

**City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois**  
**Special Meeting of January 20, 2015**

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a special meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, in City Council Chambers, 200 South Illinois Avenue. Acting Mayor Donald Monty called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following members of the Council present/absent:

**1. Roll Call**

Present: Councilwoman Jane Adams, Councilman Lee Fronabarger, Councilwoman Corene McDaniel, Councilwoman Jessica Bradshaw, Councilwoman Carolin Harvey, and Acting Mayor Donald Monty (Councilman Lance Jack arrived at 6:35 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. Citizens' Comments and Questions**

None.

**3. Review of FY 2015 and FY 2016 General Fund Revenues and Expenditures and Potential New Revenue Sources**

The City Manager reviewed the anticipated versus budgeted revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year, noting expected changes which include a decrease in the casualty insurance premium, a reduction for the employer's share of IMRF, and an increase in Fire and Police pension fund expenditures. Finance Director Don Ursini reviewed additional anticipated changes in FY 2015 revenues including increases in the allotment of income tax, state use tax, video gaming tax receipts, and home rule and sales tax earnings. Discussion regarding the anticipated decrease in available housing grant funds followed. The City Council offered comments and questions pertaining to utility taxes, decreases and projections in City court fines, the impact of reducing traffic patrols in safety and in revenues, when revenue projections may be firmed up, changes to anticipated deficit projections, the eight month totals versus the anticipated end-of-fiscal year projections, the annual budget adjustment for the police contingency fund, budget overruns such as the construction of Schwartz Street, and sale of City-owned property. Finance Director Don Ursini, Accounting Manager Jeff Davis, Interim Police Chief Jeff Grubbs and City Manager Kevin Baity responded accordingly.

Discussion for the FY 2016 Budget

Finance Director Don Ursini indicated a slight uptick in revenue projections for sales tax, video gaming tax, SIU's expectation of nominal enrollment increases, and decreases to expenses in the areas of casualty insurance premiums and to the employer's share of IMRF. City Manager Kevin Baity itemized areas in the budget he will consider in order to decrease expenditures. This includes differentiating between mandatory and discretionary travel, decreasing the number of City vehicles purchased and possibly placing a one-year moratorium on vehicle purchases, reduction in the number of cellphones provided to employees, and increasing employee contributions for healthcare coverage. Savings in capital outlay were addressed including billing software and the replacement of the aerial fire truck.

City Council questioned and commented upon the impact of reductions in funding to SIU and reductions in the area's employment base, reductions in personnel expenditures included the elimination of positions, where reductions in services could potentially occur, utilizing a four-day work week, converting to propane-powered vehicles or adding hybrid/electric vehicles, and exploring alternate recycling service contracts.

## City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois – January 20, 2015

### New Revenue Sources

The City Manager reviewed spreadsheets which listed some Illinois communities which instituted specific taxes such as a food and beverage tax and/or a package liquor tax, and what percentage those communities were collecting. The City Council suggested looking further into alternative revenue sources including a food and beverage tax, a package liquor tax, an entertainment tax, and a tax on Styrofoam, plastic bags, and plastic bottles. Utilization of those funds from alternate revenue sources for community improvement projects, beautification and downtown development, or other dedicated sources such as community agencies was deliberated.

An additional suggestion included discussion with SIU to draw additional events and entertainment acts to the City of Carbondale, which events generate sales tax revenues. There was conversation about the changes to the number and types of events which come to SIU.

Community agency funding was then discussed by the City Council. There were comments about limiting spending to no more than what was approved for the current fiscal year. Councilmembers indicated their interest in determining into which community goals each organization fit, the allocation of funding to each type of service area or for achieving such community goals, inquiring of each organization about the utilization of other sources of funding, requesting documentation of applications for grants, suggestions to direct them to such sources such as the United Way, and which organizations to consider for funding requests in the future. Council also indicated an interest to holding a meeting in the summer to discuss community organization funding in depth before the budget process begins.

Council directed Staff to bring back at the meeting of February 10, details about, costs for administering, and procedures for the institution and collection of the new taxes, as well as the projects which have been brought up in the past which might benefit from these proposed taxes.

### Citizen Comments

Mike Henry, 1210 West Hill Avenue, asked from which budget year the downtown consultants would be paid and noted that the Chamber of Commerce will host the Southern Illinois Homebuilders event this year. He emphasized that continued dialogue with the University is the key to entertainment in the City of Carbondale.

Anna Durrett, West Main Street, indicated she enjoyed the discussion and asked the Council to consider taxing cigarettes and electronic cigarettes. She suggested the City assist in promoting the events held at SIU, but noted her disinclination to seeking out corporations and events which exploit animals and workers.

Angie Kaye, 113 North Lark Lane, stated she enjoyed the discussion, noted her past experience with the City in the Finance Department, and commended the Council on the work being done. She hoped they would carefully review the line items for expenditures in the general budget and itemized other areas of the budget where careful considerations must be made.

### **4. Council Comments**

Councilwoman Bradshaw congratulated the organizers of and participants in the Annual Neighborhood Alliance meeting. She recognized the loss in the previous year of several individuals who contributed significantly to the community and encouraged members of her generation to participate in the community.

Acting Mayor Monty shared his observations and commented on the two Martin Luther King, Jr. events. Sunday's event reflected very well upon the hard work of organizers and performers. The event on

City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois – January 20, 2015

Monday at the NAACP annual breakfast placed an emphasis on youth and he noted how critical it is for the entire community to support, encourage, and mentor them along the way.

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

---

**Jennifer R. Sorrell, City Clerk**

**Approved by the City Council on:**

---