

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Public Hearing on Proposed Issuance of Capital Improvement
Revenue Bonds for The Women's Center
July 8, 2008

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a public hearing on Tuesday, July 8, 2008, in City Council Chambers, 200 South Illinois Avenue, for the purpose of soliciting comments on the proposed issuance of Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds for The Women's Center. Mayor Cole called the public hearing to order at 7:12 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 Fritzier and Mayor Brad Cole

Absent: None

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

Mayor Cole opened the Public Hearing and asked the City Clerk to present the agenda item. City Clerk Janet Vaught noted that The Women's Center has requested that the City of Carbondale act as a conduit to allow for the issuance of tax-exempt bonds in the amount of \$745,000.00 for the refinancing of the completed renovation project of its main offices and facilities located at 610 South Thompson Street. Prior to the issuance of the bonds, a public hearing must be held with at least fourteen days notice published in the newspaper. Notice of the hearing was published in The Southern Illinoisan on June 6, 2008, announcing the public hearing scheduled for this meeting. The issuance of the bonds is set out in a proposed resolution which will be considered by the City Council later on in the agenda.

Mayor Cole invited comments or questions from the public.

Cathy McClanahan, Executive Director of the Women's Center, thanked the Mayor and City Council for supporting the issuance of the bonds. She said that as a not-for-profit organization, the Women's Center funding is basically from state and federal resources which are on the chopping block year after year, adding that this year they are experiencing a 25% decrease in their federal grant funding. She said the bonds are important to them in order to get their development loan at a much lower rate. They would then be able to redirect the extra funds back into services for the victims they serve in the Carbondale area. In response to Mayor Cole's question, Ms. McClanahan said she was speaking in favor of the action.

Priscilla Pimentel, a resident of West Pecan Street, noted that she refers people to the Women's Center services almost on a yearly basis, adding that it is an invaluable resource to the community. As an example, she noted that she encountered one woman who had been thrown out of a car by her boyfriend in the cold without a coat so she referred her to the Women's Center. She said having a resource like the Women's Center to send people to for counseling or shelter should have no price placed on it. She said the Women's Center makes this community better and she does not know what the community would do without it. In response to Mayor Cole's question, Ms. Pimentel said she was speaking in favor of the action.

Mayor Cole twice repeated his invitation for public comments. There was no one else who indicated a desire to speak. Mayor Cole noted that there were two people who spoke in favor and no people speaking in opposition.

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There being no one else who wished to speak during this public hearing, Mayor Cole declared the public hearing closed at 7:16 p.m.

Janet M. Vaught, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:
