

Local Liquor Control Commission, Regular City Council Meeting, and Public Hearing on Downstate Small Business Stabilization Grant Funds - November 9, 2021 (Tuesday, November 9, 2021)

Generated by Jennifer R Sorrell on Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Members present

Councilmember Ginger Rye Sanders, Councilmember Jeff Doherty, Councilmember Lee Fronabarger, Councilmember Tom Grant, Councilmember Carolin Harvey, Councilmember Adam Loos, and Mayor John M Henry

A meeting of the Local Liquor Control Commission immediately preceded this meeting.

Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM

5. Preliminaries to the City Council Meeting

Procedural: 5.1 **Roll Call**

Procedural: 5.2 **Citizens' Comments and Questions**

Sandy Litecky announced that Keep Carbondale Beautiful will be planting 35 trees on Saturday, November 13, at the former Econolodge location. They are seeking volunteer assistance to conduct the planting.

Procedural: 5.3 **Council Comments, General Announcements, and Proclamations**

Mayor Henry proclaimed Thursday, November 11, 2021, as Veterans Day in the city of Carbondale and encouraged citizens to respectfully and appropriately recognize the occasion. He noted this proclamation would be read at the Veterans Day service at SIU.

Councilmember Harvey expressed her thanks to veterans for their service and invited citizens to attend the Veterans Day service at the University.

Councilmember Rye-Sanders expressed her gratitude for veterans and their service; she conveyed a request from a resident asking to receive meeting notices.

6. Public Hearings and Special Reports

Information: 6.1 **Annual Presentation by TWM, Inc. of the City-wide Pavement Management Plan**

Jeff Reis of TWM reviewed an update to the Pavement Condition Index established by an earlier pavement study.

Council asked to receive a listing of the streets and their status, inquired about the five-year projection, a request for deterioration details for brick streets, a request that City staff determine what is needed to return side streets to brick, the type and quality of the materials utilized on the

streets in Carbondale, questions about which materials are more expensive to build or to maintain roadways, and a request for an updated street inventory with the type of material for each.

Elva Liddell asked if there is a list of the streets and when they are scheduled to be repaved. She noted that her street does not have sidewalks or curbs and guttering. Further, she remarked on an encounter with Code Enforcement regarding trees growing in the ditch behind her home.

Public Hearing: 6.2 Public Hearing to Provide Interested Parties an Opportunity to Express their Views on the Program Activities and Performance of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds in Support of Local Businesses Impacted by the COVID-19 Emergency

In response to the economic emergency created by the Covid-19 pandemic, Governor Pritzker announced on March 25, 2020, that the State of Illinois had repurposed \$20 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in support of small businesses in downstate and rural counties across Illinois.

Under the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines that oversee the use of Community Development Block Grant funds, participating units of local government are required to ensure that residents will be given reasonable and timely access to local meetings, consistent with accessibility and reasonable accommodation requirements in accordance with federal law, as well as information and records relating to the unit of local government's proposed and actual use of CDBG funds.

The applications for these grant funds were posted on the City's website on May 1 and a notice was published in the Southern Illinoisan on May 3, 2020; the City Council adopted Resolutions in support of these specific CDBG funds applications on May 12, 2020.

The purpose of this public hearing is to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the program activities and performance of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Downstate Small Business Stabilization (DSBS) grants funded through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. This program is funded by Title 1 of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

A notice of a hearing that informs the public of these closeout reports and provides an opportunity to review them must be published at least 7 days prior to a public hearing before the City Council. The reports were published on the City's website on October 29, 2021, and the notice was published in the Carbondale Times on October 29, 2021.

These closeout reports are for grants to the following Carbondale businesses:

Allied Physicians and Rehab of Southern Illinois, S.C., for a grant amount totaling \$25,000.
Flame Eatery & Wine Bar, LLC, for a grant amount totaling \$25,000.
Dayemi Organization, Inc. dba Midwest Medical Thermography, for a grant amount totaling \$10,150.

The public hearing was declared open 6:58 p.m.

There was a question about whether the notice had been published in the *Carbondale Times* or the *Southern Illinoisan*.

Jackie McGee made a statement about a matter not related to the subject of the public hearing.

The public hearing was declared closed at 7:02 p.m.

7. Consent Agenda of the City Council

Action (Consent): **7.1 Minutes from the City Council Meeting of October 26, 2021**

Resolution: Approve the minutes from the regular City Council Meeting of October 26, 2021

Action (Consent): **7.2 Approval of Warrant for the Period Ending: 10/29/2021 for the FY 2022 Warrant 1419 in the Total Amount of \$1,327,333.01**

Resolution: Accept the following report of payments made for the period ended: 10/29/2021 totaling \$1,327,333.01 (*Exhibit A-11-09-2021*)

Action (Consent): **7.3 Approval of Wells Fargo Warrant for the Period Ending 09/30/2021 FY 2022 Warrant # WF 09/2021 in the amount of \$129,042.88**

Resolution: Accept the following report of payments made for the period ended: 09/30/2021 totaling \$129,042.88 (*Exhibit B-11-09-2021*)

Action (Consent): **7.4 Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

Resolution: Approve all Consent Agenda items not pulled for separate consideration

MOTION: Approve all Consent Agenda items not pulled for separate consideration

Motion by Lee Fronabarger, second by Tom Grant.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Ginger Rye Sanders, Jeff Doherty, Lee Fronabarger, Tom Grant, Carolin Harvey, Adam Loos, John M Henry

8. General Business of the City Council

Action: **8.1 Review of 2021 Proposed Tax Levy, Truth in Taxation Act Determination and Public Library Board's Tax Levy Requirements**

Councilmembers commented the increasing property tax rates in Carbondale and the role of other taxing bodies in those increasing rates, their individual opinions regarding whether they could support the proposed \$18,721.00 increase, identifying taxing bodies that could be consolidated or eliminated, an inquiry about the requested increase, the number of properties which would pay the tax increase, and what the annual increase would be for ranges of home values.

MOTION: The City Council directed staff to submit a Tax Levy Ordinance for the December 14, 2021, City Council meeting containing the recommended Tax Levy and Tax Levy Abatements that will result in a net 2021 Tax Levy in the amount of \$2,173,099 for General Government and Library purposes.

Motion by Adam Loos, second by Lee Fronabarger.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Ginger Rye Sanders, Lee Fronabarger, Tom Grant, Carolin Harvey, Adam Loos, John M Henry

Nay: Jeff Doherty

Action: 8.2 Council Discussion and Approval of a \$20,000 Expenditure to Address Food Insecure Households in Carbondale

Note from Clerk: The discussion on this subject ran for 50 minutes. A brief summary of Council discussion follows in addition to verbal and written comments from the public. If you would like to listen to or view the full video for this specific subject matter, please contact the City Clerk's office for assistance.

Council remarked on the this proposal, utilizing this expenditure to help the public view the City in a different light, commented on the challenges that people are facing coming out of the pandemic, inquired about the suggested dollar amount, how to provide assistance year-round, and offered questions and suggestions of how to implement this goal.

The primary question that confronted the Council was whether the City itself could or should be responsible for the acquisition and allocation of the goods or if currently existing organizations with experience in these areas should be utilized. There was also a question about sufficient staffing and time for implementation of this plan.

After the initial motion was withdrawn, the mover stated that the intent was to hand out food, utilize vouchers, or utilize existing organizations for this holiday period, then do that, but look at how to implement this by the City instead of utilizing other organizations in future endeavors.

Sandy Litecky suggested giving the funds to Good Samaritan and Victory Food Pantry.

Diana Brawley Sussman shared a story of early pandemic food donation plans which did create some traffic and logistic challenges. She encouraged consulting with other orgs.

Rachel Cristaudo, a member of Southern Illinois Collaborative Kitchen, asked if these would be ARPA funds or City funds, explained how they cooperate with restaurants to distribute meals at no cost, commented on the ongoing need.

Jennifer Rollinson entered a chat comment stating: distribution of moneys to several organizations seems beneficial in that it gives various access points to those needing food. Also, the Southern Illinois Collaborative Kitchen not only works to feed the community-but it also supports local restaurants-so agree, but a voucher system would also be useful in supporting the local economy as well as feeding folks. Additionally-potentially providing better access to the

existing services that are already available.

Yolanda Dean entered a chat comment stating: can the city put together an inclusive list that informs the people of where they can go and what they can get and what do they need to do beforehand to qualify for the assistance.

Jackie McGee raised a suggestion of gas cards and stated that the City is doing a good job.

Marilyn Tipton entered a chat comment stating: I didn't know that Good Samaritan gave out food. Victory Dream Center is the biggest food pantry in Carbondale. Vouchers would also be possibility. Because of Covid vouchers might be safer. There are a lot of people that are diabetics and have other health issues that need certain foods. That supports the vouchers.

Joshua Liechty entered a chat comment stating: Perhaps the Department of Human services can facilitate the city financing enhanced SNAP benefits for all Carbondale residents in the program. That would be a fair and equitable system. I would estimate that nearly \$1,000,000 of subsidized food is granted to residents of Carbondale monthly via snap, wic, food pantry distributions, senior centers, and via the school lunch programs. I'm not sure the city has the budget or ARPA funds to make any sort of real impact over the long term. \$20,000 comes out to just over \$2 per 'poverty classified' resident. As councilmember Grant said, money should best be spent on the infrastructure to help solve food shortages and establish more sustainable supply chains and food autonomy. Of course making a \$20,000 donation right now to Victory Dream Center would go to quick and effective use and I believe was the main objective Councilmember Rye Sanders was looking to accomplish.

MOTION: Direct City Manager and Staff to expend up to \$20,000 to provide food assistance to Carbondale residents in need.

Motion by Adam Loos, second by Carolin Harvey.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Ginger Rye Sanders, Jeff Doherty, Lee Fronabarger, Tom Grant, Carolin Harvey, Adam Loos, John M Henry

9. Adjournment of the City Council Meeting

Procedural: 9.1 **Adjourn meeting**

There being no further business to come before the public body, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Jennifer R. Sorrell, City Clerk

Date