

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Regular Meeting
February 3, 2004

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2004, in City Council Chambers of the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 S. Illinois Avenue. Mayor Brad Cole called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following-named members of the City Council present/absent:

1. Roll Call

Present: Councilwoman Corene McDaniel, Councilwoman Margaret Flanagan, Councilman Chris Wissmann, Councilman Steven N. Haynes, Councilman Lance D. Jack, Councilwoman Sheila Simon and Mayor Brad Cole

Absent: None

Also present were City Clerk Janet M. Vaught, City Manager Jeffrey W. Doherty and various members of the City's administrative staff.

2. General Announcements and Proclamations

City Manager Jeff Doherty introduced Gary Heern who was just promoted to Assistant Fire Chief, Randy Murray who was promoted to Fire Captain and Mike Hertz who was just hired as a new Carbondale firefighter.

Councilwoman McDaniel announced that the African American Museum of Southern Illinois would be hosting an Evening of Soul at the Eurma C. Hayes Center on Saturday, February 7, at 6:00 p.m.. Tickets are \$20 per person. Also, the Museum will be hosting a Black History Month program at New Zion Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, February 8, at 4:00 p.m..

Councilman Wissmann commended the number of people who were in attendance at this meeting. Noting that many of the people might be present to hear an early agenda item, he asked that they remain for the entire meeting and encouraged them to participate more often in City government.

Councilman Jack reminded everyone of Norm Kurland's presentation on Capital Homesteading to be held at the Civic Center on February 12th at 7:00 p.m..

3. Citizen Comments and Questions

Ms. Helen Porter, President of the Carbondale Branch of the NAACP, said that the members of the Executive Committee met to review the January 6th report to the City Council regarding the Eurma C. Hayes Child Care Center. After reviewing the information, they have concerns and recommendations. She said some of the recommendations were shared with each Council member in a letter. After reviewing the information, their main concern is that many years ago the City made a

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commitment to the families and children of the northeast community to provide child care programs in their neighborhood. They believe it would be detrimental to the City of Carbondale to end services to potentially 160 children. Their recommendations are (1) the City Manager conduct workshops for individuals in the community to inform them of the Model Cities Program which led to the development of the child care center and (2) the Council's decision regarding the future of the Child Care Center be tabled at this time. She said the NAACP looks forward to hearing from the Council concerning the recommendations. She introduced Reverend Rick Jackson who is an Executive Committee member and the Pastor of Bethel AME Church.

Reverend Jackson said the NAACP has serious concerns about the child care program. He noted there are many mothers who are trying to reestablish themselves in the work force and this would be a tremendous blow to them. They are trying to make the move out of welfare and it is necessary that they participate in a program that is in the neighborhood. He said this program is truly needed for children of the northeast side.

Mrs. Margaret Nesbitt presented petitions to the Council which stated "We, the undersigned citizens of Carbondale, Illinois, petition the Mayor and City Council to continue the operation of the Child Care Center, until such time that all active interest, and involvement in a research process to seek funding and increase attendance have been exhausted. We feel it is the responsibility of the city to do whatever is needed to keep the child care center open." 253 signatures were included on the petitions.

Mr. Melvin "Pepper" Holder requested information concerning the Eurma C. Hayes Child Care program, adding that the request for information had been provided to the Mayor's Office in the form of a letter. Mayor Cole noted that the letter was received and that a response is being prepared. The Mayor noted that a lot of similar questions are being asked and responses are being prepared for each inquiry. He said that whether the requests have come from an individual or from a group, he will see that a copy of the written responses are available in the City Clerk's Office for anybody to view or copy. Mayor Cole added that if anyone wants the responses they should contact the Clerk's Office and the Clerk will notify everyone when the information is available.

Mr. Elbert Simon stated that the City should have recognized a long time ago that there was a problem at the Child Care Center, either the funding was not adequate or the attendance was not enough to bring in sufficient operational funding. If these problems were progressive, there should have been someone that had the responsibility for monitoring the situation, recognizing that something was wrong, and putting things in place to make sure that it did not progress to the point where the Council has to consider whether to continue funding the center. He said he doesn't know of any other function of the City that is being considered for elimination, but the Child Care Center is as much a part of the City as police, fire, or any other department. He said it is not fair to ask the citizens at the 11th hour what should be done, adding that the Council, as the elected officials, need to make the decision. He said the City can no more get rid of the Child Care Center than it could get rid of the street department or any other department. He noted that because of the makeup of the citizenry in northeast Carbondale, at one time the residents were a valuable commodity and brought in millions of dollars for the City which allowed for improvements to street, sidewalks, lighting, and other infrastructure. The Eurma C. Hayes Center also came out of that

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funding and the Child Care Center was one of the services that was offered with that funding. Although many of the services have dwindled, the child care center and Attucks Community Services are two programs that remain. He concluded by saying that if at one time the residents of the northeast community were enough of a commodity to bring in the dollars for city improvements and programs, when somebody saw there was a problem and the problem was getting worse, then someone should have taken the responsibility to fix the problem. He said the problem now rests with the Council and the Council should not put it on the citizenry to decide whether the program should be funded or should not be funded. He asked that the Council find a way to keep the child care center open and take care of the Eurma Hayes Center and the City employees.

Dr. M Stalls echoed comments made by the previous speakers regarding the Eurma C. Hayes Child Care Center. She encouraged the Council to explore a partnership among the higher education institutions in the area to do laboratory operations with various disciplines in the Hayes Center, i.e. social work, political science, child care, etc.. She added that this facility was to provide a social service linkage for Carbondale. As separate issues, Dr. Stalls requested that parking be eliminated in front of the building at 300 East Main Street for safety reasons. She also asked that a plan be considered to provide a better connection between northeast Carbondale and North Illinois Avenue somewhere between Oak Street and Dillinger Road.

4. Consent Agenda

Presented for Council approval on the Consent Agenda were the following items and corresponding recommendations:

1. Approval of Minutes. Recommendation: Approve minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held on January 20, 2004.
2. Acceptance of Minutes of Boards, Commissions and Committees. Recommendation: Accept Human Relations Commission of December 1, 2003, and Library Board of October 8 and November 12, 2003.
3. Warrant. Recommendation: Approve Warrant #914 for the period ended January 30, 2004, in the amount of \$2,254,151.80. (Exhibit A-2-3-04)
4. Illinois Municipal League Legislative Bulletin 2004-01. Recommendation: Accept and place on file and support HB 3828.
5. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement and Ordinance authorizing the Execution of a Right-of-Way Grant with Central Illinois Public Service Company for the Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Recommendation: Approve. (Res. 2004-R-09; Ord. 2004-08; Exhibits B-2-3-04 and C-2-3-04 respectively).
6. Removed from consent.

Mayor Cole asked if anyone would like any items removed from the Consent Agenda. Item 4.6 was removed from the Consent Agenda.

S. Simon moved, C. McDaniel seconded, that the Council approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1 through 4.5. VOTE: Ayes: C. McDaniel, M. Flanagan, C. Wissmann, S. Haynes, L. Jack and B. Cole. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

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4.6 Approval of Budget Adjustment and use of U.S. Department of Justice Project Safe Neighborhood Grant:

Recommendation: accept the \$9,000 Project Safe Neighborhood grant from the U.S. Department of Justice and approve the adjustment to the Police Departments FY 2004 budget to fund police officer overtime and purchase equipment in support of the grant. S. Simon moved, C. McDaniel seconded, that the Council approve Consent Agenda item 4.6. VOTE: Ayes: C. McDaniel, M. Flanagan, C. Wissmann, S. Haynes, L. Jack and B. Cole. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

5. Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing on the Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Plan and Project for Redevelopment Project Area No. 1:

This Public Hearing was conducted by the Council immediately following action on Agenda Item 6.4.

6. General Business

1. Resolution Requesting State Action on Medical Insurance Rates:

S. Haynes moved, L. Jack seconded, that the Council approve a Resolution requesting State action on Medical Insurance rates. DISCUSSION: Speaking in support of this resolution were George Maroney, Administrator at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale and Dr. Joseph Rubelowski. Also speaking on this resolution were M Stalls, Richard Whitney and John Stewardson. VOTE: Ayes: C. McDaniel, M. Flanagan, C. Wissmann, S. Haynes, L. Jack and B. Cole. Nays: None. Motion declared carried. (Res. 2004-R-10; Exhibit D-2-3-04)

2. Resolution Affirming the Principles of Federalism and Civil Liberties:

S. Simon moved, C. McDaniel seconded, that the Council adopt the Resolution Affirming the Principles of Federalism and Civil Liberties. DISCUSSION: Speaking in opposition to the resolution was Dr. Joseph Rubelowski. Speaking in support of the resolution were Richard Whitney, Mark Schneider, Jim Syler, Scott Schuette and Richard Thurau. Mayor Cole said the resolution would be sent to the Clerks of both chambers of the General Assembly and Congress, to our State officials, the Governor, the President and our United States Senators, etc.. The Council concurred. VOTE: Ayes: C. McDaniel, M. Flanagan, C. Wissmann, L. Jack and S. Simon. Nays: S. Haynes and B. Cole. Motion declared carried. (Res. 2004-R-11; Exhibit E-2-3-04)

3. Report on FY 2005 Pension Costs:

S. Haynes moved, L. Jack seconded, that the Council accept the Report on FY 2005 Pension Costs and place it on file. VOTE: Ayes: C. McDaniel, M. Flanagan, C. Wissmann, S. Haynes, L. Jack and B. Cole. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

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4. Review of Capital Improvement Program Checklist Items for Proposed New Projects:

Council members offered comments and suggestions concerning the items listed on the report. Councilwoman McDaniel asked that M Stalls' name be added to #1, the north bypass. She also commended the Girl Scouts for becoming involved. Councilwoman Flanagan asked that #1, Schwartz Street, be moved up in the priorities and that residential parking be considered. She also agreed that recycling bins should be placed at the Eurma C. Hayes Center. Councilman Wissmann agreed with #4, that high-speed internet access should be provided to the Bicentennial Industrial Park. Later in the meeting, he also noted that there are cobblestone sidewalks on the north side of East Jackson Street and on the west side of North Springer which need to be cleaned and repaired. Councilman Haynes asked that a sidewalk be placed on North Wall Street between Fisher Street and Thomas School. The City Manager noted that the sidewalk included in the Wall Street reconstruction project. Councilman Haynes also asked that a railroad crossing into the northeast section of Carbondale also be considered. The City Manager said he would share some historic information with the Council concerning this additional crossing. Councilman Jack concurred with staff on the Drainways/Greenways plan. Councilwoman Simon had nothing to add. Mayor Cole noted that work had been done on the East Walnut Street railroad crossing and improvements on all the crossings will be continuing. Work on the Main Street crossing will begin on February 24th.

Mayor Cole invited citizen comments concerning the capital improvements program. Elbert Simon requested improved lighting and resurfacing of the parking lot at the Eurma C. Hayes Center. He also noted that there are maintenance issues at the Hayes Center which should be addressed. E.G. Hughes expressed support for the improvement of Schwartz Street and the Eason Drive area. Charles Howe expressed support for an overpass over the railroad in the northeast section of town as well as an overall plan for improving the traffic flow between SIU and the northeast section of town. He suggested that Illinois Avenue be closed between Mill and Walnut Streets and converted into an area for pedestrians only and that traffic be rerouted past the east side of town. Elius Reed asserted that in various construction projects in the community, i.e. the railroad crossing improvement project, Brentwood Commons and the new restaurant near the mall, there appear to be no minority workers employed. He said the City needs to make a better effort to get minority workers employed on these construction jobs. Joel Landry said that Oak Street between the railroad tracks and University Avenue, as well as the sidewalks in that area, need to be repaired. Anna Velitchkova asked that the City begin recycling plastic. The Mayor noted that the City's program does accept certain types of plastic and said that someone on staff would talk with Ms. Velitchkova about the program.

Mayor Cole noted that the five-year capital improvements program would be scheduled for approval in April when the FY 2005 operating budget is approved. There was no action on this item at this meeting.

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5.1 Public Hearing on the Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Plan and Project for Redevelopment Project Area No. 1:

The minutes of this public hearing were transcribed separately.

7. Council Comments

Councilwoman Flanagan asked questions and received clarification from Michael Weber of PGAV Urban Consulting on a number of items related to establishment of the TIF District, particularly the costs to the City.

Councilwoman Flanagan said that for a number of years there have been town meetings around the City and said that people have been asking when the town meetings are going to be scheduled. She said she would like to get the town meetings on the agenda and asked if the Council could agree on some dates. Mayor Cole said that when the Council schedule was adopted in November, there was discussion about other ways to have the town hall meetings so attendance could be increased. He asked Council members to submit ideas to the City Manager or the Mayor's Office on how to improve the attendance then the meetings will be scheduled.

Councilwoman Flanagan said that the format of meetings now is that a motion is made immediately which she believes sets the tone for the discussion. She said this is strictly Roberts Rules of Order, but she feels it is not citizen-friendly because the Council doesn't have the input from the citizens before a motion is made. She is being asked why this is occurring and asked that the Council consider having citizen input and discussion before making a motion. Mayor Cole responded that the Code stipulates that the Council operate under Roberts Rules, which is the way he conducts the meeting, adding that Roberts Rules and calls for a motion and a second prior to discussion on an item. Councilwoman McDaniel said she likes the way the meetings are being conducted now and the use of Roberts Rules and parliamentary procedure. She added that each person has the opportunity to voice their opinions before they vote and discussion before is unnecessary.

Councilwoman Flanagan noted that it was brought up early in the meeting about affirmative action on construction sites. She noted that there is a lot of construction going on in Carbondale and asked that a better effort be made toward including women and minorities on job sites.

Councilman Wissmann asked some additional questions concerning establishment of the TIF District and the costs that will be reimbursable. He also thanked the citizens who demonstrated their interest in civic affairs and stayed throughout the entire Council meeting. He indicated hope that the citizens would attend future meetings and continue to show interest and participate. He added he also hoped that when the Council does not have "hot button" national issues the Council continues to have this kind of attendance.

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Councilwoman Simon asked one additional question concerning the TIF District. It was noted that even though the City does not currently have a property tax levy except for library purposes, the City will receive the entire increment increase for all the taxing districts.

Councilman Haynes congratulated the CCHS Terrier basketball team for being ranked #12 in the state.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was declared adjourned at 10:10 p.m..

Janet M. Vaught, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:
