

MINUTES
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #18-2005
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
October 4, 2005 – 7 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON'S CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT ABSENT EXCUSED

Thomas Rumpf, P.O. Box. 819, S. Freeport	x	
John Arsenault, Prout Road		x
Charlotte Bishop, Maquoit Drive	x	
Rich DeGrandpre, Timber Ridge Road	x	
Frederick White, 45 Pleasant Hill Road		x
James Cassida, 5 Timber Ridge Road	x	
Genie Beaulieu, P.O. Box 74	x	

Chair Rumpf called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and noted that Councilors Arsenault and White are excused this evening.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: To waive the reading of the Minutes of Meeting #17-2005 held on September 20, 2005 and accept the Minutes as printed.

Chair Rumpf referred to the last page under "Informational Exchange" that the last sentence referred to the projected tax rate. He thought something might be missing but recalled that the Council projected a 22 cent reduction but it ended up being 20 cents which was not as much as what was projected because the increase in valuations came in lower than what was anticipated.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To waive the reading of the Minutes of Meeting #17-2005 held on September 20, 2005 and accept the Minutes as amended. (Cassida & Bishop) **VOTE:** (4 Ayes) (1 Abstention—Rumpf) (2 Excused—Arsenault & White).

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: Announcements

Chair Rumpf reminded residents that tax bills will be mailed out this week.

Chair Rumpf reminded residents that the 2005 Property Tax and Rent Refund Program applications are now available at the Town Hall. This tax-reduction program for qualifying families has been expanded and families not eligible in the past may be eligible this year. In addition the refund limit has been increased from a maximum of \$1,000 to a maximum of up to \$2,000. Anyone interested can call the Town Hall and ask for specifics or stop by and pick up an application. Johanna Hanselman is the lead person at the Town Hall if anyone has any General Assistance needs.

Anyone interested in serving on a Town Board or Committee can obtain an application from the Town's website or from the Town Hall. Forms will also be included with the tax bills this year.

Councilor Beaulieu noted that from Maine Coast to the Gulf Coast, Cajun Connection Hurricane Relief Festival will be held at the Cumberland County Civic Center on October 15 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be live music, skating, face painting, Jail and Bail, a silent auction, etc. All

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money will be given to hurricane relief. The admission for 12 and up is \$10. Kids 4-11—\$5 and under 3—free.

Councilor DeGrandpre noted for anybody not sure whether they have claimed a Homestead Exemption, that it is too late to claim it for this tax cycle but by April 1, 2006 residents need to come in and sign up for the Homestead Exemption. They should contact Johanna Hanselman for information.

Councilor Bishop reminded Town Board and Committee members about the Volunteer Picnic at Harb Cottage on October 16. She asked them to please RSVP this week so that the food can be ordered. There will be prizes and she hopes to see everyone there.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Public Comment Period – 30 Minutes (Non-Agenda Items Only)

Mary Ellen Carew called everyone's attention to the passing of Barbara Jacks on September 15. She noted the many contributions Mrs. Jacks made to Freeport.

Chair Rumpf took a brief recess for a ceremony with the Freeport Rotary Club regarding the adoption of the Town of Santa Barbara, Honduras as a sister city to Freeport. Pictures were taken

Chair Rumpf reconvened the meeting.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: To take action on the following items of business as read by the Council Chairperson.

ITEM #129-05 To consider action relative to adopting the October 4, 2005
Consent Agenda.

BE IT ORDERED: That the October 4, 2005 Consent Agenda be adopted. (DeGrandpre & Cassida)

Chair Rumpf reviewed the items for members of the public.

Councilor Bishop questioned the expiration dates shown for some Board members. Mr. Olmstead offered to check on the dates and straighten them out.

Councilor Beaulieu advised that she would be late for next week's meeting since she has another meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (5 Ayes) (2 Excused—Arsenault & White)

ITEM #130-05 To consider action relative to proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance concerning space standards in the Commercial District IV Zone (Chapter 21).

BE IT ORDERED: That a Public Hearing be scheduled for October 11, 2005 at 7 pm in the Town Hall Council Chambers to discuss proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance concerning space standards in the C-IV Zone.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That copies be distributed equally between the Town Clerk's Office, the Town Manager's Office and the Freeport Community Library for inspection by citizens during normal business hours and the notice be placed on Freeport's local cable channel 7 and the Town's website. (Beaulieu & DeGrandpre)

Mr. Olmstead explained that a few weeks ago the Council sent a request to the Planning Board to review the space standards and minimum lot size in the C-IV Zone. They have done that and are coming back with their recommendation that the minimum lot size in the C-IV Zone be reduced from 40,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (5 Ayes) (2 Excused—Arsenault & White)

ITEM #131-05

To consider action relative to proposed amendments to the General Assistance Ordinance concerning Appendixes Updates (Maximum Levels of Assistance) and other minor Ordinance revisions. (Chapter 46)

BE IT ORDERED: That a Public Hearing be scheduled for October 11, 2005 at 7 pm in the Town Hall Council Chambers to discuss revisions to the General Assistance Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That copies be distributed equally between the Town Clerk's Office, the Town Manager's Office and the Freeport Community Library for inspection by citizens during normal business hours and the notice be placed on Freeport's local cable channel 7 and the Town's website. (Bishop & Beaulieu)

Mr. Olmstead advised that Johanna Hanselman will be in attendance at the next meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (5 Ayes) (2 Excused—Arsenault & White)

ITEM #132-05

To consider action relative to expenditure from the FY06 Miscellaneous and Contingency Account to provide for the High School boiler repairs.

BE IT ORDERED: That \$4,160 be expended from the Miscellaneous and Contingency Account to provide for the High School boiler repairs. (Cassida & Bishop)

Councilor DeGrandpre explained that this is the oldest boiler at the school and it needs repairs to keep it going. The repairs are less costly than replacing the boiler.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (5 Ayes) (2 Excused—Arsenault & White)

ITEM #133-05

To consider action relative to releasing a certain way listed on Attachment A1 of the Notice to Extend Deadline of Automatic Vacation of "Paper Streets" as recorded in the Cumberland County Registry of Deeds at Book 13338, Page 83 pursuant to 23 MRSA §3032, of such notice.

BE IT ORDERED: That pursuant to 23 MRSA §3032 the municipal officers of the Town of Freeport hereby vote to release an area listed on Attachment A-1 of the Notice to Extend Deadline of Automatic Vacation of "Paper Streets" as recorded in the Cumberland County Registry of Deeds at Book 13338, Page 83, specifically the area off Bow Street known as "Morning Street" abutted by the property of the Town of Freeport, Leland and Marion Arris, and Michael Boucher and Elizabeth Patten. (DeGrandpre & Beaulieu).

Mr. Olmstead explained the background for this action. The abutters have all agreed. The Town has no interest in maintaining this paper street. Elaine Tomaszewski advised that the School Department has no opposition to this.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (5 Ayes) (2 Excused—Arsenault & White)

ITEM #134-05

To consider action relative to a proposed ordinance for an expenditure of \$800,000 from the public infrastructure reserve fund for the Community Center Building Project.

BE IT ORDERED: That a public hearing be scheduled for October 11, 2005 at 7 PM in Town Hall Council Chambers to discuss a proposed ordinance for an expenditure of \$800,000 from the public infrastructure reserve fund for the Community Center Building Project.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That copies be distributed equally between the Town Clerk's Office, the Town Manager's Office and the Freeport Community Library for inspection by citizens during normal business hours and the notice be placed on

Freeport's local cable channel 7, the Town's website and that a notice be placed and the ordinance published in a newspaper of general circulation. (Beaulieu & Bishop)

Mr. Olmstead advised that Councilor Beaulieu requested a legal opinion on this issue and it has not yet been received. He plans to mail it to Councilors prior to the meeting on the 11th. Attorney Hole will be in attendance. Councilor Beaulieu noted that she would be arriving late for this meeting and hopes this public hearing can be the last public hearing because she really wants to be here when it is addressed.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To amend the **BE IT ORDERED** to strike the word "of" after expenditure and add the words "not to exceed" after expenditure. It will read: *discuss a proposed ordinance for an expenditure not to exceed \$800,000 from the public infrastructure reserve fund for the Community Center Building Project.* **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (5 Ayes) (2 Excused—Arsenault & White)

ROLL CALL VOTE: (5 Ayes) (2 Excused—Arsenault & White)

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Sign the Municipal Election Warrant.

Mr. Olmstead asked Councilors to sign the warrant. Chair Rumpf reviewed the open seats for members of the public.

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2. Update on PACTS funding for 2006-2007
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Mr. Olmstead explained that Freeport is now a member of PACTS. When approving the 2006-2007 budget for Pacts, the PACTS Executive Committee in this funding package approved the reconstruction of U.S. Route One from Mallet to Kendall. Once that work was completed, the Town was going to install a sidewalk from the Baptist Church to Kendall Lane. The money for the sidewalk was secured in the 2004-2005 PACTS budget and that money is safe. There is now less money coming down from the federal government to the state and the state has to cut over 50 million from its budget. PACTS is now in a position where it has to go back and cut its budget for the next two years to the tune of six million dollars. There are two ways of doing this—fund all the projects that were previously approved and raise the local match from 15% to 40% or cut projects from the list. They would cut projects last funded first and Freeport's project was one of the last funded. He mentioned that he has to go to PACTS in October and recommend either raising the local match or cutting projects. He was hoping for guidance from the Council. Discussion followed.

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Councilor Beaulieu noted how important this sidewalk is for this area. She would like to pursue the option of trying to get it at 40% or at least keep it on the burner for future construction.

Mr. Olmstead noted he will fight hard to try to get the local match increased to get all the projects funded.

Informational Exchange

Councilor Beaulieu advised that she learned that Neal Allen will be nominating her for the Executive Committee for the New England Association of Regional Councils. They will be having their annual meeting at The Regency in Portland October 27-29. Her name will go forward to be on the Regional COG Board. She is excited about this. Councilors congratulated her.

Chair Rumpf will be working on a draft of the Town Manager's annual review. If anyone has any specific comments or things to consider, please provide them in the next week or so.

Chair Rumpf will also be drafting the Town Council Report for the Annual Town Report.

Mr. Olmstead distributed packets for the next Council meeting. He asked Councilors to take the items from this week's packets, the back-up for the three public hearings, and add it to the packets being distributed so that their packets will be complete. The Minutes from tonight's meeting as well as Jeff Hole's legal opinion will be mailed at the end of the week.

Chair Rumpf noted a letter from Fred Reeder in Councilors' packets following up on a discussion regarding the junkyard automobile graveyard permit.

Adjournment

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adjourn at 7:50 a.m. (Cassida & DeGrandpre)
VOTE: (5 Ayes) (2 Excused—Arsenault & White)

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Coffin
Council Secretary