution.
- Don Packard, 8526 Route 73, Kent, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. He stated he is employed in the Water and Sewer Department of the City of Freeport and noted that the Stephenson County board voted down the resolution before them and urged the council to vote no as well to support the employees of the City of Freeport.
- Tina Dickerson, 2232 Mallard Drive, Freeport, Illinois spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. She stated she is employed in the Water and Sewer Department and is a member of

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AFSCME union #3367. She stated this resolution is not right for Freeport and asked the council to please vote no on its passage.

- Edmond Ellis, 1304 W. Logan Street, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. He stated he has been employed in public works for the City of Freeport for eighteen years and this resolution is not good for the City. He urged the council to vote no on the resolution.
- Greg Johnson, 1909 Juniper, Loves Park, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. He thanked the council for their service to the public and now is the time to step up to the plate and work to do better. He asked the council to reject the resolution. He stated he is now retired but for many years worked to negotiate union contracts. He quoted Dwight Eisenhower and Abraham Lincoln in urging the council to vote no on the Rauner agenda.
- Scott Curran, 1916 Winchester Drive, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. He stated he has been employed for the last thirty two years and has worked with highly technically skilled employees who are member of the AFCME union. He spoke about IMRF pensions and noted that 93% is funded by the employee. He asked the council to vote no.
- Frank Ferguson, 8540 Block Road, Pearl City, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. He stated he has worked for the city for thirty-two years and he is against the Rauner resolution and he hopes council will be too.
- Bill Liscom, 2164 Middle Court, Freeport, Illinois spoke against the passage of the Rauner and Turn Around Resolution. He stated he is a member of the IBEW local 364 and he echoes what those stated before him and urged the council to vote no.
- Scott Maher, 116 Knollwood Drive, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. He stated he has been an employee for the City of Freeport for thirty years. He asked council to vote no on the resolution and stated it is wrong for Freeport.
- Peter Lepka, 736 Alamo Drive, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. He stated that numerous studies show that states that have adopted the right to work for less, models is bad for working families, tax payers and businesses. He provided examples of Caterpillar Corporation and the choice of using union workers. He asked the council to stand for working families and not permit the destruction of unions.
- Thom Gaulrapp, 1239 S. State Avenue, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. He stated the turnaround agenda is more like the crash and burn seen in other states such as Wisconsin.
- Tim Watkins, 222 N. Chicago, Avenue, Rockford, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. He spoke about the negative vote of the legislators regarding the same topic and asked the council to take this off the table that its passage is vastly premature.
- Kelly Everding, 811 Barley Ridge Trail, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. She spoke as the president of the teacher's union for Freeport School District #145. She stated this resolution is not good for Freeport and asked the council to please vote no on the Rauner turnaround agenda.

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- Paul Everding, 811 Barley Ridge Trail, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution. He stated the passage of this resolution would hurt the people in Freeport and Stephenson County. He has taught in the school district for the last twenty one years and we need a stronger middle class. He urged the council to vote no and support their constituents.
- Hillary Broshous, 508 S. Main Street, Lena, Illinois spoke as a member of the Firefighters local union #441 and she stated she is speaking against the passage of the Rauner Resolution and urge council to support the workers. She spoke about the training she has received to become a firefighter and paramedic which allowed her to receive a solid wage to raise her children as a single parent.
- Brett McKillip, 3339 Loras Drive, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution and stated he is a member of the Firefighter Local Union #441.
- Travis Holz, 46 N Bailey Avenue, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the passage of the Rauner Resolution and stated he is a member of the Firefighter Local Union #441. He stated that he and his wife are looking to build a family in Freeport and urged the council to support the working families.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following remaining 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) Police Department Report of Activities for April 2015
- 2) Fire Department Report of Activities for April 2015
- 3) Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Application for Permit to Manage Waste (LPC-PA16) dated April 30, 2015 in regard to Freeport Landfill No. 2 and 3

B. Approval of Motor Fuel Register #0061 --- \$48,529.67

C. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (Registers #343 & 346) --- \$203,502.76

D. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending May 2, 2015 --- \$448,071.15

E. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #340, 341, 342, 344, 345, 348) --- \$178,642.07

F. Approval of Resolution R-2015-23: Resolution to Co-Sponsor Grand Opening of the Completion of the Jane Addams Trail and Tutty's Crossing – special event June 13, 2015

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

Yeas: Klemm, McClanathan, Ross, Miller, Busker, Brashaw, Koester, and Chesney (8)

Nays: none

The consent agenda items were approved.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-27:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 480, SECTION 480.24 (HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND DISABLED VETERANS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS - E. JACKSON/S. GALENA – FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Aldersperson Tom Klemm presented the ordinance and stated this was introduced to the council at the Committee of the Whole held on May 11, 2015 and it is a request from First Lutheran Church located at

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the intersection of East Jackson and South Galena to provide for a handicap loading zone on the south side of Jackson Street from Galena Avenue to 98 feet east of the corner. The church is located at 303 S. Galena Avenue but the elevator entrance is located on the Jackson Street. Alderperson Klemm explained that this would restrict parking on the south side of the church building and would allow for elderly or handicapped to be dropped off at the elevator entrance and this would be most beneficial during winter months.

Alderperson Koester moved for approval of the ordinance, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw.

Alderperson Chesney moved to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of this ordinance, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, McClanathan, Ross, Miller, Busker, Brashaw, Koester, and Chesney (8)

Nays: none

Mayor Gitz stated Ordinance #2015-27 is properly on the floor for passage and requested a roll call vote. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, McClanathan, Ross, Miller, Busker, Brashaw, Koester, and Chesney (8)

Nays: none

Ordinance #2015-27 was passed.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-28:

SPECIAL ORDINANCE FOR VARIATION, PERMIT OR AMENDMENT OF CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF FREEPORT ILLINOIS

Type of Relief: Amendment of Zoning Ordinance from B3 (Commercial and Wholesale Business) to R5(Two Family Residence); Owner or Applicant: Joseph W. Dadez, 17030 Vista Bluff Drive, San Antonio, TX; Address/Description: 1407 South Armstrong Avenue, Freeport, Illinois (Tax PIN 18-19-05-203-009, 18-14-30-384-011); Recommendation and vote of Planning Commission: Approval through unanimous vote and there were no written objections on the petition.

Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin presented the ordinance which was recommended to council by the Planning Commission in their meeting held on May 7, 2015. She stated the applicant is in the process of selling the property and in order for the buyer to obtain a mortgage the residence needs to be zoned properly based on its use. The relief sought by the owner is to rezone the parcel from a B3 (Commercial and Wholesale Business) to an R5 (Two Family Residence) for the property located at 1407 South Armstrong. She explained that the R5 zoning is consistent with other residential property near this property so that classification was selected for consistency.

Corporation Counsel Griffin stated that council items coming out of the Planning Commission or the Board of Zoning Appeals, because those are formal hearings that have been published in the newspaper, the surrounding properties have been specifically given a certified letter of notice, and because those are public hearings and the hearing is closed on the petitions, the council can ask questions restricted to the testimony of the public hearing. She noted if council would want more information or has questions that had not been discussed in the public hearing, and then it would need to be referred it back to that commission.

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Aldersperson Brashaw stated she read the minutes of the public hearing there were no complaints on this and understands that this property is being used as a residential home even though it is currently zoned for commercial and the only way the buyer for the property can obtain a bank loan is to have the property zoned residential. Corporation Counsel Griffin stated that is correct.

Aldersperson Klemm moved for approval of Ordinance #2015-28 as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Aldersperson Brashaw. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, McClanathan, Ross, Miller, Busker, Brashaw, Koester, and Chesney (8)
Nays: none
Ordinance #2015-28 was passed.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 11, 2015. It was requested for the administration to place both options on the council agenda:

Mayor Gitz requested the following titles to be read into the record.

RESOLUTION #R-2015-22 OPTION A: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN REFORMS IN STATE GOVERNMENT AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

OR

RESOLUTION #R-2015-22 OPTION B: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN REFORMS IN STATE GOVERNMENT AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aldersperson Klemm as chairperson of the Committee of the Whole was asked to summarize the above stated resolutions. He stated at the Committee of the Whole meeting, there were two different versions of this resolution and they are both presented again this evening. He explained rather than the Committee of the Whole debating them or recommending a certain version to council, it was recommended to have both presented at the council meeting.

Aldersperson Brashaw asked if the council would need to vote on both or vote down one of the options. Mayor Gitz stated no since it is presented in the alternative pursuant to the discussion at the Committee of the Whole the council may chose by motion which resolution they would like to approve.

Mayor Gitz explained that a bulk of this came from a draft version of this resolution originated in the Governor's office and the leadership of the Illinois Municipal League and that resolution was not approved before the meeting but it was used as a template for discussion. The difference between these two resolutions is that Option A discusses unfunded mandates and a different set of recitals and it concludes by calling for an expiration of these issues between the Governor and the general assembly. He stated Option B includes pursuant to Alderman Chesney all of the legal language that was deleted from the first resolution so those clauses are the difference between the two options.

Aldersperson Chesney moved for adoption of **Resolution #R-2015-22 OPTION B**, seconded by Aldersperson Miller.

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Mayor Gitz stated discussion is now in order on the advisability of that Option B (*as printed as follows*):

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CERTAIN REFORMS IN STATE GOVERNMENT
AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-22 Option B

WHEREAS, Illinois state law creates a “one size fits all” approach to collective bargaining for local units of governments. This approach creates added costs which are ultimately passed on to taxpayers; and
WHEREAS, voters and local officials should determine what is a subject of bargaining – not the State; and
WHEREAS, more than 280 unfunded mandates have been imposed in recent years on communities across Illinois, costing those communities billions of dollars. Rolling back mandates and stopping any new unfunded mandates will create more flexibility in local government budgets; and
WHEREAS, Illinois’ workers’ compensation costs are the seventh highest in the nation – and more than double the costs in Indiana; and
WHEREAS, updating how injuries are apportioned to insure employers pay for injuries that occur on the job, a clarification regarding the definition of “traveling employees” to insure a reasonable standard that excludes risks that would impact the general public, and implementation of American Medical Association guidelines when determining impairment would result in major cost savings for local governments; and
WHEREAS, Illinois’ economy is not producing enough jobs to drive economic growth, create opportunity for families, and generate sufficient tax receipts to invest in the state’s future. New ideas should be discussed, such as empowering voters in our communities to create local empowerment zones via referendum, though many municipal governments do not support the creation of empowerment zones within their boundaries; and
WHEREAS, reforming the law that mandates employer funding of health insurance premiums under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act to require that the federal definition of “catastrophic injury” be used to determine eligibility for benefits would reduce municipal health insurance costs; and
WHEREAS, state law sets thresholds for workers on state and local construction projects increasing costs significantly; and
WHEREAS, enacting reforms and moving all decisions regarding prevailing wage and project labor agreements to local governments would provide local control over construction and project costs; and
WHEREAS, local governments face unfunded pension liabilities that threaten core services and functions of government. State action on pension reform for future work should provide local governments the ability to address pension reforms that encompass benefit changes for future work and structural changes to how those benefits are provided as well.

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

Section 1. The City of Freeport hereby supports discussion on major reforms in state government, to be cooperatively negotiated between the Governor’s Office, General Assembly, and local elected leaders, that will encourage local control, reduce costs on local governments, empower local voters, and increase the competitiveness of our community.

Section 2. That passage of this resolution reflects support for the broad conceptual reforms contained herein, and does not represent an endorsement of any specific policy or program until such time as it has been properly negotiated and reviewed.

Section 3. That the Mayor is hereby empowered to forward a copy of this resolution to the Illinois Municipal League, State of Illinois elected or appointed officials, and any other forum as deemed appropriate.

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Aldersperson Koester stated he spent a lot of time over the weekend reading the Governor's reform package. He spoke about the mandate and one size fits all. He shared that we need to take into consideration all the City workers that showed up tonight and had public comments. He provided his opinion on the mandates and read aloud sections. He asked what the definition of catastrophic injury is and questioned why he could not find it. He stated he spoke with a member of Representative Stewart's office and he did not know. Aldersperson Koester spoke about the empowerment zone and right to work areas and provided an example of a business that did not require union membership and, by the end, there were only 10% of the employees as members and when it came time for union contract negotiations and it became a take it or leave it situation. He provided information on prevailing wages and local government decisions. He spoke about pensions and the trouble pensions are in downstate and putting it on the backs of the workers. He stated he was told that if we don't pass this we have been told that we will lose grant money. He recommended not voting on either option.

Aldersperson McClanathan stated there is scrivener's error in the first "Whereas" changing the word "fro" to "for". Mayor Gitz stated there does not need to be a motion on that since it is a scrivener's error and you can consider it corrected.

Aldersperson Klemm stated he appreciates everyone coming out tonight and giving their support against the resolutions. It is very important to see all the sides of everything. He stated he did speak to Governor Rauner and he seemed to be positive on a lot of things and the State of Illinois needs a change no matter what happens. He spoke about his background of being for union, in union, etc. He stated he believes if it wasn't for the unions we would be working for General Motors for 50 cents. He stated he does not think the Governor needs to hear from us and we need to tell him what to do.

Aldersperson Ross stated he has heard both sides and asked how we are going to get out of the hole. He stated he would like to talk about how we are going to get out of it and make it better for everyone. We need to figure out how to get along and one of the reasons he ran for office was to become part of the solution. He spoke about the human factor and asked to think about that instead of who makes the dollar.

Aldersperson McClanathan stated it is important to take a look at what this resolution is and look at what it says. He stated he believes there are a lot of agreements in this room. He has not had a chance to speak one on one with each one, but he does not think anyone would disagree that we have a lot of issues facing the State of Illinois. We may disagree as to how we got here. We may disagree on the way forward. He read aloud the Sections 1, 2, and 3 after the 'whereas clauses' of the resolution, option B stated above. Section 1) The City of Freeport hereby supports discussion on major reforms in state government, to be cooperatively negotiated between the Governor's Office, General Assembly, and local elected leaders, that will encourage local control, reduce costs on local governments, empower local voters, and increase the competitiveness of our community. Section 2) That passage of this resolution reflects support for the broad conceptual reforms contained herein, and does not represent an endorsement of any specific policy or program until such time as it has been properly negotiated and reviewed. Section 3) That the Mayor is hereby empowered to forward a copy of this resolution to the Illinois Municipal League, State of Illinois elected or appointed officials, and any other forum as deemed appropriate." Aldersperson McClanathan stated he has heard a lot of common phrases and it is important for us to determine what is right for us and more local input is very important. He stated what this resolution does not do is require a right to work

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city, county or state. He stated what this resolution does do is to say that it needs to be discussed. He summarized by stating that we are not always going to agree on all the reforms but to say that the status quo is acceptable, that we should not have discussion on major reforms between the governor's office and local elected leaders – it ends the discussion and says that the status quo is fine. He stated he does not believe that and he understands that we are not all going to agree what the solutions are but to cut the discussion short, we know what the results are and what the results are going to be. We need a solution for Freeport and we need to decide what is right for us. He noted that it is often referred to as the “right to work” resolution, but this resolution came out of negotiations and principles of discussion. He recommended not cutting short the discussion and we should have discussion on the major reforms.

