

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois
held on the 31st day of January, A.D. 2007***

SPECIAL MEETING of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at 4:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers, Joliet Municipal Building, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: MAYOR PRO-TEM JAN QUILLMAN and DISTRICT 2 COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY M. BROPHY, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE THOMAS C. GIARRANTE, DISTRICT 4 COUNCILMAN ALEX LEDESMA, DISTRICT 1 COUNCILMAN JOSEPH R. SHETINA and DISTRICT 3 COUNCILMAN ANTHONY UREMOVIC

ABSENT: MAYOR ARTHUR SCHULTZ and DISTRICT 5 COUNCILMAN WARREN C. DORRIS and COUNCILMAN AT LARGE MICHAEL F. TURK.

ALSO PRESENT: CITY MANAGER JOHN M. MEZERA, DIRECTOR OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ROBERT D. FRASER AND FINANCE DIRECTOR RICHARD F. YUCIUS.

A Notice of Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois to be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at 4:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, Joliet Municipal Building, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, called by MAYOR SCHULTZ for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2007 Budget was submitted.

The City Manager continued with page 8 of the 2007 budget message and began explaining some of the highlights.

The City Manager explained the comprehensive financial plan that shows a balanced Budget through 2010. He said to achieve this will require gradual increases in the use of gaming revenues for General Fund support, the increase of Development Impact Fees through 2010, the continuation of \$3 monthly increases for refuse collection each year for 2007-2010, providing annual revenue increases over the next 3 years at 4.6%, and limiting annual expense increases to the 8% range excluding new fire station construction and staffing.

The City Manager then explained the impact of reduction in new construction. He said overall building permit revenues were down 28% in 2006 compared to 2005, which we felt was a record year, and for 2007 we are going to be about 40% off of 2005. He said we don't think it will go any lower than that. He said it's about a \$4 million impact from 2005 to 2007.

COUNCILMAN LEDESMA asked if construction dropped because of all the land that has been taken over.

The City Manager said no, it's just a function of the market when the buyers in the market will no longer buy at the same rate that they were buying before. He said it's mostly new construction but it does affect existing housing construction a little bit.

COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC said we're still working very closely with developers to keep on track.

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The City Manager said absolutely, and we're not diminishing our standards. He said there are housing developers coming in now and saying the market has slowed down and they're saying they want to put a cheaper product out there and we're saying no. He said we'll let the land sit there a little bit and if we slow down, we slow down, but we are not going to reduce the quality whether it's residential or commercial. He said they understand that but they don't necessarily like it and they can't go anywhere else and get that kind of reduction anyway.

The City Manager then explained the Development Impact Fee analysis. A revised Exhibit F1 regarding the fee was distributed. He said we are recommending that we keep increasing the residential and commercial \$500 and \$600 each year which we have been doing.

The City Manager then explained 2007 Riverboat Gaming Revenues which are estimated at \$38.4 million, and the Riverboat Gaming Distributions which includes \$5,680,000 for the Neighborhood Improvement Program, which is the same that it was in 2006.

COUNCILMAN TURK arrived at the meeting at this point.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked about the \$2.6 million for the West Side Maintenance Facility.

A breakdown of the construction costs for the Gael Drive expansion and the Far West Side Facility was distributed. The City Manager said we are going to rearrange how we are going to do the bays at Gael Drive. He said we believe it is much more cost effective to do almost the entire addition onto the west end of the building. He said the Fire Maintenance and the higher bay would be on the west end and then Utilities would pick up 4 of the existing bays that are on the east end of the building. He said so instead of building on both ends they'll build just on the west end, and that will primarily be the addition for Fire Maintenance.

The City Manager continued explaining the Riverboat Gaming Distributions and said \$1.5 million is the final amount we need to finish the City Hall Renovations with the south wing being renovated for the Community and Economic Development Department and the Legal Department moving downstairs.

The City Manager said under Economic Development we have \$46,000 for the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce.

The City Manager said the Education Development Fund of \$1.2 million is what goes to both the private and parochial schools.

The City Manager said for the Joliet Public Library there is \$1.5 million plus their normal \$224,000 for a total of \$1,724,000. He said Senior Services Center is budgeted at \$37,000 and Youth Programs is at \$351,000.

The City Manager said the Daybreak Homeless Shelter is at \$220,000 which is up about \$14,000. He said they really help us during these cold weather times when we don't have places to take people. He said they know how to deal with the people and they have their own security and do a real nice job for such a valuable service that they provide to us in cold weather and all year long.

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A replacement for page 12 was distributed and the City Manager said this includes an increase from \$200,000 to \$220,000 for the Joliet Park District. He said at the last meeting COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked that we consider taking \$20,000 and adding it to cover maybe the water use for the Water Park. .

The City Manager then continued explaining the remaining Riverboat Gaming Distributions.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked about the \$40,000 for Stepping Stones.

The City Manager said this \$40,000 would end their program that they had applied for about 7 years ago for a total of around \$300,000. He said he suggests that next year we take a look and see how the economy and riverboat gaming are doing and if we want to open this back up and fund capital projects, these folks will certainly be back in line. He said then you would have to make a decision as to whether you want to offer another \$1 million or \$2 million to the community or whether that money would be better used in some of your municipal facilities. He said right now we're not projecting that you're going to have any surplus available for any additional projects.

COUNCILMAN LEDESMA asked if Cornerstone falls into the same category and if they can come back next year and request more funds.

The City Manager said Cornerstone gets more money than any other agency through our Neighborhood Services Division. He said we give them CHDO funds and other Block Grant funds that we have available for building their houses so they get a lot of money. He said the rest of these organizations don't share in any of that; they only get riverboat gaming revenue.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said he would like to see if we could add funding for the Will County Center for Community Concerns. He said the Continuum of Care has been charged with the elimination of homelessness, not just the reduction of homelessness, by the year 2010. He said for the last two years we've given \$5,000 towards their Open Door Day which is basically a freebie where the homeless can walk in and experience what's available from all social service agencies. He said they may get some toiletries if they need them or a referral to some organization or whatever the case may be. He asked Sgt. John Albrecht, who has been serving on that Committee for a couple of years, what the budget for that is.

Sgt. Albrecht said the budget is \$10,000. He said the City gives \$5,000 and Will County gives \$5,000.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said that's what we've done in the past and if you'd include it here that would be fine otherwise we can do like we've done before and go through the Finance Committee process.

The City Manager suggested that \$5,000 be taken out of the Contingency Fund for this and there were no objections.

MAYOR PRO-TEM QUILLMAN said Sunny Hill Nursing Home is in the middle of a capital campaign. She said she took a tour of the facility and she knows it's run by Will County but many people that live in Joliet use that facility for their loved ones. She said as a goodwill gesture she would like to give them \$25,000 and maybe if we need something down the road they'd be willing to negotiate.

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COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked if we could do that out of contingency also.

The City Manager said yes. He said this is a one-time shot too and it's not every year. He said you helped them with the Health Department and COUNCILMAN DORRIS did some streets around there also and they really appreciate it. He suggested that we take \$30,000 out of contingency for these two items and there were no objections.

The City Manager then continued on page 13 and explained several of the 2007 Significant Revenue Items.

The City Manager said we are going to increase the refuse collection fee by \$3.00 per month and that will take us up to about \$6.8 million. He said we will still be charging customers less than what we pay for the service -- customers will be paying \$14.00 and we'll be paying \$18.00. He said we're still in a losing position when it comes to refuse collection but over the next few years we'll catch up with that and it's still a great service.

MAYOR PRO-TEM QUILLMAN asked if that fee will go up every year.

The City Manager said we project it out to about a \$3.00 increase every year.

The City Manager then continued explaining 2007 expenses, including the employee medical and insurance expenses which show a slight increase.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked how the brand name versus generic prescription drug program is working out.

The Director of Human Resources said we don't have the numbers yet because we don't have a full year of data, but just through word of mouth and talking with people the program is working, especially the ones that choose the generic over the \$35 brand name drug where there is a generic equivalent.

The City Manager then continued with the Water and Sewer Budget, and he explained the Water and Sewer Development Program 2003 – 2010, which provides funding for the radium compliance project, purchase of radium treatment equipment, water supply improvements, Aux Sable Creek Basin Wastewater Treatment Plant and Combined Sewer Overflow Elimination. He also explained the anticipated completion dates for these projects.

COUNCILMAN TURK said he talked to MAYOR SCHULTZ this afternoon and he said he's gone through the budget and he feels comfortable with it and could vote on it at the next meeting. He said the Mayor wanted to know if his recommended rate reduction for seniors is in this budget.

The City Manager said the Mayor asked for a 5% water rate reduction for seniors and that will be reflected in the ordinance that sets the senior rate.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked what the employee count is now.

The City Manager said 928 plus part-time.

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COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked what the total overtime was for 2006.

The Finance Director said it was \$7.6 million for full-time personnel.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked what the breaking point is where it's more reasonable to hire somebody than to keep going with overtime. He said you have people that are working tons of hours and he said he hopes we're watching that.

MAYOR PRO-TEM QUILLMAN said we discussed we were going to get some more public works people because they had been working such long hours.

The City Manager said we have put another utility crew on for utilities and we'll have to review just how we're going to implement that.

MAYOR PRO-TEM QUILLMAN said she knows they have been working some really long hours and it gets to the point where it's not safe anymore.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said when somebody calls after 5 p.m. on the weekends they need to be able to get a hold of somebody. He said he has tried to call and he can't get anyone.

The Director of Public Utilities said they are working on being able to transfer that number at the west side facility. He said he thinks the biggest problem is when one person is on duty the call currently goes to an answering machine and a lot of times if people have an emergency they don't want to leave a message.

The City Manager said we need to get a machine so that when a call comes in and it's not answered in a couple of rings, instead of going to a recorder it needs to ring to a cell phone for someone to answer.

MAYOR PRO-TEM QUILLMAN said on Monday at 12:30 p.m. there was no answer and it took over ½ hour to get a return call and she asked if there was coverage when they go to lunch at the west side municipal center.

The Police Chief said at the Caton Farm Road facility there are two employees that normally work at the front desk, a Police Department employee and a City Hall employee, but sometimes there is just one, and they are working on getting the phone switched to a live person when that person is on break.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said one of his suggestions that he wants to make sure is funded is the idea that sometime this spring we patrol for sound nuisances and the violators that are disturbing the peace in their cars. He asked if we are ready for that.

The Police Chief said we are ready and are going to have a formalized program for that. He said we looked at last year's numbers and we probably had right around 50 violations where we ticketed the driver and towed and impounded the vehicle. He said this summer we are going to have an enforcement program on top of a public education program to educate the public that we're actually going to go out there and strictly enforce this.

The City Manager suggested that approval of the 2007 Budget be placed on the next Council meeting agenda and there were no objections.

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The meeting adjourned.

ARTHUR SCHULTZ
Mayor

JANET K. TRAVEN
City Clerk

Recorded on Tape