

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Public Hearing on the Proposal to Invest in the Future of Carbondale
August 21, 2007

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a public hearing on Tuesday, August 21, 2007, in the Civic Center, 200 South Illinois Avenue, for the purpose of soliciting public comments on the Proposal to Invest in the Future of Carbondale. Mayor Brad Cole called the public hearing to order at 7:17 p.m. with the following-named members of the City Council present/absent:

Present: Councilwoman Corene McDaniel, Councilwoman Mary Pohlmann, Councilman Chris Wissmann, Councilman Steven Haynes, Councilman Lance Jack, Councilman Joel Fritzler and Mayor Brad Cole

Absent: None

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

City Manager Jeff Doherty introduced the public hearing by noting that at the July 17, 2007, Regular Meeting of the City Council, Mayor Cole presented to the City Council a proposal to increase the home rule municipal sales tax in Carbondale from one percent to one and one-half percent effective on January 1, 2008. A public hearing on the Proposal to Invest in the Future of Carbondale has been scheduled for the regular City Council meeting on August 21st. A notice of the Public Hearing was published twice in the *Southern Illinoisan* newspaper. In addition to the opportunity for citizens to speak at the Public Hearing, written and email comments on the Proposal to Invest in the Future of Carbondale were accepted through Wednesday, August 15th. The Office of the City Manager received one letter and one email on the subject and they have been provided with the agenda item.

City Manager Doherty summarized the Proposal to Invest in the Future of Carbondale by noting that the home rule municipal sales tax would be increased one half percent from one percent to one and one-half percent effective on January 1, 2008, for general merchandise sold at retail in Carbondale, excluding items licensed by the State of Illinois, such as cars, trucks, boats, and excluding groceries and medicine. The additional one-half percent sales tax is projected to produce over \$2.3 million in the City's 2009 Fiscal Year, beginning on May 1, 2008. The adoption of the municipal home rule sales tax would provide the City's General Fund with additional revenue required to continue delivering the quality and diverse services to its citizens and to continue funding community organizations in support of their programs. The alternatives to increasing the sales tax for the General Fund revenues are to reinstate the City's property tax levy, to reduce expenditures by reducing and/or eliminating funding for community organizations, to eliminate City staff positions, to reduce and/or eliminate City programs, or a combination of the above alternatives. The non-revenue alternatives would result in fewer services to the citizens of Carbondale and a diminished quality of local government.

Mr. Doherty noted that the adoption of the additional municipal home rules sales tax would provide the City with the resources to address four major community capital projects: (1) A new Public Safety Center for the City of Carbondale Police and Fire Departments and Emergency Management Services to be located on the site of the former Lincoln Middle School which is now owned by the City of Carbondale in the event that federal funds are not secured to construct this facility. Revenue would be available to fund the debt service of approximately \$400,000 annually for bonds issued for the \$6.2 million facility. (2) A new Fire Station on the west side of Carbondale to replace the existing station on South Oakland Avenue. Revenue would be available to construct the \$1.25 million facility. (3) Open space development involving the construction of bikeways, sidewalks and greenways in the community. Revenue would be available to provide \$500,000

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over five years to improve and expand outdoor facilities. In addition, \$35,000 would be allocated to assist the Carbondale Park District with infrastructure improvements at the LIFE Community Center which will allow the building to remain functional during heavy rains. (4) The Southern Illinois University Carbondale initiative to replace McAndrew Stadium and upgrade the SIU Arena through the Saluki Way project. Revenue from the increases sales tax would allow the City to provide \$20 million over 20 years to assist in the University's funding of the \$80 million improvements.

Mayor Cole said the purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments, adding that action would be considered during the General Business portion of the agenda. Mayor Cole then invited comments from the public.

Leonard Gross, 2600 West Kent Drive: Mr. Gross said he was a long-time Carbondale resident and Professor in the Law School at SIUC but was speaking as an individual and not in his capacity as a professor at the University. Southern Illinois University has already decided that it wants to spend millions of dollars for Saluki Way. Now the City is considering whether to give them millions of dollars a year based on assumptions that are rather unproven. The argument is that if we build the new stadium we will have additional attendance at the stadium, but five football games is not going to offset expenses. On top of that, the arena refurbishing is not going to produce the additional revenue either. He said we already have good teams that are supported, adding that putting cushions on the seats is not going to be a substantial revenue source. The big argument is that there will be a lot more students coming here which will help the Carbondale businesses because they will be spending money. That may be so, but he hasn't seen any evidence to support that students will come here because we have a new football stadium. It seems to him that there is a good likelihood that students make decisions based on where they are going to get the best value in education. We have had good football teams and basketball teams and students are going to Logan or SEMO. It seems the best way for SIU to improve is to sink the money into improving education rather than the football stadium. He asked where the evidence is that building the stadium is going to produce this kind of revenue. He thinks as part of Saluki Way in phase two or three there are going to be some new dorms in the distant future but the bulk of the money is going to the football stadium and to refurbish the arena. He said that SIU originally assumed it could fund the project from private donations but that turned out to be a mistake. It seems to him that years back the Park District said if it built a golf course that people from as far away as St. Louis will come to play and we'll make a fortune, but that didn't happen either. He said anyone can mis-guess about the future but it seems to him that there is no factual support to suggest that students are actually going to come to SIU because there is a new stadium. He said this is something that is obviously controversial and it seems to him that since this did not come up in the last Mayoral election and was not an issue, this matter should be put to a public referendum before the decision is made to spend this kind of money, especially given all the other needs that are not being met in Carbondale which other folks will speak about. He thanked the Council for its consideration.

Bill Rowley, 121 North Lark Lane: Mr. Rowley said as Carbondale residents for eight years, he and his wife are present to speak against the Mayor's proposed City sales tax increase. He said they are not against the sales tax increase per se, but are against giving the money to SIU for the building of a stadium with residents' hard-earned money. If this money would directly help all the citizens of Carbondale with a new fire station, a new police station, increased city services, that would be very acceptable to them. What is not acceptable is to hand over \$1 million a year of citizens' hard-earned money to an institution that does not pay taxes, that uses City services and does not pay its employees comparable wages to other major educational institutions, all for a stadium. If this increase is approved, as citizens of Carbondale they will find themselves making most of their purchases in other communities.

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Barbara McKasson, (address not given): McKasson said she is Chair of the Shawnee Group Sierra Club and is representing those members who live in Carbondale and is also speaking on behalf of the Carbondale Community Global Warming Committee. She said Sierra Club and the Global Warming Committee are not taking an position on the sales tax increase nor on the merits of donating a large part of the revenue from the tax increase to Saluki Way. Instead, their purpose is to advocate for a commitment from the people and government of Carbondale to curb global warming and to fund only energy-efficient buildings. Making a commitment of providing \$1 million per year for the Saluki Way project and funding for a new police station and fire station is very forward-looking. If the City Council decides to approve the sales tax increase and earmark it for Saluki Way, they strongly urge the Council to be more forward-looking by requiring that SIU sign an agreement to make the new buildings meet standards set by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). In addition, they urge the Council to pass a resolution requiring the new police and fire station buildings to also be built to LEED standards. They also support the suggested use of funds to support new, safe bikeways and to build more sidewalks so people have more safe options than to always drive their cars. They especially advocate bikeways and sidewalks to enable more children to safely walk or bike to school. If the City and University are to truly be forward-looking, they must plan new buildings that will be energy efficient. We have already felt the shock and awe of higher electric and gas bills and the price of energy will only go higher in the future. Also, we must wean ourselves from fossil fuels to avoid the worst effects of global warming. She noted that Mayor Cole had signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement which pledges the City of Carbondale to decrease global warming gasses by 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. Now is the time for the members of the City Council to get involved and act on this pledge. This is a golden opportunity for the City of Carbondale to take the lead in reducing global warming pollutants and at the same time cutting energy waste and energy bills and lessening our oil addiction. Last week they sent the Mayor and Council members an article on an arena and stadium that are to be built to LEED standards by the City of Louisville, Kentucky. In addition, the proposed police and fire stations would be great candidates for geothermal heating and cooling, such as the example of the geothermal system at the new Gators Garage on Reed Station Road. They are counting on the City of Carbondale and SIU to be the leaders in funding green buildings. Cost effective energy performance should be one of our forward-looking goals in all municipally-funded buildings in Carbondale.

Michael Burns (no address given): Burns said he was a former long-term resident of Carbondale and his family still lives here. Burns said this is a good intentioned proposal but SIU is an institution that needs serious reform. He said the City ought not be giving SIU money until they have actually proven they can get their act together on a dozen different issues other than just Saluki Way. He said the City is not going to collect the money it thinks it is going to collect, adding that he lives in Chicago and has a lot of business interests in Carbondale and Chicago. He said when taxes are raised like this, it is the large-ticket merchants who are harmed. People will just go outside the area to purchase whatever large ticket item they want and over time the City will see the sales tax diminish. He said this is not wanted in this community, adding that there is a hospital, SIU and a few other large employers but other than that, Southern Illinois is not a large economic pie and the higher the taxes become, the more the pie is being split up between public entities. There is only so much money to go around. He said he would caution against this.

Harvey Welch, 1003 West Sycamore: Welch said he was addressing the Council as a long-term resident and concerned citizen. He said he has had the opportunity to live in Carbondale since 1951. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak in favor of support for the proposal as he understands it. Other than his twenty year military career, he has spent most of his life in Carbondale, adding that he and his wife love this City and live here by choice and for no other reason. He asked the Council to approve this measure, adding that from his perspective the Council has the opportunity to do something positive for the community. They can reestablish some of the positive relationships that have happened in the past with some things that the

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City has done with the University and with other agencies in the City. He said he urges the Council to take this opportunity to do something positive adding from his perspective it is the Council's duty and obligation to do so. He urged the Council to vote in the affirmative for this measure.

Nate Brown, 335 Warren Road: Brown apologized in advance, stating that he has classes at the Law School the next day so would have to leave the meeting following his comments. He said he recalled reading the story of the construction of Shryock Auditorium, with the story being that the cultural center was built and shared with the community freely as it was a hub connecting the university and the community. The relationship between the university and the community is certainly a unique and a fundamentally important one. Although it is different from that of other local schools in the area, it has been said time and time again that Southern needs a healthy and supportive community and Carbondale needs a healthy and vibrant university. Truly, the two bodies are so interdependent that to separate them from one another could possibly mean death to both. Brown said that there are so many instances that we, as leaders, are put into a situation which calls upon us to place a value on things so necessary and fundamental as SIU is to Carbondale. When considering this tax proposal, he asked the Council to not only consider the details and specifics of the plan but to go beyond the policy and look at the implications and opportunities that this plan creates. The decision that is made tonight by the Council has the potential to affect the community for years to come. He said he often times says that he finds people detached from consequences, adding that for Council members there is an impact based on what the Council decides to do or not to do. This truly is a watershed moment for this community, but this moment and where the City goes from here relies on where the Council goes tonight. Years from now, people will reflect on this occasion and say, "Carbondale has confirmed many of our suspicions. The businesses court our campus, the landlords make a living from our students and the restaurants stay in business because of the traffic at the University generates. But when it was asked of Carbondale to give back to the University that makes many of its citizens wealthy, provides its residents with countless opportunities and generates traffic, consumers, tourists and future leaders, they failed to respond." Or, he asked, will people tell the story that when Carbondale was asked to support the University in its effort to grow and develop, Carbondale rose to the occasion and said, "We are in this together." Brown said that through his fine Southern education he knows that there is a word for something that takes and never gives; the term is parasite. He also knows there is a term for something that works together and reached solutions and is there when it is called to serve; the term is community. He asked which one would characterize Carbondale, adding that tonight we may know. He thanked the Council for its support, adding that with the Council's help Southern will enjoy a bright future and we will all be able to look back to this evening and remember when Carbondale rose to the occasion for the university that calls Carbondale home.

Clark Ashby, 907 Briarwood Drive: Ashby said all he knows essentially is what he has read in the paper, adding that he did send a letter to the newspaper some time ago about this issue. He read a statement, "Let's not jump out of the frying pan into the fire with the Mayor's surprise tax plan. What don't I like about it? I think it's bad politics. The Council was surprised in July and then the town paper for a month whipped up all sorts of enthusiasm for the increase in the sales tax and he got the impression that they were making the news, not reporting the news. Let's not undercut the Council. I think it's bad government. Get the facts. Call in a budget committee. Call in a planning committee. The reported emergencies, some of them, are older than some of the students at the university who will be paying the tax if it passes. Plan first, then ask for the money. I think it's bad management. If we're going to give \$20 million to the university with no strings that I've heard about so far and no real plan for how it is going to be spent, I can't call that good fiscal management. Bad policy. The City should not be a collection agency while the University adds taxes to its consistently rising student fees and tuition of the university. Increasing student enrollment is the best way to increase income for both the City and the university. Driving students away by additions such as this new tax which they will bear a major share of because when they come here they have to buy things, driving students away is the wrong way to go. I think it's bad public relations. How many students needing an

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education are going to be impressed by the dream of a new football stadium for their kids? Many students have problems and need help for their own dreams. I urge the Council to take a cool look at the long-term consequences of any tax plan.”