Aldersperson Brashaw stated that she was glad to hear Aldersperson McClanathan brought up the topic of discussion because we should all have discussion on this. She stated this resolution is not all good and it is not all bad but people like to pick and choose what they want to see in it. She stated she tries to look at the positive in things and there are negative things in here too. She referred to a “whereas” that was added back in by the Illinois Municipal League and read aloud, “Illinois’ economy is not producing enough jobs to drive economic growth, create opportunity for families, and generate sufficient tax receipts to invest in the state’s future. “ She spoke about Governor Rauner’s plan and that discussion needs to be held to turn the state around. She read; “New ideas should be discussed, such as empowering voters in our communities to create local empowerment zones via referendum, though many municipal governments do not support the creation of empowerment zones within their boundaries.” Aldersperson Brashaw summarized by stating that we don’t want to shut off the discussion at the state level.

Aldersperson Chesney stated in his view Chicago policies have crippled the ability for Northwest Illinois, and specifically Freeport, to move forward. Often times many things are handed down and many unfunded mandates by Chicago politicians and they are expected to work in Freeport Illinois. He pointed to the education system that we often times discuss and criticize and we encourage local decisions to be made in local communities so the frustration of many of those in the educational field is that the decisions for those are made in Springfield and in this example would be made in Freeport. He stated so there is not a one size fits all. He stated he does not think there are many teachers that would say that the policies set by Springfield are always relevant or conducive to successful working environment in Freeport. He stated when he reads the resolution and the empowerment of local government he thinks it is a conversation and it is a conversation that we have to have. He stated Chicago has done a very good job of digging the moat and putting up the draw bridge on Northwest Illinois. He stated he thinks they have continued to do this in Springfield. He stated the conversation is how do we get out of it. Do we rubber stamp the status quo. Do we take on more unfunded pension liabilities because right now we are at 110 billion dollars in unfunded pension liabilities in the state? He stated the police and fire locally are over \$20 million. He stated this is unsustainable. There will be tough conversations and tough decisions to be made. But it is unsustainable. He stated he sees this resolution as a dialogue - don’t love all it - don’t hate all of it - but he sees it as a conversation. He summarized by stating we have been doing it the same way for too long. He provided what is catastrophic injury in the federal language and SB 214. He summarized the voting statistics in Stephenson County and stated the voters voted for the conversation and voted for change. He stated he is in full support of this resolution and he encourages support of other council members.

Aldersperson Miller stated she appreciates the fact this resolution supports the discussion. She too spent quite of bit of time trying to research and she wrote some notes on her thoughts. She stated the bottom

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line on this is for freedom. It gives the local government the freedom for competitive bids for competitive work. It also provides a union worker the freedom to choose whether they want to be a member of a union. It means that the voters are empowered. She stated to her there is more control locally and it gives us the freedom to choose what is best for us. She reiterated that she is totally not against unions. She is union – minded as well and she feels that the worker has the right to say what is best for them. She stated we can all agree that Illinois is one of the worst run states in the Country and it is time for a change. She stated change is not easy but it is necessary. She asked if Illinois should move forward on a new path or should that State continue to embrace policies of failure. She spoke about rights and free enterprise systems serving as a backbone of our nation. She stated it is time for transformation and she reflected that does not have all the answers. Alderperson Miller explained why she ran for elected office with one being to listen to what people have to say and the other is that she will vote for what is best for the whole because you can never satisfy everyone. She thanked the people who came tonight and had their voice. She noted there were over 60% of the people in Stephenson County, who voted for Rauner and his policies, and that to her is a loud and clear message of what the people want is change and therefore she will support the Illinois Municipal League resolution.

Each of the council members was provided a second opportunity to provide their viewpoints and whether it was necessary to vote on this resolution this evening.

Mayor Gitz stated he does not agree with Option B. He stated there are things in it that he supports. He summarized his view of the unfunded mandates, pension, and the serious issues in the State. He explained that is supports discussion on a State level and the purpose of the recitals is to say how we want that discussion to be structured. There are major reforms that he definitely supports. He explained the labor issues for the council and the union negotiations that we are currently in. He noted there were zero votes of support last week for the right to work. He spoke about the reform agenda and there are reasons there are a lot of boards who decided we are not going to go there. Mayor Gitz stated the final point that he is concerned about is how the resolution is interpreted with its language in it. He can't say what is going to happen but he is concerned about how the resolution is read into the record. People here have stated they are concerned about the governor's interpretation and his support but we also have to be concerned about what the Illinois House and Illinois Senate do and he is fearful in light of the General Assembly session that the aggregation of all these resolutions many of which are styled differently, are used to support an agenda that says why in the world would we continue the local government distribution fund. This is not supporting that fund. There is not language in there that is not our intent. This council and its predecessors is on record for saying no more cuts. He stated we need to be careful about the working that is sent and what is contained herein, what is going to be interpreted and how it is going to be utilized. He stated that is why he does not support option B.

Each of the council members was provided the opportunity to provide their viewpoints on the resolution.

Alderperson McClanathan noted this is not the resolution that was voted on by the county board that this resolution was carefully crafted and has language in it that is worth repeating as he read previously. He spoke about Springfield politics and the discussion has to be open and honest and without games.

Alderperson Koester spoke about the decision and who has a voice.

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Mayor Gitz requested a roll call vote on Resolution R-2015-22 Option B. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: McClanathan, Ross, Miller, Busker, Brashaw and Chesney (6)

Nays: Klemm and Koester

Resolution R-2015-22, Option B was adopted by a majority vote.

Mayor Gitz paused for a moment as public commenters left council chambers.

OTHER

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

Community Development

There were no reports from Community Development this evening.

Finance Department

Finance Director Cynthia Haggard had no further report.

Public Works

Public Works Director Tom Dole provided an update on Public Works projects including stump grinding of about 70 trees that they recently took down. Once the grinding is done they will need to seed the areas and they have made some good progress. He provided the status on four properties that had to be cleaned by the Public Works Department including on Kenwood and Avon, the department did personal protection training, they built the canine unit dog kennel, they are working on cemetery mowed and cleaned in preparation for Memorial Day and the last project they are working on is cleanup in right of ways for the parade route for preparation for the festivities on Monday.

Fire

Fire Chief Scott Miller provided an update on wires down due to heavy winds on Saturday evening. He noted that there were wires down on a house on Chicago Avenue and there was prompt response to the situation by Com Ed so fortunately there were no structure fires.

Police

Chief of Police Todd Barkalow provided an update on the May 14, 2015 Civilian Police Academy graduation ceremony. Chief Barkalow invited participation in the next session taking place in the fall. Chief Barkalow provided information on the cycling patrol training involving about 10 to 15 officers from area departments.

Aldersperson Chesney asked about budget number for officers as to whether officers were added in FY 2015-2016. Chief Barkalow referred to his budget worksheets and stated he has budgeted two vacancies in non-bargaining because he has two sergeant vacancies so there are ten sworn officers in non-bargaining with two vacancies. He stated with the bargaining unit there is 35 sworn officers and that number includes the canine unit. Aldersperson Chesney made an observation about safety being paramount and he suggested a revision in the budget to add two more officers. He then asked about the discrepancy in corporal pay and how that would impact the budget and requested a presentation from Chief Barkalow as

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being helpful. Chief Barkalow stated that when we go over the budget that would be a good time to do that. Alderperson Chesney stated he would like that conversation sooner than later because he does not know how that would affect the other budget items. Mayor Gitz stated we did make adjustments on the corporals and on the non-bargaining last year and it was adjusted in the Fire Department as well. He stated you might want to review those changes before we go there and it would be unwise to start to look at major changes there until the bargaining issues are settled across the board. Alderperson Chesney requested a quantification of the word soon. Mayor Gitz stated at the end of this meeting we are going to set an agenda for the next budget discussion and we can do Police next.

Alderperson Busker asked about a high speed chase from last Sunday and he asked if there were policies for equipment that the Police Department would need. Chief Barkalow stated the investigation is complete there is an administrative review and it is a collaborative review as set forth in our policy so they will look at that.

Alderperson Chesney discussed shotgun/rifle training as to whether there is a timing issue or a budgetary issue that needs to be addressed by this council and to please let him know.

City Engineer

City Engineer Shaun Gallagher provided an update on the Carnegie Library discussed at the last Committee of the Whole meeting and at that time he opened it up to the council to provide tours and he let the council know he is available Monday through Friday. He will also provide a tour to council members wishing to tour the old City Hall building and any of the documents that have been placed on file he would have available for viewing. City Engineer Gallagher provided a mock-up of parking to reconfigure parking in the block of the Carnegie Library building.

Water and Sewer

City Engineer Gallagher provided an update on hydrant flushing that will be conducted the second and third week of May. Director Glendenning will be back next week.

Alderperson Chesney stated he has two observations on Water and Sewer billing and discussed the amount of time our customers have to pay their bill and he stated Mr. Glendenning stated it might be around 30 days and he does not know if his days are actually correct. He believes it is closer to a week to ten days. He would like to see comparisons of what ComEd and Nicor have as far a lead time and see if we can't closely mirror those and that way our customers don't have an anxiety attack if they go on vacation. He then discussed the automation as it pertains to the Water and Sewer. He stated his understanding is that there is no way for the Water and Sewer Department to do a soft credit check and he would like to see if we can look into that whereas we can assess the risk based on a soft credit check. He stated his understanding is that we don't and Nicor and ComEd do. He does not want us to subsidize those that are not paying their water bills. Alderperson Chesney recommended looking to increase deposits for those that have a historically poor pay rate and for those that have a good credit rating to lower the deposit from \$75.00. Alderperson Chesney asked to look into automation, deposits on the water, and late fees to make billing less antiquated and more modernized. Mayor Gitz noted the City Engineer is not in charge of the financial aspects of the Water and Sewer Department.

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Aldersperson Koester stated he has discussed the same topics with Director Glendenning recent past and he stated that Director Glendenning will be providing to the council a presentation in the very near future.

Library

Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson was present and provided an update on One Book One Freeport communitywide reading program and they provided a total of thirty five events. She recognized the committee members and noted that this was made possible by the support of sponsors, grants and partnering agencies. Director Dickerson stated there will be a tribute recognizing Lily Topo at a reception honoring her memory on May 26, 2015 and this event will be open to the public.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gitz provided information on a new grant, in addition to the recently received grant from IHDA, and that grant was confirmed last week from I.D.N.R and that approves five very specific projects and properties in the floodway. He explained one of those properties is on Crocker and is known as the old Martin Luther King Center and that would be a very expensive property to take down. That project is currently in court and we could receive cost reimbursement of 100% payment. Aldersperson Ross asked about the property as to whether a playground could be installed and Mayor Gitz explained that I.D.N.R has to sign off on plans and he would expect it to be some form of greenspace to help with drainage. Mayor Gitz provided an update of the blight reduction grant. Aldersperson Ross asked about a house on Kenwood and Mayor Gitz stated he has targeted burn out and they have changed their reporting on properties with fires and he would have to check his notes on that particular property. Aldersperson Ross asked about the Homestart grant and Mayor Gitz explained the grant would allow for fifteen properties to be acquired and demolition and how the title transfer works. Aldersperson Ross asked about two properties on Stephenson by Taylor Park School and Mayor Gitz those properties are on the target list for the I.D.N.R grant. He spoke about two properties that are in the County that they are trying to work the situation out with the County for demolition of those properties.

