

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Regular Meeting of May 6, 2014

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, in City Council Chambers, 200 South Illinois Avenue. Acting Mayor Donald Monty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members of the Council present/absent:

1. Roll Call

Present: Councilman Lee Fronabarger, Councilwoman Corene McDaniel, Councilwoman Jessica Bradshaw, Councilwoman Carolin Harvey, Councilwoman Jane Adams, and Acting Mayor Monty (Councilman Lance Jack entered at 7:03 p.m.)

Absent: None

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

2. General Announcements and Proclamations

Councilman Fronabarger announced that Saturday, May 10, is National Train Day and noted the local Station Carbondale museum located in the old Depot will be open to the public. Further, Mr. Fronabarger noted that SIU Graduation will be occurring this weekend.

Acting Mayor Monty proclaimed Saturday, May 10, as National Train Day and encouraged citizens to visit the train museum, tour the caboose, and talk about Carbondale's rich train history.

Acting Mayor Monty proclaimed the week of May 12 -May 16 as Bike to Work Week and Friday, May 16, as Bike to Work Day and further encouraged citizens to support bicycling and to ride a bike to work during this timeframe. He then shared some activities occurring as part of the celebration of Bike to Work week.

The Oath of Office was administered to Firefighter Aaron Alcaraz.

3. Citizens' Comments and Questions

Elius Reed, 2012 South Illinois Avenue, commented on his attendance of the memorial service for Pravin Varughese at the Carbondale Pavilion. He then asked if Carbondale will hold any further press conferences in the future regarding Pravin Varughese's death. City Manager Baity and Acting Mayor Monty responded to Mr. Reed's query. Mr. Reed then questioned if the City Manager and City Council have reviewed reports prepared by the Affirmative Action Officer.

Matt Gramse, 2116 East Walnut, offered his apology to the City for failing to maintain his property and thanked the Councilmembers and City Manager Baity for responding to his communications. Mr. Gramse requested a permit to repair his home to make it habitable and then asked the Council to ensure that the demolition of a home does not happen again.

4. Public Hearings and Special Reports

1. Historic Preservation Award Presentation for 804 West Cherry Street

Jason Sigler, Vice Chair of the Preservation Commission briefly commented on criteria for conferring the 2014 Historic Preservation Award to D. Gorton and Jane Adams for the restoration of 804 West Cherry Street. After Acting Mayor Monty presented the award to D. Gorton and Jane Adams, both Mr. Gorton and Ms. Adams shared their personal comments on the rewards of preserving historic homes.

5. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes for the Regular City Council Meeting Held on April 22, 2014.
Recommendation: Approve.
2. Approval of Warrant for Period Ending: 04/14/2014 FY 2014 Warrant #1209 in the Amount of \$1,014,287.47. Recommendation: Approve Warrant #1209 for the Period Ending 04/14/2014 FY 2014 in the amount of \$1,014,287.47. (Exhibit A-05-06-2014)
3. Approval of Warrant for Period Ending 03/31/2014 FY 2014 Warrant #WF03/2014 in the amount of \$208,717.18. Recommendation: Approve Warrant #WF03/2014 in the amount of \$208,717.18.
4. Acceptance of Minutes of Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Recommendation: Accept and place on file the approved meeting minutes from the Preservation Commission from March 17, 2014, the Human Relations Commission from March 17, 2014, and the Police Pension Board of Trustees from January 14, February 25, and March 25, 2014.
5. Appointment and Reappointment to Boards and Commissions. Recommendation: Concur with the Mayor's recommended appointment of Commissioner Jerrold Hennrich to serve as Human Relations Chair concurrent to his term expiring April 15, 2015 and to the reappointment of Sorrel Kunath to the Sustainability Commission to a term ending May 1, 2017.
6. Pulled by Elius Reed.

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

- 5.6 Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit a CDAP Housing Rehabilitation Grant Application in an Amount up to \$400,000 for the Rehabilitation of Eight (8) Homes. Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a Community Development Assistance Program housing rehabilitation grant application in an amount up to \$400,000 for the rehabilitation of eight homes.

Elius Reed asked to whom the Grant is submitted. D. Monty responded to his question. J. Adams noted the availability of funds through various City programs to assist with home renovation, commented that with appropriate designation, such homes might receive property tax assessment freezes, and also indicated her approval of the application. L. Jack moved, C. Harvey seconded, to adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a Community Development Assistance Program housing rehabilitation grant application in an amount up to \$400,000 for the rehabilitation of eight homes. VOTE: Ayes: L. Fronabarger, C. McDaniel, J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, L. Jack, J. Adams, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried. (Resolution 2014-R-22; Exhibit C-05-06-2014)

6. General Business

1. Discussion of Expansion of Liquor Sales for Class C Licenses Within the City of Carbondale

Councilman Jack noted that he holds a liquor license and will not be participating in the discussion of liquor matters. He stepped down from the dais. D. Monty noted the receipt of correspondence from Schnuck Markets and Kroger requesting the removal of the discussion of grocery store expansion of alcohol sales. He asked if there were any other grocery stores present that had an interest in the discussion, but none came forward. The remaining discussion centered on sales of alcohol at convenience stores/gas stations.

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Council discussion, questions, and comments included noting the feedback they had received from the public; a recommendation to limiting licenses to one in each quadrant which would result in a cap of four for convenience stores; a suggestion for a separate classification "C3" for ease in tracking sales for that Class; comments about a request for a liquor license from a drugstore; questions and comments regarding the City's ability to measure alcohol sales and the alcohol distribution system currently in place in Illinois; suggestions for implementing some mechanism for measuring the impact of expanded alcohol sales and the City's revenues; and expressions of each Councilmember's inclination regarding expanding sales to convenience stores.

With insufficient Council support for expanding sales to convenience stores at this time, there will not be an Ordinance brought back for Council's approval. Council did request that Staff pursue the development of a mechanism for measuring the impact of alcohol sales and a proposal for a package liquor tax.

D. Monty shared figures provided through the Chamber of Commerce survey regarding the expansion of alcohol sales.

Individuals speaking in favor of alcohol sales for convenience stores/gas stations:

Jennifer Jacobsen from Casey's Convenience Stores, Todd Carol of Huck's Convenience Stores, and Trace Brown of Marketplace Shell.

Individuals speaking in opposition of alcohol sales for convenience stores/gas stations:

Chandrakant Patel of Blue Fish Liquor and Old Town Liquors I, Dustin Rochkes of Warehouse Liquor Mart, Melissa Palmer of Blue Fish Liquor, and Chuck Reno of Westroads Liquor.

Additional Public Comments:

Greg Karayiannis of Pinch Penny Liquors, 624 Campus Drive, noted that he is required to report purchases to the Department of Revenue and those reports should be indicative of increases or decreases in sales.

Navreet Kang, 613 South Terrace Drive, commented on his concern regarding the issue of single beer sales from convenience stores and their relationship to influenced driving.

Lance Jack, 1020 North Bridge, asked about the ability to track and report the amount of money the City collects from alcohol sales and indicated such information would help clarify whether expansion is increasing or decreasing the City's revenues.

A recess was observed between 9:08p.m. to 9:17p.m.

2. Discussion of Halloween Restrictions

The City Council discussed the weather's influence on and general quietness of Halloween of 2013, the impact of unofficial Halloween in 2013, the possibility that Carbondale may no longer be considered a Halloween destination, suggested that allowing the bars to be open on Halloween might eventually result in the end of unofficial Halloween, and generally noted their consensus to allow Class B licenses to be open during Halloween week of 2014 through the passage of a resolution to not enforce the restrictions in the City Code relating to Halloween.

City Attorney Kimmel asked about how the license fees for the affected locations would be handled this year. The City Clerk commented that the Varsity Center for the Arts had never had a license fee assessed.

Sally Carter, Hangar 9, asked if there would be a vote on Halloween restrictions this evening and also asked about the possibility for fee pro-ration due to the due date of her last license fee. She agreed that unofficial and official Halloween will likely eventually meld into one.

3. Discussion of Landlord Ten Day Courtesy Utility Program

Councilwoman Adams related her experiences with and concerns about the ten-day courtesy program for landlords. She also outlined the landlord program available through Ameren as a more efficient model for what might be put into place.

City Manager Baity, Finance Director Don Ursini, and Administrative Assistant Elaine Scott responded to questions from the City Council about how the program is being administered, why the program was put into place, how illegal water meter turn-ons occur, the number of landlords who pay for their tenants' water bills, the information which is made available to landlords during the annual billing for rental inspections, reviewing the current Code for language authorizing this type of a policy, and an approximation of the number of unique users of the program there are compared to the total number of landlords in the City.

Council consensus largely agreed with the program being a beneficial, if not widely known, program. Specific recommendations include codifying the program, publicizing the program by utilizing the City's website and through the annual rental inspection bills, creating a standing account/subscription for landlords to ensure water service regardless of the time of day and week tenants move in, and reviewing the cost/benefit analysis in one year.

7. Council Comments

Acting Mayor Monty commented on addressing City Councilmembers' concerns which they feel need to be considered by the whole Council in a similar fashion as the last agenda item.

Councilman Jack commented on the upcoming Bike to Work Week and recommended erecting signs which will remind motorists to share the road with bicycles.

Acting Mayor Monty commented that he believed there was a request within a report from the Sustainability Commission about the signs at the entrances to the City being unfriendly and recommending more bike-friendly signs as replacements.

Councilman Fronabarger commented on a number of homes which are lacking or have poorly visible house numbers. He noted the importance of visible house numbers for emergency personal, suggested implementing an awareness program, and utilizing resources such as the local press, City website and local hardware stores to encourage the display of house numbers.

Acting Mayor Monty asked about whether citations have ever been issued for failure to number houses and commented on a conflict between the Code requirements for house numbers and the International Building Code. He then asked about making a change to the City's Code to concur with the International Code.

Councilwoman Adams referred back to earlier comments regarding notifications to landlords and suggested implementing an annual schooling of landlords such as recommended by the Safe Cities

programs which could result in two-way communication between landlords and the City. She further suggested that Staff look into the Safe Cities programs.

Councilwoman Harvey commented on the start of a new era at SIU, thanked Dr. Poshard for his many years of service, and welcomed Dr. Dunn back to SIU. Acting Mayor Monty suggested a Resolution commending Dr. Poshard for his service.

Acting Mayor Monty commented on his attendance of the memorial service for Pravin Varughese, noting the large number of attendees, and referencing the 40,000 signatures on a petition expressing concern about a desire to find the whole story and seeking closure. Mr. Monty noted that the City will cooperate to the extent allowable by law. He also noted that the community associated with the memorial and petition was well-organized and that he hoped it would not become focused on diverting students away from attending SIU.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was declared adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

Jennifer R. Sorrell, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:
