

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Public Hearing on the Proposed 2014 Tax Levy, Truth in Taxation Act Determination and
Public Library Board's Tax Levy Requirements
November 18, 2014

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a public hearing on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, in City Council Chambers, 200 S. Illinois Avenue, for the purpose of soliciting comments on the proposed 2014 Tax Levy, Truth in Taxation Act Determination and Public Library Board's tax levy requirements. Acting Mayor Monty called the public hearing to order at 8:07 p.m. with the following-named members of the City Council present/absent:

Present: Councilman Lee Fronabarger, Councilwoman Corene McDaniel, Councilwoman Jessica Bradshaw, Councilwoman Carolin Harvey, Councilman Lance Jack, Councilwoman Jane Adams, and Acting Mayor Donald Monty

Absent: None

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

The notice of the public hearing was published in the *Southern Illinoisan* on November 10 and November 11, 2014. City Manager Kevin Baity explained that Illinois requires a public hearing to be held at least twenty days in advance of any action to be taken on levying a tax that exceeds 5% of the prior year's tax extension. The City Manager indicated that the tax levy for City purposes is \$1,116,055, which is an increase of 18.584% over that levied in 2013, and the requested tax levy for the Library's use is \$1,001,892 which is an increase of 2.981% from the previous year. The City Council is required by law to adopt the Library's levy.

Acting Mayor Monty invited comments or questions from the public.

Rebel Pinkston, 1230 West Schwartz Street, remarked that the police and fire pensions will increase far above the inflation rate for the foreseeable future. His report compared the City's police and fire staffing levels other college towns in Carbondale. Mr. Pinkston indicated that the Fire Department's staffing was lower per capita than those of other college towns. He indicated that the Police Department's staffing was 70% larger than that of any other college town in Illinois. He stated that if Carbondale were staffed at the same level as other college towns, there would be a staffing level of 39 police officers. Mr. Pinkston noted reducing the police force would be hard, but suggested reorganizing and reducing the police force. He suggested finding out how other college towns are able to manage with fewer officers. Mr. Pinkston stated that a reduction of officers would not put citizens in danger and remarked that quotas had been instituted to keep officers busy. Further, he suggested a hiring freeze and keeping it in effect until replacement of 10 officers and 5 sergeants. He pointed out that the next budget will need money for the downtown and other projects. Mr. Pinkston remarked that if tax increases are requested

for things citizens can see such as the beautification of the downtown, they will be more accepting of them. He suggested changes for the reorganization of the Civic Center staff and noted that better student housing will allow rental inspections to occur every 5 years instead of every 3, which would allow for the reduction of staff. Mr. Pinkston advised placing the property at the University City Complex up for sale. Councilwoman Harvey requested a copy of his comments and his staffing plan and Councilwoman Adams asked that it be supplied to all of City Council.

Elius Reed, 2012 South Illinois Avenue, asked if the public hearing process was a proper procedure before a proposed tax levy. He noted that a public hearing was not held prior to the Saluki Way sales tax. City Manager Baity noted that regulations pertaining to a real estate tax levy requires a public hearing.

There being no further comments or questions at this hearing, Acting Mayor Monty declared the public hearing closed at 8:20 p.m.

Jennifer R. Sorrell, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:
