



City Council

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

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 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 6:09 p.m. on August 17, 2015. The start time of the meeting was delayed due a special Committee of the Whole meeting continuing after the 6:00 p.m. hour.

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 Klemm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Gitz stated the item (#14) for the NIDA contract was discussed this evening in the Committee of the Whole special meeting and should be removed from the council agenda. Alderperson Koester moved for approval of the agenda as amended, seconded by Alderperson McClanathan. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

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The minutes of the regular meeting held on August 3, 2015 were presented for approval. Alderperson Brashaw moved for approval, seconded by Alderperson Koester. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

HONORARY RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE SOPHIE BRUNNER

An honorary resolution to recognize Sophie Brunner for her dedication and efforts as an athlete representing the United States in the Pan Am Games was read aloud. Ms. Brunner is a 2013 Aquin Catholic High School graduate and plays women's basketball at Arizona State University where she has earned numerous accolades including being named to the USA Women's Basketball team. The USA Women's Basketball team brought back to the United States a silver medal from the Pan American Games in Toronto this summer. Alderperson Brashaw made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, seconded by Alderperson Chesney. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent. Sophie Brunner and her parents provided their appreciation for the support of the Freeport community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

John Franklin, Freeport, Illinois, spoke as comments on the design build contract for a City Hall building at the Carnegie Library. He thanked the council for doing their due diligence on the cost of leasing and the

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cost of rehabilitation to the building. He recommended doing a true factual comparison of repair of the 230 W. Stephenson building and not a major renovation in order to move the employees back into that building. He spoke about the space needs analysis and whether the room in the building is enough to accommodate the offices. He would like the two buildings to be used and occupied on a short term and long term basis.

Mayor Gitz asked for leave of the council to recognize Lynn Folgate and his non-agenda item comments. This leave was granted by council members. Lynn Folgate, 3551 W. Stephenson Street, Freeport, Illinois spoke about the programs the Moose Clubs of America support including Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

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 period ended July 31, 2015
 - 2) City Treasurer's Cash and Fund Balances for period ended July 31, 2015
 - 3) Police Department Report of Activities for July 2015
 - 4) Fire Department Report of Activities for July 2015
 - 5) Financial Reports for period ended July 31, 2015 as provided by Director Haggard
- B. Approval of Motor Fuel Register #0067 --- \$328,713.82
- C. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (Registers #393, 394, 397, 398, 401) --- \$439,042.07
- D. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending July 25, 2015 --- \$409,892.60
- E. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #392, 395, 396, 399, 400) --- \$299,929.51

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

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

Nays: none

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

Mayor Gitz asked to have the following memorandum from Fire Chief Scott Miller dated August 13, 2015 read into the record:

"Per your request, we have been working on the options for relocation of what is known as Fire Station 3 over the past year. This memo outlines some of the activity that has taken place at the property formerly known as Fire Station 3, located at 1819 South West Avenue.

"For the past several months building maintenance and sale preparation have been the focus.

"Immediate steps taken include removal of the monument sign identifying the property as a fire station; painting over garage doors to no longer indicate the presence of fire apparatus; and the disposal of obsolete equipment.

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“This building is currently being used as a training facility and provides storage for various fire department equipment.

“We identified properties within the City that may meet the needs of the department as both a dedicated training facility and storage location. On August 4th we visited the following locations:

- Consolidated Grain – on Hancock
- Vacant property near water treatment plant
- CMC Heartland /Henderson Rd.
- Property at Island/Turner

“The properties listed above offer possible training sites but are public or private areas and may not be available for acquisition or properly support the placement of specific training needs (drafting pit, 2 story training tower, etc.).

“The following properties were considered for our storage needs:

- ABC Supply (formerly Fairbanks Morse)
- Rawleigh Buildings
- Honeywell on Walnut

“We have reviewed the needs of the department and have developed a list of priorities that need to be addressed in potential sites, as follows:

- Identify primary concerns of the land use (a new building for storage at the Central Fire Station or acquire property)
- Centrally located (no negative impact on response times while training)
- Cost of land acquisition versus existing maintenance & improvements
- Water supply – water flow capabilities
- Non-residential area – noise concerns
- Relocation of City and MABAS assets
- 24-7 access to equipment
- Year round access (free from snow & ice)
- Level of security provided
- Construct a shared storage building between Police and Fire at the Central Fire Station

“We will continue to examine all possibilities and look to comply with the direction given by the Mayor and City Council. I will keep the Mayor informed of each viable location.”

Chief Miller stated this is a snapshot of where the department is for the property located at 1819 South West Avenue. Council members were provided the opportunity to discuss the memorandum with multiple council members being in support of marketing the building upon finding a location of proper training facilities and storage for fire department equipment. Fire Chief Miller reviewed options and noted there are costs associated with those outlined in his memorandum. Chief Barkalow spoke about the evidentiary storage requirements of the Police Department and stated they are always in need of storage space. Chief

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Miller explained that the City is in contract with MABAS and they receive reimbursement of costs of using equipment for HAZMAT through “spill or pay” to recoup the costs. Chief Miller stated he will do further research on grant opportunities for training facilities and possible storage of the MABAS equipment. Fire Chief Miller stated there are not currently budgetary items to allow for consideration of another storage facility and he will be working on the premise to vacate the property. Mayor Gitz spoke in support of placing the building back on the tax rolls and his interest in finding training facilities for the Fire Department. He spoke about keeping the council informed. Alderperson Koester cautioned about finding a facility for training in a residential area due to the noise and water output of the equipment. He also explained the equipment for testing of the pumps is housed in that building and that is a mandatory requirement of the department. Fire Chief Miller stated that pump testing equipment has been utilized by other departments and is used frequently.

Alderperson Klemm made a motion to receive and place the memorandum, seconded by Alderperson Busker. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

At this time, Mayor Gitz requested leave of council to bring forward on the agenda the item for the Blackhawk Hill agreement and asked to have the following resolution title read aloud.

RESOLUTION #R-2015-48:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT WITH BLACKHAWK HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL

This resolution was presented by Nick Jupin, Community Development Grants Coordinator. In the council packet he provided a memorandum which stated the City of Freeport received grant approval for the update of the Stephenson County Hazard Mitigation Plan, an update that is required every five (5) years to be eligible for funding that is made available as a result of a disaster declaration. To date, the department has been lacking the appropriate resources to complete this project. It has been determined that the current plan is now expired and it is crucial for the city to get the plan updated, adopted and approved by FEMA to ensure any disaster funding that we may need for recovery post incident(s) is available to us.

Nick Jupin introduced Robert Baker of Blackhawk Hills. He recommended to council that the City of Freeport enlist the services of the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council, a not-for-profit organization that serves Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside Counties in northwest Illinois. This organization specializes in community planning, development assistance, natural resource conservation and protection support, grant writing and administration. Blackhawk Hills is a perfect fit for this project because they have much of the research necessary for this project already on file thus dramatically decreasing the time and funding that would be needed to appropriately complete the project. The organization also has the contacts and professional reputation needed to be able bring all of the key personnel county-wide together to update the plan and adopt it, a key factor in this grant. He noted this will be a sole source procurement for these services. He stated Blackhawk Hills is familiar with the grant requirements and has already compiled some of the needed information. Furthermore, they have agreed to complete the project within the budget so that no budget amendments would be needed to proceed. Because Blackhawk Hills is a recognized Regional Planning Council by the State of Illinois, they fall outside of the States procurement rules and this partnership was even suggested by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency as an approved method to expedite this project. When this project is fully executed and adopted, the City of Freeport will be eligible not only for disaster declaration funding, but for

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additional hazard mitigation grants, specifically flood mitigation funding that would allow us to implement plans to abate some of our eastside flooding issues.

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

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

Nays: none

Resolution #R-2015-48 was adopted.

2nd READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-36:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1442 – PERMITS AND FEES, SECTION 1442.11 (FEE EXEMPTIONS), SUBSECTION (B) “MINOR REPAIRS” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

At the first reading held on August 3, 2015, Aldersperson McClanathan made a motion to move the ordinance forward for approval, seconded by Aldersperson Busker. Upon this motion, Aldersperson Klemm made a motion to recommend the ordinance for further discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting, seconded by Aldersperson Koester. At the Committee of the Whole meeting on August 10, 2015, this ordinance was recommended to council in its amended form. Upon the second reading, Mayor Gitz introduced the amended version provided in the packet containing the following wording for repairs requiring a building permit:

“Section 1. That Chapter 1442 entitled “Permits and Fees”, Section 1442.11 (Fee Exemptions.), subsection (b) “minor repairs” is hereby amended to read as follows:

1442.11 FEE EXEMPTIONS.

“(B) Minor Repairs. No permit shall be required for minor repairs or alterations which do not involve structural changes, installation of new units or connections and which do not exceed ~~three~~ six thousand dollars ~~(\$3,000.00)~~ (\$6,000.00) as the price charged the owner. this subsection shall not apply to Chapters 1422, 1424 and 1426, nor affect the fees and permits as addressed in the following portions of this chapter:

1442.13 BUILDING PERMIT AND FIRE PREVENTION PLAN REVIEW FEES.

1442.14 PLUMBING PERMIT FEES.

1442.15 ELECTRICAL PERMIT FEES.

1442.16 MECHANICAL PERMIT FEES.

1442.17 BOILER PERMIT FEES.

1442.18 COMMERCIAL CONTRACTOR LICENSE FEES.

1442.19 CANOPY, MARQUEE OR STREET CLOCK PERMITS AND FEES.

1442.20 SIGN PERMITS AND FEES.

1442.21 PERMITS FOR DEVELOPMENTS SUBJECT TO STORM WATER DETENTION REGULATIONS.

1442.22 ISSUANCE OF PERMITS TO HOMEOWNERS.

1442.23 APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMITS; PLOT DIAGRAM; COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING CODE; EXCEPTION FOR FARM BUILDINGS.

1442.24 DEMOLITION PERMITS.”

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Aldersperson Chesney made a motion to place the amended version dated August 10, 2015 on the floor for approval. This motion was seconded by Aldersperson McClanathan. Aldersperson Koester stated that \$6,000 in repairs for most people is not a minor repair and he would like to have a check and balance system where a person is required to obtain a building permit. He does not think this will benefit anyone other than landlords. Mayor Gitz asked for a voice vote of the council members. The motion was approved by majority vote with one dissenting vote by Aldersperson Koester.

Aldersperson Klemm recommended getting the Building Commission involved with a review of the requirements for a building permit and code amendments. He noted this exemption does not include minor repairs or alterations which do not involve structural changes, installation of new units or connections. He noted it does not include HVAC, structural, electrical or plumbing. Aldersperson McClanathan agreed with Aldersperson Klemm and noted the change from \$3,000 to \$6,000 was done with the intent to encourage people to fix up their home by giving them the incentive of not having to obtain a building permit on these minor repairs. Aldersperson Chesney spoke of his support to encourage repairs on homes. Aldersperson Koester stated he would like to see building permit fees placed into a separate fund that could turn into a grant to allow low income people to apply to fix up their homes.

Mayor Gitz stated the amended version is on the floor for passage. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, McClanathan, Ross, Miller, Busker, Brashaw, and Chesney (7)

Nays: Koester

Ordinance #2015-36 was passed as amended on the floor.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-41:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 290 (COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

This ordinance was recommended to council by the Committee of the Whole at the meeting held on August 10, 2015. Finance Director Cynthia Haggard presented the ordinance by stating at the Committee of the Whole it was recommended by council a change to Chapter 290, Sub-Section 290.02. The compensation plan's salary schedule presented this evening is a 2.75 percent increase for Police Management and a 1 percent increase for Non-bargaining personnel. She explained the police management and stated during fiscal year 2015 they agreed to do away with longevity increases in consideration of properly aligning salaries and adjusting future increases to coincide with contractual police employees. The police bargaining employees received a 2.75% increase in pay effective May 1, 2015. Police management salaries should now increase by the same 2.75%, effective May 1, 2015. This increase is accounted for in the Fiscal Year 2016 Spending Plan. Finance Director Haggard explained that for the other non-bargaining employees as recommended by the Mayor, those non-bargaining employees (other than Police management), including Fire Management, should receive a 1 percent increase effective May 1, 2015. Any further increases would be forthcoming dependent on the outcome of union negotiations. Mayor Gitz stated this can be revisited at a proper time upon completion of the union negotiations. Corporation Counsel Griffin noted this is outside of the Appropriation Ordinance recently passed and so there will need to be a supplemental appropriation ordinance passed for this.

Aldersperson Koester moved for approval of the ordinance as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Ross.

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Aldersperson Klemm moved for suspension of the rules for passage of the ordinance this evening. This motion was seconded by Aldersperson Brashaw. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent. The motion for passage of the ordinance prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Ordinance #2015-41 was passed.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-42:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 806 “ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR SALES”, SECTION 806.17 (OUTDOOR SALES) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

Corporation Counsel Griffin presented the ordinance by explaining that currently, for non-downtown liquor establishments to be able to serve liquor outdoors, they must comply with a fence requirement which only allows ingress and egress through the actual building of the business. They recently encountered a conflict between this ordinance and the fire codes when there is outdoor grilling accompanying the liquor sales. To accommodate such businesses, the attached ordinance allows for an exception to this rule if there is a separate emergency egress approved by the Fire Chief. This solution is business-friendly while still restricting access to alcohol by those not on the premises. Aldersperson Busker moved for approval of the ordinance as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm. Aldersperson Busker moved for suspension of the rules for immediate consideration, seconded by Aldersperson Koester. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent. The motion for passage of the ordinance prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Ordinance #2015-42 was passed.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-43:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1060 ENTITLED “GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL”, SECTION 1060.07 (DUMPSTERS AND TRASH CONTAINERS IN PUBLIC WAYS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT

Aldersperson Klemm stated this ordinance was discussed at the Committee of the Whole as a safety precaution for dumpsters and trailers left on the roadway to require them to have reflective markings. He placed amended wording in the Chapter 1060.07 Dumpsters and Trash Containers in Public Ways including trailers and wagons. Aldersperson Koester agreed that this is a safety hazard as in his many years of experience on the ambulance crew he witnessed two such accidents involving a trailer or dumpster in the roadway. Aldersperson Klemm moved for approval of the ordinance as presented, seconded by Aldersperson Koester. Aldersperson Klemm asked for allowance to review the wording within this ordinance further because it was noted a “reflective triangle sign” is for the purpose of a slow moving vehicle. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2015-47:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TO CITY EMPLOYEES HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN TO REPEAL (STAND ALONE) PRESCRIPTION DRUG (Rx) ONLY COVERAGE

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Mayor Gitz explained this resolution was recommended to council by the Committee of the Whole on August 10, 2015 following a presentation by Stephen Lafferty, healthcare consultant for the City. The resolution provided the Committee of the Whole, after hearing a presentation by Stephen Lafferty, Dimond Brothers Insurance, LLC, the City's Benefits Broker, has recommended that the (Stand Alone) Prescription Drug (RX) only coverage, which is currently offered to retirees only, be eliminated as of December 31, 2015, saving the City approximately \$46,000 per year. This resolution makes the amendment to City employee health insurance plan effective December 31, 2015 and authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk of the City of Freeport, as well as any other City official or employee as may be required or convenient, to sign on behalf of the City of Freeport the amendment to said City employee health insurance plan and any other document necessary or convenient to fulfill the intent of this Resolution. Alderperson Klemm moved for approval of the resolution as presented, seconded by Alderperson Chesney. The motion for its adoption prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, McClanathan, Ross, Miller, Busker, Brashaw, Koester, and Chesney (8)
Nays: none
Resolution R-2015-47 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2015-48:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT WITH BLACKHAWK HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL
This resolution was moved forward on council agenda, see minutes page 4.

RESOLUTION #R-2015-49:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH WINTER CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES (PHASE I ONLY)

This resolution was recommended to council by the Committee of the Whole on August 10, 2015. Included in the council packet was a memorandum explaining the resolution and its attached agreement for the Design-Build Services for the Municipal Building Renovation. Engineer Gallagher stated per the request of the Freeport City Council, attached is a Resolution and Phase 1 proposal for the renovation of the Carnegie Library building located at 314 W. Stephenson Street, submitted by Winter Construction of Freeport, Illinois. As previously conveyed, all six (6) responses to our original RFQ request were reviewed by the Project Management Team, with the top two (2) teams being referred to Council. Upon presentations and numerous Council discussions, it is the intent to organize the project into three (3) phases; Phase 1 – Programming, Feasibility and Budgeting, Phase 2 – Documentation and Permitting, and Phase 3 – Construction. Specifically, the Phase 1 proposal prepared by Winter Construction, Inc. shall cover assistance in asbestos abatement, the coordination and scope of interior demolitions and historic preservation, as well as a concept design and estimate for up to three (3) layouts. Final approval of a design concept will be required by City Council, prior to proceeding and/or negotiating Phases 2 & 3. It is anticipated that prior to final Council approval to proceed with Phase 2, a design charrette shall be provided by the Design-Build Team to allow for public opinion outside of our City Council meetings. It is the intent of this renovation that day to day communications will be handled by the City Engineer and the original Project Management Team. The City Engineer shall provide regular updates to the Council on the progress of all activities regarding the renovation for the benefit of public information and transparency.

Alderperson Brashaw asked about the financing for this project. Director Haggard stated she has been working with Bernardi Securities to refund some bonds and to finance this project in an amount \$2.0

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million so there will be a bond series 2015A for the refunding and 2015B for this project. Alderperson Koester asked what has been done for develop a maintenance program Mayor Gitz stated an amount has been placed in the budget for this item. Director Haggard explained the process involved in the bond refinancing and that it is likely that the interest rates will rise so that it is necessary to act quickly when the bond refunding date draws near so there will be a parameters ordinance coming to the first meeting in September. Mayor Gitz stated we want to get these in the works before the market begins to move upward. Director Haggard stated the bonds refunding dated is October 22.

Council members asked about the Phase I process. City Engineer Gallagher explained Phase 1 proposal prepared by Winter Construction covers assistance in asbestos abatement, the coordination and scope of interior demolitions and historic preservation, as well as a concept design and estimate for up to three (3) layouts. Final approval of a design concept will be required by City Council, prior to proceeding and/or negotiating Phases 2 & 3. Discussion was held on good, better and best estimates needed when it comes to the HVAC system and other large system requirements. Alderperson Busker asked if the roof needs to be replaced. City Engineer Gallagher explained that repairs were already made on the roof and gutter system and those repairs are holding so there is not major issue with the roof because they have not seen water. He explained the next steps involved with Phase 2 and 3 involve Documentation/Permitting, and Construction. Final approval of a design concept will be required by City Council, prior to proceeding and/or negotiating Phases 2 & 3. It is anticipated that prior to final Council approval to proceed with Phase 2, a design charrette shall be provided by the Design-Build Team to allow for public opinion outside of our City Council meetings.

Alderperson Koester moved for approval of the resolution as presented, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw. The motion for its adoption prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, McClanathan, Ross, Miller, Busker, Brashaw, Koester, and Chesney (8)
Nays: none
Resolution R-2015-49 was adopted.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

This item was removed from council agenda prior to agenda approval: Northwest Illinois Development Alliance (NIDA) contract notice issue per direction of the Committee of the Whole on August 17, 2015.

OTHER

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

Mayor Gitz provided his thanks to Colton Haven for his assistance as camera person and volunteering his time and assistance to the City for broadcast of the council meetings. He wished him well as he continues his studies at Northern Illinois University.

Public Works

Approval of Bid for the 2015 Landscape Waste Leaf Program

Public Works Director Tom Dole stated bids were requested through publication to be received on August 7, 2015 at 10:00 am for the 2015 landscape waste leaf program for the City of Freeport. On this date, the City received one bid from Dickman Farm Service for a one-year contract. This is for unlimited loads and volume at a cost of \$40,000.

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Dickman Farm Services has all the required IEPA permits and bonding in place as required. Last year's cost was the same as the bid and this is the amount that was budget for this fiscal year.

Director Dole recommended acceptance of the Dickman Farms Inc. bid in the amount of \$40,000 for 2015 land application of landscape waste for the annual leaf program. Alderperson Klemm moved for approval of the bid for this year's annual leaf program landscape waste, 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

Alderperson Koester noted he has received questions from constituents asking where to take landscape waste and branches. Mayor Gitz stated that he is working with the county to perhaps have a joint proposal for next year. In the meantime, residents can take items to the transfer station. Council members stated their dissatisfaction with the hours they are open.

Fire

Approval of Request for Ambulance Purchase Authorization

Fire Chief Miller stated budget preparation for fiscal year 2015-2016 included the purchase of a new ambulance to replace Ambulance 16 located at the Park Boulevard station. The fire department formed an apparatus committee to prepare specifications that adequately address the operational needs of those personnel who staff the ambulances on a regular basis. Considerable discussion was held regarding our present vehicle design and cabinetry layout. The paramedics assigned to the ambulance crew expressed concern over the possibility of disparate compartment and internal cabinet configuration. Our most recent ambulance purchases (2003, 2006 and 2014) were obtained through Foster Coach located in Sterling, Illinois. These ambulances are of identical design and compartment configuration, thereby eliminating any concern over dissimilar equipment placement. Medical equipment and supplies are found in the exact same locations on each ambulance.

Chief Miller explained the fire department is requesting action from the City Council to authorize the purchase of a new Horton ambulance through the Joint Purchasing Cooperative Program of the Northwest Municipal Conference; and from Foster Coach, Sterling, Illinois.

The specifications for this new ambulance are identical in compartment and cabinet configuration to the ambulances currently in service. Additional benefits from this purchase are as follows:

- Foster Coach was awarded a joint purchasing cooperative contract through a competitive bid process managed by the Northwest Municipal Conference, which provides advantageous contract terms and pricing for local government entities.
- Foster Coach is the only ambulance manufacturer to provide an air bag restraint system in the rear patient compartment area.
- Foster Coach is located approximately 40 miles away, making pre-delivery inspections possible without incurring overtime or travel expenses.
- Warranty, body/paint, and maintenance work on the vehicle can be accomplished locally, reducing the time that the ambulance is out of service. Factory replacement parts are also available for immediate pick up.

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- Foster Coach has agreed to provide a \$13,000 trade in credit for our old ambulance and a 1996 ambulance currently being utilized as a utility vehicle.

Chief Miller stated though other ambulance manufacturers were considered, it is the recommendation of our apparatus committee to continue to purchase a Horton ambulance that is nearly identical to the ambulance that is currently in service. Not only will this maintain consistency among the fleet, but the fire department has had no problems with the Horton ambulance and has a good working relationship with Foster Coach. Foster Coach is the only regional vendor in a four state area that sells the Horton ambulance that meets the specifications of the Freeport Fire Department. Delivery dates are currently 9 to 10 months after receipt of an order.

Chief Miller requested the authority to place an order for a new Horton Ambulance to be delivered by Foster Coach of Sterling, Illinois after May 1, 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$200,000. It was noted this will be paid in the 2016-2017 fiscal year budget and was one of the items given concession to hold the line on capital purchases during budget talks for this fiscal year.

Aldersperson Koester made a motion to approve the order for the ambulance as requested by Chief Miller, seconded by Aldersperson Busker. Discussion was held on the advantage of paramedics knowing the cabinet configuration is the same as the other ambulance during times of emergency and when staff rotates from one station to another. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Fire Chief Miller thanked the council for their support in moving forward with the order for the ambulance and provided an updated on a four alarm fire in German Valley which our department responded to on an as needed basis. He stated Fire Inspector Bush is assisting in the investigation.

Finance Department

Director Haggard had no further report. Aldersperson Chesney asked for an update on the farm leases at the Albertus Airport properties. Finance Director Haggard stated the analysis was completed and, upon review by Corporation Counsel Griffin, it was determined that the land leases were non-renewable. Aldersperson Chesney asked to have a copy of the leases. Mayor Gitz stated he will send them out.

Police

Chief of Police Todd Barkalow reported the bids for three police pursuit vehicles are due September 1, 2015 and they will be coming to the next council meeting for approval. He provided information on the Boys and Girls Club back to school celebration on August 24, 2015.

Chief Barkalow provided a stern warning to drivers as a safety precaution as schools begin session to maintain the speed limits in a school zone, no cell phone use, watch for the bus arms and watch for school crossing zones. Aldersperson Klemm noted the arrest of the suspect involved in the murder.

Library

Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson provided a summary of the Summer Reading Program that drew 200 to 300 adults to participate and over 700 children. This number is up from 599 children

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who participated last year. She explained the pet show is always the most popular event of the summer with stuffed and live pets on display.

City Engineer

City Engineer Shaun Gallagher stated the bids will be opened on Friday for the Phase B of the Big Four Project. Engineer Gallagher provided an update on street lighting. He chose a sample area to replace bulbs from the 75 watt to the 150 watt. Working with ComEd this took about fifteen months to complete. At this time he has reached out to the Police Department and they have identified 20 to 25 lights. He stated he does not believe the budget will be an issue in getting these change. He noted that we do rent the light poles from ComEd and cost would be cost prohibitive to purchase so at this time there is a time lag for ComEd to replace the bulbs because they do not replace a bulb until it burns out.

City Engineer Gallagher stated there is still no State budget for the Tutty's Crossing Boat Launch. There will be a light pole installed at the dock and the City has been reimbursed for that.

Alderpersion Chesney asked for an update on the Community Development job and why the position was not posted on the website. Mayor Gitz stated it was not posted on the website but instead it was advertised through three planning venues on the internet. There are three candidates that they are looking at. He stated this position does not require residency in the City.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gitz provided an update on the building across from the Stephenson County Courthouse. They have been working with the owner to come to a voluntary agreement. It may need to progress to a court hearing to do an emergency repair on the building. Mayor Gitz provided an update on the old railroad depot located by Tutty's Crossing. Their goal is to secure repairs before winter snowfall. There will be some volunteers sought to provide sweat equity and possibly some use of grant funds. Mayor Gitz provided an update on the IHDA Blighted home and they have been given the green light to proceed. First they have targeted tax sale houses. Their goal is to bring a series of house together for acquisition with the hope of starting with one house in September.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Alderpersion Klemm thanked the Public Works Department for clearing bushes that blocked the intersection view on the corner of Ridge and Stephenson.

Alderpersion McClanathan stated he would like to move forward with the process necessary for the end game with the old City Hall building. He requested this item be added to the Committee of the Whole meeting in September. He spoke about the need for funding relief for Golden Meals and so there will be fundraiser at Sullivan's and Cub Foods on August 28th and 29th. The Golden Meals has had their funding put on hold based on the State of Illinois budget impasse.

Alderpersion Miller noted the 4th Ward Neighborhood Watch Meeting will be held the fourth Monday of every month at the Lincoln Mall. This is a move from the Hosmer. Alderpersion Miller stated that Stephenson County has changed their liquor hours through an ordinance and with this change there could be a loss of income for our business owners. She requested the Liquor Commission review the county

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hours. Mayor Gitz stated it has already been requested by a Liquor Commissioner and is on the agenda for the next meeting.

Aldersperson Busker stated he would be a proponent to move on the old City Hall building in agreement with what Aldersperson McClanathan was requesting.

Aldersperson Brashaw thanked Director Haggard for working on the bond issue and she understands the amount of work she has on her plate with budget and appropriation matters, not to mention the audit. Aldersperson Brashaw provided information on the American Red Cross and the work they did to help out the family because of their loss of their house and they were able to find a landlord willing to rent month to month.

Aldersperson Koester requested review of the liquor hours for Sunday morning to assist with the boaters heading out earlier than 9:00 am. He would like more information on the status of the retail consulting firm and recommended doing what they recently did in Rochelle to look at the demographics for retail niches to fill for the future.

Aldersperson Chesney stated he would like to see the former City Hall building put on the market for sale. He would like to see the liquor hours expanded and is interested in mirroring the Stephenson County hours and to expand the package liquor hours to increase sales tax revenue. He provided an update on a Highland Community College Foundation fundraiser that was held recently.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments at this time.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel
City Clerk