

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois
held on the 1st day of December, A.D. 2009***

REGULAR MEETING of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, Joliet Municipal Building, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois.

INVOCATION

An Invocation was delivered by Father Nate Gohlke, Cathedral of St. Raymond's, 604 N. Raynor Avenue, Joliet, Illinois.

Father Gohlke then led the pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: MAYOR PRO-TEM ANTHONY UREMOVIC and DISTRICT 4 COUNCILWOMAN SUSIE A. BARBER, DISTRICT 2 COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY M. BROPHY, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE THOMAS C. GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN AT LARGE JAN QUILLMAN, DISTRICT 1 COUNCILMAN JOSEPH R. SHETINA and COUNCILMAN AT LARGE MICHAEL F. TURK.

ABSENT: MAYOR ARTHUR SCHULTZ and DISTRICT 5 COUNCILMAN WARREN C. DORRIS.

ALSO PRESENT: CITY MANAGER THOMAS A. THANAS and CORPORATION COUNSEL JEFFREY S. PLYMAN.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE moved that the minutes of the Pre-Council Meeting of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Monday, November 16, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. and of the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. stand approved as recorded.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN SHETINA.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILWOMAN BARBER, COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND AGENDA ITEMS

A. Public Safety

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE stated the Public Safety Committee met yesterday afternoon and he had given a partial report yesterday at the Pre-Council meeting on the request to fill three Lieutenants positions within the Fire Department.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said Council Memo #1074-09 is a request to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Stanard and Associates for Fire and Police promotional testing. He said the City has dealt with this company a lot in the past and they do have faith in them, but they are not the low bidder, they are \$4,000 higher. He said with the low bidder, IPSP, there may be more cost coming and they couldn't guarantee that this was the final cost. He said the Fire Department is very happy working with Stanard and Associates and are

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recommending that we approve the contract with them even though they are not the low bidder.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked staff to explain why we're having testing when we're not actually promoting.

The City Manager stated this is not for original hires to either the Fire Department or Police Department, it's actually for promotional exams that must be drafted by a third party so it's fair and neutral. He said then it is administered to people who are taking the Battalion Chief, the Captain and Lieutenant tests in the Fire Department and the Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain tests in the Police Department. He said we've relied on Stanard and Associates for the last fifteen years to help us develop a neutral test and it appears that both the Fire Department and Police Department unions have been very satisfied with their services. He said in the Police Department through an early retirement incentive, we had about 32 people leave the ranks of patrol officer or a command position, and it resulted in several promotions that were needed to fill the vacancies that were created through retirements, so there is a need to renew the tests. He said the tests are expiring or have already expired. He said in the Fire Department there has been some upward mobility also so we have a need for a new test there because those tests are expiring in early 2010.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said this is not for new people.

The City Manager said that is correct. He said by having these tests ready, should we have vacancies in the command positions in Fire and Police, we will have tests that will be valid for a three year period and it's something we've been doing on a three year rotation for several years.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said this company allows both Fire and Police Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs to tell them what books to take the questions out of so the questions are directly related to the Joliet Police and Fire Departments and during the tests they allow officers of each department to take the test to validate the questions, so if there are questions on the test that don't pertain to the Joliet Police and Fire Departments, they are thrown out.

B. Public Service

COUNCILMAN TURK said the Public Service Committee met this morning and reviewed the contracts, change orders, pay estimates and final payments and found them all to be in order and recommended their approval. He said they also had a discussion on cost savings measures for the Waste Management contract. He said the City Manager presented some information that we could possibly save about \$31,000 a year for the duration of the contract and the Committee thought it was worth looking into and he asked the City Manager to explain.

The City Manager stated we've spent several months going through our contract with Waste Management which will not expire until the end of 2014. He said we're looking for some cost saving measures that won't result in a dramatic reduction in service to our residents. He said one area that would not have an impact on service is a Performance Bond requirement that we have. He said our contract currently requires Waste Management to post a Performance Bond in the amount of one year's contract value which is in excess of \$10 million and to get that bond it's very expensive. He said what we've done with Waste

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Management is negotiate a reduction in that so they would be allowed to post a three month Performance Bond, and what that bond does is basically guarantee performance. He said if they go out of business or refuse to provide service to the City of Joliet, we'll be able to draw down on that bond and have three months of reserves to pay another company to come to Joliet to take care of our waste removal services. He said we feel that this is a risk that is minimal and is worth taking so we can save a \$31,000 cost item. He said his recommendation is to move forward with that and if we do that now we'll see that as a credit for 2010 on our 2011 bill. He said we do have other items we are working on with Waste Management and we'll bring that back to the Public Service Committee.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said he wants to make sure that the 20 year window we had with respect to having a place to take our refuse still remains and that there is nothing happening here that changes that.

The City Manager said that's correct, this will not change any of the other terms of the contract and all the guarantees that were made by Waste Management in the contract will still stand.

C. Baseball

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE stated he spoke with the Corporation Counsel who said he's getting very close to working a deal out with the JackHammers. He said when he does we'll have a Baseball Committee meeting to go over the fine points and make a recommendation to the Council.

The Corporation Counsel stated we're very close and he would recommend that we get some dates for a Baseball Committee meeting after the second Council meeting in December so we could bring any recommendation from the Committee back to the Council at the first meeting in January. He said they are basically done with the meetings with the team and we have the outline of an agreement to present to the Committee and it would not involve any changes to the lease agreement. He said it would allow some minor repairs to the stadium and it would involve a schedule for bringing the rent current. He said we have a Letter of Credit in place to protect the City for 2009 and 2010 rent and basically it's a pretty good global resolution of the baseball issue that we'd be bringing back to the Committee.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked whose responsibility it is to promote the Sports Hall of Fame and get rentals, the baseball team or the City's.

The Corporation Counsel said under the lease agreement the space is controlled by the City and the team is responsible for maintenance and facility management, so if we have an event at that location we would notify the team and the team would make sure that the space is open and ready to receive visitors. He said if there is a need for catering or concessions in connection with the event, the team has the right to provide those services and we would expect them to. He said if it's a type of event that doesn't require that level of service the City can do something independently.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said so as far as promoting it, it's our responsibility and not theirs.

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The Corporation Counsel said it's in the interest of the team for them also to promote as much activity at the stadium as possible including activity at the Hall of Fame, but the Hall of Fame is now a City controlled space so it's essentially ours and the team is our agent for managing that space.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked the City Manager if he could have the Visitors Bureau market that a little bit so we could get some revenue out of that space because it is a beautiful space and it is hardly ever used.

D. Land Use/Legislative

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said the Land Use Committee was going to have a meeting on Thursday with a lengthy agenda but due to conflicts with Council members we cancelled it. He said we'll try to reschedule it and also schedule a Legislative Committee meeting.

There were no other Committee reports.

CONSENT AGENDA

**A. Property Improvement Recognition Award - December 2009
(Council Memo #1043-09)**

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that Adan Nunez be honored for his extensive renovation of his property at 602 E. Cass Street.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER and COUNCILMAN BROPHY presented the Property Improvement Recognition Award to Mr. Nunez.

Mr. Nunez thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN thanked Mr. Nunez and said she drives past his house every day on her way to work and has really enjoyed the progress every time she goes by. She said it is just a beauty and thanked him for restoring that home.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER also thanked Mr. Nunez for beautifying District 4.

**B. Approve 2009 Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP)
Modification No. 11 – Modification to the 2009 District 4
Neighborhood Improvement Program
(Council Memo #1044-09)**

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve the modification to the District 4 2009 Neighborhood Improvement Program by adding the 7th Addition to Park Hill Subdivision Detention Basin Aerator Project (\$13,000).

**C. Request for Authorization to Promote Three (3) Fire Lieutenants
(Council Memo #1045-09)**

The City Clerk noted that this item was approved at the Pre-Council Meeting yesterday.

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COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE moved that the recommendation of the City Manager be concurred in.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN BROPHY.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK, COUNCILWOMAN BARBER and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing re: Annexation of 8.21 Acres at 40 Mills Road

1. Resolution re: Approving an Annexation Agreement for 8.21 Acres at 40 Mills Road (#A-2-09/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #1048-09)
2. Ordinance re: Approving the Annexation of 8.21 Acres at 40 Mills Road (#A-2-09/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #1048-09)
3. Ordinance re: Approving the Classification of 8.21 Acres at 40 Mills Road to I-1 Zoning (#A-2-09/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #1048-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained a request by the petitioner that this item be tabled to the City Council meeting to be held on January 19, 2010 in order to provide additional time to review the proposed annexation agreement.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY moved that said items be tabled to the January 19, 2010 City Council meeting.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN TURK.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK, COUNCILWOMAN BARBER, COUNCILMAN BROPHY and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

B. Public Hearing re: Annexation of 4 Acres at 80 Mills Road

1. A RESOLUTION Approving an Annexation Agreement for 4 Acres at 80 Mills Road as recommended by the Plan Commission was presented and read. (#A-8-09/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #1049-09)
(RESOLUTION NO. 6320)
2. AN ORDINANCE Approving the Annexation of 4 Acres at 80 Mills Road as recommended by the Plan Commission was presented and read. (#A-8-09/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #1049-09)
(ORDINANCE NO. 16555)

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3. AN ORDINANCE Approving the Classification of 4 Acres at 80 Mills Road to I-1 Zoning as recommended by the Plan Commission was presented and read. (#A-8-09/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #1049-09)
(ORDINANCE NO. 16556)

The City Clerk noted that this is a public hearing so any comments would be in order at this time.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said he would like to know where the sewer is at and that there is a provision whereby they hook on when it becomes available at the site.

Attorney Michael Martin was present on behalf of the petitioner Spencer Lemenager who was also present and said his client was notified of the Rendel's annexation and was approached by the City and asked if he would give an easement for the sewer through his property for Rendel's because they are attached to the Southwest Sanitary District, and he said yes. He said it was supposed to go through the park across the street and that became too expensive; the Park District was willing to cooperate but the money was too costly. He said right now the sewer bridges a creek. He said what we said in our offer to cooperate was that we'd annex. He said he believes Rendel's is being zoned I-1 so part of the background has been that at some point we would be an expansion for Rendel's because we originally sold the 8 acres to them, and an I-1 is a complimentary zoning. He said since that happened and we sat down with the Park District and tried to hammer out an agreement, it became obvious that that route was not going to work and his client then went out and explored other alternatives.

Mr. Martin said we're annexing to get the sewer and the first alternative is to go east along Mills Road and connect to the sewer there. He said that would require us to take the lead and spend about \$100,000 to do that and we are willing to do that if we have a buyer for the property. He said that would also then bring Rendel's that way to connect in to the City sewer. He said they have to go through Oestreich's and they believe that they can. He said the second alternative was to connect into what Rendel's has now, the Southwest Sanitary District, which would require us to upgrade it and pay to install different lines and we'd have to get approval from the District. He said the City said they would have no objection to that because his understanding is that the City processes their sewage. He said the third option was to do a septic, but if we're going to do a septic we would lose a lot of square footage and we already have to do storm water detention so we really don't prefer that. He said their number one preference is to do the sewer connection, but they'd have to have a buyer and they don't have one right now.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said if in fact it goes to the Southwest Sanitary District we have no responsibility for maintenance or any of those kinds of things, they do their own billing and maintenance.

Mr. Martin said no, but we would pay a connection fee to the City because the City processes the sewage.

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COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE moved that said Resolution and Ordinances be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN SHETINA.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK, COUNCILWOMAN BARBER, COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

C. Public Hearing re: Adoption of the Proposed 2009 Tax Levies

1. Ordinance re: For the Levying and Collection of Taxes for the City of Joliet, Will and Kendall Counties, Illinois for the Year A.D., 2009
(Council Memo #1050-09)

The City Clerk noted that this is a public hearing so any comments would be in order at this time.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked the City Manager to explain the process.

The City Manager said this is a public hearing on the proposed Tax Levy ordinance and the City administration has recommended an increase of 24% in the total amount of the tax levy over last year's levy. He said Illinois law requires us to conduct a public hearing because the proposed increase is greater than 5% and this evening is the opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposed increase. He said the Council is not required to vote on this tonight, they can close the public hearing and defer a vote until the next meetings of December 14th and 15th, but we do have an obligation under Illinois law to take final action as soon as we can so we file the Tax Levy Ordinance with the County Clerks by December 29th of this year. He said the levy and the proposed budget have been on the City's website since the middle of November and he thinks we've disclosed as much as we possibly can so members of the public understand the reasoning why the staff is recommending the increase.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said if we pass this are we passing a 24% increase.

The City Manager said a vote is not required tonight, but if the Council wanted to, they could vote on a 24% increase, a 0% increase or whatever they choose.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said that is still undetermined.

The City Manager said right, that would be your choice. He said what we did is we tried to set it at a rate that we thought would be appropriate considering the budget constraints that we currently have, but as we talked about yesterday, there is some flexibility that the Council has. He said there is one more budget review session scheduled for December 7th at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers which will be televised on the local cable channel as all the others have been.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC then opened the public hearing for comments.

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Ms. Linda Doyle of 1215 Massachusetts stated she knows times are hard and she knows the City needs funds. She said homes in the area aren't selling quickly and she feels property values are going down already, and by taxing more, the Council is not encouraging people to buy in the City. She said she thinks the only way to encourage people to do that is to offer them something that other neighborhoods don't have, and she hopes the Council would consider that when deciding what the resolution will be.

Mr. Jim Grynevich of 701 N Raynor Avenue said he wants to appeal to the whole Council because he has lived in the City of Joliet since 1987 and he has not seen a single one of them come to his door, never. He said no one has ever walked his neighborhood to the best of his knowledge.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked Mr. Grynevich what his address was and stated she has been to his house several times, he probably wasn't home but she left her card.

Mr. Grynevich said he can't talk to her card, but the point he is trying to make is he feels in these times there is an obligation to fill this room. He said the City had a water meeting out at Troy school and if nobody came that should have sent a signal. He said raising the taxes 24% would be \$200 for him and his water bill just went up about \$60 a month. He said the Council is talking about bringing City stickers back and not having the leaf pickup anymore. He said he thinks it's great that we are looking at filling the coffers for harder times but this is harder times right now, and he asked what did we do with the money before.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE told Mr. Grynevich that his water bill hasn't had a raise since the early 1990's and the City's portion of the tax bill hasn't had a raise since the late 1980's. He said we've used the monies from the gaming and tap-on fees, etc. to keep that. He said we eliminated the vehicle tag and now those monies have dried up. He said Mr. Grynevich makes some very good points about raising the taxes but our alternatives are this, either we raise the taxes whether it's 10% or 12% or whatever or we will have more layoffs. He said we're already almost 100 people short, we've cut \$7.9 million out of the budget.

Mr. Grynevich said he got laid off a job he had for 30 years so everybody gets laid off.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said he understands but you're talking layoffs in the Fire Department where you'll have to wait longer for an ambulance and in the Police Department where you'll wait longer and if a water main breaks you'll wait longer for water and the snow plows will take longer to plow your streets. He said those are all things it's going to affect. He said we have a \$7 million shortage and nobody up here wants to raise taxes. He said if anybody can come up with a viable answer to eliminate that \$7 million deficit we'll listen, but so far nobody has come up with anything yet. He said we looked at raising parking fees, parking fines and we have looked at everything. He said we have to raise some money somehow, if it's parking fines then people who park downtown will complain, if it's taxes everybody's going to complain, there's no good time to raise taxes. He said his point is nobody has come up with an alternative.

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Mr. Grynevich said every thing is fine while the money's rolling in but we didn't put any money in the bank and just like everybody else we don't have any money to put in the bank, and now you want to raise taxes so you can save for a rainy day and it's raining on all of us.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said we had \$27 million put away for a rainy day fund and we talked about putting more money away, but our concern was if we did that, the Representatives and Senators in Springfield would say Joliet doesn't need this money, let's take that money and put it in a pool and spread it throughout the State. He said we have \$19 million in a rainy day fund right now and we're looking at using some of that to offset this tax raise so we don't have to raise it as much.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said there is a lot of information on the City's website with all of these details and it's available for the press as well as any member of the public that wants to look at that. He said in the so called "good times" if we had avoided that growth where some of those impact fees came from and we didn't grow, then your taxes and water rates would have been raised way back then along the way incrementally, because the expenses of the City continued to rise. He said what the Council did in those years was say we'd rather not incrementally raise taxes and fees in the good times because citizens wouldn't expect us to, they would expect us to use the gaming funds and so we did use those funds to hold off on the increases. He said with the water rate, Joliet citizens didn't spend \$65 million in water that would have been there had we let that rate go up like the consumer price index. He said the water rate went up to just under where it would have been if we had let that go on. He said there is no good time to raise taxes, we understand that.

Ms. Cathleen Doran of 1116 Kelly Avenue said her home was built in 1902 by her great aunt and uncle. She said she understands that taxes need to go up but she is opposed to it and she thinks a lot of the money has been wasted. She said she thinks everyone forgets that not everybody is a white collar worker in this town. She said she opposes the 24% increase, maybe drop it a little bit more. She said it's going to go up the rest of her life and she'd like to be able to pass her home onto her kids and keep it maybe another 100 years, but at this rate the Council will tax her right out of the City.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked Ms. Doran to expound on her comment of the City wasting money.

Ms. Doran said just in general now the Council is trying to find different spots and eliminate different areas. She said she hates to see layoffs but companies are laying off all over, and maybe that's what it takes to balance the budget. She said look a little closer and look to see where the money is spent and start budgeting wisely. She said we elected the Council to protect our monies and to be able to provide services and if there is a service that you can't provide because we don't have the money, then don't, go back to the basics.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said Ms. Doran makes some viable points, and he asked her where she wants to cut, Police and Fire or City services.

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Ms. Doran said she's not saying all Police and all Fire, she's saying she drives down the road and sees 7 City workers standing around a hole and with 6 of them leaning on a shovel and one person digging. She said that's commonplace and we need to get back to the basics, get down to the bare bones, that's what we do at our homes.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said we're already down almost 100 people than what we were 9 months ago.

Ms. Doran said maybe we need another 100, she doesn't know what the answer is, look at every aspect where money's spent.

Ms. Kristine Sargent of 414 Mack Street said as far as the water they said at a City meeting that 73% of the monies from the boats goes to personnel now, how did that happen.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said that's normal for a City.

Ms. Sargent asked what do cities do for revenue that don't have boats, how do they make it.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said he doesn't know, they're probably paying more taxes.

Ms. Sargent said it looks like we are starting to do that too, everything's being raised. She said as far as the water raise, the City said 35% but she doesn't remember anybody saying they were going to take the riverboat credits away from them which now makes their raise on the water bill 58.275%, not 35%.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said it was discussed at a meeting that we were going to remove the discount for the gaming.

Ms. Sargent said she understands that the City is trying to cut but employees haven't personally felt the effect because nobody's getting laid off. She said there is a \$7 million deficit but yet there are raises across the board for the next 3 years.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said those are contracts that we had with the employees and staff is working with the employees to amend those contracts, one bargaining unit already has amended theirs and over the next two years it's a \$3.2 million savings for the City. He said we're working with the other bargaining units to make amendments to their contracts. He said those are contracts that we signed in the past that we owe them and we're trying to get them amended. He said the contracts vary in duration from 4 to 6 to 8 years.

Ms. Sargent then mentioned an incident she had with a broken tile and water in her basement the day after Christmas and on Saturday was told by the City no one could come out until Monday morning. She said she pays taxes, where was her help.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said she should have called one of us or the City Manager.

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Ms. Sargent said she has a list of names at home of people that tried to help her out after that because she was so upset, but yet now she's even paying more money and never did get a response.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked the City Manager to address what would happen on a Friday night if someone has an event like that and what should we do and what should the response have been.

The City Manager said we don't have crews on 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He said there would be a callout and an overtime situation if it were a union employee that would be called out. He said a management employee would get straight time and the problem would be assessed. He said if it's a problem that is identifiable to be on the City's portion of the system, then the City crews would be called out, a 5 person crew, to fix the problem immediately. He said usually in a case like that it's not identifiable because it's all underground, but they'll do their best to figure out what it is. He said if it's the property owners problem then usually a plumbing company is available, they're not cheap but they'll come out on a weekend to assist a resident for a break that's on the private property side of the system.

Director of Public Utilities James Eggen said normally if an owner experienced a backup in the basement after hours, the first question we ask is if the water is actively flowing into the basement or if it's standing still, to make sure the owner isn't running any water in the house. He said if the water is standing still 99% of the time it's a blockage on their service line. He said City ordinance states that maintenance of the service line is the homeowner's responsibility. He said as far as using a camera, the camera doesn't work well if there is water backed up in the line and there's a blockage. He said the purpose of the camera is once the line is rodded out and clear and the waters drained down, then we can televise it and determine where the problem is at.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said so in an event like that it's my responsibility as a homeowner to call my plumber or my contractor and investigate the problem and then if they tell me there is a problem beyond my property line, then we would call out City crews.

Mr. Eggen said right, and we've made an administrative decision to assist the homeowners with repairs if there is a blockage or a break in the service line out in the roadway. He said for the homeowner to have to hire a contractor and dig up the road and do traffic control and then repair the road is a little bit excessive, but if the break of the fault is behind the sidewalk up in the owner's private property, we definitely would not work at that location to make the repair.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked if staff is trained properly to instruct the homeowner to tell them to make the call to a private plumber now and our crews will be ready if that contractor says we need to come out.

Mr. Eggen said a few years ago we developed a questionnaire for the operators at the plant to ask when a customer would call with a problem, and the first question they do ask is whether or not the water is actively backing up into the basement or if it's stagnant. He said we do recommend getting a contractor to rod that line out because 9 times out of 10 it's usually tree roots creating a blockage in the line.

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COUNCILMAN BROPHY said that's an event that occurs how many times to how many homes a year.

Mr. Eggen said probably 100 to 200 times a year throughout the City.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC asked the City Manager if he could indicate how many employees actually have been laid off and how many have left because of early retirement incentives.

The City Manager said the total workforce reduction is 100 people, 85 full-time and 15 part-time. He said of the 100 employees about 10 or so were laid off and we probably had about 65 or so that went through the early retirement incentive program that was available to all departments and to management employees as well as Police, Fire, Public Works, Public Utilities and other positions. He said we also had some retirements early in the year before the retirement incentive was offered. He said the 2010 proposed budget anticipates additional layoffs in all departments and obviously those layoffs can be avoided through negotiation of existing contracts so variances would be allowed for the next couple of years much like we did with the Firefighters Union Local 44. He said those conversations are still ongoing and he believes we'll be meeting with one of the bargaining groups later on this week or early next week.

The City Manager said he thinks we've all said that we'd like to avoid layoffs because we're not like a business where we can close a restaurant or close a drug store and just go out of business. He said we have to provide Police and Fire and Utilities, 24/7, and that's why we are a little different than what the private sector can do and he thinks that's why the Council has been very firm in trying to maintain a level of service that the residents have become accustomed to. He said we are trying to maintain that level of service with a lot less money. He said the reason why we're in this pickle is because we're down \$16 million in gaming revenue, \$9 million in tap-on fees, \$3 - \$4 million in sales tax, \$3 - \$4 million in income tax and these are drops that have occurred in the last year and a half, this isn't something that was telegraphed 10 years ago. He said Naperville, Aurora, Elgin, Peoria and Rockford are having meetings just like this. He said his counterpart in Naperville is talking about laying off 55 employees. He said we got out in front of that and we've probably reduced the workforce by more than any other municipality in Illinois with the exception of Chicago which is saving us about \$7.9 million. He said we have made other cuts as far as consolidating departments, we have cut back on expenses, we've done a lot of things to try to justify bringing a proposal for the tax increase. He said his obligation to the Mayor and Council and to the residents is to first cut as much as he possibly can and then resort to additional tax increases and we're at that point and that's why his recommendation is what it is. He said part of our mission is to provide great service, not just average service, and to do that we need to have the people and the tools to do it. He said the Council has given us that and we want to maintain that level.

Ms. Kathy Boucher of 110 Rebecca Road stated this is the first City Council meeting she has attended and said it's fascinating to see how other people spend other people's money. She said she would like to encourage the City Council to become more creative in their thought process on how to generate revenue in the City or to save money. She said parking fines, parking tickets, increasing parking charges, the Council can get more creative than that. She said as far as the water rate increase she and her husband contemplated expressing their displeasure at this increase but they were told that basically it

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was already a “rubber stamped” deal. She said she’s wondering if a lot of the things the Council does is already “rubber stamped” and whether we really do have a voice, maybe we do and that’s why she was motivated to speak. She said as far as the decline in the sales tax revenue, has the Council given any thought to what the impact might be of having all of the City workers being able to leave Joliet when it voted to allow them to move out of Joliet so they don’t have to pay the high taxes now that we have to. She said with the proposed 24% increase in property taxes, has the Council given any consideration to take the existing tax pool that the City has and duke it out with the County and with the schools. She said our money is going to all of these other taxing bodies, why doesn’t everyone get together and come up with ways where they might be able to share resources and save us from the burden of being overly taxed.

Ms. Bev Starcevich of 902 Alann Drive stated what she is so concerned about with the 24% increase is the trickle down effect that it’s going to have, we already have a lot of vacant homes in Joliet. She said she worries about the seniors and how it’s going to impact them and the middle class which is most of us. She said people who picked up the investment properties in the good times are going to have to increase their rent which people aren’t going to be able to pay which is going to result in more vacancies. She said as far as health care and what City employees and union workers are going to pay, she said she heard it was \$100 a month and she was confused if it was per City worker or per family.

The City Manager said the City has union contracts that go back many years that included health insurance as a fringe benefit without the employee paying into the City coffers for the health insurance. He said that started at a time when City salaries were very low and at a time when health care wasn’t as expensive as it is today and it was viewed as a fringe benefit that was affordable and that accommodated a difference in salaries between the public sector and the private sector which were higher at that time.

The City Manager said through the years the salaries have gone up and the cost of health care has gone up and earlier in 2009 we were authorized to try to renegotiate those union contracts that included free health care and the result of that negotiation process with six collective bargaining units that represent 90% of the City employees was to have each employee pay \$50 per pay check towards health care for single or family, plus there were other obligations such as a deductible that wasn’t there before. He said the reality is we started with binding contracts that didn’t allow this and ended up through a process with the unions that resulted in the employees agreeing to contribute. He said there was a trade-off that was part of that. He said when we reopened their contracts the unions had a right to put an item on the negotiating table and the item that was put there was the residency rule. He said Joliet was one of the few municipalities left in Illinois that still had a residency requirement, most have abandoned them or if they have them they’re very watered down. He said it was his recommendation to the Council to agree to repealing the residency requirement for a couple of reasons; one is that it was a non-economic item, it did not cost us anything. He said it was our belief that for the next many years most of us are going to stay in town; he doesn’t know of too many that have left over the last 3 months since it’s been repealed and he doesn’t think too many people are planning on leaving. He said when we look at what the water bills and the real estate taxes are in the surrounding communities we’re still lower. He said you have to get out to other counties beyond the ones that touch us in order to find a cheaper tax bill and a cheaper water bill even with the increases.

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COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked what the savings were.

The City Manager said the total savings over a six year period will be \$18 million so that's obviously money that we have subtracted from what we projected to be a \$67 million deficit over the next 3 years so it's basically a \$9 million savings over the next 3 years. He said so that helped bring that deficit down to about \$58 million. He said we think with the tax increase we've been able to reduce that deficit from \$67 million that was projected a few months ago down to \$17 million. He said so we're asking the taxpayers to help us and that's just the staff's recommendation, the Mayor and Council have the discretion to do something less than that and that will be up to them at the meeting on December 15th.

Ms. Starcevich said that seems like a pretty sizeable amount for the health care and she asked when will those contracts be up so that can be revisited to possibly increase that a little more. She said she and her husband don't make as much as City employees and they pay more for their health insurance.

The City Manager said the contracts to revisit wages and items like that vary, most of the contracts will expire on December 31, 2012. He said there is one contract that expires in 2011 and there is one bargaining unit that does not have a contract, their contract expired at the end of 2008 and we're in mediation and that's an indication that we have not been able to reach an agreement because we are trying to hold the line on salary increases with that bargaining unit. He said the problem we have is Illinois law is set up to basically favor the employees in the public sector and arbitrators look at comparability of our wages with other communities such as Aurora, Elgin, Waukegan and Naperville and the salary tables for Joliet are very comparable to those other communities.

Ms. Starcevich said she wanted to thank the City because they did benefit from the Footing Tile Separation Program and they have one of the pits in their front yard and she is so thankful for that pit every time we get these heavy rains. She said they have a sump pump but they did get water in their basement quite often. She said when the riverboats were bringing in a lot of money maybe we should have saved a little more, maybe we should have cut back and looked for other options elsewhere. She said there have been a lot of water main breaks all over the City and there are guys out there working their tails off and then there are others that are standing around those machines and not doing too much at all. She said one day a street cleaner parked in front of her house and took an hour and fifteen minute lunch. She said she doesn't understand why the City had to put fancy street lights on Ruby Street or on any street, it was a waste of money. She asked everyone to revisit this increase and she asked the City to do the best they can for all of us in the City.

Ms. Deb Bacharz of 1534 Marquette Court stated she really needs to encourage the Council and she echoes what her fellow citizens have said as far as getting creative and trying to find other ways besides increasing our taxes by 24%. She said she would beg the Council to think hard about long term contracts because they are gambling with her money that 10 or 6 years from now things are going to be OK because they are not. She said as far as the scare tactics go like having to cut Fire and Police, there are lots of other things that can be cut first and she doesn't appreciate being scared with the things that are the most important. She said we elected the Council to come up with a better plan because 24% on top of an assessment that is inaccurate and other increases that the City has passed and on top of what the State is planning on doing is going to put her into bankruptcy.

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Ms. Jane Schmig of 508 Meadow Wood Drive stated they've had many conversations in her home and neighborhood about the 24% tax increase. She said they are concerned that there have been some irresponsible decisions that have been made. She said what's missing in all of these discussions is some hope, some plans and some creativity. She stated COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said tell us what we should do, but that's what we elected the Council to do for us. She said we are urging the Council to think creatively, to talk about growth, where else can we grow, what else can we cut back. She said the City Manager had said we had a \$7.9 million decrease and that was probably in payroll and current payroll and she asked about the impact on retirement if it is a cumulative savings.

The City Manager said the savings is actually to the City's budget bottom line. He said we do have a pension obligation and that obligation is calculated over a long period of time so the fact that we had probably 60 or 70 people retire and start drawing a pension doesn't have an immediate impact on our pension. He said having said that, our pension contribution has tripled over the last 6 years, it's gone from \$10 million a year to \$30 million a year. He said a State Statute controls the three pension systems for the Fire Department, Police Department and all of the other City employees. He said that's something that's controlled not by the Mayor and Council but by the State Legislature. He said we have an actuary come in and evaluate our workforce, tell us what our contribution should be to cover the obligations of not just those people on retirement but the rest of the City employees who will be retiring over the next 20, 30 or 40 years. He said our pension contributions are going up considerably but that's something that we are obligated to levy for and that's why built into this increase is a commitment to cover those increases.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said part of that increase is the fact that those pension funds invest in the market, and since the market has gone down, their return is less so therefore when the actuarial comes in we have to put more money in.

Mr. David Gutierrez of 698 Parkwood Drive said at the budget meeting yesterday, there were about 7 or 8 items they want to implement and that comes to over \$30 million. He said then it was mentioned maybe the increase would be about 1/3 of 24%. He said he would like a little more explanation.

The City Manager stated the process started with him recommending a 24% increase in the Real Estate Tax Levy whereby if you had a \$100,000 home you would pay about \$71.00, a \$200,000 home you would pay about \$150.00 and a \$300,000 home you would pay about \$260.00 per year. He said how we came up with that number was to find a number that would help us maintain the reserve fund, the rainy day fund, at \$19 million starting on January 1st and ending on December 31st and not having to dip into that rainy day fund. He said we have some additional funds that are rainy day funds; we have a recovery fund for disasters of \$3.5 million, a litigation fund of about \$3.5 million and an Intermodal Development fund close to \$5 million, but those are all dollars that will be needed some day in the future. He said his recommendation to the Council is not to dip into those rainy day funds and use them to plug the gap this year and then worry about this problem next year. He said the staff wanted to confront the problem this year and not punt like some of the other taxing bodies have been doing in other parts of the State and that's why we brought this forward now.

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The City Manager said he knows it's a burden on everybody and we will be paying that too, we're not exempt from the water rate increase or the tax rate increase. He said his recommendation is based on trying to maintain that reserve fund. He said that's very important for us to maintain our bond rating to show that we are fiscally responsible and are disciplined enough to maintain a reserve fund that is there just in case there is an emergency or just in case we have a big project that we need to take on. He said there was some conversation at previous meetings saying what if we didn't go the full 24%, let's not keep it at zero but let's go up higher. He said he asked the Director of Management and Budget and the Finance Director to calculate what would happen if we took \$3 million off of that proposed increase and those numbers were presented last night, not necessarily as an alternative because his recommendation is still for the higher rate at 24%, but if the Council wanted to look for a compromise, something a little less to lessen the burden, what would happen. He said what would happen is we'd have to reduce our reserve fund by \$3 million and we have to work harder to fill that \$3 million gap. He said that is not just a one time \$3 million gap, that's a cumulative effect because it's \$3 million each year for the next 3 years so it's really a \$9 million adjustment that we'd have to make and try to close that gap by being creative like someone had said earlier.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked if our cash reserve helps us qualify for the stimulus funds applications. He asked if the state of our budget helps or hurts.

The City Manager said an example of where it hurt is we applied for a COPS Grant with the Federal government and had qualified for one of these previously. He said Chief Hayes submitted an application to try to replace some of the officers we've lost through the early retirement incentive and the current program from the Federal government would cover the salary and benefits of a newly hired police officer for 3 years and then we as a City would take on the fourth year. He said we didn't qualify because our crime rate wasn't high enough. He said on one hand that is very good news, but we were hoping that we would qualify so we could replace some of the officers. He said those are the kinds of things where our financial condition and things like crime rate will matter. He said we have applied for several stimulus package grants and one in particular is for the development of a multi-modal transportation center in downtown Joliet that will bring high speed rail, PACE bus service, METRA commuter service, all forms of private bus transportation into one facility and that application is for \$55 million. He said he doesn't know if we'll get it, we're competing with hundreds of other communities throughout the United States, but we think we've put a pretty good case together. He said if we're able to snag that grant that's going to add a lot of jobs and it's going to put Joliet on the map as being "the" transportation hub for the southwest suburbs, especially if high speed rail hits. He said those are the kinds of things we're trying to do to help promote Joliet.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said regarding the parking fees and fines, those are all things that staff has brought to us and at the budget meeting on Monday we're going to take all of those things and try to minimize. He said we may have to raise taxes 10% if we do this or 12% if we don't. He said those are all things that we're going to put into this package to minimize the amount of taxes that we have to raise.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said the 24% isn't an either/or, it's the maximum by law based on the publication we put out; the maximum available to us is a 24% rate increase.

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COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said but that's not a given, we're looking at all of these other things to minimize that 24%.

COUNCILMAN TURK said as it was mentioned, he thinks we gave the City Manager direction to make what cuts he could with a property tax increase being the last possible resort. He said he did what we asked him to do through his staff and when he came back it was at 24%. He said he doesn't think there is anybody up here that supports a 24% increase, so that means it's up to us to try and plug that up with possibly pulling some money out of reserve which we talked about yesterday. He said he thinks it's important to have a reserve fund, and any revenues that come in greater than we anticipated, for example from the Empress with their changes next year or from sales tax, that money needs to go back into the reserve fund. He said he thinks it will be a combination of several different things but not the 24% increase.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said rainy day is a nice tag to put on something but quite frankly with a \$250 million budget we spend about \$20 million a month, and a \$19 million reserve is one month reserve of all of the cash we need so it's not a huge amount of money. He said it sounds like a lot like we have all of this money sitting aside but it's only one month's operating expense. He said ideally he would hope most households have more than one month reserve but we're suggesting that we operate with only a one month reserve at this time and it isn't too much.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC said he thinks there should be a point of clarity. He said looking at the Treasurer's Report, there's \$91 million sitting in our investments so when you look at reserves you must look at it as encumbered or obligated. He said you mentioned those reserves aren't encumbered, but about \$41 million is not encumbered, so when you look at that take a closer look and look at obligated, and even obligated you're not going to have to spend that money unless you sit up here and vote on it. He said \$19 million is a number that's thrown out there but make sure you have the right number out there.

COUNCILMAN TURK said one of the questions he gets mostly is where did all of the riverboat gaming money go. He said we have a document on our website that shows where every penny of that money went. He said if citizens don't want to go to the website or don't have access, they can call the main number at City Hall and they'll mail you out a copy of it, but it details every dollar of riverboat gaming money that came in since its inception and where it went and what it was spent on, things like infrastructure and debt reduction.

Mr. Steven Zaborsky said he owns property at 221 Comstock and 623 Raub Street and said he understands the Council wants to raise taxes 24%. He asked what's next, what's going to be a year or two down the line if there is not anything done to reduce the spending today. He said pensions need to be put in line.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said the City has no say over pensions, those are all laws that are passed in Springfield.

Mr. Zaborsky said at the same time the State is how many billion dollars in debt, it's like the blind leading the blind and something has to be done to correct this. He said this problem is across the nation and the main part of it is wages.

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Ms. Sargent commented on the high speed rail and asked if it's another gamble with our money just like the water park.

The City Manager said no, it's not. He said first of all the high speed rail would be funded by the Federal government, it's something that the City of Joliet is not going to be funding.

Ms. Sargent asked if it's out of President Obama's stimulus package or could we be using that money for something else besides the high speed rail.

The City Manager said an \$8 billion allocation has been given to the U.S. Department of Transportation to administer nationwide and we've applied for a grant under that program. He said if we don't apply for it somebody else is going to get it.

Ms. Sargent said she is still having a problem with the water rate raise because she doesn't remember them saying they were going to take away the riverboat rebate. She said she only heard a 35% increase, not 58.275% increase. She said use the rainy day fund to help us out. She said as far as union workers, why can't the City tell them if they want to keep their job then they're going to have to take a pay rate freeze because they're still making good money, most of them aren't getting laid off.

The City Manager said all of the management employees have had a pay freeze since January 1, 2009. He said regarding the unions, we've been going through a negotiating process trying to pull back some of those commitments that are basically guaranteed by contract and it's not an easy process. but we've been doing that and we have made some progress, we'd like to make more and if we don't make more in one particular area he will be bringing a recommendation back for layoffs. He said he doesn't know if that will make people happy then.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC asked if there were any further comments, and being none, he closed the public hearing.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said he is not prepared to vote on this 24% raise, we have another meeting scheduled for Monday and we have more things to look at.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE moved that said item be tabled to the December 15, 2009 City Council meeting.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN TURK.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK, COUNCILWOMAN BARBER,
COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN
QUILLMAN and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

Prior to her vote, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she has been opposed to this from the get go so she votes aye for the table.

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COUNCILMAN SHETINA said everybody in the country is going through this problem, Joliet is certainly not unique in its concerns. He said this Council over the years has been responsible. He said when the Council deliberates and makes a judgment as to how their future is going to be and how the people in the City are going to be treated, it takes more than just a no vote with no explanation. He said it takes activity like we're having today, we've had a lot of these meetings and there are a lot of different faces here. He said but to sit up here and just say no with no explanation and no help in terms of what can we do next, that's irresponsible. He said there will be a vote here at some point in time, we'll all make that vote. He said the question of laying off people is very simple for some, lay them off, cut their pay, those are all great things to say. He said he knows what it takes to keep a business operating, he owns a business and he has laid people off. He said none of us work here as a full time person, we all get elected. He said there are elections coming up in about 1 ½ years and he encouraged people to put their names on the ballot, there are a lot of people here who have some real good and creative ideas. He said if anyone has any ideas, please bring them forward.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA stated voting no is not enough, you have to participate and explain yourself. He said we have maybe 800 employees on the payroll now and those people have lives and families too and maybe they didn't create the conditions that we're in today, we didn't create the pension funds that are costing us \$26,000 per employee, that's a lot of money but we're dealing with that so we deal with their lives too. He said he hears people talking about people standing around a hole, if you've ever worked in a ditch with a water break or whatever there are certain things that can be done while others can't be done so you wait your turn, there's a process. He said he would like to challenge that particular issue about our employees standing around holes doing nothing.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said he is more concerned about our own Council saying no with no explanation and being everybody's friend. He said we have meeting after meeting after meeting in this City with no one showing up. He said we've had meetings on the west side in his District and maybe get 25 people at the meeting. He said when people talk about us not filling the place, it isn't because we don't try. He said every now and then we'll fill the place, it depends on the issue, usually it's a zoning issue, it's usually not a water rate issue or whatever it happens to be. He said we subsidized the water rates for a long time and got ourselves in trouble. He said senior rates are very low and we got ourselves in trouble by subsidizing those rates, we should not have done it to the extent we did and we take blame for that. He said with respect to raises, 4% a year, we did that for a long time and those of us who are willing to take the blame and say we voted for those things we take the blame for that and he is one of them. He said we laid off 200 people in the 1980's and had a 26% unemployment rate and we'll get through this too. He said it's up to us collectively to work together to solve these problems. He said the night he votes he'll vote openly, clearly and transparently and explain why he's voting what he is.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC said he doesn't think anybody sits up here and takes any of this lightly, that's obvious. He said nobody's just going to sit up here and vote no but there are going to be some no votes up here, he'll guarantee that. He said if there are people who vote no it's because they have looked at this document, they see things in this document that other people don't see and they'll take action the way they see they should and it's how they feel they should

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represent their constituency, that's what they're there to do. He encouraged the public to attend and he asked the City Manager to explain when the vote would be taken.

The City Manager stated there will be another Budget Review Session on Monday, December 7th at 4 p.m. in the City Council Chambers that will be televised also. He said then the items regarding the Tax Levy and most likely the Budget for 2010 will be on the agenda for the December 15th meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers which will also be televised.

COUNCILMAN TURK said that's not a guarantee, that could change, it's not cut in stone we're going to vote on December 15th. He said as a result of these budget meetings coming up, if we need to make more adjustments he thinks the absolute drop dead date is December 29th.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC said he thinks these people want to know when we're going to take a vote.

COUNCILMAN TURK said we're going to considerate it December 15th but he doesn't know if it's actually going to happen December 15th. He said it didn't happen tonight because of what happened yesterday and if we schedule more Budget meetings and some people come up with more ideas he thinks we need to take our time and look at it the best way we can. He asked the City Manager if he's correct.

The City Manager said actually the date we need to work around is December 29th, that's the date that we must file a Tax Levy Ordinance with the County in order to be able to levy taxes. He said if we miss that date we'll have a lot of happy residents because we won't have a tax levy for their 2010 bills and it will obviously impact our operations dramatically, so it is his recommendation that we work through our next meeting on December 7th and have the Council give us feedback and tell us how they would like changes to be implemented in the document and we'd bring that back and put it on our website and hear more input from the public at that meeting and bring it back to on December 15th. He said if the Council still thinks they need a little bit more time we certainly have that.

COUNCILMAN TURK said he would hope we're ready on the 15th but it depends on what happens on the 7th.

The City Manager said we've concluded our review as a staff and what we're looking for from the Council is direction on any changes they would like for staff to make so we can get a final document prepared and bring that back for the Pre-Council meeting on December 14th and the City Council meeting on December 15th.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said when people are accused of just voting no and walking away it might be because besides COUNCILWOMAN BARBER she is one of the newest members on this Council and when ideas are brought some of the ideas are ignored on how to generate revenue or make cuts in the budget. She said some are ignored and some are "sacred cows", something they've done forever and we just can't get rid of that because that's the way we've always done it. She said two things for example would be the school crossing guards and the \$100,000 leaf pickup which could have been cut this year but was not. She said those are just two examples. She said she just wants to put that out there, there are other ways we can do this. She said yes, she is going to be

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accused of grandstanding but she doesn't care because this is the way it is. She said she takes this job very seriously and the people that put her up here did so to be their voice because that was her campaign slogan, "Let me be your voice on the City Council". She said she has been against this 24% tax proposal from day one, she's tried to bring different ideas to this Council and some ideas have been looked at but now everybody's looking at everything. She thanked the audience for being here and voicing their opinions. She said if someone wants to call it grandstanding go ahead, but she takes this job seriously and this is why the people put her here and she's sticking to her guns on this because we can make more cuts.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said the statement was made that there are things in this budget that we don't see so we don't have to raise taxes, and if that is the case there is an obligation not only to this Council but to the citizens of Joliet to make those things known so we do not have to vote to raise taxes if there's something in there that we don't see. He said secondly, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN did bring some things up and the other night he was taking notes and the things she brought up added up to about \$400,000 and one of them we could not do because of an agreement and contract we have and we're talking about a \$7 million deficit, not half a million or a million dollars. He said so if we did do those things it would only be a drop in the bucket. He said so don't sit here and try to say that you made suggestions that's really going to take a big bite out of this budget because they would not.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN stated she said those were two suggestions that she's made, she's been making suggestions for the last three years. She said we can start with increasing the ordinance fines, they were \$75 for years and she finally did get that passed to \$150 for a fine. She said there were fines over the years that should have been collected and they were not collected. She said she doesn't want to get personal here but those were just two things she mentioned the other day. She's been talking about things for three years and was totally ignored, that's all she's saying.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said this 24% is not an either/or decision, it is the maximum allowed under the law that we can consider. He said as he said on day one before we started the budget hearings, if you can't vote for something then tell me what you can vote for and that's what he thinks is the responsible thing to do as an elected representative. He said tell me what budget you would propose to carry us through the year 2010. He said it's easy to vote no because those that vote no know that there's a majority here that will do the responsible thing because we took an oath and there's a City to run. He said there are fire, police, water, sewer and the basics that we have to maintain. He said so if not this, then what is what he's challenged the minority here. He said bring something that you will vote for because we need the suggestions, there are plenty of alternatives here. He said we have another meeting so bring a suggestion. He said again we can go through the line items and find a couple hundred thousand dollars in cuts, fine, now where are we going to get the other \$7 million.

Ms. Doran said the rainy day fund.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said the rainy day fund is not just rainy day, we can do that. He said what you're saying is slash the reserves and so we'll operate the City with a zero real estate tax increase and instead we'll put the operations of the City in a precarious situation, we will take our bond rating down so if and

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when we do borrow money for whatever purpose like the combined sewer overflow that we have to do according to the EPA, it will be more expensive and we have to pay that interest back at a higher rate. He said it will then jeopardize our application for many different grants, small and large, and some programs that the Federal government said look, we're not going to award grant money to a municipality that's on shaky ground, we're going to award grant money to the city that's well prepared to implement the plan that they've proposed. He said we can do that. He said but he wants to hear that this is what we're proposing, we're proposing to put the City in jeopardy so that we can maintain taxes the way they are. He said that's OK but he wants to hear that as a proposal and then we can debate the merits and the pros and cons of that specific concept but without such a proposal to debate it's just sound bites and easy darts that are being thrown up here. He said we have plenty of time and everybody has access to all of the information that there is, there is no one without access to information that goes into the decisions we have to make about this budget.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN did bring up a valid suggestion about crossing guards. He said we spend about \$480,000 on those employees and some miscellaneous benefits.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said plus we have to pay them for unemployment when they don't work.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said we have a philosophical difference because he believes when those children leave that school ground and cross our street they become our public safety duty. He said it would be an expense to the school which people pay for on their tax bill so if you want to transfer taxes around from unit to unit, fine, but he thinks when we know there are children at risk crossing the street he thinks it would be derelict not to provide for their safety when thousands of kids are crossing the street at that time and those places.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she's not trying to eliminate the crossing guards, she's said time and time again she's asking the school board to either help with the cost or take it over but you keep saying that she's trying to get rid of the crossing guards for the children's safety, and that's certainly not the case.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC said we would probably need a legal opinion from our Corporation Counsel in regards to whose legally responsible for that. He said he would hope that all members here, whether in the minority or the majority, will exhibit a high degree of civility and patience up here. He said in looking at rainy day reserves and bond ratings, he does have a PhD in Economics Public Policy and he's been working with bonds, securities and equities for almost 35 years since he started at the stock exchange. He said the bond rating for a municipality is made up of a number of components, the level of reserves is one of the smallest components simply because bonded debt is not paid back with reserves. He said what they look at most importantly are population growth, income growth, employment and they'll also look at the major employers in the community and what's happened in the last five years. He said the most important component that they look at is a ratio of long term, outstanding debt and operating expenses and operating incomes. He said those are the components which they match up with other municipalities our size and they would determine a rate for the bond. He said reserves itself, it's nice to have some but that's not the major component. He said so saying that we're going to be in jeopardy if we do this or don't do this, no. He said let's make sure we understand that this is an operating function and it shouldn't be cut in stone

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and that's why he voted no for this the first day because he didn't think it was a working document, he thought it was cut in stone immediately and all of the other numbers then worked around that. He said the constituents can come here and voice their opinion in a civil way and we should be civil up here. He said whether someone votes yes for this or no, at the end of the day we're all going to be working together to make the City a great place. He then thanked everyone for being here tonight.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said he challenges MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC with all his expertise to come up with an alternative to raising taxes and show how we can avoid raising taxes.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC said then show me the exact \$7 million, is that an anticipated number. He said the City Manager came up with \$3 million. He said if you believe those numbers, you believe them but he looks at numbers and sees things you won't see. He said we talked about cuts, there's only been about how many cuts, most of the employees that have left have been due to early retirement. He said the City Manager has already said he can make additional expense adjustments by offering more early retirements, it's something he might be able to balance. He said so give him a chance or don't and then raise the taxes. He said that's our decision and we're all sitting up here looking at numbers and we're making decisions and if we see that we have an alternative we'll be asking the City Manager and let this be a working document, maybe he can do that.

Mr. Ed Kasheimer of 2817 Old Kent Drive asked if there is a large cost for the insurance on the squad cars that Police Officers take home and is part of the benefit package for each officer to be able to take his own car home.

The City Manager said we're self insured on that type of a loss, of physical damage to a squad car. He said we do have a take home squad car program that was implemented many years ago and the intent is to get the squad cars in the neighborhoods so it creates a sense of safety for the residents.

Mr. Kasheimer said there is wear and tear on the squads and fuel.

The City Manager said he thinks there was a decision made to try to have a presence in the neighborhoods all the time, 24/7, that was a policy decision. He said if we had to cut back and make everybody drive their own vehicles downtown and grab a squad and then go out to an area we could do that like we did in the old days, but we shared squad cars at that time and those squad cars are running almost 24 hours a day.

Mr. Kasheimer asked why don't the police officers be used as crossing guards, it's only an hour or two a day.

The Police Chief said it would be very difficult with the amount of crossing guards that we have, we have over 45. He said right now officers do fill in when there are vacancies or aren't available for whatever reason. He said we would have to pull every officer we have on the street to do crossing guard duties in the morning and we would have no officers available for any type of duties. He said as a matter of fact during the day we wouldn't have enough officers to staff all of the crossing guard positions. He said it's an economy of resource issue is really what it comes down to.

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2. AN ORDINANCE For the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2009 and Ending December 31, 2009 for the Joliet City Center Special Service Area was presented and read.
(Council Memo #1051-09)

The City Clerk noted this is a public hearing so any comments would be in order at this time.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said this has no effect on the citizen's taxes whatsoever.

The City Manager said it does not, this is a special tax that would apply only to downtown Joliet, consistent with what we've been doing since the mid 1990's, and it's a \$241,000 tax that is spread among all the downtown property owners and it's used to fund the City Center Partnership efforts to market and promote business growth/business retention.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC asked if there were any comments, and being none, he closed the public hearing.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA moved that said Ordinance be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMAN TURK, COUNCILWOMAN BARBER, COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMAN SHETINA and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

(ORDINANCE NO. 16557)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance re: Approving a Variance from the Subdivision Regulations to Extend the Effective Period of the Joliet Logistics Park Preliminary Plat for an Additional One Year Period (formerly Route 53 Industrial Park Subdivision) (#P-8-07/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #1054-09)
2. Ordinance re: Approving a Special Use Permit to Allow Additional Antennae Within an Existing 160' Tall Monopole Located at 929 Plainfield Road (#2009-61/Dist. #2)
(Council Memo #1055-09)
3. Ordinance re: Approving a Special Use Permit to Increase the Height of a Light Standard/Monopole from 118' to 138' Located at 1414 N. Raynor Avenue (Garnsey Park) (#2009-67/Dist. #2)
(Council Memo #1056-09)

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4. Ordinance re: Approving a Special Use Permit to Allow Additional Antennae on an Existing 126' Monopole and a 10' x 20' Equipment Shelter Located at 270 S.E. Frontage Road (#2009-68/Dist. #3)
(Council Memo #1057-09)

The City Clerk noted that these items were approved at the Pre-Council meeting yesterday.

5. AN ORDINANCE Declaring the following properties as Public Nuisances and authorizing application to the Circuit Court for demolition, injunction or other relief was presented and read: 2007 McDonough Street.
(Council Memo #1058-09)

COUNCILMAN BROPHY moved that said Ordinance be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN TURK.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILWOMAN BARBER, COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

(ORDINANCE NO. 16558)

6. Ordinance re: For the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2010 for the Park Hill Subdivision Special Service Area
(Council Memo #1059-09)

The City Clerk noted that this item was approved at the Pre-Council meeting yesterday.

7. AN ORDINANCE For the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2009 and Ending December 31, 2009 in and for the 1994 Joliet Special Service Area Number One (Joliet Commons Shopping Center Project) was presented and read.
(Council Memo #1060-09)
(ORDINANCE NO. 16559)

8. AN ORDINANCE For the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2009 and Ending December 31, 2009 in and for the 1999 Joliet Special Service Area Number 66 (Raceway Associates L.L.C. Project) was presented and read.
(Council Memo #1060-09)
(ORDINANCE NO. 16560)

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COUNCILMAN SHETINA moved that said Ordinances be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN,
COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK, COUNCILWOMAN BARBER and
MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

B. RESOLUTIONS

1. A RESOLUTION Authorizing the Purchase of 319 S. Midland Avenue for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program was presented and read.

(Council Memo #1065-09)

COUNCILMAN TURK moved that said Resolution be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMAN SHETINA,
COUNCILWOMAN BARBER and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE and TURK.

(RESOLUTION NO. 6321)

2. A RESOLUTION Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Paratransit Local Share Agreement with PACE and to Apply for Grant Funds Available under Title XX of the Social Security Act was presented and read.

(Council Memo #1066-09)

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE moved that said Resolution be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN TURK.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK,
COUNCILWOMAN BARBER, COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE,
and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

(RESOLUTION NO. 6322)

3. A RESOLUTION Approving an Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for Highway Safety Improvements to the Intersection of U.S. Route 52 and Laraway Road was presented and read.

(Council Memo #1067-09)

(RESOLUTION NO. 6323)

4. A RESOLUTION Appropriating Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Highway Safety Improvements to the Intersection of U.S. Route 52 and Laraway Road was presented and read.

(Council Memo #1068-09)

(RESOLUTION NO. 6324)

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COUNCILMAN BROPHY moved that said Resolutions be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN TURK.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK, COUNCILWOMAN BARBER,
COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN
and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

BIDS AND CONTRACTS

A. Award of Contracts

1. Request Approval for Will-Joliet Bicentennial Park Inc. to
Accept Theatre Lighting Bid for the Park
(Council Memo #1072-09)

A report on three quotes received for the above contract was accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that the Mayor and Council award the contract to Design Lab in the amount of \$53,821.84.

2. Authorization to Extend the Professional Service Contract with
Ceridian for an Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
(Council Memo #1073-09)

A report on six quotes received for the above contract was accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that the Mayor and Council extend the contract with Ceridian for one year in the amount of \$14,348.00.

3. Authorization to Approve a Professional Services Agreement
with Stanard and Associates for Fire and Police Promotional
Testing
(Council Memo #1074-09)

A report on four quotes received for the above contract was accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that the Mayor and Council award the contract to Stanards and Associates in the amount of \$139,000.00.

4. Award of Contract for the Purchase of Bituminous Cold Patch
Mixture – 2009-2010 Winter Season
(Council Memo #1075-09)

A report on two proposals received for the above contract was accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that the Mayor and Council award the purchase of 350 tons of SMP cold patch material from D Construction in the amount of \$32,900.00.

5. Award of Contract for 830 E. Cass Street Storm Sewer
Improvements
(Council Memo #1076-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council award the contract to Knowles Construction in the amount of \$8,825.00.

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6. Authorization to Repair Roadways Vehicle – Unit ST109
(Council Memo #1078-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council award the contract to Standard Equipment in the amount of \$6,709.43.

7. Authorization to Renew Maintenance Agreement for the 800
MHz Radio System
(Council Memo #1079-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council renew the agreement with Motorola for 2010 in the amount of \$17,164.54 per month.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA moved that the recommendations of the City Manager be concurred in.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN TURK.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMAN TURK, COUNCILWOMAN BARBER, COUNCILMEN
BROPHY, GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN,
COUNCILMAN SHETINA and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

B. Amendments, Change Orders and Payments

1. Approve Change Order No. 3 and Pay Estimate No. 5 and Final
for the Carson Avenue (U.S. Route 30 – Glenwood/Division)
Roadway Improvement Project – 2009 Neighborhood
Improvement Program
(Council Memo #1085-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 3, a deduction in the amount of \$5,146.74 and Pay Estimate No. 5 and Final in the amount of \$4,798.30 on behalf of P.T. Ferro Construction.

2. Approve Change Order No. 5 and Payment Estimate No. 2 for
the 2009 Sidewalk/Curb Replacement Project – 2009
Neighborhood Improvement Program
(Council Memo #1086-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 5 in the amount of \$10,707.80 and Payment Estimate No. 2 in the amount of \$75,869.81 on behalf of M & A Cement Works, Inc.

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3. Approve Change Order No. 3 and Payment Estimate No. 5 and Final for the Ferris Place/Ivy Place/Margaret Street/Morris Street Roadway Improvements Project – 2008 Neighborhood Improvement Program
(Council Memo #1087-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 3, a deduction in the amount of \$25,648.52 and Payment Estimate No. 5 and Final in the amount of \$9,107.85 on behalf of P.T. Ferro Construction Co.

4. Approve Payment for Automatic Meter Reading Support Services
(Council Memo #1088-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve the Payment in the amount of \$6,600.00 on behalf of Sensus Metering Systems.

5. Approve Change Order and Payment for Route 59 Emergency Water Main Relocation
(Council Memo #1089-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve the following: 1) An increase to Purchase Order No. 104445 by \$30,844.44; and 2) Payment of \$31,843.44 to Construction by Camco.

6. Approve Change Order and Payment for Water Main Supplies
(Council Memo #1090-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve the following: 1) An increase to Purchase Order No. 104391 by \$9,705.88; and 2) Payment of \$10,695.88 to Underground Pipe and Valve Co.

7. Approve Change Order and Payment for Emergency Road Repairs
(Council Memo #1091-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve the following: 1) An increase to Purchase Order No. 102268 by \$8,631.55; and 2) Payment of \$9,621.55 to D Construction.

8. Approve Change Order No. 2 to Repair Damages to the Entryway and Flag Pole at Center and Marion Streets and Change Order No. 3 for the Entryway Landscape Improvements Phase II Contract
(Council Memo #1092-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 2 to allow \$6,000.00 of the contract to be used for entryway repairs and Change Order No. 3, a deduction in the amount of \$6,399.63 on behalf of Allied Landscaping.

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COUNCILMAN SHETINA moved that the recommendations of the City Manager be concurred in.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN TURK.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILWOMAN BARBER, COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

LICENSES AND PERMIT APPLICATIONS

A. Transfer of a Class "B" Liquor License at 2771 Black Road
(Council Memo #1095-09)

The City Clerk noted that this item was tabled at the Pre-Council meeting yesterday.

B. Transfer of a Class "A" Liquor License at 674 Meeker Avenue
(Council Memo #1096-09)

The City Clerk noted that this item was approved at the Pre-Council meeting yesterday.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked about the liquor license issue on Black Road and asked if someone is organizing a meeting. He said he received a copy of an e-mail today from the head of the Homeowners Association of Glenwood Manor that said he only had two hours notice of the hearing that was held yesterday so he would have in fact liked more notice and would certainly organize a meeting. He said he thinks the gentleman who's applying would open up his place for the meeting and talk directly to the neighbors, but he doesn't recall if anybody had actually taken that charge on to do it.

The City Manager said that was going to be Deputy Liquor Commissioner Dan Campus' responsibility and he will follow up with him tomorrow and if Planning staff needs to help out with notices they will do that.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said he was asked by a neighbor if we would investigate the chickens being raised at 1317 Waverly. He said although the complainant said they didn't bother her, she did report it and he doesn't think we can condone it by not addressing it.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said he went through this budget pretty good he thought, evidently he missed something. He said he is going to have to review it again and have to read between the lines.

COUNCILMAN TURK thanked everyone that was involved with the Christmas Parade, it was probably one of the largest crowds that he's seen downtown. He said it was a great coordinated effort and the public seemed to enjoy it.

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COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she is a liaison to the Rialto and COUNCILMAN BROPHY is a board member to the museum. She said many times when they have their meetings it is a conflict for her, she has something else to attend but she does read the minutes. She then read a paragraph from the minutes from the Rialto meeting in October where they talked about funding and some roof issues that needed to be addressed and talked about funding sources earmarked for the project. She said in the meeting at First Community Bank attended by Tom Thanas and representatives Green, Smith, Rogina and Hacker, Thanas said the building permit in the amount of \$11,000 could be refunded. She said she didn't know about this meeting and never received a report about it and she thought anything \$5,000 or more had to come to the City Council for approval. She said that's why she asks for reports, she's not getting detailed reports, she's not getting information. She said no one ever talks to her about it and they have her number and e-mail if she's not there and they know how to reach her.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY suggested that she involve the City Manager for some help to direct the staff over there as to what their obligations are to the City Council.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she was promised the information today by our City Manager but we didn't get it.

The City Manager said he e-mailed that at 7:59 this morning.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she thought she would get it in her mailbox, she hasn't been home all day.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN then asked the City Manager if he has sent out the letter to Congresswoman Halvorson regarding the train whistles.

The City Manager said he has not. He said he has spoken with Congresswoman Halvorson's liaison here in Joliet and would like to set up a meeting with him and Director of Public Works Jim Trizna so they have an understanding. He said he doesn't want to raise your hopes that we can ask that kind of a favor, we ask for a lot of favors from Congresswoman Halvorson.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she just wants to show the public that we're doing everything that we possibly can.

The City Manager said we are. He said we'll make a presentation to the full Council so you can keep up to date on what efforts they're making to try to get the quiet zones approved. He said unfortunately it is a one year process and the biggest problem we have out in that area is the Caton Farm Road project that needs to proceed before the Federal Railway Administration (FRA) will give us formal approval for a quiet zone. He said Theodore Street improvements have been done for about two years but they bundled those two crossings together for formal review and the rep from FRA is saying get Caton Farm done and then we can give you the quiet zone designation. He said now what we're trying to do is split those into two projects and try to get Theodore approved now because the County has that project and it will probably take a year or two.

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COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said our Police Department is selling their Shop with a Cop pins for \$3 or 2 for \$5 and it helps the Police Department when they take underprivileged children to go shopping for Christmas and a lot of the money comes out of their own pockets. She said they can be purchased at City Hall and that event will be December 12th.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC asked the City Manager if he could check with Planning Director Kendall Jackson to see where he is with the ordinance he is working on for semi-truck parking and travel on residential streets.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC said when we get up in the morning we have to be thankful that we live in a great republic like this and that we can debate in a civil way and can have differences of opinions and then the next day we're still happy human beings and good citizens of our town.

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN moved that the Council adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN BROPHY.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK, COUNCILWOMAN BARBER and MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC.

NAYS: NONE.

ARTHUR SCHULTZ
Mayor

JANET K. TRAVEN
City Clerk

Recorded on Tape