



## **MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, November 10, 2016**

**Welcome:** President Michael Higgins called the meeting to order.

**Secretary's Report:** October minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** October Balance: \$19,056.72; Income: \$270; Expenses: \$1.03

**Guest Speaker:** Jane Petty, owner Free Press Coffee, Pittsfield, IL

- Leased the former gas station on the corner of MacArthur Blvd. and So. Grand and submitted plans to the City for an espresso coffee bar.
- Remodeling interior and exterior.
- Will add outdoor seating but no drive-through.
- Plans to host community events and become a hub for the surrounding community.

### **Local Government Update:**

Ward 7 Alderman: Michael Higgins reported for Joe McMenamin

- New sidewalks on Outer Park, Dial, Ash and Douglas nearly completed.
- Moody's dropped City's bond rating two notches because of level of debt in pension fund.
- Total water usage in Springfield has dropped every year in the past five years and has been flat for the past 40 years. Consequently, Moody's downgraded CWLP Water Municipal Bonds. Information to consider in Lake II discussions.

Jerome Mayor Michael Lopez

- A new warehouse and retail store will open on Wabash in the vacated Flooring Depot building.
- Retail sales tax collections have dipped and State sales tax refunds due Jerome will be delayed because lack of State budget.
- Parking continues to be the problem on private road by MacArthur Town Homes.

County Board District 23 Member: Lisa Hills

- County Board passed flat budget for 2017: growth is at 1%; revenue is flat; healthcare costs are up 3%.
- Courts' and Jail's budget is projected to be under budget for 2016. Consequently, 2017 budget is below 2016 level.
- Employee pensions are fully funded.
- 911 System upgrade will have capacity to locate all calls plus accept text messages too.

Neighborhood Police Officer: Tami Walcher Russell

- Police offices are actively engaged with residents and children in the neighborhoods by sponsoring alley clean-ups and giving children tours and talks about police department.

- MacArthur Town Homes: Town Homes become available for occupancy when remodeling of the entire building has been completed. Currently, 50 are occupied.

**Board Report:**

Doug Dougherty, MBA Board Member, Board Elections and Bylaw Revisions,

- David Farrell will chair Nominating Committee. Slate will be posted on the website prior to December annual meeting.
- Revised bylaws reflecting MBA's designation as a neighborhood association (formerly a business association) will be posted on website and voted on.

**Announcements:**

- Congratulations to Roy's Custom Tailors for 50 years in business on the Boulevard!
- Renew your membership online at [www.shoponmacarthur.com](http://www.shoponmacarthur.com)  
\$15 Individual; \$25 Family; \$75 Not-For-Profit; \$75 Small Business; \$100 Medium-Size Business; \$150 Large Business.

Respectfully submitted,  
Loretta Durbin, Secretary