Donald Monty, 418 South Giant City Road: Monty said he previously provided to the City Manager and the Mayor and Council copies of a written document he prepared and he does not want to read the whole thing because he feels it would be redundant. Mayor Cole noted that Mr. Monty’s written document will be part of the record. (Exhibit PH-A-8-21-07) Monty thanked the Mayor and said he would only hit on a couple of high points and then make some additional comments. Monty said he supports the increase in sales tax for City purposes. He believes the City Manager has made a good argument for why the City needs additional funds to maintain its operations, its pension obligations, provide for certain public safety aspects such as a new west side fire station and new public safety building which is direly needed. Also, it has been a long time since the City has been able to put substantial money into open space and bike paths and so on, and this is something that is very important and the City needs to take into account. Monty interjected that he has noticed on his morning jogs that on Grand Avenue the traffic is backed up from Lewis Lane all the way to Brehm School and looking at the cars it seems that 90% of the cars have one person in them so bicycle paths would certainly be helpful in this community. Mr. Monty continued by stating that he does oppose the use of the City’s funds for the Saluki Way project. The first reason is that the University is a state institution and he thinks as a matter of public policy the City would be setting a bad example if the City funds capital needs that the State of Illinois as much as if the State were asking the City of Mt. Vernon to fund the needs of the State Courthouse or Anna to fund the needs of the Choate Mental Health Institute or Marion fund improvements to the State Office Building, or Chester assisting with the Prison because for some reason the State can’t get its act together and fund the capital program that it needs to fund. Monty said if local governments start picking up these capital projects for the State of Illinois, what is the incentive for the State Legislature to assume its own obligations? Why not pass the buck down to local governments? To him, that is not good public policy. The second reason to oppose this is because it puts the City in the middle of something that is very controversial on the university campus and he questions whether it is an appropriate role for the City to be in. Also, providing the money for Saluki Way places a State need in front of the needs of Carbondale residents. He said he provided the Council with a copy of the futures and unfunded Community Investment Projects, adding that there are about 125 projects for streets, storm sewers, improvements to South Illinois Avenue, etc.. A lot of these projects have been around for a long time and a lot of residents have been told that the City can’t do them because the City doesn’t have the money to do them. But here comes another project that gets in the front of the line so there is a real issue there. Monty said as a practical matter if the City wants to help SIU, then perhaps the City could build the entire public safety building including a part for SIU which would be a way of showing City support for the University and would be something far less controversial than Saluki Way. Monty wondered if it would be better to use the second 1/4 cent increase that is being proposed to set up a fund to pay for unfunded community investment programs and to fund the financing of large items of equipment that the City needs from time to time such as fire trucks, etc., adding that a lot of these pieces of equipment cost a lot of money. Also, he asked if it would be better to use the second 1/4 cent of the sales tax increase to take efforts to diversity the City’s economic base rather than continue the over reliance on the university in the City’s community. Much has been made of the importance of the university to the City’s economy but, in fact, that importance is not just to Carbondale but to the entire region. He said if one is going to expect the local area to support the university than perhaps it would be appropriate to have a regional sales tax increase rather than just a City sales tax increase to do that. However, Monty noted, this again goes contrary to the notion of a locality assuming the State’s responsibility. Monty said he had some specific concerns and since he does not know how the item is going to be dealt with later on in the agenda when the specific items of legislation are discussed and because he hadn’t seen the specific agenda items when he prepared his written comments, he would like to address those points. He said he has some concerns about the resolution that is before the

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Council. The resolution authorizes the Mayor to sign an agreement, yet there is no agreement attached so nobody knows what the agreement is going to be at this point. He said it would be quite appropriate for the public and the City Council to see the agreement before the Council decides to authorize its execution so that we can be sure that it has appropriate safeguards for the City. For example, will the agreement deal with what happens if for some reason SIU abandons the Saluki Way project? Or what if alternative funding becomes available and the City's money is not needed? Can the City stop paying the money? What happens if there is a natural disaster or some significant emergency that befalls the City and it needs the money? Is the City obliged to continue paying the money to the University in that situation? Monty said that there are also unanswered questions about Saluki Way. There has been no presentation before the City Council about this project. SIU officials say they are waiting on blueprints to show to potential donors before they can get substantial donations before the private sector. If that's the case, why should not the City also wait to see what the blueprints are before buying into the project. Monty said he has some questions about the cost of the Saluki Way project, adding that public estimates and the one referred to by the City Manager earlier put the cost for Phase I of the project at \$80 million. Apparently student fees and tuition will pay about half of that, or about \$40 million. So the City's \$20 million would be a quarter of the cost. However, in reading the resolution he noted that the City's funds would be used to finance the debt service on bonds that would be sold by the University to finance the project. Not knowing for sure what kind of bonding structure would be used or interest rates or the term of the bond, it is hard to project what those costs would be. But if one assumes that since the City is guaranteeing the payment of bonds for twenty years that the bond issuance would be for twenty years, and if the bonds went at a face value of 5%, then out of the \$20 million the City would pay to the University, probably \$7.5 million would go in interest payments and only leave \$12.5 million to help pay for the improvements. This then calls into question the \$80 million figure, whether this is just the cost of construction or does it also include the debt service. When we hear about different people putting so much money into this thing, are we talking about \$80 million or \$120 million for the project cost, or \$150 million by the time the debt service is built in? If that is the case, is the City's involvement really of that much consequence to the project? Monty said these are some of his issues. To him, it would be prudent to ask SIU to make a complete presentation to the City Council and to the public detailing all the project components, the cost, the financing methods and so on before the City is asked to approve a \$20 million contribution. Presumably the University administration will make such a presentation to the University Board of Trustees to seek approval to move forward with the Saluki Way project. Monty asked why can't the City, as a potential major investor, receive the same presentation. In conclusion, Monty said he supports the 1/4 cent increase in the Home Rules Sales Tax for the City's purposes because that money is needed, but at this time he opposes the 1/4 cent increase for Saluki Way. He said he could support the additional 1/4 cent sales tax if those funds were being used to finance the City's own needs such as the unfunded community investment projects.

Roy Mazuchowski, 805 East College: Mazuchowski said he is currently an SIUC senior. One of the reasons he came to SIU is because of the accessibility that is offered to the student that have disabilities. One of the issues he has outside of the SIU and Carbondale community is the accessibility that is not as great as some of the areas at SIU. So, for him to say give the City a 1/4% increase to give \$20 million to SIU for Saluki Way is not right when there are other projects around Carbondale that can definitely help people with disabilities and senior citizens. He said the public safety center will be so much more accessible and people with disabilities will be able to go into the offices instead of just going into a little corner booth and hoping to meet with somebody. He said he is on a fixed income and although he has a little bit of a part time job he will be taxed three times, student fees, Illinois tax which should support SIU and now an increase in local sales tax. He said this is not fair, particularly to put that burden on a majority of students who come to school here and live here. Mazuchowski said he wishes the City could find some other way to help SIU other than just giving them \$20 million freely.

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Linz Brown, 906 S. Valley Road: Brown thanked the Council for the opportunity to address the proposed sales tax increase of one-half percent that is on tonight's agenda. He said he would be speaking against adoption of the proposal in its current form, but his comments do not preclude a more reasonable and downsized version. He said he would like to borrow from David Letterman and his popular late-night show format so is presenting his top ten reasons for not supporting the proposal. He said that people who know him know that he would like to get underneath the perception to know what the issues and the reality is in the City, so he will do his best with the documentation he has to present some of the facts that haven't been heard yet tonight. Brown said, "Number 10: This proposal places small business owners in a no-win situation. In order to show support for SIU, which many want to do, the small business owners stand to lose some business. How much they will lose remains to be seen. One very prominent, local business owner who is a consistent supporter of SIUC and the community told him that he would probably be able to support the proposal but his business would take a hit. Already a few residents that they plan to buy out of town as a protest if this proposal is adopted by the Council. So there will be some repercussions. Number 9: The decision-making process on this highly unique and potentially divisive proposal does not provide sufficient opportunity for input from the 25,597 residents of Carbondale. Although four of you have the right to make a majority decision, I would think under the circumstances you would want broad support from the community. Number 8: The long-term impact of this proposal burdens and constrains future Councils and, as a result, threatens future operations and services. Number 7: This proposal endangers the financial security of the City with too many obligations and too much dependency on sales and service taxes, especially in the event of an economic downturn. In the fiscal year 2008 budget, sales and service taxes are projected to be approximately 73% of total revenue in the General Fund. You know what happens when you put all of your eggs in one basket. Number 6: This proposal burdens lower-income citizens of Carbondale with a regressive tax. The proposed sales tax increase will be on top of the gasoline tax and the telecommunication tax passed by the Council within the past four years. Is anyone on the Council concerned about the cumulative impact on low-income families? They are the ones I see most often in the retail stores and malls of Carbondale. Many of the people with higher incomes can go to Chicago or St. Louis or around the world to do things or buy things that you want. But it is the low income people that will be facing the burden of these taxes and there have been three of them added on top of this. Number 5: This has already been spoken to by Mr. Monty but I'll reinforce it because I'm concerned about this. This proposal does not contain any attached agreements or written provisions that set forth the understandings and conditions for a commitment to SIU. Are you going to vote without knowing what you are committing to or without exploring the financial and legal ramifications of this commitment in writing? That would be totally irresponsible. What about the public? What about public disclosure? Don't they have a right to see and react to any proposed agreement as part of the proposal before there is a vote? What happens if there is an economic downturn and there are not sufficient funds to support the General Fund and SIU? What happens if SIU cannot raise sufficient monies to fund the Saluki Way project? With they return the City's investment? Will there be any provisions in an agreement for future Councils to cancel the agreement due to a financial crisis? Number 4: Approval of this proposal will burden the citizens of Carbondale with too many taxes and too much long-term debt. In the past four years, you have increased gasoline taxes and added a ten-year bond debt of \$7.69 million to resurface and reconstruct streets. You also have increased taxes on phone calls with the Simplified Telecommunications Tax. And last year SIU students received a 1% municipal sales tax increase on campus purchases. On top of this, there is a \$800,000 annual expense for twenty years in support of Carbondale public schools. That is a total of \$16,000,000. With this proposal, you want to add another \$20 million of debt by giving \$1 million a year for 20 years to a State-supported institution. Mayor Cole, you stated in your 2007 Platform document that 'The community has fared well under the leadership of Brad Cole, someone who knows when a deal is worth making and also when the costs are just too high or the benefits are just too low to work out in the best interests of the community.' My question is how many taxes, how much spending, and how many millions of dollars of debt is just too high or the benefits too low for the best interests of the community. Number 3: This proposal is a cover for questionable revenue source

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changes, excessive spending and unprecedented deficits the past three years by the Mayor and Council. It is the first time in recent history that the Council is on track to complete three consecutive annual deficits. Council members and interested citizens should read the City Manager's financial analysis and comments on pages one through three of the proposal. The FY 2008 budget projects that the City next year will be within \$10,522 of its minimum fund balance and that there will be an unfavorable balance of \$621,170 in the following year. By policy, the minimum fund balance serves as a contingency fund for emergencies. This financial situation jeopardizes the City's bond rating making it more expensive to borrow money. In short, the City is in a financial bind. Mayor Cole, you stated in your annual State of the City Address on November 8, 2005, that 'our financial picture is perhaps the best it has ever been.' You went on to say that 'Our General Fund balance today sits at a very healthy \$7 million'. It's too bad that you and some members of the Council don't read and take the advise of the City Manager. He has repeatedly pointed out in various documents, including proposed budgets, the fact that you are overspending and jeopardizing the City's financial status. Number 2: This proposal ignores the \$40,826,276 of unmet needs documented in the fiscal year 2008 Community Investment Program. This \$40 million is the total of everything in the Community Investment Program, and for people who don't know what that is, it's a list that is prepared by the City that lists the unfunded, unmet needs of the City. There are no stated provisions that I have noticed or priorities in the proposal for these unmet needs. Who should be taken care of first, the citizens of Carbondale or SIU? I have always heard that charity begins at home. And the Number One reason for not supporting this proposal is: Number 1: This proposal bypasses the will of the people. The magnitude and length of this unprecedented commitment to spend \$1 million a year for 20 years for non-City purposes needs broad support form the tax-paying citizens of this community. For as few as four people to push the proposal through at this time would be an unwise and irresponsible use of power. Why an unwise use of power? Exhibit #4 in the proposal provides a partial answer. This exhibit lists the sales tax rates for 27 communities in Illinois and 10 local communities in Southern Illinois. I did some research on the reasons for recent increases and the decision-making process followed in other local communities, those listed in Exhibit #4 of the proposal. My focus was on cities with sales tax rates of 7.75% or higher because this is the rate the proposal would take us to. DuQuoin is the first of those examples. It has the highest sales tax rate of the local communities listed. This city recently increased its sales tax rate by one-half percent, but the increase was voted upon by the citizens in a referendum and the increase was used as matching funds to build a new high school. The community, not the Council, decided on the increase. Mt. Vernon and Jefferson County is another example. This is the second highest of local communities listed in Exhibit #4 of the proposal. The city had only a 1% home rule sales tax as part of an exiting 7¼ % sales tax, but the county recently asked for an additional one-half percent for safety expenditures and debt payment in a successful county-wide referendum. Again, the community decided, not the City Council or the County Board. DuQuoin and Mt. Vernon/Jefferson County are not the only ones to establish precedents by using public referendums for large projects. The Carbondale School District used a public referendum in 1999 to fund the new high school. This is the same project for which the City contributes \$800,000 a year. Why does the Carbondale City Council not want to follow these examples? Are we to be less democratic than our neighbors? The scope of Carbondale's proposal is beyond anything that voters entrusted to Council members. Why didn't those proposing and supporting this proposal mention it to the voters in the last election? Proposals of this type do not come out of thin air. It takes time to formulate such ideas and to coordinate with key individuals at the university. SIU needs to demonstrate that it has the capacity to raise a matching \$20 million that would match the proposed offer by the City. Why should the taxpayers of Carbondale be the major financial supporters of a State-supported institution?" In summary, Brown said that SIU is important to this community and it deserves support, but a financial issue of this magnitude and length of commitment must be carefully considered and must have broad support from the citizens of Carbondale. He said he has heard that politics is the art of compromise. It is the extreme of my-way or no-way that bothers him whether it is at the local level, the state level or the national level. The Governor's stance on the State budget is a good example. Brown said he hopes that this Council will do the rationale and responsible thing by not voting for the

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proposal as presented. He urged the City Council to do one of two things: (1) authorize a public referendum on the current proposal, or (2) reduce the proposed increase to one-quarter percent, set up specific priorities with community input and discussion, stop deficit spending and unwarranted proposals, and lower the SIU commitment to a more modest amount. Brown invited questions from the Council. Mayor Cole noted that this is not the time for questions. Brown said he would like to reserve the right to respond to questions when the issue is considered later in the agenda.

Ed Van Awken, 1009 West Sycamore: Van Awken said that the reason that SIU is losing students is not because there is not a new football stadium but it's because other colleges are cheaper and safer, especially John A. Logan and Murray State. He said the way we get money for bike paths and green space is to allocate some of the \$42 million City budget on land for the people. Simply put, the common person is already exploited enough especially with energy and health care costs, especially senior citizens, and the common person does not need to be exploited by our City by paying more taxes.

