

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Regular Meeting of March 4, 2014

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, in City Council Chambers, 200 South Illinois Avenue. Acting Mayor Donald Monty called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. with the following members of the Council present/absent:

1. Roll Call

Present: Councilwoman Jessica Bradshaw, Councilwoman Carolin Harvey, Councilwoman Jane Adams, Councilman Lee Fronabarger, and Acting Mayor Donald Monty (Councilman Lance Jack entered at 6:19 p.m.)(Councilwoman Corene McDaniel took the Oath of Office and her seat at 7: 00 p.m.)

Absent: None

Also present were City Manager Kevin Baity and City Clerk Jennifer Sorrell. Beginning at 7:00 p.m., various members of the City's administrative staff were also present.

2. Closed Meeting

1. Closed Meeting to conduct the semi-annual review of Closed Meeting minutes

J. Adams moved, C. Harvey seconded, to hold a Closed Meeting to conduct the semi-annual review of Closed Meeting minutes. Discussion of this matter in a Closed Meeting is permitted under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. VOTE: Ayes: J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, J. Adams, L. Fronabarger, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried. Open session recessed at 6:15 p.m.

3. Open Session

L. Fronabarger moved, C. Harvey seconded, to return to open session. VOTE: Ayes: J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, L. Jack, J. Adams, L. Fronabarger, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried. Open session resumed at 6:36 p.m.

Roll Call: Councilwoman Jessica Bradshaw, Councilwoman Carolin Harvey, Councilman Lance Jack, Councilwoman Jane Adams, Councilman Lee Fronabarger, and Acting Mayor Donald Monty

J. Adams moved, L. Jack seconded, to approve Closed Meeting minutes from August 27, September 17, October 22, November 5, and November 19, 2013 and January 7, January 21, January 28, February 11, February 19, and February 25, 2014. VOTE: Ayes: J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, L. Jack, J. Adams, L. Fronabarger, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

C. Harvey moved, L. Fronabarger seconded, to declare the need for confidentiality still exists, in whole or in part, for the minutes of: March 17 and September 15, 1998, January 6, 2004, December 6, 2005, April 4, August 15, and September 19, 2006, October 16 and December 18, 2007, May 6, 2008, September 1 and October 6, 2009, January 19, September 7, November 9, and November 23, 2010, September 20, October 4, October 18, November 1, November 15, December 8, and December 29, 2011, January 17, March 6, July 31, and November 27, 2012, January 29, February 12, March 5, April 2, April 16, May 21, June 25, August 6, August 27, September 17, October 22, November 5, and November 19, 2013, January 7, January 21, January 28, February 11, February 19, and February 25, 2014. VOTE: Ayes: J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, L. Jack, J. Adams, L. Fronabarger, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

C. Harvey moved, J. Bradshaw seconded, to authorize the destruction of audio recordings of all Closed Meetings that were conducted more than 18 months ago for which minutes have been approved, in accordance with Section 2.06(c) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. VOTE: Ayes: J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, L. Jack, J. Adams, L. Fronabarger, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried

A Recess was observed starting at 6:42 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

4. Oath of Office – New Council Person

The Oath of Office was administered to Ruth Corene McDaniel to serve as Councilwoman on the City Council until the expiration of Acting Mayor Monty's vacated City Council position. Ms. McDaniel's grandchildren were present and took part in the ceremony.

5. General Announcements and Proclamations

Councilwoman Harvey announced there would be a presentation on the services available through hospice care on March 6, by Hospice of Southern Illinois at Rock Hill Baptist Church.

Acting Mayor Monty remarked on the increase in businesses being responsive to snow removal requirements.

City Manager Baity shared the activities of Building and Neighborhood Services Staff in furthering snow removal efforts.

6. Citizens' Comments and Questions

Anna Durrett, 800½ West Main Street, requested the passage of an Ordinance to prevent the use of bullhooks on elephants, noting that the Ringling Circus would be coming to Carbondale.

Barry Spehn, 500 Charles Road #31, revisited his desire to see an Ordinance passed to require additional lights on tow trucks when they are towing vehicles. City Manager Baity noted the item has been tentatively scheduled for the first meeting in April.

7. Public Hearings and Special Reports

1. Public Hearing on the Proposed Sale of Property Located at 309 East Birch Street in Carbondale, Illinois

The minutes of the Public Hearing are transcribed separately.

8. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting Held on February 11, 2014 and the Special City Council Meetings Held on February 19 and February 25, 2014. Recommendation: Approve.
2. Approval of Warrant for Period Ending: 02/03/14 FY 2014 Warrant # 1204 in the Amount of \$963,371.67. Recommendation: Approve Warrant #1204 for Period Ending 02/03/14 FY 2014 in the amount of \$963,371.67. (Exhibit A-03-04-2014)
3. Approval of Warrant for Period Ending: 01/31/14 FY 2014 Warrant #WF 01/2014 in the Amount of \$196,640.27. Approve Warrant #WF 01/2014 in the amount of \$196,640.27. (Exhibit B-03-04-2014)

4. Acceptance of Minutes of Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Recommendation: Accept and place on file the approved meeting minutes from the Preservation Commission of January 13, 2014, the Carbondale Public Library Board of Trustees of November 13 and December 11, 2013, the Building Board of Appeals of January 13, 2014, and the Sustainability Commission of November 21, 2013 and January 16, 2014.
5. Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Sale of Real Property. Recommendation: Adopt an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract for the sale of real property to Thomas and Shiloh Ruble. (Ordinance 2014-04; Exhibit C-03-04-2014)
6. Ordinance Accepting a Vehicle Seized by the Police Department and Approving a Budget Adjustment to Increase the Police Department FY 2014 Budget. Recommendation: Approve an Ordinance accepting a seized vehicle so that it may be entered into the City's fixed asset accounting system and approve a Budget Adjustment for the Police Department's FY 2014 budget in the amount of \$1,200. (Ordinance 2014-05; Exhibit D-03-04-2014)
7. Award of Purchase of Vehicles for the Police Department. Recommendation: Declare 2004 Volkswagen Passat and three (3) 2008 Ford Crown Victoria vehicles as surplus property and award the purchase of four (4) 2014 model, full-size 4-Door FFV Police Package Utility Vehicles to Vogler Ford Motor Co., Inc., in the amount of \$109,928.
8. Resolution Appropriating Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the FY 2015 Program for Maintenance of Streets and Alleys. Recommendation: Approve a Resolution for Maintenance of Streets and Highways by Municipality under the Illinois Highway Code for appropriating \$548,749 in Motor Fuel Tax Funds pending review and approval by the Illinois Department of Transportation. (Resolution 2014-R-07; Exhibit E-03-04-2014)
9. Resolution Approving the Final BPL Development Plan for the SI Motorsports Located at 2200 West Ramada Lane. Recommendation: Adopt the Resolution approving the final BPL Development Plan for Southern Illinois Motorsports located at 2200 West Ramada Lane. (Resolution 2014-R-08; Exhibit F-03-04-2014)
10. Ordinance Approving the Annexation of Property Located at 4532, 4600 and 4624 Springer Ridge Road (Baggett Subdivision.) Recommendation: Adopt the Ordinance approving the annexation of property located at 4532, 4600, and 4624 Springer Ridge Road. (Ordinance 2014-06; Exhibit G-03-04-2014)
11. Resolution Accepting a Grant From the Illinois Housing Development Authority for the Single Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Grant Program. Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution accepting a grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority for the Single Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program. (Resolution 2014-R-9; Exhibit H-03-04-2014)
12. Ordinance Increasing the Overall FY 2014 Budget to Purchase a Mower for Cemetery Operations. Recommendation: Approve an Ordinance and associated Budget Adjustment to increase the City's overall FY 2014 Budget by nine thousand eight hundred dollars with funds from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund to purchase a new mower for Cemetery operations. (Ordinance 2014-07; Exhibit I-03-04-2014)
13. Approval of Purchase of Rock Salt through the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program. Recommendation: Reaffirm that the purchase of rock salt through the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program is in the best interest of the City, move to approve the purchase of rock salt for highway snow and ice control, and authorize the City Manager to submit a requisition to the State of Illinois Department of Central Management Services for 1,200 tons of rock salt through the Joint Purchasing Program using purchase commitment "Option 1."

C. Harvey moved, L. Fronabarger seconded, to approve Consent Agenda Items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10, 8.11, 8.12, and 8.13. DISCUSSION: None VOTE: Ayes: J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, L.

Jack, J. Adams, L. Fronabarger, C. McDaniel, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

9. General Business

1. Resolution Authorizing the Design and Placement of an Illinois State Historical Society Marker Located at the Public Safety Center Commemorating the Site of the Original Carbondale College and Southern Illinois College and an Ordinance Authorizing a Budget Adjustment Transferring Funds Into the Planning Services Division's FY 2014 Budget for the Purchase of the Marker

J. Adams moved, L. Fronabarger seconded, to approve a Resolution authorizing the Design and Placement of an Illinois State Historical Society Marker located at the Public Safety Center commemorating the site of the original Carbondale College and Southern Illinois College and move to approve an Ordinance authorizing a Budget Adjustment transferring funds into the Planning Services Division's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget. DISCUSSION: D. Monty read the proposed inscription of the plaque. J. Adams commented on Ed VanAwken's efforts in pursuing the placement of the marker, remarked on the history of the site, and indicated a desire to see the City promote the availability of the plaque fund to receive such donations. VOTE: Ayes: J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, L. Jack, J. Adams, L. Fronabarger, C. McDaniel, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried. (Resolution 2014-R-10 and Ordinance 2014-08; Exhibits J-03-04-2014 and K-03-04-2014)

2. Discussion of FY 2015 Projected General Fund Revenues

Council comments relating to expenditures included discussion of the current fiscal situation, the difficulty in deriving the best method to balance the budget, questions regarding issues in the present and near future which might impact the Council's decisions, considering alternative taxes beyond property and sales taxes, expanding the property tax base, looking at the bigger picture in how to grow Carbondale and making the City attractive to visitors and businesses, consideration of across-the-board cuts in budgets, earmarking smaller, alternative taxes for special projects, the effects of wage increases and the comparison of such increases to the rate of inflation, the impact of online shopping on the sales tax received by the City, the need to conduct a top-to-bottom analysis of the organization to locate reductions in operating costs and wages as well as specific, targeted reductions in positions, the percentage of the total budget which is comprised of controllable expenses and comparison of that total to the projected shortfall.

Expenditures:

City Manager Baity reviewed itemized options for reduction in programs and services, including: instituting a hiring freeze, reduction of staff, modification of the rental inspection program which would result in a reduction in staffing in Building and Neighborhood Services, eliminating funding for Agencies and Organizations, and eliminating street sweeping. The City Manager outlined staffing reductions per department and responded to related questions from the City Council.

Elias Reed, 2012 South Illinois Avenue, asked about salaries for police officers, the total number of officers in Carbondale, commented on entertainment opportunities in Carbondale, the decrease in student population, safety concerns for students, and he commented on Pravin Varughese's death.

Revenue:

In order to increase revenues, four suggestions were outlined in the agenda item including: Increases in the home rule sales tax rate, hotel/motel taxes, increases in fees, and increasing the local motor fuel tax. Councilmembers indicated the revenues for which they would be willing to consider increases and which they would not, asked questions about means of positively impacting such revenues, and remarked on fuel efficiency and its impact on motor fuel tax revenues.

Acting Mayor Monty summarized the overall recommendations/direction to the City Manager from the City Council was to:

1. Continue to trim the budget
2. Bring back an Ordinance for a 1% hotel/motel tax increase
3. Bring back an Ordinance for a ¼% sales tax increase

A short recess was observed at 9:29 p.m. until 9:35 p.m.

3. Discussion of Applications Received from Community Agencies and Organizations

City Manager Baity updated Council on the applicants and applications for funding noting that the Chamber of Commerce chose not to submit a full application, Carbondale Tourism decreased their funding request, the Science Center reduced the funding application by \$1 to meet the shorter application requirement, the Varsity Center for the Arts did not submit a full application for funding a Director position, and as the Eurma C. Hayes Center had received a sizable donation, they decreased their request to \$4,500.

The Council individually considered each agency and organization for which an application had been received in order to determine if further information was warranted. Individuals speaking on behalf of their organization, in response to City Council questions, and voicing concerns regarding Staff recommendations included: Randy Osborn of the Boys and Girls Club, Meghan Cole of Carbondale Main Street, Ramona Girtman of The H Group - Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program, Martha Schum of The Women's Center, Margaret Nesbitt of I Can Read, Nancy Stemper and Gary Kolb, of Carbondale Community Arts, and Cinnamon Smith of Carbondale Tourism. Milton McDaniel asked about the impact of funding cuts on the flow-through grant for the African American Museum contained within Carbondale Community Arts' budget.

Council comments and questions included allocating funds from proposed increases for certain community organizations; multiple questions directed to the City Manager regarding City Staff's recommendations and the justification for such recommendations; questions about the operation of, funding for, and the anticipated impact of funding cuts on the agencies and organizations; pass-through grants within the budgets of certain organizations; and personal comments regarding the desire to see additional funding, less funding, and increased services in relation to certain agencies and organizations.

After lengthy deliberation between City Council members, it was determined that the City Manager should prepare the draft Budget with the funding for agencies and organizations in the following amounts:

Boys and Girls Club: \$28,000
Carbondale Main Street: \$40,000
Good Samaritan Ministries: \$18,500
Senior Adult Services: \$33,750
Keep Carbondale Beautiful: \$7,000
I Can Read: \$9,900.
Big Brothers Big Sisters: \$6,250
Women's Center: \$12,500
Science Center: \$9,999
Carbondale Tourism: \$310,900
Carbondale Community Arts: \$48,000
Jackson County Mass Transit \$5,000
Sunset Concerts: \$7,000
Saluki Express: \$14,045

Eurma C. Hayes Center: \$4,500

Varsity Center for the Arts: \$13,000 as a one-to-one matching grant

Attucks Community Service Board

 Summer Lunch Program: \$2,000

 After School Meal: \$2,000

Following the consensus of the City Council regarding budget preparation in relation to Community Organizations and Agencies, additional Council recommendations and comments were stated in relation to performance and reporting requirements, reducing the dependency of organizations from City funding, requiring proven fund-raising efforts in future applications, continued suggestions to incorporate the Carbondale Library's grant-writing resources in the acquisition of funds for organizations, trying to find a less painful and more dignified process in addressing requests for funding, and expressing thanks to Staff's efforts in the review of applications.

10. Council Comments

Councilman Jack commented that the pool of money has dried up and Council has ordered more money to fill the pool. He noted that Council will need to find better ways of funding organizations.

Councilwoman Bradshaw expressed her thanks to the organizations and suggested encouraging other communities to support the agencies and organizations.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was declared adjourned at 12:29 a.m.

Jennifer R. Sorrell, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:
