



City Council

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

MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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 6:02 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 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 Community & Economic Development Nancy McDonald, 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, 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 Ross seconded. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alderperson Busker moved and Alderperson Klemm seconded to approve minutes from November 20, 2017, and motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tamara Ellis spoke regarding Item #17, Demolitions, and her experience working with the Community and Economic Development Department and her efforts to make improvements to her property and have the condemnation order removed. She feels that some members of the Department are cooperative while others are not and expressed her frustration with the matter.

Marianne Garvens spoke about Item #17, Demolitions, stating that property owners have the right to due process and the structural soundness of a residence should be confirmed before adding to a demolition list. She questioned if current staff are qualified and suggested outsourcing to a structural engineer. Item #13, Parking in Central Business District, she felt, was inadequately represented on the agenda and was disappointed that hardcopies were not provided. Regarding, Item #14, Removal from Committees Due to Lack of Attendance, Ms. Garvens feels that this is inappropriate because when the Historic Preservation Committee was originally established, many regular meetings were cancelled and special meetings were held to benefit certain property owners with TIF money distributions. She also feels the Building Commission serves little purpose except to make

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017, AT 6:02 P.M.**

decisions in the absence of property owners to keep their properties in a safe condition and up to code. Ms. Garvens believes that Item #21, Façade Improvement Grant, is difficult to access the information for people who might qualify for it.

Ronda Scott spoke regarding Item #17, Strategic Vision. She is concerned that it did not have adequate public input. The document states that it is the “City’s guide to shape the work of the City’s staff”. She feels when spending taxpayers’ money, now staff will need to focus on these things. She believes that effective land use is a “City agenda item” and to “explore arts cultural commission” is not a governmental function. Ms. Scott feels that the City exploring culture/arts is inappropriate. She supports tax money going for public safety, streets, and water. She feel legitimate Strategic Planning items include flood plain, Capital Improvement Plan, policy to grow economy, and strengthen economic development (where it concerns streets and safety). Ms. Scott added that the arts should depend on benefactors, not TIF or tax payers.

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 of Freeport Fire Department Incidents and Loss Report – October 2017
 - 2) City of Freeport Ambulance Activity Report – October 2017
 - 3) Minutes from Board of Zoning Appeals – 7/24/2017 Special Meeting
 - 4) Minutes from Airport Commission – 6/20/2017, 7/18/2017, 8/15/2017
 - 5) Minutes from Freeport Public Library – 8/9/2017, 8/17/2017 Special Meeting, 9/13/2017
 - 6) Minutes from Foreign Fire Insurance Board – 8/10/2017
- B. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #878, 879, 882, 883, 884, and TBA) --- \$686,857.92
- C. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending November 25, 2017 --- \$429,828.52 with fringe benefit payments in the amount of \$34,877.82 for a total of \$464,706.34
- D. Approval to receive and place on file: Community Development Department Building Permits – November 2017

Aldersperson Koester moved and Aldersperson Ross 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.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FIREFIGHTERS

Fire Chief Todd Allen introduced two new firefighters, Brad Tunak and Nathan Stepp, who started with the department within the last month.

RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF FIRE CHIEF SCOTT MILLER

Mayor Miller read a proclamation in honor of Chief Miller and thanked him for his thirty-eight (38) years of service of firefighting beginning as a volunteer firefighter. He joined the Fire Department in Freeport on December 17, 2013. His accomplishments in Freeport included modernizing vehicles, improving service, and increasing professionalism.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017, AT 6:02 P.M.**

ITEM #6 – [2nd 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](#)

At the November 20, 2017, Council meeting, Alderperson McClanathan made a motion to move this Ordinance to the next Council meeting for approval, Alderperson Klemm seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

Alderpersons Smith and Koester stated that they are beneficiaries of pensions funded by this levy so they will be abstaining.

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

Yeas: Klemm, McClanathan, Ross, Busker, Chesney (5)

Nays: None

Abstain: Smith, Brashaw, Koester (3)

Ordinance 2017-77 passed

ITEM #7 – [2nd 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](#) *At the November 20, 2017, Council meeting, Alderperson Brashaw made a motion to move this Ordinance to the next Council meeting for approval, Alderperson Busker seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.*

Manager Crow stated that he has spoken with Jim Ferrar, President of the Library Board, and he is committed to staying within the budget to match this levy.

Alderperson Chesney asked and Manager Crow confirmed that the budgeted amount is the same as last year. He added that this is the second consecutive year that the library has not raised their tax levy and he appreciates their efforts in remaining in budget even through rough times.

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

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Ordinance 2017-78 passed

ITEM #8 – [2nd 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](#) *At the November 20, 2017, Council meeting, Alderperson Koester made a motion to move this Ordinance to the next Council meeting for approval, Alderperson Klemm seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.*

General consensus was to vote on all five Abatement Ordinances at one time. Alderperson McClanathan asked for clarification that we do the abatements at this time to say that we have enough funds to pay for them at this time. If we did not abate these bonds, we would need to levy property taxes to pay for them. Manager Crow confirmed.

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

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

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017, AT 6:02 P.M.**

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Ordinance 2017-79, Ordinance 2017-80, Ordinance 2017-81, Ordinance 2017-82, and Ordinance 2017-83 passed

ITEM #9 - [2nd 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](#) At the November 20, 2017, Council meeting, Alderperson Brashaw made a motion to move this Ordinance to the next Council meeting for approval, Alderperson Busker seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

[Clerk's Note: All five Abatement Ordinances were passed at one time. See Item #8.]

ITEM #10 – [2nd 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](#) At the November 20, 2017, Council meeting, Alderperson Koester made a motion to move this Ordinance to the next Council meeting for approval, Alderperson Smith seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

[Clerk's Note: All five Abatement Ordinances were passed at one time. See Item #8.]

ITEM #11 – [2nd 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](#) At the November 20, 2017, Council meeting, Alderperson Koester made a motion to move this Ordinance to the next Council meeting for approval, Alderperson Busker seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

[Clerk's Note: All five Abatement Ordinances were passed at one time. See Item #8.]

ITEM #12 – [2nd 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](#) At the November 20, 2017, Council meeting, Alderperson Busker made a motion to move this Ordinance to the next Council meeting for approval, Alderperson Koester seconded, and the matter was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

[Clerk's Note: All five Abatement Ordinances were passed at one time. See Item #8.]

ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

ITEM #13 - [1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-84](#)

An Ordinance Amending Title Eight, Parking, Chapter 480, Parking Generally of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport, Illinois, Regarding Parking in the Central Business District

Manager Crow stated that the City has received several requests from downtown residents for approval of parking on City streets near their residences. Freeport Downtown Development Foundation (FDDF) has also requested parking on streets to attract residents to rental properties downtown. Chief Barkalow and Director of Streets Dole have reviewed this. Two modifications will be to change the wording in Section 3 from right/left side of street to cardinal directions (north, east, west, south) and allowable hours will be limited to 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. A placard will need to be displayed on the dashboard. During snow events, the streets will need to be clear of residential parking for seventy-two (72) hours for snow removal.

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017, AT 6:02 P.M.**

Aldersperson Smith asked and Manager Crow confirmed that residents will need to move their vehicles at least every twenty-four (24) hours. He expressed his concern over informing residents of the Code expectations and then the enforceability. Manager Crow stated that he and the Clerk reviewed the existing placards that allow for downtown residents to park in the validated lot and they will be modified to allow parking in the street.

Aldersperson Chesney asked and Manager Crow explained that FDDF will assist with informing the residents of this change.

Aldersperson Klemm stated that this benefits the push begun a couple of years ago to increase living quarters on the second floors of downtown buildings.

Aldersperson McClanathan asked that, when spreading the word, it is included that businesses would like the parking available for customers during the day and residents are welcome to park in the streets outside of business hours.

Aldersperson Koester moved and Aldersperson Klemm seconded to move this matter forward for approval and it was automatically laid over to the next regular Council meeting.

ITEM #14 - [1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-85](#)

An Ordinance Amending Various Provisions of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport, Illinois to Provide for the Removal of Appointed Members to Boards, Commissions and Bureaus of the City Due to Lack of Meeting Attendance

Manager Crow stated that chairpersons of boards and commissions are having difficulty getting a quorum. He explained that Attorney Sosnowski recommended added the wording contained in this Ordinance to allow for removal of a commissioner after a specified number of consecutive meetings are missed. The number of meetings selected was three (3) and then a commissioner may be removed by action of Council.

Aldersperson Klemm added that he has also heard frustration from several commissioners and board members who plan to go to a meeting only to find out it has been cancelled due to lack of a quorum. He believes Council could waive this in certain extenuating circumstances, but supports the Ordinance change. He added that Mayor Miller has done a good job of keeping all of the seats filled. Aldersperson Brashaw echoed her support as cancelling a meeting wastes everyone's time. Aldersperson McClanathan pointed out that many boards and commissions are volunteer but serve an important purpose in serving the City's constituents. He also echoed support for allowing for extenuating circumstances.

Aldersperson Koester moved and Aldersperson Chesney seconded to move Ordinance 2017-85 forward for approval and it was automatically laid over to the next regular Council meeting.

ITEM #15 - [1st READING OF ORDINANCE #2017-86](#)

An Ordinance Amending Part Fourteen, Building and Housing, Title Four, Building Administration, Chapter 1446, Licensing of Commercial Contractors, Section 1446.02, License Required, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Freeport, Illinois Regarding Licensing of General Contractors Building New Residential Dwellings

Manager Crow stated that this Ordinance modification is in response to the new residential construction underway. He and Director McDonald canvassed over fifty (50) communities to determine best practices. This Ordinance is modeled after Rochelle and Sterling wherein the onus is on the general contractor. The general contractor, in turn, is responsible for verifying the subcontractors meet qualifications and carry insurance. This increases the responsibility of the Building Inspector when ensuring compliance on the jobsite; but Inspector Menke is in favor of an easier registration process.

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017, AT 6:02 P.M.**

Attorney Szeto stated that this process works because the general contractor is held responsible for compliance of their subcontractors thus lessening the City's responsibility to monitor subcontractors. The general contractor's license is on the line if there is non-compliance.

Aldersperson Chesney made a motion and Aldersperson Busker seconded to move this matter forward for approval and it was automatically laid over to the next regular Council meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

ITEM #16 - [ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION #R-2017-62](#)

Resolution in Support of Illinois Bicentennial Celebrations

Mayor Miller stated that today's flag raising began the year-long celebration of Illinois' 200th anniversary of statehood.

Aldersperson Brashaw made a motion to adopt Resolution R-2017-62, Aldersperson Koester seconded, and the motion prevailed by:

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

Nays: None

Resolution R-2017-62 was adopted.

APPROVAL OF BIDS

ITEM #17 - Approval of Bids for [Demolition of 9 Residential Properties – CD-009-17](#)

Director McDonald stated that 621 E Shawnee will be removed from the demolition list as the owners are working with the City to address issues and improve their property. Their recommendation was to award G&G Construction \$28,500; Kleckner Excavating \$18,250; and Fischer Excavating \$8,600.

Aldersperson Koester made a motion to approve the bid of eight (8) properties and Aldersperson Ross seconded.

Aldersperson Chesney asked the total number of properties demolished to date, including these. Director McDonald stated this will make seventy-six (76) and she is waiting to hear from our non-profit partner regarding the Blight Reduction Program.

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

OTHER

ITEM #18 - Approval of Strategic Plan [View documents](#)

Manager Crow stated that he has received input from the community. He would like to stress that, with the change to City Manager Form of Government, the Manager's Objectives are the execution portion. The Council's objectives are a very high-level overview. It is his job to develop the Capital Improvement Plan and other initiatives to meet those objectives.

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017, AT 6:02 P.M.**

Aldersperson Koester made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan, Aldersperson Klemm seconded, and the motion prevailed by a roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

ITEM #19 - Approval of Agreement for Purchase of Lands and Temporary and Permanent Easements [View documents](#)

Manager Crow stated that he and Attorney Steve Cox have been in negotiations over the last fourteen (14) days with property owners near the Burchard Hills water tower. This property was identified by Fehr Graham and Director Kopanski agrees that this is the best location to drill a new well and build a new water treatment facility. An agreement has been reached of \$30,000 for an initial temporary easement for one (1) year to do due diligence in the area to include a test well to determine if the water is acceptable. This site is suitable for supplying the low- and high-pressure zones. Future completion of water, sewer, and road will need to be completed in this area eventually. If this site is suitable, the City will install the sanitary sewer and they will dedicate the road back to the City. By relocating the water treatment facility to this site, Director Kopanski estimates a savings of \$7 million over refurbishing the existing water treatment plant.

Aldersperson Klemm stated that the City initially looked at six (6) potential sites for a new well. Manager Crow added that, using the hydraulic model, this was narrowed to three (3) sites. This site was our first choice and the City already owns the second choice. There is a third site in case this first site does not produce good water.

Aldersperson Koester made a motion to approve the Agreement for Purchase of Lands and Temporary and Permanent Easements, Aldersperson Ross seconded, and the motion prevailed by a roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

ITEM #20 - Approval of Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for Local Funds from Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for Gladewood Drive (Park Court) over Yellow Creek [View documents](#)

Manager Crow stated that he and Director of Public Works Dennis Carr have been working with Willett & Hofmann on this project. This agreement is to have them do the Phase I Engineering, which is required to receive federal funding that is administered by the state. The amount of \$84,269.94 will need to be paid by the City, which will come from the last of the road money which has been budgeted. This estimate is higher because IDOT is allowing the water main replacement to be rolled into this project and there is more work that needs to be done to the road than McClure estimated. Approximately \$450,000 to \$475,000 of the total project cost is water main and roadwork is the remainder of the cost. The water main is an integral part of the bridge and is submitted as part of the request.

Aldersperson McClanathan asked and Manager Crow confirmed that federal funding will cover eighty percent (80%) of a two-lane bridge. If we had gone with a bike bridge, the City would have had to fund one hundred percent (100%).

Mike Leslie, Willett & Hofmann, stated that Phase I will include a Preliminary Design Report which will be approved by IDOT. This report includes how much roadway will be required, if right-of-way needs to be purchased and the associated costs, title searches, submitting a hydraulic model to Department of Water Resources. Other requirements include: Section 4F reporting to work with the Park District because public property will be affected, permitting through Army Corps of Engineers, and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to ensure protection of wetlands and compliance with the Clean Water Act. These steps are required because of the federal funding.

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017, AT 6:02 P.M.**

Director Kopanski added that the existing pipe is cast iron which is disintegrating and the new pipe will be high density polyethylene (HDPE) which does not have corrosion issues. HDPE is a thick-walled, flexible plastic pipe.

Manager Crow stated that the Park District is interested in the possibility of a gate which can be closed for the night. Construction will not begin for at least two (2) years.

Aldersperson Koester made a motion to approve the Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for Local Funds from IDOT for Gladewood Drive over Yellow Creek, Aldersperson Klemm seconded, and the motion prevailed by a roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

ITEM #21 - Approval of 2017 Façade Improvement Grant Program Application Packet [View application](#)

Director Nancy McDonald stated that this year \$30,000 is available for the Façade Grant Program. Funding is comprised of \$20,000 from Downtown TIF Funds and \$10,000 from the Paint the Port event. She thanked the Paint the Port Committee for their volunteer efforts and donation. Grants will be awarded for funding up to fifty percent (50%) of a project with a maximum of \$10,000 for a single façade and \$15,000 for two (2) primary facades and will be on a reimbursement basis. The Historic Preservation Commission will review applications and give recommendations to Council in January 2018. The project must be completed by July 31, 2018.

Aldersperson Koester made a motion to approve the 2017 Façade Improvement Grant Program Application Packet; Aldersperson Chesney seconded.

Aldersperson Klemm asked and Manager Crow confirmed that previously tenants were able to apply for façade grants and sign that they would continue leasing for five (5) or more years. The requirement has changed to put the onus on the owner. Additionally, the building needs to be structurally sound, including the roof and foundation, prior to receiving this grant, which is intended to be used for windows, tuck pointing, and façade improvements. Therefore, the owners of the buildings will be the applicants.

Mayor Miller called for a roll call vote of:

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

Nays: None

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

Finance

Director Bukas reported that budget worksheets were distributed to department heads today, kicking off the budget process. The Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) employer contribution for 2019 is going down from 10.83 percent to 9.46 percent.

Community & Economic Development

Director McDonald announced that Blake Klosa has joined the Department as a Nuisance Inspector. His experience with the Freeport Police Department will be an asset. She also thanked Directors Dole, Kopanski, and Carr for helping with moving along the Pretzel City Kitchen project.

Public Works

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017, AT 6:02 P.M.**

Director Carr reported that leaf removal is nearing completion and trucks are being outfitted with snow plows. Fehr Graham has completed the street assessment east of Adams Street.

Aldersperson Brashaw asked and Director Dole confirmed that leaf removal will continue at least through this week with two trucks until the first measurable snowfall. After that, they can use an end loader to pick up the few remaining piles. He has a route map available but finds it difficult to promise that they can be at a certain location every Tuesday, for instance, because of so many variables such as weather and high or low volumes of leaves.

Fire

Chief Allen reported that six (6) residents were displaced from a residence that caught fire on the 600 block of Avon on Thanksgiving.

Police

Chief Barkalow stated that this Saturday they and the Sheriff's Department will be doing Shop with a Cop at WalMart which is funded by the Police Benevolent and Protective Association (PBPA). Eighteen (18) families will be shopping for winter clothing, outerwear, under clothing, and one (1) toy. The Special Victims' Unit investigator started today. He also thanked the Fire Department for their participation in the friendly challenge to fill the Red Kettles for Salvation Army, which raised over \$1,100.

Water and Sewer

Director Kopanski stated that the TV truck will be delivered Friday with manufacturer's training to take place in January 2018. He reviewed the uniform rental contract and will be terminating the previous agreement. The new agreement will reduce costs by fifty-five percent (55%).

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Manager Crow stated that he met with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding flood plain. We will be conducting a flood plain review and have received the hydraulic model from Fehr Graham. Director Carr and the Director of Community & Economic Development will be working to upgrade our Ordinances. The State requires that the flood plan reflect the 100-year flood zone. Drafting of the Comprehensive Plan will begin after the first of the year. State law requires updates every seven (7) years and ours is over eight (8) years old. All grants Comp Plan. Mayor has finished last of planning commi. Get info to Plan Comm and then to Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Miller wished Fire Chief Miller success in his retirement. She thanked everyone who attended the flag raising ceremony at City Hall today. It was especially exciting to not only raise the Illinois bicentennial flag, but it was the first time the US flag was raised at this location at City Hall. Mayor Miller reminded everyone of ways to participate this Christmas season with community events: Mayor's Hunger Luncheon this Thursday for the Freeport Area Church Cooperative (FACC). She thanked everyone for their Salvation Army bell ringing. If anyone would like to volunteer, please call Salvation Army. There are several toy drives. One is collecting toys at the Police Department or any of the fire stations for area children.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEW BUSINESS

Aldersperson Smith recognized Fire Chief Miller for a long and distinguished career.

Aldersperson Busker had no additional comments.

**MINUTES-COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017, AT 6:02 P.M.**

Aldersperson Brashaw also thanked Fire Chief Miller. She recognized new Fire Chief Allen and thanked Mayor Miller for the flag raising ceremony.

Aldersperson Koester gave a reminder that there will be no 7th Ward Neighborhood Watch meeting in December. They will resume the 4th Wednesday of January. He wished Chief Miller luck in his retirement especially when fishing.

Aldersperson Chesney thanked Fire Chief Miller for his service to the community and wished him enjoyment in his retirement.

Aldersperson Klemm gave his appreciation for what Chief Miller has done for Freeport and wished him success in his retirement. He echoed the compliments to Mayor Miller for her and Abraham Lincoln's presentation at the flag raising ceremony. He also thanked the "boys in blue" for their color guard presentation today. He also urged citizens to either volunteer or donate during this holiday season.

Aldersperson McClanathan echoed the sentiments expressed to Fire Chief Miller.

Aldersperson Ross reminisced about this year's flooding and Fire Chief Miller's participation with the weather channel and thanked him for a job well done.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Steve Carroll responded to a letter read during public comments from Paula Short and copies of checks issued by the Freeport Housing Authority with signatures of a board member who had previously resigned. Mr. Carroll feels that Council is not taking adequate measures to resolve this issue. Mr. Carroll was reminded, per Ordinance, to address the Council as a whole and not individual members.

Tom Teich thanked Chief Barkalow for the bell ringing challenge. He also thanked all of the Alderspersons and Mayor Miller.

Ronda Scott thanked City Council for supporting the Façade Improvement Program. She stated that there is \$217,000 in TIF monies from the County and would like to see more than \$20,000 allocated to the Façade Program. She has invested over \$220,000 in her property on the corner of North Chicago in a roof, windows, and tuck pointing. In years past, she has asked about Facace Improvement Funds and has been told there was not any available. She looked up past TIF reports and found that there has been TIF money available, but it was not being used for façade improvements.

Marianne Garvens stated that inspections and permits are important but she is aware of instances where the inspections were not completed. She also feels inspectors need to be qualified. She feels some infrastructure improvements have been made but not consistently throughout all areas of the City. She opposes tearing down mid-block buildings.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

s/ Dovie L. Anderson

Dovie L. Anderson
City Clerk