

**City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**December 1, 2009**

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, in City Council Chambers of the Carbondale Civic Center, 200 South 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: Councilman Steven Haynes, Councilman Lance Jack, Councilman Joel Fritzler, Councilwoman Corene McDaniel, Councilwoman Mary Pohlmann, Councilman Chris Wissmann 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.

**2. General Announcements and Proclamations**

Mayor Cole announced that without Council objection, Council agenda Sections 3 and 4 would be reversed. There were no objections.

Later in the meeting, Councilwoman McDaniel announced that Santa Claus would be visiting Carbondale parks and the Boys and Girls Club this week. Santa's visit is sponsored by the City of Carbondale, the Carbondale Park District, the African American Museum of Southern Illinois and the Boskeydell Baptist Church.

Later in the meeting, Mayor Cole announced that the 2009 All America City Finalist Quilt is currently on display in the Civic Center and will remain on display until December 8, 2009.

**4. Public Hearings and Special Reports**

**1. Police Swearing In Ceremony**

Mayor Brad Cole administered the Police Oath of Office to new Carbondale Patrol Officers Ron Allen, Jason Perkins and Guy Draper.

**2. American Planning Association Award Presentation**

Rob Kowalski, Vice President of the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association, presented the Chapter's 2009 Student Project Award to Laura Morthland and Sarah Lawrence, Studio Instructors from the SIU School of Architecture who oversaw the award-winning project. The Award recognized SIU School of Architecture students for their project entitled "Revitalization and Adaptive Reuse: Maximizing the Potential of Downtown Carbondale." Participating students were second-year students from the architecture and interior design programs.

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### 3. Presentation of Studs Terkel Award to Ruth Corene McDaniel

Patricia Jean Simon, Vice Chair of the Illinois Humanities Council, presented the 2009 Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award Medal of Recognition to Councilwoman Corene McDaniel for being the inspiration and the primary force behind the African American Museum of Southern Illinois.

Following the presentation, Councilwoman McDaniel announced that the African-American Museum of Southern Illinois is in the midst of a fund raising campaign and would be hosting a live Quilt Auction on Sunday, December 6, at 4:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. The hand-crafted quilts to be auctioned are currently on display in the Civic Center corridor.

### 3. Citizen Comments and Questions

Chuck Paprocki, 218 North Illinois Avenue, spoke in opposition to the privatization of the water system. He compared the cities of Atlanta, Georgia, and Urbana, Illinois, and how the privatization of water has affected those communities. He noted that the corporations who buy water and sewer systems expect about a 10% profit and the water and sewer rates could be expected to increase while services decrease.

Richard Whitney, 1801 New Era Road, noted that many in the community seem to oppose the privatization of the City's water operations and invited all to attend a showing of the film "FLOW" (For the Love of Water), to be shown on Thursday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Center. Discussion will follow the film.

Berardino Barratta, 108 South Maple, spoke in opposition to the privatization of the water system. He proposed that the water be placed in a public trust for future generations and asked that the Council look long-term rather than short-term. He said he could support both a property tax increase and a sales tax increase.

Treesong, 416 South Graham, spoke in opposition to the privatization of the water system, adding that water needs to be kept as a public resource. He supported the idea of placing the water system in a public trust and encouraged the Mayor and Council to explore other options for addressing the financial crisis such as bringing new businesses to the area and bringing renewable energy to City services.

Hugh Williams, 611 East Park #117, spoke in opposition to the privatization of the water system. He said articles have reported that the City's financial shortfall is being blamed on pensions and healthcare, but he hasn't seen any complaints about irresponsible spending. He said the decision to give Southern Illinois University \$20 million for the football stadium was ill-advised and suggested that the City revisit the contract with SIU. He also suggested that the City look at spending limits.

Jane Adams, 702 West Cherry, suggested that when the proposal to privatize the water system is discussed at the next City Council meeting, there be information provided on the research done on legal entanglements that came when the water system was established, including any grants or contracts, adding that there may be things that prohibit the sale of the municipal water system. She also asked how the \$42 million was arrived at, adding it seems to be an extraordinarily low price for such a valuable asset. She said if the water

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system is to be sold, due diligence must be done by an outside firm to determine the true value of the system. She said she was opposed to the sale of the water system for all the same reasons already stated by other speakers.

Bill Weinhoffer, 901 Mulberry Street, Murphysboro, identified himself as the Business Manager for the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union which represents the City employees of the water and sewer treatment and distribution system. He expressed concern about what would happen to the employees if the water and sewer system was privatized. He asked that the Council look at other options.

Kurt Wilson, 505 North Springer, spoke in opposition to the privatization of the water system and expressed his gratitude for the quality of Carbondale's water. He also expressed concern for global climate, noting that cities can measure their carbon output and there might be things that can be done by the City to help decrease the City's carbon output to help preserve the natural resource of climate.

Yolanda Comiskey, 1004 South Johnson, said she contacted an organization called "Food and Water Watch" in Washington, DC, and they provided her with information on American Water and about the benefits of having public water and the distractions of having privatized water. She provided written information to the City Council.

Rafal Kos, 403 West Elm, asked if the company that wants to buy the water system was present at this meeting to answer questions.

Mayor Cole said there is no proposal on the table for this agenda or the next City Council agenda, adding that the issue is one of six options put forth in a memorandum he presented at the last City Council meeting. He noted that only item that is scheduled at this time for discussion at the next City Council meeting is the property tax levy and possible abatement and he anticipates there will a request for discussion on a sales tax increase. He again stated that the issue discussed tonight is only one of six options put forth, adding that there is no bid, no solicitation for a bid and no in-depth discussions with any provider and there is no single provider who has indicated specifics about wanting to come to Carbondale although the City has been approached over the years by private providers and have discussed the issues with other communities. Mayor Cole noted that his paper presenting the six options is on the City's website and is available in the City Clerks' Office.

Councilman Wissmann says although he opposes the privatization of water in Carbondale, a lot of the discussion has missed the point which isn't water privatization but is the precipitating factor of runaway pension inflation. He said it is not enough to oppose water privatization but persons need to decide on a tax package that they can live with and bring suggestions to the Council for short term relief. Long term, however, the solution is pension reform and how State statutes structure and fund the pensions because the escalating costs will eventually overwhelm cities' abilities to pay them. He asked citizens to start looking at and calling for pension reform.

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### 5. Consent Agenda

Presented for Council approval on the Consent Agenda were the following items and corresponding recommendations:

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting held on November 17, 2009. Recommendation: Approve.
2. Warrant for Period Ended November 2, 2009, Warrant #1080. Recommendation: Approve in amount of \$2,371,894.81. (Exhibit A-12-1-09)
3. Acceptance of Minutes of Boards, Commissions and Committees. Recommendation: Accept Liquor Advisory Board of September 3, 2009; Planning Commission of October 7, 2009; Preservation Commission of October 19, 2009 and Sustainability Commission of October 15, 2009.
4. Ordinance Amending Title One of the Carbondale Revised Code as it Relates to City Council Meetings. Recommendation: Approve. (Ord. 2009-56; Exhibit B-12-1-09)
5. Ordinance Authorizing Acceptance of a Safe Routes to School Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation and Approving a Budget Adjustment to Increase the FY 2010 Police Department Budget. Recommendation: Approve. (Ord. 2009-57; Exhibit C-12-1-09)

The Mayor asked if anyone would like any items removed from the Consent Agenda. There were no items removed.

C. Wissmann moved, J. Fritzler seconded, that the Council approve Consent Agenda Items 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5. VOTE: Ayes: S. Haynes, L. Jack, J. Fritzler, C. McDaniel, M. Pohlmann, C. Wissmann and B. Cole. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

### 6. General Business

1. Award of Contracts for the Demolition of Nine Vacant and Unsafe Structures

M. Pohlmann moved, L. Jack seconded, that the Council authorize the City Manager to execute the Demolition Agreements for Nine (9) vacant and unsafe structures; award a contract for demolition of 1213 North Robert A. Stalls Avenue, 307 East Willow Street and 416 North Brush Street to G. Allen Construction, Inc. of Johnston City in the total amount of \$6,425.25; and award a contract for demolition of 803 North Marion Street, 210 East Oak Street, 625 East Searing Street, 647 East Searing Street and 422 East Sycamore Street to Gary Maier of Vienna in the total amount of \$15,550.50. VOTE: Ayes: S. Haynes, L. Jack, J. Fritzler, C. McDaniel, M. Pohlmann, C. Wissmann and B. Cole. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

### 7. Council Comments

Councilwoman Pohlmann thanked Mayor Cole for the budget options that he presented at the last Council meeting and asked that the Council take an opportunity to discuss the various options. She presented three additional options: (A) a property tax presented by Mayor Cole as Option B; (B) a sales tax increase in the amount of .50% (as opposed to Mayor Cole's Option C of .25%); or (C) half and half, by abating half of the property tax and increase sales tax by .25%. She asked that the proposal for a sales tax increase also be placed on the City Council agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

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Councilman Jack reminded everyone of the Lights Fantastic Parade to be held in downtown Carbondale on Saturday, December 5th. There are also other events taking place in the downtown area over the weekend. Contact Carbondale Main Street for further information.

Councilman Fritzler announced a Chili Supper sponsored by The Rotary Club of Carbondale - Breakfast to be held in the Civic Center prior to the Lights Fantastic Parade.

Councilman Fritzler also commended Mayor Cole for bringing budget options to the City Council for consideration and thanked him for attending the meeting at the Longbranch Café the prior week. Councilman Fritzler added that he cannot support selling the water system and said that he believes a sales tax increase is the best option to avoid an increase in the property tax and remain competitive with surrounding communities.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:08 p.m..

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Janet M. Vaught, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:

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