



City Council
City Council Chambers ♦ 314 West Stephenson Street ♦ Freeport, IL 61032

MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Freeport, Illinois, City Council was called to order in Council chambers by Mayor Jodi Miller with a quorum being present at 6:03 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2017.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call: Mayor Jodi Miller and Council members Alderpersons Tom Klemm, Peter McClanathan, Art Ross, Bob Smith, Patrick Busker, Sally Brashaw, Mike Koester, and Andrew Chesney (8).

Staff members present: City Manager Lowell Crow, Finance Director Randy Bukas, Director of Public Works Dennis Carr, Director of Streets Tom Dole, Fire Chief Scott Miller, Fire Chief Todd Allen, Chief of Police Todd Barkalow, Director of Utility Operations Tom Kopanski, Director of IT Curt Suttman, City Treasurer Linda Buss, and City Clerk Dovie Anderson.

Others Present: City Legal Counsel Aaron Szeto, Esq.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson Smith.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderperson Brashaw made a motion to approve the Agenda and Alderperson Koester seconded. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderperson Koester moved and Alderperson Ross seconded to approve minutes from November 6, 2017, and motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Captain Jim Brickson with the Salvation Army stated that their campaign goal is to raise \$147,000 from November 1, 2017, to January 31, 2018, with \$70,000 coming from Red Kettles. This year the bell ringers will be one hundred percent (100%) volunteers. He asked for volunteers for serving meals and ringing bells.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council member so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as the first item after approval of the Consent Agenda. [View Consent Agenda](#)

- A. Approval to receive and place on file:
 - 1) City Treasurer's Reports – October 31, 2017
- B. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #873, 875, 876, 877, and TBA) --- \$774,486.34

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M.**

C. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending November 11, 2017 --- \$424,235.64 with fringe benefit payments in the amount of \$34,282.64 for a total of \$458,518.28.

Aldersperson Busker moved and Aldersperson Koester seconded that the consent agenda be approved. Motion prevailed by omnibus vote of:

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

Nays: None

The Consent Agenda was approved.

OATH OF OFFICE

City Manager Crow swore in Director of Public Works Dennis Carr. Mayor Miller welcomed him to City staff.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

FY2017-208 Financial Reports ending [October 31, 2017](#):

Taxes Chart	General Fund Highlights
Library Fund Highlights	Sewer Fund Highlights
Water Fund Highlights	Storm Sewer Highlights

Aldersperson McClanathan moved and Aldersperson Klemm seconded that the Financial Reports be placed on file. Motion prevailed by roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

APPOINTMENTS

Aldersperson Klemm moved and Aldersperson Smith seconded to approve the nominations as read to the following Boards and Commissions effective immediately: Paulette Williams-Thomas to the Planning Commission through October 31, 2021, (to replace Nikki Sands whose term expired October 31, 2017); Billy W. Shroyer, Jr., to the Board of Fire & Police Commission through April 15, 2018 (to replace the position vacated by Roland Munda); and the reappointment of Stephen Lafferty to the Planning Commission.

The motion prevailed by a roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

ITEM #8 - [2nd READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-74](#)

An Ordinance of the City of Freeport, Illinois, Approving and Authorizing the City To Enter into an Addendum/Amendment to Master Tax-Exempt Lease/Purchase Agreement, Property Schedule No. 3 and Related Documents thereto with U.S. Bancorp Government Leasing and Finance, Inc. Regarding Camera Truck

At the November 6, 2017, meeting, Aldersperson Klemm moved and Aldersperson Koester seconded to move this matter forward for approval and it was automatically laid over to tonight’s meeting.

There being no further discussion, the motion prevailed by a roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M.**

Ordinance 2017-74 passed.

ITEM #9 - [2nd READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-75](#)

An Ordinance Amending Section 220.11 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport, Illinois Regarding Council Committees to Create a New Committee to be Known as the City Manager Recruitment Committee

At the November 6, 2017, meeting, Alderperson Klemm moved and Alderperson Busker seconded to move this matter forward for approval and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

Alderperson Chesney made a motion to add language to Ordinance #2017-75 striking reference to the Managerial Form of Government Transition Committee in Section 220.11(d). Alderperson Klemm seconded and the motion prevailed by roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

Alderperson Chesney stated that this is a only housekeeping item. The efforts of City Manager Crow are appreciated and we would like to keep him around for a long time.

There being no further discussion, the motion prevailed by a roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

Ordinance 2017-75 passed.

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

ITEM #10 - [1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-77](#)

An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes For The Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2017, and Ending April 30, 2018, for the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois (0% Tax Levy Option) [View memo](#)

City Manager Crow stated that this is a zero percent (0%) tax levy and the levy will be kept at the same level. The levy is broken down into \$1,208,837 towards the Police Pension Fund, \$815,639 towards the Firefighters' Pension Fund, \$278,000 towards the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), and \$145,571 towards the General Corporate Fund, for a total tax levy of \$2,448,041. Because of an estimated increase in the Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), we anticipate a \$1 decrease in the City's portion of the tax bill.

Alderperson McClanathan moved and Alderperson Klemm seconded to move forward Ordinance 2017-77 for approval and the matter was automatically laid over until the next regular Council meeting.

ITEM #11 - [1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-78](#)

An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes For The Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2017, and Ending April 30, 2018, for the Public Library of City of Freeport, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois [View memo](#)

Manager Crow stated that this is to levy the same amount for the library as last year in the amount of \$991,413. As with the zero percent (0%) tax levy, this Ordinance will be available for inspection for twenty (20) days.

Alderperson Brashaw moved and Alderperson Busker seconded to move Ordinance 2017-78 forward for approval and the matter was automatically laid over to the next regular Council meeting.

ITEM #12 - [1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-79](#)

An Ordinance to Abate the 2017 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2013A [View memo](#)

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M.**

Manager Crow stated that there will be five (5) Ordinances abating our General Obligation (GO) Bonds. Under State law, the City needs to pass an Ordinance to abate these bonds because we are paying them from funds other than taxes and to indicate that we are not levying for them. He stated that same rules apply for the Abatement Ordinances (i.e., twenty-day availability and forwarded to County Treasurer).

Aldersperson Koester made a motion to move Ordinance 2017-79 forward for approval, Aldersperson Klemm seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to the next regular Council meeting.

ITEM #13 - [1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-80](#)

An Ordinance to Abate the 2017 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2014A [View memo](#)

Aldersperson Brashaw made a motion to move Ordinance 2017-80 forward for approval, Aldersperson Busker seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to the next regular Council meeting.

ITEM #14 - [1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-81](#): An Ordinance to Abate the 2017 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2014B [View memo](#)

Aldersperson Koester made a motion to move Ordinance 2017-81 forward for approval, Aldersperson Smith seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to the next regular Council meeting.

ITEM #15 - [1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-82](#): An Ordinance to Abate the 2017 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2015A [View memo](#)

Aldersperson Koester made a motion to move Ordinance 2017-82 forward for approval, Aldersperson Busker seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to the next regular Council meeting.

ITEM #16 - [1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-83](#)

An Ordinance to Abate the 2017 Real Estate Tax Levy for the Repayment of the General Obligation Bonds, Series 2016 [View memo](#)

Aldersperson Busker made a motion to move Ordinance 2017-83 forward for approval, Aldersperson Koester seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to the next regular Council meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

ITEM #17 - [ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION #R-2017-61](#)

Resolution of the City of Freeport, Illinois Authorizing and Approving a Lease Option Agreement

Manager Crow stated that this is a three-year lease option on development of placing solar panels on the two lower sections of the landfill for \$100 per month. This agreement allows TerraNavigator exclusive rights to development. It is required by Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and ComEd to have this lease agreement in place in order to proceed with negotiations.

Aldersperson Busker moved to adopt Resolution R-2017-61; Aldersperson McClanathan seconded.

Aldersperson Koester asked if the City has any financial obligations. Manager Crow stated that we negotiated with TerraNavigator for them to cover liability if the cap is broken on the landfill. Once they begin development, it will be their responsibility to maintain vegetation. TerraNavigator has done an initial survey and the landfill meets their requirements. Once this agreement is in place, they will get approval from IEPA and ComEd to connect into the system, and then they will put panels on landfill. Aldersperson Klemm stated that this could ultimately shift some of the burden of liability of the landfill to TerraNavigator that could save the City money down the line. Manager Crow added that, if this moves forward, the final lease will be in the range of \$10,000 to \$17,000.

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Miller called for a roll call vote and the motion prevailed by:

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

Nays: None

Resolution 2017-61 was adopted.

OTHER

ITEM #18 - Approval of Audit

Matt Beran with Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, referenced two documents which had been provided to Council. The Opinion Page gives the City an "unmodified opinion", which is the highest opinion their office gives (i.e. the numbers given are what they say they are and the audit report is in compliance with all government accounting standards). The Management Discussion Analysis is a narrative summary of what happened at the City throughout the year. The Statement of Net Position (aka government-wide financial) is what the City put together on one set of financials on full accrual accounting with long-term assets and long-term liabilities. The total governmental activities at the end of the year shows a net position of -\$17.6 million. When capital assets are removed, we are at -\$30.5 million. From last year to this year, we had a decrease of \$4.3 million because of the increase in the long-term debt. This number is so negative because two years ago the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) added a statement that added these unfunded liabilities. Net pension liabilities in the amount of approximately \$34 million accounts for this extra liability which was added a couple of years ago. From last year to this year, the unfunded liability went down so we are trending in the right direction. We should continue to follow the actuary's direction in paying these so they keep decreasing in the future. Mr. Beran then moved on to governmental funds that are customarily referred to in our budget. Our Fund Balance is at \$9.2 million. General fund is at \$6.9 million of Fund Balance. Totals for this year show a total decrease across all of these funds of \$213,000. General fund had a total increase of \$514,000. Revenues came in slightly below budget and expenses came in 1.7% below budget to allow for a positive increase in the Fund Balance. Comparatively, ending Fund Balance to expenses were about 33% in line with Fund Balance policy. Mr. Beran then moved onto the Water Fund, which is a business-type fund that should be self sustaining. Total Fund Balance was \$33.5 million; when removing capital assets the Fund Balance is at about \$1 million. The Water Fund is at +\$24 million; the Sewer Fund is +\$10.7 million. Once capital assets are removed the balance is -\$4.2 million. Mr. Beran summarized that the highlight of the grand total across all these funds was \$5.1 million. Water and Sewer was similar to last year. The Water Fund was over budget; expenses below budget for an increase of \$4.1 million. This was boosted by IEPA forgiving \$2.5 to \$2.6 million on a loan which came back to the City. This nets a nice increase in the Water Fund of 358%. The Sewer Fund, however, was similar to last year. It was over budget in revenue, below budget in expenses, but had a negative amount of -\$563,000 for operations.

Mr. Beran referenced the Management Letter, which is communication outside of what is given in the audit report, informational in nature, best practices, and internal control recommendations to the City to improve operations. Three new recommendations were given: (1) Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB-74/75) which will come up within the next two years relates to retiree health insurance. Similar to the GASB pension accounting requirement, it will now be required for retiree health insurance and other post-employment benefits. (2) While not necessarily new, but best practice, is to limit the number of cash accounts and go towards comingled funds and not have to pay across accounts.

Aldersperson Chesney asked what the plan is on eliminating redundancies. Manager Crow and Director Bukas concurred that the Finance Director and Treasurer are working to identify which accounts can be reduced, which coincides with replacing the financial software. They are also considering which banks we will be operating with.

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M.**

(3) Piggybacking onto when the Fund Balance policy was implemented, they are testing which funds are in compliance with the Fund Balance and which are not. There are two funds, Sewer Fund and Storm Sewer Fund, which are not in compliance. The Sewer Fund was previously discussed and the Storm Sewer Fund is in a similar negative position with their unrestricted cash. One goal would be to get these funds in compliance with the Fund Balance policy.

Aldersperson McClanathan asked if Manager Crow was confident moving forward that compliance with the Fund Balance will be streamlined. Manager Crow stated that beginning with bringing the Water and Sewer Department under the City and adding the Junior Accountant overseeing the Water and Sewer work, we hope to streamline these issues.

Aldersperson Brashaw asked if the new accounting software will assistance with compliance. Manager Crow stated that some of it will, but we are also looking closely at the way we are handling \$1.1 million in outstanding water bills. Director Kopanski and Director Bukas are aggressively pursuing ways to streamline the process including an aggressive lien program for unpaid balances on owner-occupied homes.

Mr. Beran stated that there were seven (7) prior recommendations, three (3) of which were implemented this past year. The first one is Capital Asset Recordkeeping and doing an appraisal which is slated by June 1, 2018.

Manager Crow stated that the appraisal is included as part of changing insurance carriers. As part of their program, Gallagher will do a top to bottom review of our capital assets.

Mr. Beran stated that Account Reconciliations is the second recommendation, which has been partially implemented. Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable have been reconciled. The remaining account is Inventory with projected completion in 2019. The third and fourth recommendations were a Policy and Procedures Manual and Segregation of Duties which have both been fully implemented this year. The fifth recommendation was Funds over Budget, which has had small amounts over budget but no funds over budget. Recommendation six was Funds with Deficit Fund Balance. Last year there were two. IMRF has now been closed into the General Fund. The remaining one is the landfill, which was discussed earlier to help reduce that exposure. The last recommendation was Fund Structure Collapsing. The City has many funds and he suggests combining similar funds into a General Fund. Rather than having many funds spread out, it is easier to see things in a snapshot.

Aldersperson Brashaw made a motion to approve the audit, Aldersperson McClanathan seconded, and the motion prevailed by a roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

Mr. Beran stated that this was the best audit year we've had and thanked management, Director Bukas and the Council for continually moving forward.

ITEM #19 - Approval of Transportation Improvement Program (TIPs) at Freeport-Albertus Airport [View Document](#)

Manager Crow stated that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIPs) was presented at the last Committee of the Whole. It was updated to align with the priorities of the City regarding security fencing and electrical vault at the airport. It also provides for reimbursement for work that was completed on the hangars and reception area. It was established that tonight's approval covers the program only. Any work will need to come back to Council for approval of the match. The vault had been approved several years ago. The security fencing still needs

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M.**

to have engineering plans and approval of the match from Council. It was also established that the new access road to Baileyville Road has been pulled from TIPs because it does not appear to promote economic development. The TIPs report needs to be filed by end of December 2017. Airport Manager Darryl Janssen will present at the December Committee of the Whole why he feels the new access road is important. The State has given us eight (8) months to make a determination if we want the access road added back on the program.

Aldersperson Brashaw made a motion to approve the TIPs program at Albertus Airport. Aldersperson Klemm seconded and the motion passed by roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

ITEM #20 - Approval of Chicago Avenue Streetscaping Plan [View Presentation](#)

Manager Crow stated that approval of the Streetscaping Plan does not commit any funds but allows us to integrate it into our seven- to ten-year Capital Improvement Plan along with the existing Hydraulic Model and Street Assessment that is currently underway. Once we have the new Televising Truck, data that is collected in the Third Ward and throughout the City will be added to the Capital Improvement Plan. If there is work completed downtown, this establishes a standard by which the streets will be repaired and replaced. This plan is the conceptual design. A civil engineering plan will need to be drafted prior to work being completed, including ADA compliancy.

Aldersperson Koester moved and Aldersperson Ross seconded to approve the Streetscaping Plan. The motion passed by a roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

Finance

Finance Director Bukas wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Aldersperson Chesney thanked Director Bukas for his work on the audit.

Community & Economic Development

Manager Crow stated that ten (10) more properties are ready to be released for bid for demolition, bringing the total to seventy-five (75). An additional commercial property across from the fire station on Adams will soon go to bid for demolition. Mayor Miller and Aldersperson Klemm attended a groundbreaking at Rose Ridge housing development today.

Public Works

Director of Public Works Dennis Carr stated that leaf pick up continues and asked for everyone's patience as the crews work their way across the City. Construction has begun on the Police Department evidence building at the Street Department lot. The Street Assessment program began today and should be completed by the end of the year.

Fire

Fire Chief Allen stated that the firefighter application period will be open through November 27, 2017. Fire Chief Miller stated that the firefighters are taking full advantage of the buildings slated for demolition. They have the luxury of each shift having their own house to tear up. The controlled burn at Sandy Pointe is schedule for

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M.**

November 22, 2017. Alderperson McClanathan assured citizens that there will be plenty of City firefighters and rural departments on the scene. Chief Miller stated that flyers were distributed in the neighborhood.

Police

Chief Barkalow stated one setback on the three (3) new squad cars is that new dash cams, which are the latest HD, have been ordered and will be installed soon. On November 28, 2017, the Police and Fire Departments will have a friendly competition at WalMart ringing the Salvation Army bells. He and Fire Chief will also be delivering meals to homes on Thanksgiving.

Water and Sewer

Utility of Operations Director Kopanski stated that he has been working on acquiring a site for the new well. He and the Fire Chiefs are preparing for an Insurance Service Office (ISO) site visit on December 12, 2017, and hope for a successful ISO rating. Alderperson Ross asked and Director Kopanski confirmed that hydrant flushing was completed the end of October. They are currently repairing items that were identified during the hydrant flushing. He hopes to include painting of the hydrants in the next budget.

Streets

Director Dole had nothing to add to the report provided.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Manager Crow stated that the Park District has withdrawn its sponsorship of the Illinois Department of Transportation's Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant Program for Construction of Phase III of the Pecatonica Prairie Trail. The City was one of the three participants. The County board voted down providing one-third of the funds at their last meeting. The current phase of the trail runs from Tutty's Crossing to the City limits in the Third Ward and the grant is down for review in Springfield. A town hall meeting will be held in the Third Ward in February 2018 for input on the location of the path. The bid letting will be in August 2018. The three partners (City, County, and Park District) signed an agreement to complete this trail from Chicago to Galena and connect to the Jane Addams Trail which goes to Madison. When complete, the hope was to advertise this trail as one of the top two- to three-day bike rides in Illinois. When we spoke to Bike Illinois, it was stated that Freeport would be a central stopping point for overnight lodging. The Pecatonica Trail is complete to the Stephenson County line and they are waiting for us to do our part. Because the County withdrew their support, the City and Park District would have to each contribute \$200,000 plus maintenance of the property. The County would need to be responsible for maintaining the path outside of City limits. ComEd is also in negotiations with possibly providing bridge work done on the path.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Miller highlighted some success stories from the past week. FHN had their fundraiser at the Wagner House and she heard nothing but great, positive comments. Downtown had their Mistletoe Walk which was also successful. She heard favorable comments from some new participants. She thanked the volunteers for these events.

She and Alderperson McClanathan attended the groundbreaking at Rose Ridge this morning. Not only is it the first home built in Freeport since 2008, but it is the first Residential Enterprise Zone granted in the State of Illinois. She thanked the past administration, Manager Crow, Ron Kane at the County, and Dave Young at Northern Illinois Development Alliance (NIDA), for their countless hours getting that passed.

Mayor Miller will also be ringing the bell for Salvation Army at Sullivan's. She challenged a Council member to join her. She also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Aldersperson Smith officially welcomed Public Works Director Dennis Carr who was sworn in tonight.

Aldersperson Busker stated that the 5th Ward Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held November 21, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at the First Church of the Nazarene and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Aldersperson Brashaw stated that the combined 1st and 6th Wards Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held November 28, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. at Schwarz Funeral Home.

Aldersperson Koester stated that there will be no 7th Ward Neighborhood Watch meeting in November or December but will start back up in January 2018 and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Aldersperson Chesney emphasized the importance of breaking ground at Rose Ridge, which is the City's first residential home construction since 2008, and its effects on expanding the tax base. He thanked former Mayor Jim Gitz; Mayor Miller, who was an Aldersperson at the time; Ron Kane, Stephenson County Assessor; and NIDA for their involvement in this residential development. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Aldersperson Klemm wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. He, Mayor Miller, and Aldersperson McClanathan were at the groundbreaking of Rose Ridge this morning. Some of the new homes will be in the 1st Ward, other homes in Aldersperson McClanathan's 2nd Ward. He stated that the new homes in Rose Ridge Enterprise Zone will be Smart Homes with remote control features, builders and homeowners will be exempt from sales tax, and the homeowners will have real estate taxes abated for the first three (3) years.

Aldersperson McClanathan stated that he is looking forward to the opportunities presented by the Rose Ridge development in the two wards and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Aldersperson Ross accepted Mayor Miller's challenge of ringing the Salvation Army bell at Sullivan's.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

City Clerk Dovie Anderson read a letter received from Paula Short regarding the Housing Authority's use of an electronic signature of a resigned Housing Authority Commissioner to process checks.

Mr. Tom Teich commented on the investigation by the Police Department of the shooting incident on Rawleigh Avenue. He also commented that cement is being poured at Casey's.

City Treasurer Linda Buss added to Matt Beran's comment on the smooth and efficient process of this year's audit. She sent kudos to former Financial Director Guary Bernadelle and Deputy Accountant Michelle Richter for their many hours of hard work over the last year. Historically, the City would receive +40 adjusting journal entries after an audit. This year there were less than ten (10).

Neal Strutzenburg asked about future plans for development on Hancock and how that may affect his business in that area. He had looked at the link regarding the Enterprise Zone on the City's website and still had questions. City Manager Crow collected Mr. Strutzenburg's contact information.

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

City Clerk Anderson read the following exceptions into record to enter an Executive (Closed) Session:

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M.**

- Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

At 7:31 p.m., Alderperson Busker made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Alderperson Koester. The motion prevailed by roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

At 8:34 p.m., Mayor Miller called the roll and the following were present to return to open session:

Klemm, McClanathan, Ross, Smith, Busker, Brashaw, Koester, Chesney (8)

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

s/ Dovie L. Anderson

Dovie L. Anderson
City Clerk