Mayor Gitz and Aldersperson Ross discussed exploring ways to improve a road that is gravel and need to have seal coat just off of Stephenson. Director Dole provided a status of road maintenance and whether a seal coat application is likely to be put down. City Engineer Gallagher explained that he discussed those roads with Lancaster County and they discussed having it done this summer and then there could be a trade of roads by the end of the summer.

Aldersperson Chesney asked if there is a way to increase the properties on the Homestart Grant and Mayor Gitz stated they are working on that and explained that they have received conflicting answers as to whether it can be done. He has asked the program manager to come to Freeport to obtain more answers on that subject. Mayor Gitz stated if we can add as to the number of properties then the City is interested in that but it has to be in the area that the grant specifies, we can't go say five blocks away.

Mayor Gitz discussed Water and Sewer fees and noted that the Finance Department has been working on integrating the accounts receivables and they are working on audit issues. He noted that accounts receivables have gone up instead of down even though we have gone to the debt recovery of the State. He spoke about reforming the billing system and that is an issue that the council will need to look at in the future.

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Mayor Gitz stated that City Engineer Gallagher has invited council members to view the buildings in mind for the City Hall and he would be willing to post it as a special meeting but council members will need to let him know a head of time.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Council members were provided an opportunity to give announcements and discuss items for their wards.

Aldersperson Miller stated that the striping on Van Buren for the bike path looks phenomenal and the area at Clark and Adams looks better every day. She noted the installation of the bike racks is wonderful and she noted there are soon to be hung banners in the downtown. Aldersperson Miller provided information on the Jane Addams Trail Grand Opening Ceremony and events to take place on June 13, 2015. She thanked City Engineer Gallagher and Director Dole for their assistance to improve the downtown. She then asked for an update on the outdoor liquor ordinance and Corporation Counsel Griffin stated she has been away from the office and just received that item this morning and the Mayor asked for her to prepare it for a special meeting of the Liquor Commission.

Aldersperson Busker spoke about issues with alleyways in the 5th Ward. Director Dole explained his budget of hot mix to repair alleys. Director Dole requested that Aldersperson Busker contact him for areas of concern in the alleyway. Aldersperson Busker asked about lighting in his ward and City Engineer Gallagher provided an update on lighting that need to be repaired or ComEd has it on their schedule for about three weeks now and hopefully the sixty-some lights will be addressed soon.

Aldersperson Brashaw spoke about the benefit of attending the Civilian Police Academy and noted the Police Department bike training along a roadway on Lincoln the other day.

Aldersperson Koester spoke about the discrepancy between management and bargaining unit employees salaries and stated this needs to be addressed or those available for promotion will not test into the upper level position. He stated that this could be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole but he will not be in attendance so maybe a later date.

Aldersperson Koester recommended an item to be placed on the Committee of the Whole to streamline business application process for new businesses coming to Freeport in order to discuss how we can take care of businesses coming to town and make it better. He would also like to see permitting online.

Aldersperson Chesney stated he echoes Aldersperson Koester's recommendation for online payment system for contractor licensing and he discussed making it more favorable to encourage participation in HVAC installs. He agreed with Aldersperson Koester to review the discrepancy of salaries within our budget in the police and fire ranks. He thanks Chief Miller for the tour of the central fire station. He thanks City Engineer Gallagher for the tour of the Carnegie Library and the City Hall building. He thanked the council for the suspension of the rules for ordinance changes to do with handicapped and disabled veterans and this was a good example of when it is appropriate. He noted tonight was pivotal because it spoke about the need for change.

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Aldersperson McClanathan stated he agrees with Aldersperson Koester and Chesney on the comments on items he would like to see down the road and keep those items on the forefront. He thanked the the departments involved with the flooding situation on Greenfield and Galena on Saturday evening.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tom Teich provided information on his second place finish for softball and the first place finish in the 15 meter run in the Special Olympics. He spoke about the building in the out-lot of Menards and was wondering who will be leasing that property. He asked if there could be a demonstration of Otto at a meeting soon and Chief Barkalow stated we can do that next month.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel, City Clerk