

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Public Hearing on Proposed Vacation of the North Wagner Street
Right-of-Way Bounded by 518 and 600 West Owens Street
June 16, 2009

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a public hearing on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 in City Council Chambers, 200 S. Illinois Avenue, for the purpose of soliciting comments on the proposed vacation of the North Wagner Street right-of-way bounded by 518 and 600 West Owens Street. Mayor Cole called the public hearing to order at 7:58 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 Allen Gill and various members of the City's administrative staff.

City Manager Allen Gill said there has been a request that the City consider vacating a portion of the North Wagner Street right-of-way bounded by 518 and 600 West Owens Street. The right-of-way is platted but has never been developed. Appropriate City departments were asked to provide input on the proposed vacation and no objections were raised. If the right-of-way is vacated, normal policy would be that the property would revert to the owners located to the east and west of the existing right-of-way. Illinois Compiled Statutes require that a public hearing be held prior to taking action and requires that the public notice be published at least 15 days prior to the hearing. In addition, staff sent letters to adjoining property owners notifying them of the public hearing. Mr. Gill noted that an ordinance vacating the alley and a resolution denying the request to vacate will be considered later on this Council agenda. The recommended action at this time is to conduct the public hearing.

Mayor Cole noted for clarification that the summary indicates that he, the Mayor, had requested the City consider vacating the right-of-way but it was actually at the request of a resident.

Mayor Cole invited public comments.

Ms. Kelli Donagan, 518 West Owens, stated she lives at that address with her husband, Allen Chamness. She and her husband have lived at that address since November 1998 and have maintained the property, cut down the weeds, it has been seeded with tall fescue and they have kept it mowed during the summer. She said there is a creek along there and after the rains they clean the trash out of the creek, they weed-eat the creek, spray herbicides to keep the weeds down and she thinks she would make the City proud. She said that Councilman Jack is one of their neighbors, he lives down the street. She believes they have done a lot of improvements to the neighborhood and she just wanted to step up in case the Council has any questions.

Mayor Cole noted that this was not the time for questions but is a public hearing, adding that he would assume that Ms. Donagan would like to go on the record in support of the vacation. Ms. Donagan said, yes, they support the vacation. Mayor Cole said the record would show that.

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Mayor Cole twice repeated his invitation for public comments. There was no one else in the audience who indicated a desire to speak.

There being no further comments or questions at this hearing, Mayor Cole declared the public hearing closed at 8:00 p.m.

Janet M. Vaught, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:
