

**City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois
Regular Meeting of February 10, 2015**

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, in City Council Chambers, 200 South Illinois Avenue. Acting Mayor Donald Monty called the meeting to order at 7:02 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, Councilman Lance Jack, Councilwoman Jane Adams, and Acting Mayor Donald Monty

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

Councilwoman Harvey reminded Carbondale citizens that this is Black History month with many exciting events and encouraged citizen participation in such events.

Councilwoman Adams announced a SIMPO meeting and public discussion on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the Carbondale Civic Center to discuss the Giant City Road corridor. Acting Mayor Monty indicated he had reviewed some of the proposals and City Manager Baity indicated that the meeting was for public input regarding the area from the entrance at Wal-Mart down to Wells Fargo.

Acting Mayor Monty noted the passing of former City employee Frank Biggs who served as Building and Neighborhood Services Inspector.

City Manager Baity noted that City Hall offices will be closed on Monday, February 16, which will delay refuse routes by one day. City Manager Baity announced that Gary Williams has been appointed to the position of Assistant City Manager of Economic Development.

3. Citizens' Comments and Questions

Rebel Pinkston, 1230 West Schwartz Street, presented specifics on his five-year plan for the City of Carbondale as a City Council candidate, detailing both expenditure reductions and revenue increases. Mr. Pinkston later returned to the podium and remarked on the CPI in reference to employee increases.

Zenetta McDaniel Coleman announced that the African American Museum of Southern Illinois is hosting a Selma 50 commemorative march and program on Monday, March 2, 2015, and extended a personal invitation to attend.

4. Public Hearings and Special Reports

None.

5. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting Held on January 20, 2015, and the Regular City Council Meeting Held on January 27, 2015. Recommendation: Approve.
2. Warrant for the Period Ending 1/19/15 FY 2015 Warrant # 1233 in the Amount of \$ 673,675.11. Recommendation: Approve Warrant #1233. (Exhibit A-02-10-2015)

3. Warrant for the Period Ending 12/31/14 FY 2015 Warrant #WF 12/2014 in the Amount of \$127,934.79. Recommendation: Approve Warrant #WF 12/2014. (Exhibit B-02-10-2015)
4. Acceptance of Minutes of Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Recommendation: Accept and place on file the approved meeting minutes for the Foreign Fire Insurance Board meeting of October 9, 2014, Police Pension Board of Trustees meetings of November 25 and December 10, 2014, Human Relations Commission of December 8, 2014 and January 5, 2015, and the Planning Commission of January 14, 2015.
5. Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Petition the Illinois Department of Transportation for Construction of the Crab Orchard Water District Improvements (WS0803). Recommendation: Approve a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to petition the Illinois Department of Transportation for construction of the Crab Orchard Water District Improvements (WS0803). (Exhibit C-2-10-2015; Resolution 2015- R-03)
6. Award of Purchase of Water Treatment Chemicals for FY 2016 From Various Vendors in the Total Amount of \$274,322.50. Recommendation: Award the purchase of water treatment plant chemicals to the respective low bidders for FY 2016 purchases.

L. Fronabarger moved, C. Harvey seconded, to approve Consent Agenda Items 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6. VOTE: Ayes: L. Fronabarger, C. McDaniel, J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, L. Jack, J. Adams, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

6. General Business

1. Request from Tow Companies for Review of Fee Schedule for Nonconsensual Towing of Vehicles

Donna Smith Throgmorton, 9 Throgmorton Road, Makanda, co-owner of Larry's Towing, was present to address the City Council. Ms. Throgmorton read her prepared statement providing explanation for the request for rate increases.

Council questions and comments for Ms. Throgmorton included which other cities she had compared, whether her company's consensual towing rates were proprietary or public information, a request that she email those towing rates to the City Manager to disseminate to the City Council, a request for an estimation of what percentage of business came from nonconsensual tows, an inquiry for specifics as to what costs of business increases she had incurred since the last rate increase, whether she was aware of any communities within 60 miles which regulate towing rates, and if she would be receptive to a two-step increase similar to Champaign.

Additional review of information from Ms. Throgmorton and reports from Staff will be considered by the City Council and this matter will be revisited.

Anna Durrett, West Main Street, noted in the past that she had been required to pay for a tow in cash, which could impact those without the means to pay such fee at the time. She suggested that perhaps it could be written in to require the acceptance of credit cards.

2. Ordinance Approving a Text Amendment Relative to Storm Water Detention Requirements

The City Council asked for clarification about how the Title Fifteen amendment is structured relative to development/redevelopment size, what portion of such development would require storm water detention if there was a development of equal size or of greater size, suggested not only permitting, but encouraging pervious pavement, referenced an email received by the City Council from a citizen about using parking lots for storm water detention, requested additional information about a publication from the EPA, whether rain gardens or similar alternatives would meet the

requirements if they can demonstrate through use of appropriate calculations that it would be as effective, and additional discussion about parking lots being used for storm water detention. Development Services Director Chris Wallace responded to City Council questions, noted the benefits and limitations regarding pervious pavement depending on the material used and the ground beneath such pavement, and elaborated on the rationale for some of the recommendations within the Ordinance.

The City Council requested further research on the effectiveness of pervious pavement and continued research on detention alternatives.

J. Adams moved, C. Harvey seconded, to adopt the Ordinance approving a text amendment relative to storm water detention requirements. VOTE: Ayes: L. Fronabarger, C. McDaniel, J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, L. Jack, J. Adams, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried. (Ordinance 2015-04; Exhibit D-2-10-2015)

3. Ordinance to Allow One-Time Approval of Up to Ten (10) Class F Liquor Licenses to Qualifying Not-for-Profit Organizations

Acting Mayor Monty indicated that he would like to have the City Staff review language changes for the Ordinance. Council consensus was to find a way to streamline the process and bring the item back at a later meeting.

4. Ordinance Abating the 2014 Tax Levies for the 2015 General Obligation Refunding Bonds

C. Harvey moved, L. Fronabarger seconded, to adopt the Ordinance abating the 2014 Debt Service Tax Levy for the 2015 General Obligation Bonds. DISCUSSION: None. VOTE: Ayes: L. Fronabarger, C. McDaniel, J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, L. Jack, J. Adams, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried. (Ordinance 2015-05; Exhibit E-2-10-2015)

5. Authorization Granting Select Energy Partners, LLC, a Municipal Power of Attorney for the Purpose of Signing a Twenty Four (24) Month Contract With the Lowest Successful Bidder for the Supply of 100% Renewable Energy Generated Electricity

C. Harvey moved, J. Bradshaw seconded, to grant Select Energy Partners, LLC, a Municipal Power of Attorney for the purpose of signing a twenty-four month contract with the lowest successful bidder for the supply of 100% renewable energy generated electricity. DISCUSSION: There were questions and discussion by the City Council including why increased electricity rates were anticipated with increased natural gas production, comments that significant savings were realized even with the higher rate for having 100% renewable energy, asked if any other municipalities were going with 100% renewable energy, and also questioned what documentation or guarantees exist that ensure the City's energy is generated from renewable energy sources. VOTE: Ayes: L. Fronabarger, C. McDaniel, J. Bradshaw, C. Harvey, L. Jack, J. Adams, and D. Monty. Nays: None. Motion declared carried.

A brief recess was observed between 8:47 and 8:57 p.m.

6. Discussion of Potential New Revenue Sources and Uses of Funds Related to the City of Carbondale FY 2016 Budget

Revenue Sources

The City Council discussed the impact of changes in policing priorities and staffing; discussing, and

advocating on behalf of one or the other options as to whether to consider an overall sales tax increase or choosing between one and three alternate targeted taxes, those being a package liquor tax, food and beverage tax, and an entertainment tax; whether those increased revenues should be allocated wholly to specific projects in the CIP, for beautification, for redevelopment, updating equipment, for studies, and for other improvements, or if those revenues might also be used in part for the General Fund.

Following the discussion, City Councilmembers provided the following guidance to assist City Staff in preparing the FY 2016 budget as it relates to new or increased revenues:

Councilman Jack indicated he would prefer a sales tax over the proposed alternate taxes, with a one- or two-year sunset date, and dividing the revenue between special projects and the General Fund.

Councilwoman Harvey suggested a sales tax increase, with no sunset date, as opposed to individual alternative taxes. She suggested that the funds from such tax be divided between the downtown redevelopment, to CIP projects, and the General Fund.

Councilwoman McDaniel indicated her preference of a sales tax over the targeted taxes and that those funds could be used for the overall development of the downtown area.

Councilman Fronabarger stated his preference for the individual taxes, the bulk of which would go to special dedicated improvements to enhance the City.

Councilwoman Adams advocated for the individual alternate taxes raised by and for the development of arts and entertainment in the area, but might include some major purchases for Finance.

Councilwoman Bradshaw indicated an interest in a package liquor tax and amusement/entertainment tax. She also suggested raising the motor fuel tax.

Mayor Monty suggested looking at the food and beverage tax and package liquor tax, allocating for 1/3 of funds for operating costs and 2/3 for special projects for this year.

Expenditure Reductions

There was discussion about how to reduce expenditures, ranging from cutting staff and increasing the duties for City staff, as well as the impact those actions would have on Staff, ensuring that a management study/review would be performed regardless of reductions in order to balance the budget, modifying the housing inspection process, retaining vacant positions,

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Angie Kaye, 113 North Lark Lane, noted her concerns about the overtime costs in the budget, stated she was not in favor of cutting Staff, noted that with the projected deficit she could not agree with earmarking money for special projects. She offered her suggestions for expenditure reductions. Ms. Kaye offered feedback on the public perception about sales tax increases, her reasons for not supporting an entertainment tax, concern about earmarking funds when an emergency might require the use of those funds.

Finance Director Don Ursini noted that the amount being discussed as the projected deficit is not a solid figure as the budget is still being worked through. He also indicated that the sunset provisions for the expiring sales taxes were rolled over.

Sandy Litecky, 603 West Walnut, indicated her support for a raise in revenue, perhaps the food and beverage and package liquor tax, but that the majority of revenues should be for special projects.

Adam Loos, 512 West Pecan, commented that the slight increases would be unlikely to drive

people out of town, noted his preference for the alternative taxes in lieu of the sales tax increase, as well as where expenditure reductions should not occur.

Anna Durrett, West Main Street, asked if the City has looked into taxing cigarettes and remarked on using the revenues from alcohol and tobacco to, in part, offset the harm of their use.

7. Council Comments

Councilman Fronabarger noted that a session he attended at the IML conference discussed shared services and shared resources, where multiple cities jointly bid services and purchases. He asked about the City looking into similar cost-sharing for purchases such as those for annual chemical purchases. Public Works Director Sean Henry responded to Mr. Fronabarger.

8. Closed Meeting to Discuss the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees and to Conduct the Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes

Due to the late hour, there was Council consensus to forego the Closed City Council meeting until a later date. There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was declared adjourned at 11:16 p.m.

Jennifer R. Sorrell, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:
