

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Public Hearing on a Proposed Intergovernmental Jurisdictional Boundary Agreement
Between the City of Carbondale and the City of Murphysboro

March 8, 2011

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a public hearing on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, in City Council Chambers, 200 S. Illinois Avenue, for the purpose of soliciting comments on the proposed Intergovernmental Jurisdictional Boundary Agreement between the City of Carbondale and the City of Murphysboro. Mayor Cole called the public hearing to order at 7:21 p.m. with the following-named members of the City Council present/absent:

Present: Councilman Joel Fritzler, Councilwoman Corene McDaniel, Councilwoman Mary Pohlmann, Councilman Chris Wissmann, Councilman Steven Haynes, Councilman Michael Neill, and Mayor Brad Cole.

Absent: None.

Also present were City Clerk Rachael E. Keehn, City Manager Allen Gill and various members of the City's administrative staff.

City Manager Gill explained that prior to January 2002, the cities of Carbondale and Murphysboro operated under a boundary agreement which established Country Club Road, north and south of Illinois 13, as the boundary for zoning, planning and development jurisdiction by both cities. Following the expiration of the formal agreement, both cities have continued to honor and abide by the agreement. For the last four years, discussions to again formalize the boundary agreement have taken place. Per Illinois Compiled Statutes, municipalities may enter into boundary agreements, not to exceed 20 years in length, provided both parties hold public hearings to provide for public input and discussion, followed by a vote of both municipalities to approve the agreement. City Manager Gill noted that a map of the proposed new boundary was attached in the agenda and also displayed in Council Chambers.

Mayor Cole explained that historically the cities of Murphysboro and Carbondale had agreed upon Country Club Road extending south from Route 13 physically and extending north of Route 13 virtually. Mayor Cole noted that the agreement expired in 2001, at which time the cities continued operating under the premise of the expired agreement. Sometime around 2007 it was verbally requested that the City of Carbondale agree to continue to abide by the previous boundary agreement, which the City of Carbondale continued to do. Subsequent to the verbal agreement the City of Carbondale has been attempting to formalize a new agreement. Discussions have taken place between Mayor Cole and Mayor Ron Williams of Murphysboro concerning the possibility of moving the north boundary from north of Route 13 to an apex at Airport Road. Mayor Ron Williams of Murphysboro has indicated that while discussions have taken place by the Murphysboro City Council regarding the boundary agreement, no consensus has been reached. No agreement is presented for approval at this meeting. This public hearing is to gather public input on where the boundary line may be.

Mayor Cole invited comments or questions from the public.

Donald Monty, 418 South Giant City Road, noted that he worked for the City of Carbondale when the boundary agreement was reached with Murphysboro originally. He stated that he believed that it was a good agreement that two communities agree on where their jurisdictions are going to begin and end. Mr. Monty voiced his support that there be an agreement between the Cities of Murphysboro and Carbondale. Mr. Monty expressed concern that the public hearing was advertised asking the public to comment on an agreement when in fact there is no agreement. He also noted that the public does not know, other than a proposed map that the other side has not agreed to, what the terms of a proposed agreement are. He also noted that although a map of the proposed boundary was available on the internet and in the agenda, that there was no written language about an agreement and what the conditions of the agreement would be. He stated that until the written language regarding the agreement is made available, that there is not enough information to invite comment from the public. He requests that the City Council realize that this is an opportunity worth pursuing, but that it needs more work. Mr. Monty noted that he realizes that Mayor Cole has worked hard on this agreement and commends him for it. He urged the Council to schedule a new public hearing once the full entirety of the agreement can be divulged to the public well before the hearing so that the public may be well-informed at the hearing.

Navreet Kang, 613 South Terrace Drive, asked whether the City of Carbondale and the City of Murphysboro had a mutual agreement regarding the boundary, and whether the proposed agreement was proposed by the City of Murphysboro or the City of Carbondale. Mayor Cole indicated that there was not, but that when the notice for this public hearing was published more than thirty days ago it was anticipated that there may be an agreement. Mayor Cole now anticipates there will not be an agreement reached, but the hearing was held anyway to gather public input on the matter. Mr. Kang noted that since he serves on the Planning Commission, his concern is about subdivision zoning and the mile and a half boundary outside of the city limits of Carbondale and how would those zoning issues be addressed should a boundary agreement be reached. Mayor Cole answered that the City has been operating under the previous agreement that was in place for almost 30 years and if a mutually acceptable agreement not be reached, the City of Carbondale will be enforcing its mile and a half zoning jurisdiction beyond the previously agreed-upon boundaries to the full extent of the City's zoning and planning jurisdiction and that it would be the City's intent to do that post-haste.

Mayor Cole added that it was the City's intent to have an agreement by this time.

Mayor Cole twice repeated his invitation for public comments or questions. Again, there was no one who indicated a desire to speak during this public hearing.

There being no further comments or questions at this hearing, Mayor Cole declared the public hearing closed at 7:32 p.m.

Rachael E. Keehn, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:
