



City Council

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

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Monday, December 5, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Freeport, Illinois, City Council was called to order by Mayor George Gaulrapp with a quorum being present at 6:02 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2011, in Council Chambers. This is the first meeting of the City Council to be held at the new official designated location at 524 W. Stephenson Street, 3rd Floor, Freeport, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Present on roll call were council members Tom Klemm, Shawn Boldt, Ronnie Bush, Jennie DeVine, Scott Helms, Michael Koester, and Andrew Crutchfield (7). Alderperson Endress was absent on roll call. (*See below when Alderperson Endress entered prior to public comments.*) Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Alderperson Helms.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alderperson Koester moved for approval of the agenda, seconded by Alderperson Crutchfield. Motion prevailed by voice vote without dissent.

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City Clerk Meg Zuravel asked to have the minutes taken off the agenda and she will provide the draft copy to council by December 12, 2011.

At 6:03 pm, Alderperson Endress entered council chambers bringing the number of alderpersons present to eight (8).

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS

Dean Wright, lives at 341 Main Street, Pearl City, Illinois, spoke as a representative of the Freeport Area Church Cooperative located at 514 S. Chicago Avenue in favor of the vacant property ordinance. Mr. Wright used examples of the blight of the neighborhood around Chicago Street as an example of improvement needed to vacant properties which are used for drug dealing and dog fighting. Irresponsible property owners are a drain on City resources. Mr. Wright urged the support of council to Ordinance #2011-61 on the agenda this evening.

PUBLIC HEARING

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The following notice was published in the Journal Standard on November 27, 2011, posted on both locations of City Hall, emailed to the media notice listing, included as notice on this council agenda posted on December 1, 2011, and was read into the record on December 5, 2011:

Notice of Proposed Tax Increase for City of Freeport, Illinois

A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson, State of Illinois for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2012 will be held on December 5, 2011 at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers, City Hall, 524 West Stephenson Street, 3rd Floor, Freeport, Illinois. Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district should contact Meg Zuravel, City Clerk, 230 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, Illinois or phone 815-235-8203, ext. 269.

- The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2010 were \$2,632,618.
- The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2011 are \$3,197,177. This represents a 21.44% increase over the previous year.
- The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2010 were \$0.
- The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2011 are \$0. This represents a 0% change over the previous year.
- The total property taxes extended or abated for 2010 were \$2,632,618.
- The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2011 are \$3,197,177. This represents a 21.44% increase over the previous year.

Attendees signed attendance sheets at the public hearing and speakers were provided sheets for which they signed in to speak at the public hearing.

At 6:06 pm, Mayor George Gaulrapp opened the public hearing on the proposed tax levy increase for the City of Freeport, Illinois.

Signed in to speak during the public hearing were the following:

- John Stabin, 1070 N. Canyon, Freeport Illinois, spoke against the tax levy stating in his opinion he understands that the tax levy needs to be increased to cover state mandated pension payments and the additional costs to move City Hall. In his opinion, a higher tax rate will cause homeowners to move out of the City. Mr. Stabin stated that the costs involved with the 230 W. Stephenson building should not be passed along to the property taxpayer and instead be taken as a question to the voters.
- Brad Grant, 1276 W. Stover, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the tax levy stating his opinion that the council should look at ways to decrease costs due to jobs being outsourced out of Freeport and the tax base decreasing. In summary, he asked the council to cut costs and not increase taxes.
- Heath Robbins, 1752 W. Stephenson Street, Freeport, Illinois, spoke against the tax levy and asked council to consider cutting taxes and spending. He asked council to look for options other than taxes, to be the example to show how it is done, and not look at the taxpayer as a way to pay for City Hall expenses.
- Mayor Gaulrapp clarified that the taxes on food is 1%. He then asked council if they had any comments for the public hearing.

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- Alderperson Helms read into the record a letter written by Mr. Malcolm McPherson. Mr. McPherson stated his opinion against the proposed tax levy due to his believe that there is no justification and administration's lack of fiscal responsibility by proposing a 21.4% increase.

Upon no further input to the public hearing, Mayor Gaulrapp closed the public hearing at 6:15 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were presented on the Consent Agenda this evening:

- A. Approval of Water and Sewer Bills Payable (Register #634) ---- \$185,333.02
- B. Approval of Payroll for pay period ending November 19, 2011 ---- \$406,631.84
- C. Approval of Finance Bills Payable (Registers #633, 635, 636, 637, 638) --- \$1,244,133.33

Alderperson Endress moved to approve the Consent Agenda items, seconded by Alderperson DeVine. Alderperson Helms requested removal of item C. Finance Bills Payable (Registers #633, 635, 636, 637, 638) --- \$1,244,133.33 for discussion purposes. Being no further questions on the consent agenda, Mayor Gaulrapp asked for a roll call vote to approve the motion. Motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Koester, and Crutchfield (8)
Nays: None

Discussion was held regarding a bill on the Finance Bills Payable register 633 page two regarding the cost of asbestos removal from a vault in the downtown right-of-way. Alderperson Helms asked if the City was going to be reimbursed for this expense. Director Dole stated that there is a wall dividing the vault from the basement at that property so it is hard to decide who is at fault. He stated the vault where the asbestos was found was located in the City right of way and in order to continue with the LAPP program we needed to get it removed. Mayor Gaulrapp stated a property search will be done by the paralegal to research chain of title of the property holders.

Upon no further discussion, Alderperson Helms moved for approval of Consent Agenda of item C. Finance Bills Payable (Registers #633, 635, 636, 637, 638) --- \$1,244,133.33, seconded by Alderperson Klemm. Motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Koester, and Crutchfield (8)
Nays: None

The consent agenda items were approved.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

Memorandum dated November 30, 2011 from the Finance Department regarding Six Month Financial Results. Accountant Duane Price stated that there are two reports included in the packet. The first contains the actual versus the budget for the first six months and the second report contains a comparison of the current year actual revenue and expenses to the prior year. In the first six months we have an excess of revenue over expenses of \$141,953. The budget called for a deficit of about \$95,000. Our revenue in the first six months is up over \$158,220 over budget and our expenses were under budget by about \$79,000. The income tax, replacement tax, sales tax and use tax are up compared to budget.

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Mayor Gaulrapp stated that some of the expenses that are down would be due to personnel expenses. Accountant Price stated that the police department personnel savings is due to open positions in the police department accounting for approximately \$70,000 savings and their overtime is down by \$30,000. Accountant Price stated that the positions have been filled by employees costing less than the salaries of those who left due to longevity. Finance Director Joesten stated the worker's compensation claims have been trending downward.

Accountant Price cautioned that the only expenses incurred in the first six months for the mover from the 230 W. Stephenson building to the 524 W. Stephenson building was about \$35,000 paid to the architect, structural engineer, soil borings, remediation and air quality test. We still have moving expenses to pay. The first six months healthcare expenses are up over budget.

Aldersperson Helms asked why the personnel expenses were up \$446,201 over the previous fiscal year. Accountant Price stated some of that was due to the negotiated wage increases, the layoffs and furloughs of employees which accounted for about \$500,000 in cost savings in fiscal year 2010-2011 and the pension contributions went up.

Council requested to receive a quarterly report on training from Finance Director Joesten. Finance Director Joesten stated the worker's compensation claims have been trending downward.

Discussion was held regarding a line item under city council contractual services and Accountant Price stated that is for printing and posting online ordinance amendments on a quarterly basis to the Codified Ordinances. Accountant Price stated the airport property taxes had gone up based on amendments of the assessment.

ORDINANCES – THIRD READING

3rd READING OF ORDINANCE # 2011-57:

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2011, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2012, FOR THE CITY OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON, AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

The first reading was held on November 7, 2011. A motion to adopt was given by Aldersperson Klemm, seconded by Aldersperson Koester. The second reading was held on November 21, 2011 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. The ordinance on the floor is summarized as follows:

Ordinance #2011-57					
	2011 Tax Levy	2010 Tax Levy	Increase/ (Decrease)	Percentage Change	Total Tax Bill Percentage Change
Firefighter Pension	\$1,073,551	\$965,806	\$107,745	11.16%	
Police Pension	878,086	937,272	(59,186)	-6.31%	
IMRF	256,000	240,000	16,000	6.67%	
Corporate	989,540	489,540	500,000	102.14%	
	\$3,197,177	\$2,632,618	\$564,559	21.44%	2.10%

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Aldersperson Klemm made a motion to layover the ordinance to the next regularly scheduled council meeting, seconded by Aldersperson Boldt.

Aldersperson Klemm stated his opinion on the tax levy, last year's furloughs and pay freezes. He then distributed copies to the council. Discussion was held regarding the pension fund contributions and the ramifications of what can happen should a municipality delays payment.

Corporation Counsel Sarah Griffin stated the tax levy ordinance needs to be filed with the county clerk by the last Tuesday in December. With the City Hall Christmas holiday schedule, the council will need to have proposed amendments requested of Accountant Duane Price prior to the meeting on the 19th of December. These would need to be ready for the floor on the 19th and they should be passed on that evening or you are running into limitations for posting of meetings.

Director Joesten stated typically the City sets the levy for 80% of the pension amounts and pays the 20% out of the general fund.

Each council member was provided the opportunity to state their opinion on the tax levy. Aldersperson Helms stated that he would like the levy to be no more than last year's 2.7% increase. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that he does not feel the amounts in reserves is too much and feels that the benchmark of 25% in reserves for situations such as buildings in disrepair, flash flood, 100 year flood, the burned out building that the City was stuck with, collapse of building and it is a decision as to the amount that you want in the reserves. The City has worked on the budget to make the cuts and now the State has paid the amounts owed so there is \$1.25 million in surplus and there is \$1.1 million dollars set aside to back the Water and Sewer bonds. This administration wants to be financially responsible and once the levy is set it cannot be turned back. Aldersperson Koester stated his concerns about the future and the amount of money in the reserves but with as little impact to the property taxes. Aldersperson Boldt spoke about the situation we are in and his feelings about not burdening the property taxes and the need to look at other options. Aldersperson Crutchfield stated that one of the situations weighing in is what will happen to the City Hall building and he recommended council consider whether if the building was demolished would we need this additional tax dollars. He felt it could be paid out of the general fund or from the Fire Department fund.

Mayor Gaulrapp stated there is a motion on the floor to layover the ordinance for two weeks to the next regular scheduled meeting. Motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Koester, and Crutchfield (8)

Nays: None

Ordinance #2011-57 was laid over to the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a town meeting scheduled by Aldersperson Crutchfield on Monday, December 12, 2011, at 6:30 pm and he stated he would provide the posting to the City Clerk for council members to attend.

3rd READING OF ORDINANCE # 2011-58:

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AN ORDINANCE FOR THE LEVY AND ASSESSMENT OF TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2011, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2012, FOR THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON, AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

The first reading was held on November 7, 2011. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Boldt, seconded by Alderperson Koester and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Alderperson Klemm made a motion to layover the ordinance to the next council meeting, seconded by Alderperson Koester. Motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Koester, and Crutchfield (8)

Nays: None

Ordinance #2011-58 was laid over to the next meeting.

3rd READING OF ORDINANCE # 2011-59:

AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPLEMENT THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 FOR THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

The first reading was held on November 7, 2011. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Klemm, seconded by Alderperson Helms. The second reading was held on November 21, 2011 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting.

Alderperson Koester made a motion to layover the ordinance to the next meeting to time it with the tax levy. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that this supplements the appropriation ordinance for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Alderperson Koester withdrew his motion. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that enterprise zone fees may be used to supplement this amount and they are about \$40,000 to \$50,000. The intention is to use the enterprise zone fees for economic development and Mayor Gaulrapp stated that we are trying to get the numbers for the enterprise zone administrator and it would need to be deposited to the general fund. With the work NI|DA has been doing with Prospering Together they haven't been able to do work in the TIF.

Mayor Gaulrapp stated there is a motion on the floor for passage. Motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Koester, and Crutchfield (8)

Nays: None

Ordinance #2011-59 passed by a vote of 8-0.

David Young, Executive Director of Northwest Illinois Development Alliance thanked the council for their support and stated the monies have been well spent for the development of the economic development component of the Prospering Together plan. He stated that you will see in it full range of possibilities in the first meeting in January. Alderperson Helms asked about the county's funding of NIDA. Mr. Young stated the 2012 monies were approved last Wednesday and it passed. In terms of the 2011 monies, there are a couple of different options that the county is pursuing and they are in the process of working on this.

3rd READING OF ORDINANCE # 2011-61:

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE CHAPTER 1430 (VACANT PROPERTY) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

The first reading was held on November 7, 2011. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Bush, seconded by Alderperson Crutchfield. The second reading was held on November 21, 2011 and it was

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automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. The Administration will be providing proposed amendments which will be presented by Community Development Director Shelly Griswold. The Administration is recommending further layover to consider these amendments. Director Griswold stated that she and the Mayor met with local realtors and she reviewed the amendments including a change in the definitions section by adding wording that it does not include buildings unoccupied on a seasonal basis but otherwise secured, those that are for sale or rent and otherwise secure, those subject to probate action or otherwise secure and those buildings which are owned by governmental entities. Director Griswold stated that the fee for registration was amended so that those that complied have a lower fee and those who you have to go after, have a higher fee and then have a similar sliding scale for the renewal fee. Under the inspections, the fee would be different between a residential property and a commercial property but what she needs to add is a maximum amount. Director Griswold stated the realtors asked to have a listing of what is included in the inspection from the Harvard Illinois ordinance. Director Griswold stated that the amendments requested by Alderperson Bush have been incorporate to require the posting of signs on the property and the disposition of the fees. Discussion was held regarding the registration fees and the posting of signs. Alderperson Helms asked how this is working in the municipality in which it is modeled against and Director Griswold stated she will have that information for the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the vacant property notice on the outside of the building and that one of the requirements is to have a local contact person listed. Alderperson Boldt cautioned against showing visitors notices on buildings as vacant, vacant, and vacant.

Alderperson Koester moved to layover the ordinance to the next regular scheduled meeting, seconded by Alderperson Endress. Motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)
Nays: Bush (1)
The Ordinance #2011-61 was laid over to the next meeting.

3rd READING OF ORDINANCE # 2011-62:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1440 (ADMINISTRATION GENERALLY) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT ILLINOIS

The first reading was held on November 7, 2011. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Klemm, seconded by Alderperson Bush. The second reading was held on November 21, 2011 and it was automatically laid over to tonight's meeting. Upon the third reading Corporation Council Sarah Griffin explained that the ordinance is the companion to the vacant property ordinance and it needed to be fixed to allow for the 48 hour notice required of the Open Meetings Act. Upon no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken to approve the motion for passage. Motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;
Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Koester, and Crutchfield (7)
Nays: Bush
Ordinance #2011-62 passed by a vote of 7-1.

Alderperson Bush asked for a point of clarification and stated that he did not hear that motion on the floor was for passage but thought it was for layover and stated his vote would have been an affirmative.

ORDINANCES – SECOND READING

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There are no ordinances for second reading this evening.

ORDINANCES - FIRST READING

1st READING OF ORDINANCE # 2011-66:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 480 (PARKING GENERALLY) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT - EMPIRE AT S. FLOAT AVENUE

Upon the first reading, the ordinance was presented by Public Works Director Tom Dole stating that a request had been received by Alderperson Endress to improve the line of sight on Empire and Float. The ordinance does not allow parking on Empire (East), south side, 62 feet west of S. Float Avenue. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Klemm, seconded by Alderperson Endress. The ordinance was automatically laid over to the next meeting.

1st READING OF ORDINANCE # 2011-67:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 480, SECTION 480.24 (HANDICAPPED PERSONS AND DISABLED VETERANS) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FREEPORT – 1209 S. BAUSCHER

Upon the first reading, the ordinance was presented by Public Works Director Tom Dole stating that a resident requested handicap parking on Bauscher Avenue, (east side) 188 feet north of East Empire Street to 213 feet north of East Empire Street. A motion to adopt was given by Alderperson Endress, seconded by Alderperson DeVine.

Alderperson Klemm moved for suspension of the rules to move forward the ordinance this evening, seconded by Alderperson Endress. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that suspension of the rules is non-debatable and asked for a roll call vote to be taken. Motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Koester, and Crutchfield (8)

Nays: None

Mayor Gaulrapp asked for a roll call vote for passage of the ordinance this evening. Motion prevailed by a roll call vote of;

Yeas: Klemm, Boldt, Bush, DeVine, Endress, Helms, Koester, and Crutchfield (8)

Nays: None

Ordinance #2011-67 passed by a vote of 8-0.

OTHER

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Community Development

Community Development Director Shelly Griswold stated that there is a Zoning Board of Appeals meeting posted at 5:30 p.m. Director Griswold stated that Stephenson County is working on public transportation and the likely outcome is that the public transportation grant will be moved to the County. She stated that there will be memorandum of understanding that will be presented at the next council meeting to pledge our support to that system. Director Griswold stated there was a meeting with the administration and the steering committee of the Prospering Together and they have a plan ready to move

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forward in January and there are a lot of projects that are being worked on and she encouraged the council members who have questions to contact Mayor Gaulrapp, Alderperson Crutchfield or Director Griswold.

Director Griswold stated that the Community Development Department has two vehicles on with mechanical problems including failed transmissions, exhaust fumes in the passenger part of the vehicle and the inability to take a vehicle out of town. We will need to go out for bids for replacement for those vehicles since the Police Department has no vehicles to be used. Director Griswold stated there will be a press release this week as an announcement of the HUD Grant.

Finance

Director Joesten was present and had no further report.

Public Works

Public Works Director Tom Doles stated the street department is prepping vehicles for the plows so they will be finishing up leaf pickup this week. Director Dole stated the progress of the Mahoney building after a conversation that he had with a representative of the firm and the demolition should start on Monday. Director Dole has worked with IDOT for the permitting of the street closure and ensuing detour due to the closure of Galena Avenue (Business Highway 20) for a time period of four to seven days.

City Engineer/Water and Sewer

City Engineer Denise Ihrig was present and had no report this evening

Police

Chief of Police Jerry Whitmore provided information on the testing process of the Police Department which was held recently. There were 42 applications turned in and of those 34 people took the test. There are ten people remaining eligible for the background check to be completed. Chief Whitmore thanked the officers who volunteered their time to assist with the officer testing. Chief Whitmore gave a brief overview of what snowbirds should be doing at their residences including having snow plowing done in the timely manner, lights on timers, have some garbage set out, and in general the same as you would do if you are going on vacation. Chief Whitmore stated in the last 60 days we have had a number of robberies of convenience stores and the burglaries continue to be an issue and mostly for big screen televisions. The police department needs the help of neighbors seeing anything suspicious behavior.

Fire

Fire Chief Kevin Countryman stated that there is an engine that is almost 16 years of age which is used in the front line for an emergency and the department will be working on bid specifications for its replacement. It is normally housed at Fire Station #2 and there are some concerns of its ability to pass the aerial testing for ISO. It is estimated that the cost will be \$400,000 to replace this vehicle.

Library

Freeport Public Library Director Carole Dickerson provided information on the Community Festival of Trees, a gingerbread house display, and collection of books for needy families through Christmas.

MAYORS REPORT

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Mayor Gaulrapp stated that he received notice this evening of a public meeting by organizers to save the 230 W. Stephenson Street building which will be held on December 13, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the Freeport Public Library. Although he would like to attend, he has a previous engagement and would like information on the meeting. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that no one likes to raise taxes but we have services that we need to provide to the public. Mayor Gaulrapp thanked those with public comments this evening and while they asked for no tax increase, it would be good to provide some solutions. The gentleman who said this administration is fiscally irresponsible is a big advocate of the Freeport Art Museum who is using a City building rent free for use of the building and we had a five year exit plan which we took off the table so he has his own agenda and we have ours. We have to pay for our services somehow. Our police, our fire and our department heads work very hard and we ask for respect of our citizens. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that if you have solutions, we would be glad to look at them. Mayor Gaulrapp thanked all the staff members who worked hard to pack up and move items to the new location of City Hall, the firefighters who assisted, Two Men and a Truck who handled the move, and, in particular; Bill, Kevin and Pete, who worked tirelessly to assist all the departments.

NEW BUSINESS/COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Each council member was provided the opportunity to publicly address significant items of interest.

- Alderperson Helms stated that it is his opinion that it is time to dismiss the case against Comcast. Mayor Gaulrapp stated the case will be in court next week.
- Alderperson Crutchfield asked about the Department of Labor. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that he had met with the Department of Labor in Springfield and there has been full cooperation. He stated we went over each item and will have a letter back to the Department of Labor and requested extension on two items. They decided not to cite for the asbestos tiles in the basement since they were not broken. Mayor Gaulrapp stated the majority of items have been abated. Alderperson Crutchfield stated that he is hosting a Town Hall Meeting next Monday at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau with topics for the tax levy, City Hall building, violent crimes, and poverty. This is also a toy drive for the Amity Learning Center.
- Alderperson Klemm stated that he echoed the Mayor's comments about the move and acknowledge a lot of work done by staff members before the move, during the move and once they were in the new building. It appears that everything went smoothly and the new office area looks nice.
- Alderperson Boldt asked about the broadcast of the council meeting and Mayor Gaulrapp stated there is supposed to be information about the tape delay of the broadcast on the Channel 17 news feed. A tape of this council meeting has to be taken to Rockford tomorrow in order for Comcast to play the broadcast so each council meeting will be replayed on Wednesday. Alderperson Boldt concurred with the comments by Alderperson Helms regarding the Comcast law suit. Alderperson Boldt asked for an executive session at the next meeting for pending litigation.
- Alderperson Bush spoke about the status of the 230 W. Stephenson Street and stated he had a tour of the building and there has been quite a bit of movement. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that between now and Christmas we should have estimates for the excavation of the southwest corner of the building in order to have more facts of the cost to move forward. Mayor Gaulrapp stated that he feels there are four options 1) rehabilitate the building 2) sell to a buyer with the capital and a timeline to fix the building 3) demolish the building and 4) make it a community project to rehabilitate. Mayor Gaulrapp stated this needs input from the council members and the citizens.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA OR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Brenda Myers, 7 East Stephenson, Freeport Illinois, spoke about the meeting concerned citizens will be having about 230 W. Stephenson Street with professionals from the State of Illinois. She provided invitations to the council members to attend the meeting on December 13, 2011 at 7:00 pm at the Freeport Public Library.
- Dean Wright spoke about the Hunger Luncheon which will be held on December 8, 2011 at the Masonic Temple.
- Tom Teich, 653 Jefferson Street, Freeport Illinois spoke about a fundraiser that was held for Provena, a restaurant that will be opening in February on South Street, and a new business opening across the street from Aquin High School.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

s/ Meg Zuravel
Meg Zuravel, City Clerk