

Meeks, Stu

Told to slow down by doctors

Stu Meeks is out of hospital and just rarin' to go

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By Bruce Bell
THE INTELLIGENCER

There may be empty seats at the next city council meeting, but don't count on one of them being Stu Meeks' chair.

The veteran city politician and ambulance service operator is back on his feet after a week-long stay at Belleville General Hospital and vows he will be in his usual spot when council meets January 28.

"Whether I'm well enough or not, I'll be there Monday," he said when reached at his home Thursday evening. "I'm an elected official and that's where I'm supposed to be. I'm feeling a lot better than I was a week ago so I guess that's a good sign."

Meeks, 65, was admitted to the intensive care unit Jan. 15 with respiratory problems after experiencing breathing difficul-

ties during the previous evening's council meeting. Meeks, who often uses an oxygen machine, was forced to stop several times during the meeting and had difficulties leaving city hall afterwards.



**STU
MEEKS**

He said his health problems have been attributed to a swollen gall bladder — not smoking — as many had suspected.

"I know all the non-smokers out there were thinking I was having breathing problems because of cigarettes, but it's not. My gall bladder was swollen to five times its normal size... and that's what

resulted in my shortness of breath.

Coun. Mary-Anne Sills perhaps put it best upon learning of Meeks' hospitalization last week, when she said, "I know he pushes himself so hard, but that's the bull him in. I'm sure that will of a bull will get him home soon."

The bull was in full snort Thursday night, when reached at home. Meeks wasted little time before ripping the federal government for cutting interest rates and launching into a tirade about city council's sale of the Filliter building in downtown Belleville earlier this month.

The outspoken councillor said doctors advised him get a lot of rest and slow down after he was released from the hospital. When reminded of that advice during the interview, the response was not surprising.

"Well I am. I'm sitting on the couch right now," he roared.

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