

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2009 City Budget
April 1, 2008

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a public hearing on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, in City Council Chambers of the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 South Illinois Avenue, for the purpose of soliciting comments on the proposed FY 2009 operating budget. Mayor Brad Cole called the public hearing to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following-named members of the City Council present/absent:

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 Jeff Doherty and various members of the City's administrative staff.

City Manager Doherty presented the Budget Transmittal Letter which included the budget overview and budget highlights (Attachment PH-A-4-1-08).

After the City Manager concluded his opening remarks, Mayor Cole noted that the City Council will discuss the budget as the first item under General Business. This public hearing is for the Council to hear input from the public. He noted that the Council has considered several items to get to this point including the community goals and objectives, the budget documents including the community investment program and tonight is an opportunity for the public to speak and provide additional input. Mayor Cole noted that the Council will not take action to approve the budget at this meeting but a public hearing will be conducted and the Council will discuss it under General Business and then the Council will reconsider the proposed budget on April 15th for adoption and approval. Mayor Cole invited comments from the public, asking that comments be succinct and noting again that the Council will discuss the budget later in the meeting but not during the public hearing.

Reverend Sidney Logwood, 1701 West Colonial Drive, Carbondale: Reverend Logwood said he has been a resident of Carbondale for the past five years and his philosophy is that the church should be at the center of community life. As such, he has been involved in the various community organizations especially those that he felt were working toward the improvement or the betterment of Carbondale. He has fallen in love with the Carbondale community and loves living here so much so that his daughter and her family have also moved to Carbondale. He wants to continue to work and to see Carbondale reach its fullest potential. Reverend Logwood said he has looked at the proposed budget and the new increases and some of them he feels that the monies could be better used. He said about two years ago while working with Community Project for Change, they obtained some City records to get a better picture of City employment and the breakdown of positions held by race, gender, etc., as well as the various levels of salaries. They compared those numbers with the Affirmative Action policies that were in place and had been in place for some years and found that there were still quite a few of those goals that had been set long ago that had not yet been reached. He said he is concerned that the City start to look like the community at all levels of employment. He said that there has been discussion about creating several new positions that certainly may be useful but do not seem, in some instances, urgent at this time, like the web designer, adding that someone is keeping the web page up already, and the public information officer. Reverend Logwood said the one position that he and others see is desperately needed if the City is serious about making Carbondale a place where

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everyone has equal opportunity, is that an Affirmative Action Officer is needed who is full time employee, one who has ample time and the freedom to do the job so that the plan can be updated and administered, to make sure that all the contracts that are awarded by the City are in compliance with the Affirmative Action Plan. He said the City needs someone who is free to meet with union representatives in order to make sure that minorities are being recruited for training and apprenticeship programs. He said those things are not being sufficiently or properly addressed. Reverend Logwood said in the various meetings that were held the past summer on racism and race relations he heard a lot of talk and he met with many (council members) and heard so much about the desire to bring Carbondale up to where it should be. He said if the City Council is serious about making Carbondale where everybody can expect to have the same type of opportunities, then action needs to be taken that says the same. Reverend Logwood said he appreciates what has been done to give some of the employees these responsibilities, but to have their responsibilities in addition to many others doesn't give this needed item the time that it needs. He said the City needs a full-time Affirmative Action Officer and he thinks this is more important than a public information officer. He said he knows he is a newcomer and believes that the City Council has the best interests of the City at heart but he believes that if the Council is really serious about it, adding that it has been 20-something years since the Affirmative Action Plan was put in place and the City still doesn't have anything reflective of the population that is in Carbondale. Reverend Logwood said he would like to see someone in a position that is really laboring to see that the City has proper representation of minorities, whether it is African-American, women, Asian-American or whatever, in those positions and not all on the bottom tiers but in management and being able to earn the kind of money that others have a chance to earn. He said he would hope the City will take the necessary action to put in place someone who would implement these necessary goals and strategies to correct the things that need correcting so the City can truly be the world-class city that he believes it has the potential to become.

Mayor Cole noted that the City does have a full-time Community Relations Officer in the Community Relations Department. Mayor Cole invited further citizen comments.

Barbara McKasson, 899 Rowan Road, Makanda: Ms. McKasson said she was speaking on behalf of the approximately 125 members of the Shawnee Group Sierra Club who live within the boundaries of Carbondale. She is Chair of the Club. She said the Club's main concerns for the City budget for FY 2009 are to have the budget reflect the policies and goals to first, reduce global warming-causing emissions from the City government activities; second, reduce energy waste by increasing energy efficiency and conservation; and third, make sure the measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are prioritized in order to get the best results for our money. Ms. McKasson said the Club recommends that the City Council vote to adopt the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, adding that the fact that Mayor Cole signed the agreement is a first and laudable step. However, she said, having the City Council vote to adopt the agreement is important because then it would have the force of law. They recognize the City has taken some very important steps toward energy efficiency and curbing global warming such as hiring architects to design the energy efficient fire and police stations and equipping traffic lights with LED lights. Ms. McKasson said Carbondale has a very competent staff but some departments are not necessarily thinking about energy savings and reducing greenhouse gasses. The Club thinks the City Council should have a policy in place to ensure that all the City departments have the same priority in maintenance decisions and that counting on each individual department head to make saving energy and lowering greenhouse gas emissions a priority is a hit-or-miss way to fight global warming. This is really not acceptable if the City is to do its share to lessen these threats of global warming. Ms. McKasson said the Club recommends that the City join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) at a cost of only \$600 to benefit from their greenhouse gas inventory software which has been designed specifically for municipal government use. She said the City would also benefit from the ICLEI staff training and expert consultants and from networking

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with other cities who belong to ICLEI's community climate protection program. She added that ICLEI's software is used by and recommended by many cities that have signed the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. Ms. McKasson said that one part of the ICLEI program takes you step-by-step in evaluating the City's vehicle fleet and then setting policies and priorities for purchasing new vehicles over a number of years. She said it is important to buy vehicles that are appropriate for the job but at the same time it is also important to buy vehicles that in the long run will reduce greenhouse gasses. Reducing greenhouse gasses often also means long-term savings in energy and thus in money, said Ms. McKasson, adding that with increased gas prices she is sure that the cost of running the City's vehicles has escalated greatly. She said that a greenhouse gas inventory takes about 400 hours to conduct and can be done by an intern using ICLEI software and training. This means that an intern working part-time under the supervision of City staff could conduct the inventory in one semester. Ms. McKasson said that the Sierra Club recommends that the City Council adopt policies that direct the staff to follow guidelines for buying new equipment and supplies such as recycled paper and energy star-rated equipment. She said perhaps the greatest action the City can take is to lead by example, to help educate the public to adopt energy efficiency measures and to offer incentives to the public to cut greenhouse gas emissions and be more energy efficient. Ms. McKasson said that the time to address the dual threats of global climate change and rising energy costs is right now in this budget for this year and urged the Council to not put it off for next year, adding that the consequences for global climate change are dire and changes are already happening. She said that the country's top climatologist, James Hansen, has stated that we have ten years or less to take decisive action in order to prevent reaching tipping points that would throw our climate into extreme disruption. Ms. McKasson said the Sierra Club strongly urges the City of Carbondale to budget for energy efficiency and renewable energy expenditures in this budget now before the Council. She said these measures will pay for themselves in the long term. She said they know the City Council members want to do the right thing and they hope everyone can work together to save energy, to save money and save our climate for our families and our future.

Donald Monty, 418 South Giant City Road: Mr. Monty said he had an opportunity to look at the budget and just had a couple of points to make. He said he noticed when looking at the community investment program which gets incorporated into the budget that the City continues to be taking items like open space, bicycle paths, solar cells for the Eurma Hayes Center and other items that might be environmentally sensitive and they keep getting pushed out. He said he suspects this is because there can't be identified any money readily at hand to do those. But nonetheless those are stated as priorities and as he recalls part of the allocation of money from the recent increase in the home rules sales tax was to fund some of these kinds of items. Mr. Monty said he just wanted to make the comment that he hopes the City can get to the point where these things don't continue to get pushed off year after year and that the City actually goes beyond lip service and does them. Mr. Monty also asked if someone could identify for him in more detail than what is available in the public budget the expenditures in the travel line for general fund support services budget, 40010, because he might have a comment on those. Mayor Cole said they would address that later during the Council discussion.

Mayor Cole called twice more for public comments. There being no additional persons wishing to speak, Mayor Cole closed the public hearing on the Proposed FY 2009 City Budget at 7:40 p.m..

Janet M. Vaught, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:
