

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Regular Meeting
September 4, 2007

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 4, 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: Councilwoman Mary Pohlmann, Councilman Chris Wissmann, Councilman Steven Haynes, Councilman Lance Jack, Councilman Joel Fritzler, Councilwoman Corene McDaniel 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

3. Citizen Comments and Questions

Carolyn Snyder, Program Vice President for the League of Women Voters of Jackson County, invited everyone to attend a LWVJC meeting on September 15th at Epiphany Lutheran Church at which Councilwoman Mary Pohlmann and Councilwoman Corene McDaniel will discuss the Future of Carbondale. The brunch is \$8 and will begin at 10:15 a.m.; the discussion will begin at 11:00 a.m..

Skip Briggs, 7 Pinewood, identified himself as a member of the Cascade of Colors Committee and invited everyone to attend the Cascade of Colors on September 7, 8 and 9 at the Southern Illinois Airport.

Elius Reed, 2012 South Illinois Avenue, identified himself as a former football player at Southern Illinois University and a 1973 graduate of the University. He noted that at the August 21st Council meeting a number of residents had asked if the City had anything in writing with SIU concerning the \$20 million Saluki Way construction sales tax proposal that they could read prior to the vote on the proposal and they were told no. He also heard Mayor Cole and President Poshard saying that the construction of Saluki Way will bring many good-paying construction jobs to the community. Reed said City ordinance requires the employment of local Carbondale residents on City-financed construction jobs at a rate of 16% and the utilization of Carbondale area contractors. He asked if the City was going to enforce its ordinance requiring local residents and local contractors to be employed on the Saluki Way construction program. He said the City could answer this question now or later.

Elius Reed also noted that on August 24th a black male former SIU football player, Daryl McNeil, was maced, tasered and beaten by Carbondale Police officers in the Pinch Penny/Club Sin area. He asked the reason McNeil was asked to leave and what acts of behavior resulted in these actions by Carbondale police officers. Mr. Reed said the City could answer now or later by letter.

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Bryan Lamar, 700 South Lewis Lane, also referenced the incident brought forward by Elius Reed and said the students at Southern Illinois University are present to open a dialog with the Carbondale Community to say that they do not feel safe. Although they back the Carbondale Police Department, they question their practices, their disregard for the students' rights and their lack of respect. He noted that it is not just African-Americans but students of every color that are being harassed. He said that it is time for a change and they want to assist in making that change. Lamar said they are at the City's disposal.

John Boddie, Black Affairs Council Coordinator, said the students just got out of a meeting at which they were told that they should come to the City Council. He said changes should have been implemented long ago, adding that it shouldn't have to take an incident to cause change. He said the truth will come out because of the witnesses. He asked what the Council is going to do to make them feel more comfortable and safe in this town. He noted the number of minorities present at the Council meeting because of this issue, adding that no one feels safe walking the streets. He again asked what was going to be done to make him feel safe.

Kevin Winstead, 1220 Black Diamond Drive, said he also attended the meeting with some Associate Chancellors and Vice Chancellors and it was suggested to them that this issue be taken to the Human Relations Commission. However, he understand that the productivity of the Commission has been very low. They expect accurate and sufficient answers to their problems, adding that if a dialog is opened we should be able to get through this very smoothly. He said he hoped to get this issue resolved extremely soon.

Mayor Cole noted that if there was a meeting held, no one with the City was aware of it. He added that if what transpired at the meeting involved the City it would have been nice to have been made aware of it. The Mayor also noted that the Human Relations Commission has been quite active and have conducted a number of study circle events. The Mayor asked City Manager Doherty to provide information on the incident.

City Manager Doherty said that the Carbondale Police Department was called to Club Sin by the managers of that facility because there was an individual causing a disturbance and they asked for police assistance in removing him. The Manager said there was maced used; however, there were no taser guns used because the Police Department does not possess or use taser guns. The individual was taken into custody. In response to Mayor Cole's inquiry, the City Manager said that no formal complaint has been received. Mayor Cole noted that the City has a process in which a formal complaint can be submitted to the City Manager's Office so that all events can be investigated appropriately and so that all witnesses can submit statements.

4. **Public Hearings and Special Reports**

5. **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 and the Public Hearing on the Proposal to Invest in the Future of Carbondale, both held on August 21, 2007.

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2. Warrant. Recommendation: Approve Warrant #1016 for the period ended July 30, 2007, (FY 2008) in the amount of \$2,477,692.38. (Exhibit A-9-4-07)
3. Warrant. Recommendation: Approve Warrant #1017 for the period ended August 13, 2007, (FY 2008) in the amount of \$1,184,588.00. (Exhibit B-9-4-07)
4. Acceptance of Minutes of Boards, Commissions and Committees. Recommendation: Accept Energy and Environmental Advisory Commission of June 21, 2007, and Preservation Commission of July 16, 2007.
5. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Engineering Agreement for Material Testing with the Illinois Department of Transportation for the bituminous Concrete Resurfacing Program, MFT Section 08-00000-01-GM. Recommendation: Approve. (Res. 2007-R-58; Exhibit C-9-4-07)
6. Resolution approving a Special Use Permit License for Warehouse Liquor Mart's Annual Wine and Food Expo. Recommendation: Approve. (Res. 2007-R-59; Exhibit D-9-4-07)
7. Ordinance authorizing a budget adjustment establishing FY 2008 Police Department's Contingency Account and providing funds for a Facade Loan. Recommendation: Approve. (Ord. 2007-33; Exhibit E-9-4-07)

Mayor Cole asked if any Council members would like any items removed from the Consent Agenda. There were no items removed.

M. Pohlmann moved, C. McDaniel seconded, that the Council approve the Consent Agenda Items. VOTE: Ayes: M. Pohlmann, C. Wissmann, S. Haynes, L. Jack, Jr. Fritzler, C. McDaniel and B. Cole. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

6. General Business

1. Town Hall Meeting on "Education in America"

Local parents, educators and other community members were offered an opportunity to discuss "Education in America," including the federal *No Child Left Behind* law. The event was one of several U.S. Department of Education Back-to-School forums being held throughout the region for the purpose of gaining feedback on federal education policies including *No Child Left Behind* which Congress is considering for reauthorization.

Todd Zoellick of the U.S. Department of Education Region V led the discussion. Speakers from the audience were: Elius Reed, Vanessa Webb, Mary Beth Goff, Matt Sronkoski, Emily Lyles, Councilman Chris Wissmann, Beverly Love and Amy Erickson.

Following the forum, Mayor Cole thanked Mr. Zoellick and the Department of Education for coming to Carbondale to talk with educators and parents about education in the community, adding that this is an issue that is important to every person in every community. He said Mr. Zoellick will remain after the meeting to answer additional questions.

7. Council Comments

There were no Council comments.

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8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:15 p.m..

Janet M. Vaught, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on
