

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Special Meeting
April 18, 2007

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a special meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2007, 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: Councilman Lance Jack, Councilwoman Sheila Simon, Councilman Joel Fritzler, Councilman Chris Wissmann, Councilman Steven Haynes and Mayor Brad Cole.

Absent: Councilwoman Corene McDaniel.

Also present were City Clerk Janet M. Vaught, City Manager Jeffrey W. Doherty and various members of the City's administrative staff. Mayor Cole noted that Councilwoman McDaniel was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

2. General Business

1. Review and Discussion of the Proposed FY 2008 Budget and Five Year Community Investment Program

Mayor Cole invited Council comments concerning the additional information that was presented by the City Manager via a memorandum placed on the Council table at this meeting.

Regarding \$500 for commemorative artwork to be donated to Virginia Tech University, Councilman Wissmann added that the presentation could be coordinated with Southern Illinois University. Mayor Cole said he would consult with the Chancellor. The Mayor also suggested that perhaps the artwork could be placed in Friendship Plaza in honor of the Virginia Tech tragedy.

Regarding the carryover payments to twenty homebuilders for the \$3,500 Homebuilders grants, a majority of Council members agreed that funding in the amount of \$70,000 for the payments should be included in the FY 2008 budget. Councilman Haynes suggested and Councilman Jack agreed that the program should be continued into FY 2008 with a finite number of grants to be awarded.

Regarding funding for a feasibility study for solar panels at the Eurma C. Hayes Center, a majority of Council members agreed that funding should be included in the FY 2008 budget. City Manager Doherty also said that staff would investigate possible grant funding for the project.

Regarding funding for the Spirit of Attucks Reunion and the I Can Read Program, the City Manager noted that this was inadvertently left out of the FY 2008 budget. A majority of Council members agreed that it should be included.

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Mayor Cole invited comments or questions regarding the Proposed FY 2008 budget.

Councilman Fritzler asked about progress reports from the lobbyist retained a year ago and whether this is included in the upcoming budget. Mayor Cole noted that the agreement had a one-year term and is now up for renewal, which renewal will be voted on by the Council.

Council Members asked questions and made comments concerning other portions of the proposed budget. There was no Council direction and/or consensus on other changes to be made to the budget as proposed.

Mayor Cole invited comments or questions from the audience. D. Gorton, 702 West Cherry Street, asked whether there was money provided for training and support of the new Neighborhood Inspector. Carl Herzog, 2000 Evergreen Terrace asked questions about the sales tax rebate to Old Navy and Gap.

Mayor Cole noted that the FY 2007 Budget and the Five-Year Community Investment Program would be brought back for Council approval on April 24th.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:05 p.m..

Approved by the City Council on:

Janet M. Vaught, City Clerk