Hugh Williams, 611 East Park: Williams said he is an attorney but is not representing any client and is speaking only as a concerned citizen. He said a lot of the issues were touched on before he spoke which relieved some of his speaking burden. One of his concerns with the tax increase is that no empirical studies exist which indicate that the building of a stadium will significantly increase the revenues for local businesses. The bulk of what he has seen in the paper are people saying, "I think", "I feel" or "I believe". As one of his professors once told him, no one cares what people think, feel or believe; in other words, there needs to be some type of empirical study. He said this almost seems like it is a rush to judgement. Williams said as to Saluki Way, the public has repudiated Saluki Way, adding that they avoid it with their wallets. He said the latest numbers he has seen is that roughly \$900,000 has been raised which is less than 3% of the \$38 million goal of private-side donations. The lack of support became apparent when the original parameters were set up at 75:25% private donation to students which ended up being readjusted to 50:50%. There is a false premise behind stadium and arena renovations. He said, however, that before he continues he wants to say that he supports Saluki Athletics, he has season tickets and is a sports lover. However, there seems to be some bizarre theory that athletic excellence will lead to increased student enrollment. Even more bizarre is perhaps that more students will enroll at SIU because of a new stadium. This raises the question, assuming the theory is true and perhaps some one can explain it to him, why despite recent successes of the football team, men's basketball team, women's softball team, as well as a number of world and national class athletes in swimming, tennis and track and field, why enrollment continues to decline. Williams said that SIU should realize that the money they are wasting in Saluki Way will be better spent in other areas such as repairing existing buildings or hiring outstanding professors or giving current professors raises that will make them comparable in the market. He said he realizes that in the full-court press that was on the front page of the Southern Illinoisan we were told how coaches attempt to keep players from seeing how decrepit the stadium is and how the Athletic Director shows donors how poor the stadium is. But what we haven't heard is a new potential faculty member's reaction or parents of a student while their touring Faner Hall when it is raining and they see the buckets to catch the water when the roof leaks. He said there are a number of disturbing questions that need to be raised. First, does the City Council have the authority to bind future City Councils in this gift? If so, it would be illuminating to know either the statute or case law that would give them the ability to do this. Secondly, at the current rate of fund-raising, the current stadium will never be built so what happens to Carbondale's money when this happens? Is it put into a "slush fund" for the Administration to spend as they see fit? Will citizens be forced to engage in lengthy litigation to find out this public fact as they have been forced to do when dealing with public issues with SIU? Williams urged the City Council to vote "no" on the tax increase or, if they choose to pass the tax increase, study the issue very carefully, have some empirical studies and do not be in such a hurry to squander taxpayer dollars.

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Jane Adams, 702 West Cherry Street: Adams said she is speaking as the representative of the Arbor District because their President, Sandy Litecky, is out of town. She thanked the City Council for its patience in listening to all of the arguments, adding that they are very important and that the Council is doing a terrific duty in having this kind of a public forum before the public vote is taken. She said the vote that is taken tonight on the proposed one-half percent sales tax increase may be one of the most important they take during their time on the Council. It has the potential to determine Carbondale's tax climate for the next twenty years. The Board of the Arbor District believes that this is not a decision that should be made lightly. They believe a decision of this magnitude should be put to a referendum of the citizens of Carbondale. The rationale for this is five-fold: (1) A tax increase of one-half percent will greatly inhibit Carbondale's ability to get taxes in the future. The City's Plan is being revised and there is a long list of unfunded projects that Don Monty and Linz Brown talked about, and the plan that is currently under revision might come forward with some new programs that the City Council would wish to fund. (2) Support by a municipality for a state institution is unprecedented. An innovation of this magnitude should be made with the full consent of the populace. (3) Town-Gown tensions always exist. We already heard of the City being accused of acting like parasites if the Council doesn't vote for this proposal. Adams said if the vote is viewed as questionable by the citizens and voters of this City or as illegitimate or if the donation to SIU prevents the City from undertaking necessary expenditures for the City, she is afraid that the City's commitment may exacerbate whatever tensions might be there. She said it has also been pointed out that Saluki Way is under a lot of argumentation on campus and, as somebody else observed, to put the City in the middle of that debate could win no friends with anybody. She added that she currently works on campus in a building with a leaky roof so she is sympathetic to those people who think maybe there are better uses for the money. (4) If the citizens of Carbondale approve the tax increase and its proposed allocation to Saluki Way, it will demonstrate a powerful commitment on the part of the entire community to these taxes and expenditures once the issues have been fully debated. (5) As Linz Brown pointed out, there is ample precedent for municipalities submitting significant tax increases to a referendum. In fact, it's the usual way that cities and other local taxing bodies make such decisions. Adams said that the Arbor District has residents of the older parts of Carbondale, areas that are in great need of improvements of all sorts, for example, many of their streets drain only by V-cuts need storm sewers, sidewalks and curbs. Pedestrians, including students and handicapped, are forced to walk on the streets as they go to school, the grocery store, or walk their dogs. Housing stock, mined for the past forty years by absentee and negligent landlords, is in desperate need of improvement. Don Monty provided a lengthy list of unfunded projects, adding that a few of the projects listed are in the Arbor District neighborhood and are among the most urgent needs that they have identified. But many other items that they need in their neighborhood that they would like City support for are not on the list. Adams said that some of the Arbor District members support this initiative; virtually everyone on the Board has heard from people who support the increase of the sales tax for necessary City services although some believe a property tax might be more appropriate. Almost everyone, with a few dissenting voices however, has expressed opposition to the \$1 million donation to Saluki Way. She said tonight's general discussion seems representative of that. Therefore, they believe the amount of taxation, the kind of taxation (sales or property taxes) and where tax monies should be allocated should be put to a referendum of the Carbondale voters. Adams asked that the elected representatives allow the people of Carbondale to decide this issue.

Melvin "Pepper" Holder, 410 James and Thelma Walker Avenue: Holder said that although he doesn't know who said it, but "to whom much is given, much is required." He said that the City and University have had an opportunity to work together which is something he hasn't seen in Carbondale in quite some time. Saluki Way is not selfish, it's needed in a sense, but it doesn't expand itself into the community. He asked what Saluki Way does for the northeast. Holder said that Dr. Brown mentioned how the indigent and poor people would be affected by this. Holder said the City can do a lot for the poor people of Carbondale, especially with the guidance and support of the University. The City gives away TIF dollars to businesses with low

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employment numbers and salaries and then there is a blighted areas that can be built and made more attractive for people coming into Carbondale. He said he has never seen a person of color driving a concrete truck in southern Illinois or in Carbondale. He said there are so many things that the City of Carbondale or the University could look at to make this place more friendly and more accessible to all people. He noted that there isn't even a restaurant in Carbondale that has soul food, although there are many students from St. Louis, Memphis or Chicago that are African-American, but they can't find the things that are in their own communities. He said this is a reflection on this community and the university for what they have not given back to the people who live here, for the students who they try to bring here, and create an environment where the City would not have to pay for so many police. Holder said there needs to be an environment that is more friendly, where the police can usher people down the street, guiding the way, being present in a manner that is not trying to take money out of their pockets. He said discretionary funding, financing together with the City, the University and Jackson County there are things that can be done. He said the University has the opportunity to do better, look better and be self-sufficient rather than trying to take from people in the community who can least afford it. Holder said that the studies that previous speakers have mentioned need to be given a hard look at and the people of Carbondale should be given the opportunity to approve or disapprove this proposal. He said the proposal seems to be without details which does not look good for the University. He said Carbondale can do a lot to make itself a better place where people want to come to the University and through tourism. He said there once was a proposal for elderly people and there are now people coming back to school. He said age-appropriate entertainment is another big issue, not just for adults but also for kids, especially the 17 to 20 years old university students. He said in looking at the overall picture, these are the things that would help afford a new stadium without taking tax from the people to benefit one dimension.

Lee Fronabarger, 1140 Morningside: Fronabarger said he is a 15-year resident of the City of Carbondale. He said a few years back the City rebated a large sum of sales tax revenue to the University Mall to attract certain retailers and make other improvements. The sales taxes the Mall helped generate were reinvested back into the Mall. A year or two ago, the City annexed the entire campus of SIUC. According to newspaper reports, the City Manager was quoted as saying "sales tax revenue generated at SIUC would amount to between \$170,000 and \$200,000 annually." Fronabarger said at the very least this amount rounded up to \$250,000 should be given back to SIUC to make improvements which, like the Mall, would bring in more sales tax and more revenues to the City of Carbondale. Also, the Council should not forget about the amount of sales tax revenue the students, faculty and staff of SIUC have already generated to fund improvements in the community like the Civic Center. To those that say the State of Illinois should be funding the proposed project of Saluki Way, he agrees. But the reality is that some 15 or 20 years ago the State of Illinois provided close to 68% of total funding for SIU and today, sadly, that percentage is down to below 35%. There is over \$100 million of deferred maintenance that the State does not fund as well. Fronabarger urged people to write their state representative, senator and governor and urge them to increase their support for higher education in Illinois. He said even though the SIU arena is home to Saluki men's and women's basketball, it is much more than a sports arena. Over the years since 1964 the SIU Arena has hosted concerts like John Denver, Elvis Presley, Olivia Newton-John, Elton John, James Taylor, Garth Brooks, Kayne West, Sesame Street Live, Holiday on Ice, and circuses, just to name of few. This civic center for Southern Illinois has also hosted in recent years special guests such as Coretta Scott King and Walter Cronkite. Three times a year the Arena is transformed into an auditorium for graduation ceremonies that fills the towns restaurants, hotels and motels. All these events, whether athletic or musical, bring people and visitors into Carbondale that spend money in our restaurants, bars, shopping venues, gas stations and generate thousands of dollars of sales tax revenue for Carbondale. Fronabarger said we should also not forget how SIUC basketball and football have championed to put Carbondale on the map. There is a saying which Mr. Brown mentioned earlier, "Don't put all your eggs into one basket." To that thought, Fronabarger said he has done a little research. He said he is not proposing this but wanted to bring it before City staff and the citizens for their consideration for

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a different type of tax that other cities are using. The cities of Paducah, Kentucky, and St. Louis, Missouri, both have an earnings tax and Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is exploring such a tax. Paducah does not have a City sales tax but had a 1.5% earnings tax that was increased to 2% in October 2005. This 2% earnings tax, or payroll tax as some cities call it, will generate \$12.6 million annually and accounts for 42.6% of anticipated revenue for the City of Paducah. They have a property tax which will generate \$5,356,000 for FY 2008 and is 18.1% of anticipated revenue. The website for Paducah says that 2% of gross salaries, wages, commissions and other compensation that is earned in the City limits should be remitted to the City of Paducah. Employees that work in Paducah that live outside of Paducah have to pay this tax as well. Without further research, he is not sure whether the City could have a graduated payroll tax so that those who make more pay more, but he would ask if this would be a way for some of the larger landlords, especially those not keeping up their properties, to have to pay more to support their community. Fronabarger said that he noticed on the federal income tax forms that the payroll tax, also known as the local income tax, is tax deductible. He would think that revenue from an earnings tax would probably be a more consistent tax than sales tax revenue. So maybe a one-quarter cent increase in the sales tax and a small earnings tax might be a possible alternative. Fronabarger said it is very important that the citizens of Carbondale have input into how the additional funds are spent on community projects.

Diana Exner, 160 Lavender Lane, Makanda: Exner said she doesn't live in Carbondale but was educated here. She said Saluki Way came as the brainchild of a chancellor and the first time she read about it in the paper it seems that this chancellor planned it all out. [She interjected that the track has been eliminated from the plan, though. Exner said that when she first read about it in the paper, although the chancellor said it was all planned out, the thing that stood out to her in the article was that the chancellor said "I don't know how we're going to pay for all of this." She said there was no plan there. The next thing she reads, the chancellor thinks the alumni are going to pay for it. But apparently the alumni are not holding the high-price jobs that the chancellor thinks they are holding from their education at SIU. So the chancellor said then that they would go to the general public, and then to the students who had no choice in the matter. She said their athletic fee is over \$200. She said she doesn't know whether the University came to Mayor Cole or Mayor Cole went to the University, but now the University is now working with the City. She said she is sure the University will still accept donations from the other four groups, though. She said she read Southern at 150 and spoke in front of the Board of Trustees about the documents. She said she spoke twice about it, the first time the students were picketing in the back and the second time the faculty was picketing. She noted that Abraham Lincoln and General Grant virtually won the Civil War "at a bale of hay flocked with horsesh** drinking whiskey."

Charles Fanning, 808 West Cherry: Fanning said he is a faculty member at SIU and said he wished to share a brief anecdote to reinforce one of the points that was made earlier about the controversial nature of the Saluki Way project on campus. He said he has great respect for the students on campus especially the undergraduates who come from a lot of places, most of them work as well as go to school and they are very serious about what they do. From the earliest stages of the Saluki Way project, in his anecdotal judgement most of the students that he has come in contact with started out with bemusement after the black-tie gala and the fact that there was going to be \$80 million raised for the first phase. But when it became clear that the money was going to come largely from student fees, that bemusement turned to cynicism and he does not believe it has gone beyond cynicism to anything else. Fanning said if this Council, interjecting that he agrees with Nate Brown that this is an important decision that is being made, if the Council endorses the plan as it is currently sitting before it which has no detail, no reinforcement that he has heard tonight in any concrete way, then the Council is going to be voting against what he believes most of the students believe. Fanning said the cynicism has gone on to derision, adding that if Saluki Way is mentioned it is a figure of fun at this point because it has been so poorly planned, because the money never came and because the students are paying now for it and will pay again if the tax goes through. Fanning said the windows in Parkinson are

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peeling, all the older buildings around the campus are in disrepair and there isn't new technology supporting the educational process. He said he just finished teaching an Irish History course and in the middle of the course he came into the room and there was rain coming down onto the floor. Someone came in and put a bucket down in the middle of his class. As soon as the custodian left, one of the student in the front row looked up and said, "that's the real Saluki Way". Fanning said the reinforcement that this poorly-conceived idea would get from this City Council is, he believes, unconscionable.

Bill Hamilton, 416 Irish Rose Lane: Hamilton said one of the things that strikes him and has since they came to Carbondale in 1969 is the word "pride". He said this thinks this is something that the Mayor has brought back and Carbondale has become the center or one of the epicenters in Southern Illinois. Why has that happened? The University plays a major role and over the time he has seen the town-gown situation where the two hardly spoke to each other. It now appears that there is now a chance to do something positive. He asked where is the pride when you talk with people outside of Carbondale and they ask, "where did you go to school?" and you answer, "I went to Southern Illinois University". Why is that? It is not because the roof leaks. They have got to have some pride in what they get and where they go. We have talked to many people that have children that have been educated in top-notch universities that are still looking for jobs. We have many people in this community that have graduated from Southern that are in top-notch jobs and people wonder why that is. It is because you get a good education but again you need to be proud of that education. He asked why this town-gown thing needs to be revisited. Hamilton said the other thing that strikes him over the time they have been in Carbondale is that it is much easier to study a thing to death, like where you put an overpass and spend a gazillion dollars before you get an underpass. He asked if anyone has tried to work their way through that maze, adding that it is not the speediest way to get to the university. As far as the roofs leaking, he has been to _____ Hall and can say that when the air conditioner doesn't work too well they get flooded, but he said this has nothing to do with the price of tea in China. He said these are capital expenditure budgets that relate to a different pot of money on what the University has to spend and it only comes out of that one pot so he has a hard time following that logic. Hamilton also said that "nothing ventured, nothing gained" so he is one of the people that is in support of the proposal because it is a worthwhile thing, something that the Council can invest in that has the potential to make this a better community, a community that has improved over the time they have been in Carbondale. He said their introduction was the riots in connection with the Viet Nam conflict and their son was sent home because there were smoke bombs at the nursery school. He said we should not go back 15, 20, 30 years but move ahead and do something positive.

Jim Sheffer, 1152 Cedar Ridge Drive: Sheffer said he is speaking as a local businessman who has a local business in Carbondale along with his partner and brother, George. They also have a business in Herrin, and the Herrin business takes him throughout the State of Illinois. He currently works with 170 school districts and all 11 universities. He said he would like to clarify something, stating that there is often talk about state funding or state-funded institution and that is a very charitable statement but it's not unique just to SIU. He said one may wonder why SIU has to rely on Carbondale when other universities don't. He said SIU doesn't have the businesses that are in a Bloomington or a Chicago or someone like a Caterpillar or a John Deere that can write a check. Sheffer said that all of our futures depend on the success of SIU. We can argue where we are going to put the money, but he can say that when you look at Saluki Way that is the one place that you can put the money that you can guarantee that the quality of life is going to improve for everybody in the Carbondale community whether you are a sports fan or not because it's going to bring people into town, insure those programs succeed and that they are going to stay in this town. He said that sometimes because things remain the same and we plod along, we think that it is just going to go incrementally and maybe we can address this problem five years from now. Sheffer said we may not have this opportunity five years from now. Will SIU be here? Probably. Will it be in the same condition? Probably not. Sheffer said it is not

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going to stay the same, adding that it's either going to get better and we're going to have more students and all the things that have been talked about today will improve and we will create a pot of money that can be used to address all of those worthy causes that the City needs to address or it's going to start to deteriorate and someday we're looking at an institution with 10,000 students. Sheffer asked what this would do, how many people would be working at SIU, what's going to be the trickle-down effect, how many retail establishments are going to want to come to Carbondale if it is reduced by 10,000. He said he does not believe this is a crazy number, adding that SIU is in a fight for enrollment and we have an obligation to support SIU because they are the engine not only for Carbondale but for all of Southern Illinois.

Dick Conley, 221 Poplar Lake Road, Makanda: Conley said he has lived in the Carbondale area since 1963 and is not associated with the City, the University, the fire department, the athletic department or anybody and is presenting his own personal opinion. He said he enthusiastically supports all four of these projects. He said there is a great need for the fire station, the police station, the open ways and for Saluki Way. He said since everybody seems to be in favor of the other three, he will just speak about Saluki Way. He said he looks at it a little differently than some other people, adding that he looks at this as a business decision. It doesn't matter whether you like or hate athletics because that is not the point. The point is that this is an investment in SIU and therefor an investment in Carbondale and he thinks this is an important investment. He thinks athletics has a unique role that can draw many, many people into this City and bring in jobs, money and spending from all around the area and also creates a good feeling for Carbondale and for all of Southern Illinois, something to be proud of. Conley said as far as other universities and towns have done, Peoria has put up money to help Bradley with their athletic facilities and a lot of other cities in our conferences have built huge arenas and let their universities and colleges use them. But Marion is a great example because it stuck its neck out and spent money on a field before their developer even had a baseball team. They went out and decided to gamble a little, put their money out there, and they've had a great success. They are drawing over 5,000 people a game and are bringing all kinds of new businesses into town, the restaurants, gas stations and everybody is loving it. It's brought great support and loyalty to Marion. Conley said now Cape Girardeau and the City of Jackson, along with the county of Cape Girardeau, have announced a new program and are trying to bring a St. Louis Cardinals minor league team to their area and are looking at a budget of over \$100 million. They are just getting started but that's their goal. He thinks the cities on each side of us are willing to go out there and gamble and they see what can be done and how they can help their community by going out there and drawing people to their town through the use of athletics and that's what SIU can do here. These programs have done an amazing job with the facilities we have, all of them, but Coach Kill especially and Coach Lowery have gone out in the community and have gotten a lot of support and they draw a lot of people. He would hate to lose this if the stadium is not fit to use in a year or two we could lose the whole football team and all the big Saturday draws with the tailgates and everyone coming into town. Coach Lowery is on the verge of bringing Carbondale national attention which he already has, but now we could be in the top ten or top twenty consistently. He said he knows that ESPN has been in contact with SIU not only to broadcast a game but to broadcast their show for a full 24 hours with millions of people watching. He said this is the kind of thing that athletics can do for this community, adding whether a person enjoys athletics or not this is a business decision. Conley said that he had a business in this town for 27 years and people don't make decisions on where they shop based on sales tax with the only exception being perhaps cars, but cars have been exempted so this would not be a problem.

Angela Kazakevicius, 900 South Valley Road: Kazakevicius said that one of the luxuries of coming up late in the agenda is that a lot of ground has already been covered. She said that for those persons keeping tallies of who is pro and who is against, she is going to go on the side with Don Monty and Linz Brown who did a great job of outlining her sentiments of why she opposes this sales tax. She said it is interesting that no one has come out against the whole increase, but just the Saluki Way portion. She said there are issues with that,

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adding that she doesn't know them all but she does have issues with who the City does or does not partner with. She thinks this is dangerous and the City is going down a slippery slope. She said anyone tallying should put her on the same side as Monty and Brown.

Genevieve Houghton, 710 North Oakland: Houghton said she has lived in Carbondale for 35 years. She said she also basically agrees with Don Monty and Linz Brown but with a certain amount of planning and input maybe it would be desirable to support some or all of Saluki Way although not at the level that has been discussed. She is interested in what can be done in the City, particularly in one area. She said she has a cracked sidewalk in front of her house with at least four panels that make her nervous if anyone would come along in a wheelchair. She said because she knows someone in a wheelchair she thinks more about it and it must be very disconcerting to hit all these cracks and for some people it must be very painful. She said Carbondale has a great tradition but is in danger of losing it. It was started by President Delyte Morris who reached out to disabled people and they came here and the City put in all the curb cuts which are very desirable. Houghton said she did not think the City should lose these people, adding that Carbondale was one of the first to reach out to them and still has many disabled people who are here. She said she knows it is very difficult for some of them to go on the City's sidewalks, however.

Glenn Poshard, 248 Fairway Vista Road: Poshard identified himself as President of Southern Illinois University. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to address them. Poshard said he appreciates the long and positive and reciprocal relationship that our City and our University has had together. Equally, he appreciates the relationship that SIU has had with the entire Southern Illinois region. This discussion tonight is not primarily about building a football stadium or renovating the arena or even building the academic buildings of Saluki Way. Poshard said this debate tonight is about that relationship which has now endured for nearly 150 years and asked the Council to permit him to present the University's contribution to that relationship. The University employs 7,100 faculty, staff and graduate assistants and have over 4,000 student employees. They have a \$495 million operating budget with a \$288 million payroll. 3,788 of these employees and \$134,500,000 of that payroll stay in Jackson County, primarily in the Carbondale area. If one combines the ten largest industries in Southern Illinois including SIH in Jackson County, Aisin in Williamson, American Coal in Saline, Crownline in Franklin, the DuQuoin and Pinckneyville hospitals in Perry, Continental Tire in Jefferson, Dyno Nobel in Union and the Shawnee and Vienna prisons in Johnson, the number of employees combined does not equal that of SIU-Carbondale. We have 20,000 students and over 7,000 employees who have full health care benefits, making SIUC by far the largest contributor to the stability and welfare of the southern Illinois healthcare system with the biggest benefactor being Carbondale Memorial Hospital. The combination of the SIUC payroll and purchasing power contributes over \$313 million a year to the southern Illinois economy, the greatest proportion of that spent here on the Carbondale and the Jackson County economy. In addition, we have students from every state and 107 countries all of whom bring additional thousands of visitors to this city who spend millions of more dollars on the Carbondale economy. Poshard suggested that one try to find an empty hotel room on Family Day or Homecoming or graduation, adding that it is nearly impossible. Poshard said that it is not just the economic benefits and the health care benefits to the City and the area of which they are most proud. Entirely consistent with Dr. Morris' vision for the University as an educational, economic and service champion for Southern Illinois, he offered the following for consideration as evidence of the university's loyalty as a public servant to Carbondale and to many of the most vulnerable people of the City. They run Head Start centers to give children from low income families a chance to start the schooling on an even basis with more fortunate children. The increasing challenge of meeting the needs of autistic children, a crisis in this country today, hundreds in this immediate area, is met squarely by the outreach efforts by the University's Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders. SIU has health care vans going to area high schools, providing health care to children whose parents have no insurance. They provide a dental hygiene clinic for people who have no dental insurance and cannot access dental care any other way. This is particularly

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significant to children from Carbondale. Project Upward Bound works with scores of troubled youngsters every year to turn their lives around, to give them some sense of purpose and confidence to succeed, and many of those youngsters come from this community. Project Twelve Ways works with other area agencies to restore children who have been abused and neglected, again, many children from this community. Camp Little Giant has for all these years continued to provide a great summer experience at Touch of Nature for the most severe physically handicapped and challenged students. The Saluki Kids Academy brings hundreds of children, mostly from low income families, to campus every summer to give them a taste of what it's like to go to college, to motivate them to do well in their future education. Poshard said that this is just a few of the many services Carbondale benefits from, adding that he could give a list ten times as long. Between 1951 and 1971, sixty-six new buildings were built on campus. All are going bad at the same time. They have over \$350 million of deferred maintenance to existing buildings for which they will be taking on long-term debt of over \$200 million. All of the construction to repair and renovate those academic buildings across campus will mean jobs, well paying jobs, for Carbondale and SIUC is footing that bill. They are not asking the City or anybody else to stand for that indebtedness. Poshard said that in an era of declining federal and state support, SIU is trying desperately to find the funds to repair and renovate these buildings and, in some cases, for buildings built in the 1930's such as McAndrew Stadium, to replace them with newer buildings. They are only asking for the City's assistance on two of these buildings, buildings which have been responsible for bringing millions of people into the City. Poshard said that the athletic programs for just these two facilities brought in nearly 200,000 fans last year alone, adding that calculated out over 50+ years that these buildings have been standing it gets into the millions of visitors that have come here because of McAndrew Stadium, the SIU Arena and Southern Illinois University. Because Carbondale is the retail center for the region, the sales tax increase will not be borne by this City alone but by the entire area and this is only right because it is southern Illinois that enjoys athletics and cultural and artistic events, not Carbondale alone. Poshard said that as referenced by a prior gentleman, the City of Marion passed a one-quarter cent sales tax last year to support a new ball park of which this entire area is very proud. They are going to draw 250,000 people this summer to that new park, putting millions of dollars into the economy of that city, dollars that are contributed by the entire region but go to benefit the community of Marion. SIU is an old friend and has been partners with Carbondale for nearly 150 years. They ask for the same consideration as someone new might be given when they move into this City or this area, seeking to help the community prosper. Poshard asked if SIUC is any less worthy. Poshard said tonight he has listened to much criticism of the University and although it was not part of his planned remarks, he feels compelled at this moment to mention a few things. What would the healthcare system of Carbondale look like without SIU, without 27,000 fully-insured people? Mr. Firestone, the President of Southern Illinois Healthcare, has made it clear, as has the Chamber of Commerce, the positive effects of SIU on the system upon which so many people depend. How much economy would be sustained without the \$134 million of salary and the 4,000 jobs that SIUC contributes to Jackson County? How much long-term debt would there be without the hundreds of thousands of visitors brought to this community because SIU is here and those people spend their hard-earned dollars to go into our tax coffers? SIU is a citizen of Carbondale and we would just like our citizenship to be appreciated and valued as any other public or private entity. The Princeton Review this past year labeled SIU as one of the best buys in the midwest for large public universities. Community colleges can keep tuition low because they also receive property tax dollars. SIU does not, so when the federal and state government makes cuts, they have no option but to raise tuition to support the University. Of course that causes enrollment problems for SIU; enrollment problems that they are trying to overcome. Poshard said that the *U.S. News and World Report* just listed SIU as one of the top 111 doctoral-granting research universities in the nation. Poshard said SIU is losing students because the stagnant population in southern Illinois does not support the university, adding that between 1970 and 2000 the entire 15-county area garnered 26,000 new residents. He said that many people have moved into the immediate area of SIU-Edwardsville in the last five years. It has taken SIUC and 15 counties just to get that number of people. He said there is also a declining number of high school students in southern Illinois and out-of-state universities are giving in-state tuition when SIUC

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is not allowed to give Kentucky, Missouri and Indiana students the same. There are declining state and federal revenues pushing tuition up and private universities on community college campuses are now offering baccalaureate completion degrees in direct competition with SIUC. Poshard said there are many reasons that SIUC has a difficult time with enrollment, but giving a quality education is not one of them. He said he is proud of Southern Illinois University Carbondale and what is done academically as well as athletically for the students in this area. Poshard said the athletic fees are low compared to most universities of this size. President Poshard said that when he sat in the United States Congress there were many times when he wished he could have enjoyed a referendum of the people. He asked if anyone knows how difficult it is to send kids off to war, make that decision and have to face the consequences, or universal health care, or pro-life or pro-choice. He said elected representatives are forced to stand up and cast votes because the election that elected them is the referendum and the will of the people. Poshard said he didn't have the luxury of holding a referendum on every difficult decision that had to be made for his country, adding that this is a representative government and once elected the person must be willing to stand. Poshard said they ask for the same consideration as someone else who might be given consideration who comes from outside the community who has never made a contribution to the City but would be given liberal benefits to move here and create jobs. They hope that SIU's educational, economic and service contributions to this City for all these years, nearly 150 years, will merit the Council's favorable vote this evening. They believe they have been a good neighbor and good friend to Carbondale and to Southern Illinois. Poshard said that having served in public office nearly his entire adult life he knows how difficult these decisions are. But to be elected by the people as their representative and to decide for them in these matters is one of the greatest honors bestowed upon us as citizens of a democracy. The quarter cent increase in sales tax that the Council is considering for SIUC is indeed an investment in the University but it is equally an investment in our ability to help our host City. Poshard said no matter what the outcome of the vote tonight, SIU-Carbondale will continue to treat its relationship with Carbondale with the greatest respect and admiration.

Billie Zimny, 400 South Dixon: Zimny said she has lived in Carbondale since 1954 and came to SIU as an undergraduate student. Zimny asked that the Council not accept this proposal tonight. She asked that the Council seek more details from the University about the plan, develop a clear detailed plan and then please present it to the voting citizens of Carbondale in a referendum.

Mayor Cole declared the public hearing closed at 9:17 p.m..

Janet M. Vaught, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:
