



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, September 21, 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 6:12 p.m. on September 21, 2015. The meeting began late due to a continuance of the Committee of the Whole meeting prior.

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

Mayor Gitz requested items with guests and consultants (such as the bond ordinance and airport action item) to be moved forward on the agenda. Alderperson Koester moved for approval of the agenda as amended, seconded by Alderperson Klemm. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

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Alderperson Busker moved for approval of the September 8, 2015 minutes, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

The following public commenters were signed on the sheet and Mayor Gitz requested leave of council to hear from non-agenda items as well as agenda items. Leave of council was granted.

Steve Carroll, 811 Oak, Freeport, Illinois, stated his opinion on the appointment for Alex Mills and that he has confirmed he is not going to live in Freeport. He spoke about that making about as much sense as the bike shop not having a bike rack in front of it or the water fountain at Tutty's Crossing not having water. He stated that is so Freeport and that is so sad. It is another example of distant and clueless government.

Lynn Folgate, 3551 Stephenson Street, Freeport, Illinois, provided information on the Moose as a fraternal organization where family comes first. He provided information on their efforts as a 501 C-3 non-profit organization to support Mooseheart a home for youth explaining donations are tax deductible.

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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 ended August 31, 2015
 - 2) City Treasurer's Monthly Investment Report for period ended August 31, 2015
 - 3) [Finance Report for period ended August 31, 2015](#)
 - 4) Police Department Report on Activities for August 2015
- B. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (Registers #412, 414, 417) --- \$303,192.92
- C. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending August 22, 2015 --- \$401,993.94
- D. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #411,413,415,416,418) --- \$503,405.47

Aldersperson Koester 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

Mayor Gitz asked for leave of the council to go to item number nine which is the second reading of Ordinance #2015-46.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-46:

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2015B, PROVIDING THE DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS AND BONDS FOR A LEVY OF TAXES TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS, AND RELATED MATTERS

The first reading was held on September 8, 2015. A motion to approve was given by Aldersperson McClanathan, seconded by Aldersperson Koester. Upon request by council the ordinance was forwarded to the Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion. At the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 14, 2015, an amended version was recommended back to council in an amount of \$2.5 million on a motion by Aldersperson McClanathan, second by Aldersperson Chesney and approval by majority vote (5-2). A copy of the amended version was programmed to the website and provided in the council packet.

[Refer to amended version dated 09/21/2015](#)

An excerpt of Ordinance #2015-46 placed on the floor for council approval is as follows:

“WHEREAS, the City of Freeport, Stephenson County, Illinois (the “Issuer”), is a home rule unit pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 (Powers of Home Rule Units) of Article VII (Local Government) of the Constitution of the State of Illinois and accordingly may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs, including as supplemented and amended under and as provided by the Illinois Municipal Code (Section 5/1-1-1 et seq. of Chapter 65 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, as supplemented and amended, including by the Bond Authorization Act, the Registered Bond Act, the Bond Replacement Act, and the Local Government Debt Reform Act, collectively, the “Act”); and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the Issuer (the “Corporate Authorities”) hereby determines that it is essential that the Issuer undertake the acquisition, construction and installation of various capital related projects, and related facilities, improvements and costs (the “Project”), and

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“WHEREAS, the Corporate Authorities have heretofore and it hereby is determined that not to exceed \$2,600,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2015B (the “Bonds”), to finance the Project, and to pay related costs of issuance, and under and pursuant to this ordinance it is necessary and desirable that the Issuer issue the Bonds for such purpose.”

“WHEREAS, the Issuer proposes to enter into a Bond purchase arrangement (when fully executed or closed upon, as applicable, the “Bond Purchase Agreement”) with a financial institution, investment bank or other qualified purchaser (the “Purchaser”) concerning the sale and purchase of the Bonds, and the Bonds are to be as described and authorized in this ordinance and, as applicable, the Issuer’s term sheet, request for proposals, official statements, or other offering document (in preliminary form and as supplemented to be final, as applicable, if at all, the “Offering Document”) in connection with the offering of the Bonds for public or private sale, as supplemented by, as applicable, a Continuing Disclosure Certificate and Agreement (the “Disclosure Agreement”) related to the Bonds under Rule 15c2-12 (“Rule 15c2-12”) of the Securities Exchange Commission (“SEC”)

An excerpt of the ordinance referred from the Committee of the Whole meeting held on September 14, 2015 is as follows:

“**WHEREAS**, the City of Freeport, Stephenson County, Illinois (the “**Issuer**”), is a home rule unit pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 (Powers of Home Rule Units) of Article VII (Local Government) of the Constitution of the State of Illinois and accordingly may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs, including as supplemented and amended under and as provided by the Illinois Municipal Code (Section 5/1-1-1 *et seq.* of Chapter 65 of the Illinois Compiled Statutes, as supplemented and amended, including by the Bond Authorization Act, the Registered Bond Act, the Bond Replacement Act, and the Local Government Debt Reform Act, collectively, the “**Act**”); and

“**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the Issuer (the “**Corporate Authorities**”) hereby determines that it is essential that the Issuer undertake the acquisition, construction and installation of various capital related projects, and related facilities, improvements and costs (the “**Project**”), and

“**WHEREAS**, the Corporate Authorities have heretofore and it hereby is determined that not to exceed \$2,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2015B (the “**Bonds**”), to finance the Project, and to pay related costs of issuance, and under and pursuant to this ordinance it is necessary and desirable that the Issuer issue the Bonds for such purpose; and

“**WHEREAS**, the Issuer proposes to enter into a Bond purchase arrangement (when fully executed or closed upon, as applicable, the “**Bond Purchase Agreement**”) with a financial institution, investment bank or other qualified purchaser (the “**Purchaser**”) concerning the sale and purchase of the Bonds, and the Bonds are to be as described and authorized in this ordinance and, as applicable, the Issuer’s term sheet, request for proposals, official statements, or other offering document (in preliminary form and as supplemented to be final, as applicable, if at all, the “**Offering Document**”) in connection with the offering of the Bonds for public or private sale, as supplemented by, as applicable, a Continuing Disclosure Certificate and Agreement (the “**Disclosure Agreement**”) related to the Bonds under Rule 15c2-12 (“**Rule 15c2-12**”) of the Securities Exchange Commission (“**SEC**”)

Aldersperson McClanathan stated that he would like to make a formal motion to amend the ordinance amount to \$2.5 million after the discussion that was held at the Committee of the Whole and he so moves. Aldersperson Chesney seconded the motion. Mayor Gitz stated there is a motion and a second to adjust the amount downward to \$2.5 million.

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Mayor Gitz asked if there was discussion on the amendment.

Aldersperson Koester stated that he is opposed to changing the amount from \$2.6 to \$2.5 million because he wants to have the money available per the recommendations of the experts on how much is needed. He stated that we will be receiving a good, better and best proposal and we will need to have the funds available to make those decisions. He stated we are not leaving ourselves much lee-way to do a proper job on this. This does not give us a lot of flexibility. Now is the time to do it right and make it something that the City can be proud of and this amount could be backing ourselves into the corner. He would like to see the amount left at \$2.6 million or go up to \$2.7 million.

Aldersperson Brashaw asked for further information on the cost of issuing the bonds. She stated that according to previous presentations that cost would be between \$35,000 and \$40,000. Aldersperson McClanathan stated that he did take that amount into consideration that per the memorandum provided by Engineer Gallagher stated the cost of issuing the bonds is projected to range between \$35,000 and \$40,000. Aldersperson Chesney stated as it relates to the premium points, it is the same thing as a house mortgage in many respects so that you can get a lower interest rate you can get it with discount points or you can pay a slightly higher rate and pay less in closing costs and we can leave that up to the bond people to strike that balance. He stated that was taken into consideration and discussed at the last meeting.

Aldersperson Miller stated she recommends that we take off the cost of repairs for the old city hall building, not that she does not agree in repairing city hall, but she asked why we are putting money into a building if we do not have a buyer or someone interested in the building. She asked why we would throw \$150,000 to do something if we still do not have a buyer. She recommended that that bond amount be lowered to \$2.3 so we are using \$2.0 for Carnegie Library building and \$300,000 for the parking lot improvements and put aside the repairs on the old city hall building until a time that there is an interested party. Aldersperson Brashaw stated there is a difficulty in selling a building that has a leaking roof and water pouring through. She recommended doing the necessary repairs to make the building marketable and to be able to take the fence down. She asked Corporation Counsel Griffin what the next step to take the fence down. Corporation Counsel Griffin stated that the City is under an agreed order with the Illinois Department of Labor and that had to do with things falling off the building so the minimal repairs here are the ones that Engineer Gallagher took from Department of Labor and there are more repairs that are mandatory to get the fence down and to allow people in the building to look at it and that would be the \$75,000 dollars. Aldersperson Brashaw asked if there were repairs that need to be made to the façade. City Engineer Gallagher stated the fence issue outline was the area of the exterior façade and the structural inspection outlined the water issues with falling objects and the Department of Labor did require that the fence stay there until the time that anything that is loose is removed and possibly repair it and to keep the structure water tight. Aldersperson Brashaw recommended that money stay intake in the bond to make those necessary repairs.

Aldersperson Koester stated that when we discussed those bonds the intent was to properly moth ball the old city hall building for use as City Hall or for re-salability. He noted we need to take care of our building and taking out the money for the repairs on the bond is not an option. We have ordinances in the City for people who do not take care of their buildings. He spoke about making it structurally sound.

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Aldersperson Chesney spoke about Mill Race and government trying to be in the real estate business and have it become a detriment. We also have many people trying to anticipate the interest rates and we were wrong on that. He would like to see a package that where it is not front loaded but is loaded once we have someone that is interested. So for example if we put this up for sale, then we could put together an incentive package but the idea that we are going to put money into a building and hope they come that is the same thing that Mill Race did and they lost their tail. We had some people try to accelerate the process due to the interest rates and surprise the feds held the interest rates. Here is what we know we are several million dollars in deficit. We have some long term debt concerns. We have a shrinking population and a stagnant tax base. He agreed with what Aldersperson Miller is proposing if we have an interested party then we put together an incentive package. He spoke about what \$150,000 could buy such as a police officer or street lighting. He stated he thinks we instructed the administration to put together a package and put this building up for sale and if we need to offer \$75,000 or \$100,000 or discuss this further in executive session to come up with that plan. Aldersperson McClanathan asked Mr. Vezzetti if there is further information the council should know since the last meeting. Leave of council was granted to hear from John M. Vezzetti of Bernardi Securities, Inc. as the City's bond consultant. Mr. Vezzetti stated at this point what we need to know is how much you want to borrow. He stated the interest rates are going to be what they are when we go to market. At this time they are low and the feds did hold their stance to keep rates at virtually zero and although most of the smartest folks guessed wrong they are expecting them to move in October and that is a guess and he does not want any speculation based on that because it is still unknown at this time. Mr. Vezzetti stated what we need to know is how much and we will get it for you. Aldersperson McClanathan spoke about striking a balance and the amounts provided by Engineer Gallagher to try to mitigate some damage in a cost effective manner and he spoke in favor of leaving those dollars in that range that we talked about last week and that strike proper balance.

Council was provided a written memorandum from City Engineer Gallagher dated September 21, 2015 regarding the bond ordinance. City Engineer explained the proposed project breakdown for the bond ordinance is currently has follows:

- Carnegie Library: \$2,000,000
- Old City Hall Improvements: \$75,000
- Newell Parking Lot: \$275,000
 - Total: \$2,350,000

City Engineer Gallagher's memorandum continued by stating, "City Staff requests an additional \$250,000 contingency for alternative options to Carnegie Library and additional unknowns that may result during the abatement of falling hazards at Old City Hall. At this time, the design of the Newell parking lot will allow for reductions of the improvements should overages in bidding occur. The cost of issuing the bonds is projected to range between \$35,000 and \$40,000, which could reduce the funds available for improvements, should they not be absorbed by the investors. Requested funding \$2,600,000. Motion at the last Committee of the Whole at \$2,500,000."

Aldersperson McClanathan reviewed the above stated information and the numbers calculated at the last meeting. He spoke about the contingency amount, the amount received through rent of the parking lot, and the amount paid for rent for the City Hall offices. He asked for support of the \$2.5 million amount.

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Aldersperson Klemm spoke in support of using the \$2.5 million dollar bond amount and the amount of funds necessary to do the building and to have some contingency. He would not support a \$2.3 million amount. He stated that we do have some funds in reserve, if necessary.

Mayor Gitz stated that no one on the council should have the belief that we can fix up that building for \$75,000 because that cannot be done. The issue is are you going to put in enough money to stabilize the building and, that is an unknown, it could be more but that is a best guess. This dollar amount is to stabilize the building so that it does not deteriorate further. He stated nobody should be under the illusion that we can use bond money for incentive packages. You can use it for specific permanent improvements. He stated the other illusion is that we are running on a deficit. We balanced our budget last year. Having money in contingency is not the same as running a deficit. Do not think that we have reserves here that we can kind of fill in the edges if something is not quite on the money. He explained the State budget and their not paying lottery money or money to the City for video gaming, and in addition the public transportation program is costing the city \$100,000 per month. We are about to initiate cuts if we do not see some change in service. He recommended against spending our reserves. He stated he does not personally care if it is \$2.5 or \$2.6, but what we need to have the council tell us the number.

Aldersperson Chesney referred to the calculations Aldersperson McClanathan used at the last meeting if they contained \$150,000 in contingency or \$300,000 in contingency. Aldersperson McClanathan stated it depends on how you factor in certain items like the Newell parking lot and the rent factor so it is between \$150,000 and \$310,000.

Aldersperson Chesney made a motion to amend the amount from \$2.5 million to \$2.4 million. This motion was seconded by Aldersperson Miller.

Aldersperson Koester stated that we continue to bring this down and how are you going to get someone interested into the building if it is not stabilized. Aldersperson Miller stated that she is not against putting money into the city hall it is just that she feels that before money is spent to stabilize the building we should have someone interested in it. Aldersperson Chesney referred to the cash reserve amount and if the reserves are there this is a move to a reasonable number.

Mayor Gitz cautioned the council to make a new point because this is why we are having 4 and 5 hours meetings because people are making the same points multiple times.

Aldersperson Brashaw asked to call the question on the amended amount.

Mayor Gitz stated the motion is to reduce the amount of the bond from \$2.5 to \$2.4 million. The motion to amend the amended amount from \$2.5 million to \$2.4 million failed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Ross, Miller, and Chesney (3)

Nays: Klemm, McClanathan, Busker, Brashaw, and Koester (5)

Mayor Gitz stated the motion is the floor in its original amended amount of \$2.5 million.

Aldersperson Miller asked to call the question.

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Mayor Gitz stated the question on the floor is to reduce the original bonding amount from \$2.6 to \$2.5 million. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: Miller and Koester (2)

Mayor Gitz stated the ordinance is now on the floor in its amended amount of \$2,500,000 for the bonding and now we will take a vote for passage of the Ordinance #2015-46 as amended and before doing that he asked Mr. Vezzetti what the reasonable amount he thinks the expenses on the bonds will be.

Mr. Vezzetti stated that the estimate of \$40,000 is on the high side but yes that is reasonable. Their underwriting discount is set as .525% and there is a S&P rating cost, the bond attorney fees for drafting this ordinance and the other ancillary costs will equate to about 1% or 1.5% or about \$40,000.

Mayor Gitz asked what are the next steps and when will we go to market. Mr. Vezzetti stated, this morning, Director Haggard scheduled a conference call with Bernardi Securities and Standard and Poor's to reaffirm the credit rating for the City of Freeport that takes place next Tuesday. The turnaround time for them typically would be 5-7 business days so that would bring us into the first week of October of which we will have a final preliminary statement or prospectus that will go out to investors so in regard to the Series 2015 A Bonds, (the refunding bonds) the middle of October is our time frame for going to marketplace. He reminded council that based on the conversation two weeks ago we cannot go back to the market place for at least 15 days on the 2015 B Series that is on the agenda tonight. He explained that there will be mid-October to late October timing for sales with an early November to mid-November timing for closings. He explained for bond insurance we will receive a quote and if we feel that our investor base needs bond insurance to get you a better interest rate, we will then pay for the cost of the insurance if we so chose to do that and if the interest rate is not low enough to pay for the cost of the insurance then we will not do that. Alderperson Chesney asked what is paid to Bernardi for \$2.5 million in bonds. Mr. Vezzetti stated the total underwriting cost is .525%.

Alderperson Miller asked where we will get the money to pay back the bonds on a yearly basis and what the plan is. Finance Director Haggard explained that placed in the budget originally was an amount of \$155,000 as a debt payment. The projected payments will be \$180,000 to \$186,000 per year. Our rent will offset some of that by \$94,000 once the move is done. The general fund will have to pick up a majority with some offset by motor vehicle fund.

It was stated for the record this is for passage of the ordinance in the amount of \$2.5 million. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: Koester (1)

Ordinance #2015-46 as amended in an amount of \$2.5 million passed.

Mayor Gitz stated we will now move to item #20 and provided on the agenda was as follows:

PUBLIC WORKS - AIRPORT COMMISSION

Approval of Recommendation by the Airport Commission to Commence Negotiations for an Agreement for the Albertus Airport Maintenance Hangar Project

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Airport Commissioners Shelly Griswold and Jon Staben were present and called to the podium. Airport Commissioner, Shelly Griswold, presented that the Airport Commission, on behalf of the City of Freeport and in cooperation with the City's airport engineering consultant Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, recently solicited statements of qualifications (SOQs) for a firm to oversee the design and construction of a maintenance hangar at Albertus Airport. The new hangar will replace the maintenance hangar that was destroyed by strong winds in 2014 and demolished earlier this year. The maintenance hangar is listed as part of the premises the City agrees to lease to Freeport Flite Center as part of its Fixed Base Operator Lease. She explained as you know the funds for this project consist of insurance proceeds from the loss of the former maintenance hangar, which, as I understand may only be used to reconstruct the hangar, and for no other purposes. She explained on August 21, 2015, the City held a public opening of the SOQs received for this project. The City received SOQs from the following firms.

- Ghafari Associates, Chicago, Illinois
- Harbour Contractors, Inc., Plainfield, Illinois
- Scandroli Construction Co., Rockford, Illinois
- Winter Construction, Inc., Freeport, Illinois

Ms. Griswold stated on September 9, 2015, in accordance with the selection procedure outlined in the City's Request for Proposals (RFQ), the Mayor, the Airport Manager, the Director of Public Works, and the Airport Commission Chair and Vice-Chair met to evaluate the SOQs and make a recommendation to begin negotiations with the most qualified firm. The selection criteria were provided in the memorandum provided in the council packet as follows:

1. Experience/capability to perform services
2. Qualifications of key personnel
3. Workload/capacity to perform
4. Demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and complete projects within budget
5. Knowledge/familiarity with conditions and operations at FEP
6. Reference

Ms. Griswold explained that the budget for this project consists of the insurance proceeds for the damaged hangar.

The evaluation panel reached consensus that all four firms met the minimum requirements for the selection criteria. Following extensive discussion, the panel decided to recommend beginning negotiations with Winter Construction, Inc., with the following considerations contributing to that decision: 1) Winter Construction has successfully completed, to the satisfaction of the City, the Airport Commission, and the FBO, two hangar projects at FEP; 2) Winter Construction has greater knowledge of, and familiarity with, conditions and operations at FEP than the other three firms; 3) Winter Construction has strong relationships with local subcontractors which should be advantageous to the project; 4) Winter Construction's proposed project timetable was considerably more aggressive than those of the other firms.

Ms. Griswold explained that on September 15, 2015, the Airport Commission unanimously voted to ratify that recommendation. Based on that, she as Airport Commission Chair recommend to enter into negotiations with Winter Construction for this project. If a contract satisfactory and advantageous to the City and FEP can be negotiated at a price considered fair and reasonable, the Airport Commission – in accordance with the RFQ – will make a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council to award to

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Winter an agreement for the project. Otherwise, negotiations will be formally terminated and the City will commence negotiations with the respondent ranked second.

Alderson Brashaw asked about the qualification of staying within the budget. Ms. Griswold explained that based on the RFQ the firm understands the budget within the parameters of the insurance proceed. Alderson Chesney asked about the timing of this project based on the date the damage was done on the hangar. Mr. Staben explained that the hangar was damaged by the micro winds, the Airport Commission evaluated it, they had some paperwork problems getting things rolling and the next issue was getting the damaged hangar removed. He explained that took some time because they put it out for bids to be removed at the value of the materials. The City of Freeport paid nothing to have it removed and the site cleared. He explained once the pad was cleared, then they went out for RFQ on the hangar. Mr. Staben stated the Airport Commission proceeded effectively as they could in a manner to save the City money. Alderson Chesney asked if this is an effective way to proceed. Mr. Staben explained the design build is supported by the Airport Commission as an effective method of construction.

Alderson Klemm made a motion to move forward with Winter Construction according to the parameters set forth in the request for proposal by the Airport Commission. This motion was seconded by Alderson Busker. 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

Provided in the council packet was a memorandum written by City Treasurer Linda Buss regarding cash reserves/fund balance dated September 17, 2015. It explained the cash reserves are the amount of money we have available to pay bills today. If you look at the results for August 31, you will see that available cash was \$3,511,880.55. One could argue that the payroll set aside amount could be added to that \$237,742.50 which would theoretically bring the total to \$3,749,623. However, City Treasurer Buss stated she strongly urges council not to use that money as it was earmarked to pay off the payroll loan (which should be done to save the city from paying unnecessary interest. Keep in mind that the August 31st report is a snapshot on the close of that day. Our cash flow fluctuates on a daily basis. If you look at what cash is on hand as of today, our available drops to \$3,125,089. Treasurer Buss was called to the podium to explain the memorandum. She explained that the City of Freeport is required to keep \$1.1 million in restricted funds to cover the Water and Sewer bonds and you can't touch that money. She explained that although you have a fund balance of \$4.5 million, it just dropped by \$1.1 million and it is not available to us to pay our bills with. She noted the State of Illinois is holding our money. The Motor Fuel Tax funds are being held so the corporate reserves may have to cover those projects over time until a time that the funds from the State that is owed starts coming in.

Alderson Chesney asked about a loan and whether City Treasurer Buss recommends it being paid off. She stated that is something we can consider but now that the State is holding our money, maybe we should not. She explained that we borrowed money about 4-5 years ago to meet payroll because there were zero dollars in reserve. We currently have those funds saved and in reserve in a separate fund. Alderson Chesney asked if this would be to the best interest of the City to pay that off. City Treasurer Buss stated that it is not in the appropriation ordinance to pay it off and it would need an amendment. She explained they calculated the savings and Director Haggard stated at the time the savings would have

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been \$35,000 but it has gone down quite a bit since then. Alderperson Chesney asked Director Haggard if she recommends this loan to be paid off. Director Haggard stated that she agrees with Treasurer Buss that currently we have to be concerned with our cash reserves and if it is the will of the council to take a risk to pay the loan in order to save the interest and then if we need the cash go out and borrow. Alderperson Chesney asked if there is a local line of credit for the City to tap into. Treasurer Buss explained that when the former Finance Director went out to the market and to the local banks to borrow that money to make that payroll, we needed \$450,000, it took us nine banks until we found a bank to loan us money because at the time that was when the state was holding all our money. Director Haggard stated she is getting ready to do cash analysis which is a projection out to predict where we will be in the next five to six months, but it takes time to put it together. In that process she can recommend whether to pay this loan off and before that she recommended holding off on that. She stated she should have the projection ready by October 5, 2015. Alderperson McClanathan asked that once the State resumes their payment would this be eligible to be paid off. Treasurer Buss stated she would recommend it at that time. Mayor Gitz provided information on state cash flow and recommended assembling the pieces as to the cross current on our reserves.

Alderperson Busker made a motion to place the memorandum on file, seconded by Alderperson Miller. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (CLOSED SESSION) PURSUANT TO 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1)

Read into the record was the following exception pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1) for the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body.

At 7:12 p.m., Alderperson Brashaw made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Alderperson Koester. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

The council members moved to the third floor conference room.

At 7:40 p.m., Alderperson Brashaw made a motion to return from executive session, seconded by Alderperson Koester. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Absent: Ross (1)

APPOINTMENT

The following was read into the record by City Clerk Zuravel: Effective immediately, Mayor James L. Gitz hereby appoints Alexander S. Mills as Community Development Director for the City of Freeport, Illinois, dated this 14th day of September, 2015. Mayor Gitz asked to note into the record the starting salary this appointment will be \$58,000 annually.

Alderperson Koester moved for approval of the appointment, seconded by Alderperson Brashaw. The council waited for the return of Alderperson Ross and, in the meantime, Alderperson Miller asked if the council could have discussion while waiting for Alderperson Ross to return.

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Aldersperson Miller stated she asked this nominee the same question that she asked the other nominee and that is whether he has intent to move into Freeport. She stated their answers were the same, while she respects the fact that he does reside in the County, over 90% of the people that have given her their feedback remain the same that the Community Developer is a different person compared to the other directors. She stated that over 90% of the people talking to her about it feel that the Community Developer should be drinking the same water that we do. She stated that while she sees the candidate as energetic, smart, and really wants to be on board because of this constituent feedback she can't support this appointment tonight.

During Aldersperson Miller's statement, Aldersperson Ross entered council chambers bringing the number of members present to eight.

Aldersperson Chesney stated he asked the same questions to the previous candidate as well as to Mr. Mills and the question was, "What is your view on taxes and regulation as it relates to the City of Freeport?" Aldersperson Chesney stated that both candidates did not give him a very good answer. He believes the Community Development Director not only suggests but has to implement policy that is set by the council and the Community Development Director has to have the ability to empathize as well as sympathize with their citizens relating to taxes and regulations. He stated Mr. Mills is a nice person, as was Mr. Dowd. However, when it comes to taxes and regulations, he thinks they both fell short and there is also an element related to residency that we have gotten away from. It is very hard to quantify the value of living in Freeport and he believes it is something we have gotten away from and although there are a number of directors that lead this City that do a wonderful job, we have taken our emphasis off of residency and it needs to be restored.

Aldersperson Koester stated it will be nice to have someone living in Freeport and with the qualifications that we need, that will be difficult so he did not have a problem with the last candidate or this candidate living outside of Freeport, so long as they are dedicated. He spoke about the time period we have been without a Community Development Director and we desperately need one. He will be on a pre-arranged probation period to be reevaluated at that time. He stated as far as the opinion on taxes, they really cannot do anything about it, the power of raising and lowering taxes rests on the council. He was impressed with answers given by Mr. Mills and his attitude and understands there will be an adjustment period.

Upon no further discussion, the motion to approve the appointment prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, McClanathan, Busker, Brashaw, and Koester (5)

Nays: Ross, Miller, and Chesney (3)

Motion prevailed by a vote of 5-3.

ORDINANCES

3rd 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

The first reading was held on August 17, 2015. A motion to approve was given by Aldersperson Klemm, seconded by Aldersperson Koester. The second reading was held on September 8, 2015 and, upon a

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motion with a second by Alderperson Klemm and Chesney, the ordinance was laid over to tonight's meeting. [Refer to amended version dated 09/14/2015](#)

City Clerk Zuravel noted there was an amended version contained in the packet and it showed the following:

Section 1. That Chapter 1060 entitled "GARBAGE AND RUBBISH COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL", Section 1060.07 (DUMPSTERS AND TRASH CONTAINERS IN PUBLIC WAYS) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"1060.07 DUMPSTERS, ~~AND~~ TRASH CONTAINERS, TRAILERS, CONSTRUCTION TRAILERS, OR EQUIPMENT USED FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN PUBLIC WAYS, INCLUDING TRAILERS/WAGONS.

(a) No person, firm or corporation shall place any dumpster, ~~or~~ trash container, **trailer, construction trailer or equipment used for construction projects in supplying equipment to a site or removing debris from a site,** in a public street or public way **for a period of fifteen days or more,** without first obtaining a written permit therefor from the Community Development Director. Each permit shall cover a single dumpster, ~~or~~ trash container, **trailer, or equipment,** shall be for a period of time not to exceed five days, shall fix the site or location of the dumpster, ~~or~~ trash container, **trailer, or equipment,** which site or location shall be determined by the Community Development Director, shall limit the use of the dumpster or trash container to the temporary storage of trash or refuse which is disposable at the City landfill and may contain such other regulations as the Community Development Director may prescribe regarding the size of the dumpster, ~~or~~ container, **trailer, or equipment,** dimensions, weight limit, covering or camouflage for the dumpster or trash container and coloring or markings on the exterior of the dumpster or trash container. **No permit shall be required for the first fourteen days of such placement. Each permittee shall, as a condition of the issuance of such permit, agree to indemnify the City from damage to third parties, and shall agree to be liable to the City for any damage to City property, including, but not limited to pavement, sidewalks, curbs, or trees. Obtaining a City permit for any of the above does not absolve the permittee from IDOT or USDOT regulations, if parked on routes under their jurisdiction.** Each permit shall be for a period of five days and the fee for the permit shall be seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) per five day increment.

(b) **Any dumpster, trailer, construction trailer or equipment used for construction projects in supplying equipment to a site or removing debris from a site storage container, such as trailers, dumpsters, wagons, or other container as described in section (a) above, which is placed on any street in the City of Freeport shall have on it reflective markings. These markings will be placed on all corner edges for the full height of the unit. Reflective markings shall consist of red and white all-weather reflective tape and be a minimum of two inches (2") wide. Edges shall mean sides and rear, if attached to a vehicle (4 locations), and sides, rear, and front, if stand-alone (8 locations), so it is visible from any side or end. No such dumpster, container, trailer, or equipment shall be located within ten feet (10') of a fire hydrant; nor shall it block access to the site at which it is located, any visible**

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shut-offs in the street, or any vehicular traffic. The actual markings may be waived at the discretion of the Community Development Director, if in his/her sole discretion the reflective markings are adequate to protect the public safety. These markings will be placed on the rear and the traffic (road) side of the vehicle. They may be done with a reflective triangle sign or reflective tape and meet or exceed ANSI/ANSAE S276.7 and S279.15. For larger containers reflective tape is also recommended with the equilateral triangle utilizing tape size 2" x 9", "L" shaped in each corner.

The remainder of the ordinance was the same as the other ordinance and noted at the bottom; "approved as to form: Sarah M. Griffin, Corporation Counsel".

Aldersperson Chesney moved for approval of the amended version, seconded by Aldersperson Klemm.

Aldersperson Klemm stated that this includes dumpster and also construction vehicles or any type of container or equipment used for construction projects and the goal is that they are safely monitored. The Community Development Director has the right to approve and it has to have reflective tape on it. The other thing is that dumpster can sit on that property for fourteen days before they have to get a permit. He explained the permitting after the fifteenth day and the cost for permitting shall be \$7.50 per five day increment. They want them to be marked so that they are safely placed on the roadway. He explained the permitting and markings. Aldersperson McClanathan asked about the fourteen days and whether that is too long. Aldersperson Klemm stated that the fourteen days could be discussed. Aldersperson Chesney stated fourteen days allows for two weekends for a person to get work done if they are doing the work. Discussion was held on the number of days and the reflective markings.

The motion to place the amended version on the floor prevailed by voice vote without dissent

Mayor Gitz stated the amended version of Ordinance #2015-43 is on the floor for approval. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Ordinance #2015-43 was passed.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-46:

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2015B, PROVIDING THE DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS AND BONDS FOR A LEVY OF TAXES TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS, AND RELATED MATTERS

This ordinance was moved forward on council agenda (see pages 2 – 7).

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-47:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1630 ENTITLED "MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS", SECTION 1630.04 (BURNING) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT TO ALLOW CONTROLLED BURNS ON PROPERTY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE PARK DISTRICT

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The first reading was held on September 8, 2015. A motion to approve was given by Alderperson Koester, seconded by Alderperson Klemm and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon no discussion, the motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Ordinance #2015-47 was passed.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-48:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 480.11 (PROHIBITED PARKING STREETS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT (AMERICAN STREET)

The first reading was held on September 8, 2015. A motion to approve was given by Alderperson Busker, seconded by Alderperson Chesney and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Alderperson Brashaw asked how soon the signage would be put up. Public Works Director Dole stated that he can place the signs this week but the ordinance does not take effect for 10 days. Corporation Counsel Griffin explained that the signage can be placed but citations cannot be issued for ten days from the date of the ordinance passage. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Ordinance #2015-48 was passed.

2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2015-50:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 608 – ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR, SECTION 608.06 “PERMITTED HOURS OF SALES” OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

The first reading was held on September 14, 2015. A motion to approve was given by Alderperson Koester, seconded by Alderperson Miller and the ordinance was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

The ordinance as written contained the following: “**Section 1.** Chapter 608 entitled “Alcoholic Liquors”, Subsection 608.06 “PERMITTED HOURS OF SALES”, shall be amended as follows:
“608.06 PERMITTED HOURS OF SALES.

(a) For holders of Class B-1 and B-2 liquor licenses, liquor sales are permitted during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. of the following days, Monday through Saturday, inclusive; and between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, unless excepted under subsection (b) below.

~~—For holders of Class A liquor licenses, liquor sales are permitted during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. of the following days, Monday through Saturday, inclusive; packaged goods sales only are permitted during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Sunday, with no consumption allowed on the premises during those hours; and all liquor sales are permitted during the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, unless excepted under subsection (b) below.~~

~~—For holders of Class A-R and P liquor licenses, liquor sales are permitted during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. of the following days, Monday through Saturday, inclusive; and between 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on Sunday, unless excepted under subsection (b) below.~~

~~—For holders of all other liquor licenses, liquor sales are permitted during the following hours: 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. of the following day, Monday through Saturday, inclusive; and between 12:00 noon and 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, unless excepted under subsection (b) below.~~

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For holders of all other classes of liquor licenses, liquor sales are permitted during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. on Sunday through Thursday, inclusive; and between 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, inclusive, unless excepted under subsection (b) below.

(b) Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this section,

(1) All license holders may be open for the retail sale of alcoholic liquors until 2:00 a.m., when falling on a Sunday through Thursday in any given year: January 1, of each calendar year and 11:30 p.m. on Superbowl Sunday, of each year and 11:30 p.m. on the following days when falling on a Sunday in any given year: Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

(2) ~~Any license holder can apply for a special hours permit to be issued by the Liquor Commission for special events on Sundays which promote tourism or stimulate the local or regional economy.~~

(c) All times specified herein shall be determined in accordance with the prevailing time under laws of the State.

(d) Except as provided in paragraphs (d)(1) and (2) hereof, no licensee shall permit or allow any person, except those authorized, to be on or within the licensed premises at any time during the prohibited hours. As used in this section, "authorized persons" means the licensee, his or her spouse, his or her employees or any independent contractors summoned to the premises by any of the above for purposes of rendering construction or repair services to the licensed premises or to any equipment utilized for the operation of such licensed premises.

(1) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to holders of Class B- 1 and B-2 Licenses.

(2) Holders of Class A, A-R, P, C, R, and W Licenses shall not permit any person, except authorized persons, to remain on or within the licensed premises before one-half hour prior to permitted hours of sales or after one-half hour after permitted hours of sales.”

Aldersperson Koester asked about the gaming machines and asked about whether they will be extended in bars until 2:00 am if they are allowed to stay open. Corporation Counsel Griffin stated that the State of Illinois ask the municipality what their hours are and they regulate the time of those machines and whether that would change under the state statue she believes it would be consistent with their hours of operation but that is not something we regulate. Aldersperson Klemm stated that would be a state item and some of the license holders mentioned that at the meeting of the Liquor Commission.

The motion to approve the ordinance prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Ross, Miller, Busker, Brashaw, Koester, and Chesney (7)
Nays: McClanathan (1)
Ordinance #2015-50 was passed by a vote of 7-1.

ORDINANCES -- FIRST READING

1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-51:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 480.11 (PROHIBITED PARKING STREETS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT (SOUTH STATE AND WEST ELM STREET)

Director Dole provided a memorandum in the council packet which stated; “Per a request from the Freeport Police Department, on council agenda is an ordinance to amend parking on State Street and Elm. The following has been added to section 480.11, Prohibited Parking Streets:

- Elm (West), south side, from N. Waddell Ave 250 feet east to N. Hunt Ave
- State (South), west side, from S. Galena Ave, 550 feet north

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These changes are necessary due to the width of the road for safe passage of emergency vehicles and plow trucks” Director Dole stated since the time that the street was changed from a one way to a two-way on State, it has been difficult to maneuver vehicles through there when there are vehicles parked on both sides. He stated trees have been taken out, they fixed the sidewalks and improved the lighting and now this is the final step to improve the area. He stated the same thing with the Elm Street where it is located by the Freeport Housing buildings where there is parking on both sides now and on the north side between the block of Hunt and Waddell and there are always cars parked and it is virtually impossible to get a school bus through there. The request is to eliminate parking on those streets. Alderperson Chesney asked if Director Dole is asking to speed this up due to the limited access of emergency vehicles and school busses. Director Dole stated yes this would be good idea.

Alderperson Busker moved to place the ordinance on the floor for approval seconded by Alderperson Klemm.

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

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

Nays: Koester (1)

The motion for passage of Ordinance #2015-51 prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Ordinance #2015-51 was passed.

1ST READING OF ORDINANCE #2015-52:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 290 (COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS) SECTION 290.01 (CLASSIFICATION PLAN) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT REGARDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Mayor Gitz stated members of the council are familiar with this ordinance by memorandum and discussion. The ordinance amends Chapter 290, Compensation and Benefits, under Section 290.01, Classification Plan to move the positions not covered by the wage provisions of this chapter to not apply to elected officials and members of boards and commissions nor to:

- (1) The Corporation Counsel;
- (2) Employees of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners; or
- (3) Employees of the Library;
- (4) The Finance Director;
- (5) City Accountant;
- (6) Community Development Director”.

Alderperson Koester stated as we move employees from the longevity pay raise to the merit pay system, he would like to have a plan in writing how we are going to handle this so that all the employees who are on the merit pay raise system are handled fairly, evenly, and equally so that this program works and without the possibility of favoritism as we possibly can and he so moves to approve the ordinance. This motion was seconded by Alderperson Klemm. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #R-2015-56:

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SUSTAINED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM (STEP)

Chief of Police Todd Barkalow explained the resolution by stating the City of Freeport has been awarded by Illinois Department of Transportation a grant which was applied by the Freeport Police Department. This grant titled "Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program" (STEP) is for fiscal year 2016 and begins on October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. This grant will reimburse the Freeport Police Department's overtime payroll \$9,942 for special enforcement details. Chief Barkalow stated the only out of pocket expense for the City to participate in this grant would be for fuel for the city squads and the City's shared increased payroll taxes. Chief Barkalow provided statistics from last year's STEP program resulting in thirteen DUI arrests, thirty-eight seat belt citations, four car seat violations, eight felony arrests, one stolen vehicle recovery, seven fugitives apprehended, fourteen suspended/revoked drivers licenses and twenty-one uninsured motorists ticketed. There were also seven drug arrests and forty-two other traffic violations.

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

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

Nays: none

Resolution #R-2015-56 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2015-57:

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS

Chief Miller presented the resolution by stating the Freeport Fire Department has been awarded a 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA. The primary goal of the AFG is to help meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. After three years of applying for this grant, the Fire Department was awarded a sum of \$160,796. Program rules require a 10% match for all award recipients with a population between 20,000 and one million. The City's required match is \$16,079 for a total expenditure of \$176,875. Chief Miller explained this grant is to replace outdated, self-contained breathing apparatus that are fourteen years old. He noted the current equipment does not meet NIOSH safety standards. The terms of the grant will provide for each seated position within our apparatus to have a new SCBA and spare air cylinder. Each member will be assigned their own face mask. He stated it is anticipated this equipment will be purchased by the end of the calendar year. Discussion was held on the type of gear, the manufacturer and the PSI and timing of the air capacity.

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

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

Nays: none

Resolution #R-2015-57 was adopted.

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RESOLUTION #R-2015-58:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING JOINT APPLICATION TO THE ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S BLIGHT REDUCTION PROGRAM BY NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY AND THE CITY OF FREEPORT

Community Development Grant Writer Nick Jupin provided a presentation on this resolution at the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 14, 2015 and he stated this is the resolution to authorize submittal of the grant with Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency and the City for a Blight Reduction Program Grant through the Illinois Housing Development Authority. He explained this is for round two funding and the goal is to decrease preventable foreclosures, stabilize neighborhoods, support partnerships between Illinois units of local government and their not-for-profit partners. This provides funding to target blighted, vacant residential properties in specific communities. This application is for funding in the amount of \$350,000. The minimum award is \$200,000 and the maximum is \$525,000. He explained that this grant requires an agreement with NICA and that agreement is provided in the next resolution. Alderperson Klemm moved for approval of the resolution, 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

Resolution #R-2015-58 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2015-59:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AGREEMENT WITH NORTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

Community Development Grant Writer Nick Jupin provided a memorandum that explained the aforementioned resolution requires an agreement with a not-for-profit and the City will team up with NICA for this grant. Participants from the City and NICA have met to formulate an overall plan of responsibilities, target neighborhoods, potential partners, plans for a work crew comprised of ex-offenders that include a certification process and the long term responsible re-use of the target properties. Alderperson Klemm moved for approval of the resolution, seconded by Alderperson Busker. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Resolution #R-2015-59 was adopted.

RESOLUTION #R-2015-60:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NORTHWEST ILLINOIS TRAILS FOUNDATION IN FORMING A COALITION TO ASSIST WITH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF TRAIL-RELATED OUTDOOR RECREATION

This resolution was recommended to council by the Committee of the Whole on a motion by Alderperson Chesney, second by Alderperson Miller and approval by majority vote. Alderperson Miller moved for approval of the resolution as presented, seconded by Alderperson Chesney. The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

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

Nays: none

Resolution #R-2015-60 was adopted.

OTHER

Finance Department

Finance Director Haggard stated she will be working on the cash analysis for October 5th. She is also working on a supplemental ordinance for the appropriation ordinance as amended by the AFSCME contract. Alderperson Chesney commended Director Haggard on the work she had done answering questions for the council.

Public Works

Airport Commission -- Approval of Recommendation by the Airport Commission to Commence Negotiations for an Agreement for the Albertus Airport Maintenance Hangar Project -- this item was moved forward on council agenda – see page 8 and 9 of the minutes

Public Works Director Tom Dole stated he had no further report.

Alderperson Koester asked if there was anything the crews could do to trim back trees on Lincoln and Park because the fire engines have been hitting them as they turn left toward the station. Alderperson Klemm asked for a review of parking at the Freeport High School on Empire in front of the tennis courts all the way to Locust.

Fire

Fire Chief Miller provided information on the Citizens Fire Citizens Fire Academy. The Academy is a seven week program that offers residents the opportunity to learn and participate in activities and services provided by the City of Freeport Fire Department. The participants will develop an awareness of the services and see up close the organizational structure, operations, mission of the department and meet members of their fire department. The Fire Academy will be held October 6 – November 17 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Central Fire Station. Further information is available on the City website and applications are due by September 12th.

Police

Chief Barkalow provided information on the FBI search of the Pecatonica River. He thanked the resources of the Fire Department and the Public Works Department for all their assistance. He attended a recent graduation from the police academy and will be sending four newly sworn in officers to class in the next session. Discussion was held on shots fired statistics and the number of officers on staff.

City Engineer

City Engineer Gallagher provided information on street lighting and the Water and Sewer projects upcoming. He stated he has been working with ComEd for improved lighting and they will implement 25 new street lights, three new lights at the Jane Addams Trail, three lights on Avon and three lights on West Homer Street. He provided an update on the micro-surface project that is nearing completion. He explained how the program works that it is not intended as a complete replacement but to prolong the life of a road. It will have somewhat of a rougher surface and it will not give the product of milling but he noted it is one-tenth the cost of mill and overlay. They spent \$140,000 and were able to close to twenty city blocks of micro-surface.

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City Engineer Gallagher stated the money has not been released by the State of Illinois for the boat launch but he has been in contact with the bidder and they have agreed to hold their bid until the City can move forward with the frozen funds. The State did pay for the street light at Tutty's Crossing that was recently installed. Alderperson Koester stated the roadwork done on Avon, Beaver and Locust looks nice and was done in a timely manner.

City Engineer Gallagher provided information on the Water and Sewer Project to improve the water mains. Now that the loan paperwork is in order they can move forward with the project for an October 1, 2015 start date. He will notify the property owners on Harlem Avenue of the proposed start date. He will also notice property owners along Burchard, Stephenson, Lincoln and Monroe of the upcoming project.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Gitz provided an update to the council on the State funding deadlock and the Motor Fuel Tax dollars and whether the City will have enough in its fund balance to pay for projects that have been bid and accepted. He stated he appreciated the support of the bond funding to move forward with the building project to house City Hall offices. He will keep the council informed as to the design build. He would like to move forward to get the fence down by starting the stabilization of the old city hall building. Mayor Gitz complimented the work performed by Nick Jupin for the Blight Reduction Grant application for the round two funding.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Alderperson Miller provided information on the reasoning for review of the compensation and benefits of employees that are considered non-bargaining. She recommended that council members be placed on the union negotiations team.

Alderperson Busker requested a meeting to discuss overall vision for Freeport and perhaps the council can have another retreat. Mayor Gitz that can be considered and he will provide materials on vision planning.

Alderperson Brashaw provided information on the Ward 1 & 6 neighborhood meeting on September 22.

Alderperson Koester asked for a review of building codes, building permit fees and a resurrection of the building commission.

Alderperson Chesney asked why the council members were not invited to be in the Freeport homecoming parade. Mayor Gitz stated the Aquin homecoming parade is next week and the council members are welcome to join in the parade. Alderperson Chesney provided information on the liquor hour amendments in the ordinance approved tonight which was done to closely mirror hours in Stephenson County. This was done after hearing input from the license holders and moved forward in a timely manner.

Alderperson Klemm spoke about the improvements to the shell of the Jackowski building.

Alderperson McClanathan noted the council did not eliminate building permits but increased the threshold. He stated that with the bond amount approved that it did leave money for stabilizing the old city hall building.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments at this time.

Community Development Grant Writer Nick Jupin stated there will be a Community Vision Planning Meeting on September 28, 2015 and encouraged attendance.

City Clerk Zuravel thanked the volunteers and Freeport Downtown Development Foundation who put on the Pretzel City Brewfest over the weekend. It was a well-organized event and a wonderful promotion for the downtown and Freeport.

Alderperson Koester provided information on a mail run pilot event at the Albertus Airport.

Alex Mills thanked the council for their support and will hit the ground running and will hopefully bring ideas to help Freeport move forward.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel

Meg Zuravel
City Clerk