

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Regular Meeting of December 17, 2013

Following a meeting of the Local Liquor Control Commission, the City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, in City Council Chambers, 200 South Illinois Avenue. Mayor Joel Fritzler called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the following members of the Council present/absent:

1. Roll Call

Present: Councilwoman Jane Adams, Councilman Lance Jack, Councilman Lee Fronabarger, Councilwoman Jessica Bradshaw, Councilwoman Carolin Harvey, Councilman Donald Monty, and Mayor Joel Fritzler

Absent: None

Also present were City Clerk Jennifer Sorrell, City Manager Kevin Baity, and various members of the City's administrative staff.

2. General Announcements and Proclamations

Councilwoman Adams announced that the Carbondale Community Winter Farmers' Market would not be open on the Saturdays following the Christmas and New Years holidays.

City Manager Baity announced that the refuse routes would be delayed during each of the holiday weeks and also announced the dates of closure for City Hall offices.

Mayor Fritzler asked Ms. Margaret Nesbitt to share information regarding the I Can Read program awards celebration to be held on December 21st at the Carbondale Middle School. Ms. Nesbitt provided details regarding the positive incentive program.

Councilwoman Adams announced that a public hearing on fracking would be held on Thursday, December 19 in the SIU ballrooms at the Student Center.

3. Citizens' Comments and Questions

Marvin Kleinau, 1022 Villa Court, speaking on behalf of the Villa Court neighborhood, requested that the City plow the road and place Villa Court on the regular snow removal schedule. Mayor Fritzler and City Manager Baity commented on Mr. Kleinau's requests.

Rodney Morris, 521 East Knight, read a memorandum from the Concerned Citizens of Carbondale, which memo will be entered as an exhibit to the minutes. Mayor Fritzler indicated there would be no action taken on the Special Use Permit until the public hearings were held. City Manager Baity noted that Brightfield's had placed their request for a Special Use Permit on hold pending receipt of additional information from the United States E.P.A. He also noted that the compiled questions had been forwarded to the various organizations.

4. Public Hearings and Special Reports

None

5. Consent Agenda

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

corresponding recommendations:

1. Approval of Minutes from the Public Hearing and Regular City Council Meeting Held on December 3, 2013. Recommendation: Approve.
2. Approval of a Warrant for Period Ending 11/25/13 FY 2014 Warrant # 1199 in the Amount of \$4,458,121.90. Recommendation: Approve in the amount of \$4,458,121.90. (Exhibit A-12-17-2013)
3. Approval of a Warrant for Period Ending 10/30/13 FY 2014 Warrant # WF10/2013 in the Amount of \$142,952.49. Recommendation: Approve in the amount of \$142,952.49. (Exhibit B-12-17-2013)
4. Acceptance of Minutes of Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Recommendation: Accept the approved minutes of the Carbondale Public Library Board of Trustees from October 9, 2013 and place them on file.
5. Appointments and Reappointments to Boards and Commissions. Recommendation: Concur with the Mayor's recommended appointments of Corene McDaniel to the Liquor Advisory Board to a term expiring May 1, 2015; Jeffrey Doherty to the Personnel Board to a term expiring June 30, 2017; and the reappointment of Scott Comparato and Jason Sigler to the Preservation Commission to terms expiring October 31, 2016.
6. Pulled by D. Monty.

L. Fronabarger moved, J. Adams seconded, to approve Consent Agenda items 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, and 5.5. VOTE: Ayes: J. Adams, L. Jack, L. Fronabarger, J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, D. Monty, and J. Fritzler. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

- 5.6 Ordinance Authorizing a Budget Adjustment to Increase the FY 2014 Budget, Awarding the Purchase of a Hybrid Utility Vehicle, and Declaring City-Owned Property as Surplus.

D. Monty moved, J. Bradshaw seconded, to adopt the Ordinance declaring the trade-in vehicle (2001 Dodge Dakota pick-up) as surplus to be traded in on the purchase of the Ford C-Max, awarding the purchase of a 2014 Ford C-Max from Vogler Motor Company, and authorizing a Budget Adjustment to provide funds to the Public Parking Services Fiscal Year 2014 Budget in the amount of \$21,585. DISCUSSION: D. Monty noted that this was the City's first purchase of a hybrid vehicle and that the funding to pay for the vehicle is coming from the parking fund's increase in fine collection in excess of the budgeted figures. VOTE: Ayes: J. Adams, L. Jack, L. Fronabarger, J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, D. Monty, and J. Fritzler. Nays: None. Motion declared carried. (Ordinance 2013-59; Exhibit C-12-17-2013)

6. General Business

1. Ordinance Adopting the 2013 Property Tax Levy

D. Monty moved, C. Harvey seconded, to approve the Ordinance adopting the 2013 Tax Levy in the amount of \$1,914,040 with \$972,892 for Library purposes and the remaining \$941,148 for City purposes. DISCUSSION: Council discussion included locating the increased levy funds from within the current budget; the already-minimal budget; utilizing technology to increase efficiency and streamline current processes; combatting public perception of waste; the need to increase the levy presently to pay for pension costs; the responsibilities of the Council and the municipality; alternatively utilizing a sales tax increase in lieu of a property tax increase; the services provided, including snow removal, with those

revenues; State-mandated pension payments; the possibility of a sales tax increase in the future; and the effect of unfilled staff positions at the university to City revenues. VOTE: Ayes: L. Jack, L. Fronabarger, J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, and D. Monty. Nays: J. Adams and J. Fritzler. Motion declared carried. (Ordinance 2013-60; Exhibit D-12-17-2013)

2. Ordinances Abating the 2013 Tax Levies for General Obligation Bonds

C. Harvey moved, L. Fronabarger seconded, to approve the Ordinances abating the 2013 Tax Levies for General Obligation Bonds. DISCUSSION: D. Monty commented on the commitment created through the sale of bonds and the abatement of the 2013 tax levies which provide payment for the General Obligation Bonds. City Manager Baity clarified the bonds for which payment through taxes were being abated. VOTE: Ayes: J. Adams, L. Jack, L. Fronabarger, J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, D. Monty, and J. Fritzler. Nays: None. Motion declared carried. (Ordinances 2013-60 through 2013-66; Exhibits E-12-17-2013; F-12-17-2013; G-12-17-2013; H-12-17-2013; I-12-17-2013; and J-12-17-2013)

3. Ordinance Establishing the 2013 Tax Levy for the Downtown Special Services Area Number One

J. Adams moved, C. Harvey seconded, to approve the Ordinance establishing the 2013 Tax Levy for the Downtown Special Services Area Number One. DISCUSSION: J. Adams noted that the Main Street Board had voted in favor of this levy which provides a large percentage of Carbondale Main Street's funding. VOTE: Ayes: J. Adams, L. Jack, L. Fronabarger, J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, D. Monty, and J. Fritzler. Nays: None. Motion declared carried. (Ordinance 2013-67; Exhibit K-12-17-2013)

4. Ordinance Addressing the Expired Cable Franchise Agreement with Mediacom Illinois, LLC

C. Harvey moved, L. Fronabarger seconded, to approve the Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to enter into an extension of the current franchise agreement with Mediacom for a period not to exceed August 31, 2014. DISCUSSION: City Manager Baity, City Attorney Kimmel, and Assistant City Attorney Snyder addressed questions from the City Council regarding the Public Access Channel contract provision, whether Mediacom can be required to maintain a local office in Carbondale, the pre-emption of home-rule authority by State statute, the term of the State contract with Mediacom, and what agency oversees the contract. Additional Council comments included concerns previously expressed regarding the operation of a Public Access Channel, the reorganization of the City's Information and Telecommunications Commission, and the possibility of a fee increase due to the Public, Educational, and Government Access Channel contract fee. VOTE: Ayes: J. Adams, L. Jack, L. Fronabarger, J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, D. Monty, and J. Fritzler. Nays: None. Motion declared carried. (Ordinance 2013-68; Exhibit L-12-17-2013)

7. Council Comments

Councilman Jack commented on the vote to increase the property tax levy to provide for public pension requirement increases. He noted that Councilmembers were faced with the difficult choice of voting to increase the levy or to pay for the pension increases through other means such as reduction of services or elimination of positions.

Mayor Fritzler commented that Councilmembers are property owners as well and the votes

cast would increase their own taxes as well.

Councilwoman Adams commented on the large number of local taxing bodies, which number affects the property tax rate; the funding of services through taxes; the impact on the quality of services and costs for such services in comparison to surrounding areas; the ability to locate the \$90,000 provided by the increased tax levy within the existing budget; and the need to review the larger issue of taxes in Jackson County.

Councilman Fronabarger commented that Carbondale has developed into a retirement destination and asked if it would be possible to increase plowing services in areas with concentrated retiree populations. City Manager Baity responded.

Councilman Monty noted his disappointment that many individuals and businesses did not clear their sidewalks as is required by the City Code. He remarked on the various populations which require cleared sidewalks for traveling and suggested that the City may need to be proactive in notifying property owners and businesses of that requirement. He noted that snow clearing companies often pile the snow upon the sidewalks. Mr. Monty indicated that there once was a City-maintained registry of snow removal services which may need to be reestablished.

Councilwoman Adams suggested an electronic bulletin board which could provide similar information as the former City-maintained registry. She indicated that a review of the policy which implements the removal of snow may need to be revisited and that when the City is aware of an impending snow storm, that businesses and residents receive advanced warning about snow clearing and parking requirements and consequences.

Councilwoman Bradshaw commented that an organization called Reboot Illinois lists Williamson County, but not Jackson County, as one of the highest property tax counties in the state. She commended City staff for their efforts to locate additional savings.

Councilman Fronabarger extended season's greetings to the citizens and noted his hope for a more prosperous year in 2014.

Mayor Fritzler noted the next City Council meeting date and shared comments he heard about the City's snow removal in comparison with other nearby cities. He noted that this was the biggest snowfall in years and commented on a new driver's snow plowing technique. He then commented on the City seeking voluntary compliance with the Ordinance, the public's advanced notice of the storm, the presence of marked snow route signs, and thanked the plow drivers for their work.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Jennifer R. Sorrell, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:
