

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois  
held on the 4th day of December, A.D. 2007***

REGULAR MEETING of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, Joliet Municipal Building, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois.

An Invocation was delivered by Pastor Lonnie Posley, New Canaan Land Christian Church, 225 E. Clinton Street, Joliet, Illinois.

Pastor Posley 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, DISTRICT 5 COUNCILMAN WARREN C. DORRIS, 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.

ALSO PRESENT: CITY MANAGER JOHN M. MEZERA and CORPORATION COUNSEL JEFFREY S. PLYMAN.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COUNCILMAN SHETINA moved that the minutes of the Pre-Council Meeting of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. and of the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. stand approved as recorded.

Motion seconded by COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Public Safety

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE stated the Public Safety Committee met yesterday and discussed some routine bills from the Fire Department, one of which was a change order for the physicals in the amount of \$5,200 to include a urinalysis.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said they also discussed garbage pickers that go around the City and that there has been some thievery that may be connected to them. He said the Police Chief is going to meet with the Corporation Counsel and draw up an Ordinance that would require them to be licensed so we can keep track of them.

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B. Public Service

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE stated 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.

There were no other Committee reports.

A. Proclamation re: Recognizing the Joliet Catholic Academy Hilltoppers "State Championship Football Team"

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN read a Proclamation issued by MAYOR SCHULTZ recognizing the Joliet Catholic Academy Hilltoppers State Championship Football Team on their outstanding season and congratulating the team and coaches on their 13<sup>th</sup> State Championship.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said this was the first time in six years that he couldn't make the pep rally. He said the team lost a tough game against Mt. Carmel at Soldier Field earlier in the year and it shows what kind of determination and dedication these kids have to come back and win. He congratulated Coach Sharp and his staff, Sister Faith and the faculty for their great season. He then congratulated the Girls Volleyball team who also had a great season.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said being a Steelman, Class of 1972, it's a great joy but embarrassing because Joliet Township High School hasn't won one yet. He said COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE (Class of 1959), COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC (Class of 1967), COUNCILMAN TURK (Class of 1970) and COUNCILMAN BROPHY (Class of 1980) are all alumni of Joliet Catholic and he said what a tremendous representation that is for our City. He said on behalf of the Mayor and City Council, we can't begin to tell them how proud we are of the championships and he said he is also proud of the alumni on the Council that do some tremendous things in this City. He said the Catholic High spirit not only runs on the football field, but it sits right here.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said MAYOR SCHULTZ is watching at home and he asked her to extend his congratulations and is very proud and wants them to bring the title home again next year.

Coach Dan Sharp thanked the Mayor and City Council and said the Mayor is in their thoughts and prayers every day at JCA. He said this is a tremendous honor and with him today is the President of JCA, Sister Faith, and six of their fine senior football players to represent the team. He said they are very honored to receive this Proclamation and they take great pride in representing the City of Joliet and the Joliet area.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Position Vacancy  
(Council Memo #1420-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that he be authorized to fill one Public Safety Dispatcher position and any subsequent vacancies directly related to this position.

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

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN TURK.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

Prior to his vote, COUNCILMAN SHETINA said in keeping with the hiring freeze, he wanted to make sure that staff looks at any of the replacements being made to make certain we need the position.

The City Manager said absolutely.

B. Proclamation re: Recognizing and Congratulating Virginia Ferry

COUNCILMAN SHETINA read a Proclamation issued by MAYOR SCHULTZ recognizing and congratulating Virginia Ferry for her outstanding contributions to the quality of life in the City of Joliet, especially for those who are hungry and homeless, and for being selected as a recipient of Realtor Magazine's 2007 Good Neighbor Award.

Mrs. Ferry thanked the Mayor and City Council for their recognition and introduced her family and friends in the audience.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said Virginia Ferry and her late husband Alan were tremendous people who believed in the east side and had a huge impact on him and his life.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing re: Adoption of the Proposed 2007 Tax Levies

1. AN ORDINANCE For the Levying and Collection of Taxes for the City of Joliet, Will and Kendall Counties, Illinois, In and For the Year A.D., 2007 was presented and read.  
(Council Memo #1424-07)  
(ORDINANCE NO. 15989)
2. AN ORDINANCE Abating a Portion of the 2007 Tax Levy for the City of Joliet (General Abatement) was presented and read.  
(Council Memo #1424-07)  
(ORDINANCE NO. 15990)

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

Mr. Bruce Renwick of 1508 West Acres said it seems very strange to him that the needs of the City always seem to work out to the same tax rate even when the assessed valuation takes a healthy climb of 12%. He said we're all going to write bigger checks to the City of Joliet this year because all of our assessed valuation

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went up with the quadrennial reassessment. He said as that went up the City discovered it had a need for 4 million more dollars, and low and behold we end up at the same tax rate we had last year.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said we have a \$268 million budget so an increase of \$4 million is not outrageous.

Mr. Renwick said the part that bothers him is it always tracks the assessed valuation and to him there is something wrong with that.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said for many years our tax rate went up so when we were able to make it go down it was a success and it went down many years in a row and finally stabilized. He said you might say that the City of Joliet's tax rate being frozen allowed your other taxing bodies on your bill room to increase further which they did over the same term.

Mr. Renwick said but this year the City's will go up and he has a feeling so will all the other taxing bodies.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said ours would only go up if the value of your house goes up, but the rate stays the same. He said he hasn't seen the budget yet, but he commends staff for making the cuts they had to make to keep the rate the same.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said the burden is being spread over more properties and the growth of City services is being shared by more, which is good news.

Mr. Renwick said everybody's assessment has probably gone up because the value of their homes have probably gone up.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said which is good news when you go to sell it.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked if he's saying that we should lower the rate so if the value of your house goes up your taxes stay the same.

Mr. Renwick said his point is that the year the assessed valuation goes up 12%, so do the taxes. He said if he was seeing a 4% inflation year to year for cost of living that might be one thing, but to sit there and watch and say the taxes are going up because we're going to keep the rate the same, that's what he really objects to.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said there is no question that there is a correlation between the rate of \$111 vs. \$333 which we had. He said we have mandated the City Manager and the staff to keep the rate the same when there is an increase in the assessed valuation and we've been lucky that's happened every year. He said most people who we talk to are very happy that we have a \$111 rate. He said we get 14% of your whole tax bill, the schools get 62%. He said we think that were doing well with the schools and most people are very happy they aren't paying three times what they were paying in the City of Joliet's portion of that bill.

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Mr. Renwick said he feels like we're raising the levy to maintain the rate. He said for all these years the rates stayed the same, the assessed valuation has gone up a small percent some years and more other years and yet the rate stays the same. He asked what drives the tax here, is it the needs of the City or is it to maintain the rate based on the assessed valuation.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said we try to maintain the rates and keep enhancing industry to come in so homeowners will stay here, and that is not a coincidence. He said we've mandated that they don't raise the rate. He said we were going to try to raise the rate this year from \$111 to \$116 and the City Council said no, find the money. He said so we let some things go and we probably let some people go and we're keeping the rate at \$111 and it is not a coincidence.

Mr. Renwick said by maintaining the rate the same as the valuation goes up on homes and businesses around the City, the actual taxes go up.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said our costs go up and we have to have the money to pay it.

Mr. Renwick asked what would happen if the assessed valuation went down.

COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC said you have to keep in mind that we don't do the assessed valuation. He said we keep our rate to maintain a certain level of income for operations, that's our responsibility. He said he thinks personally as an economist that the assessed valuation went up way too high because with the slowdown in the market, actual valuations have gone down.

Mr. Renwick said he would ask the Council to think about it because there are people out there who are going to have trouble making their house payments and their mortgages are going up with foreclosures also increasing.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS moved that said Ordinances be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

Prior to his vote, MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC stated that MAYOR SCHULTZ indicated that he was very happy and pleased that the tax levy will remain at \$111 per \$10,000 assessed valuation and he wanted to thank the Council.

B. Public Hearing re: Annexation of 1404 S. Briggs Street

1. Resolution re: Approving the Annexation Agreement for 1404 S. Briggs Street (#A-8-07/Dist. #5)  
(Council Memo #1425-07)
2. Ordinance re: Approving the Annexation of 1404 S. Briggs Street (#A-8-07/Dist. #5)  
(Council Memo #1425-07)

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3. Ordinance re: Approving the Classification of 1404 S. Briggs Street to R-2 Zoning (#A-8-07/Dist. #5)  
(Council Memo #1425-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained a request by the petitioner, St. Paul M.B. Church, to table these items to the City Council meeting to be held on December 18, 2007 to allow additional time for the review of the annexation agreement.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS asked the City Manager to have the Director of Community and Economic Development convene a meeting next Thursday or Friday with the petitioner, the developer and himself. He said we need to get this issue resolved so we can get this approved.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS moved that said items be tabled to the December 18, 2007 City Council meeting.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR CURRENT BILLS**

- A. Regular Payroll – November 3 – November 16, 2007 -  
\$2,940,060.30  
(Council Memo #1426-07)

Biweekly Payroll Summary Reports of the total cost of regular salaries for the period November 3, 2007 through November 16, 2007 and additions to regular salaries for the period October 26, 2007 through November 8, 2007 including a 2007 Overtime Budget Status Report and a Biweekly Summary of Overtime and Temporary Assignments were accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that said Regular Payroll be allowed.

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

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN TURK.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

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ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. ORDINANCES

1. AN ORDINANCE For the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2007 and Ending December 31, 2007 In and For the Joliet City Center Special Service Area was presented and read.  
(Council Memo #1427-07)

COUNCILMAN BROPHY moved that said Ordinance be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN DORRIS.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked for a brief explanation.

The City Manager stated in 2006 the City Council extended the City Center Special Service Area which is a special tax that the businesses in the downtown requested the Council to place upon just those businesses for the next 10 years. He said that money is used for marketing, business expansion and retention in the downtown area. He said the rate is capped at \$9.50 per \$1,000 and will generate \$247,000 which goes to the City Center Partnership for marketing of the City Center.

(ORDINANCE NO. 15991)

2. AN ORDINANCE For the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2007 and Ending December 31, 2007 In and For the 1994 Joliet Special Service Area Number One (Joliet Commons Shopping Center Project) was presented and read.  
(Council Memo #1428-07)  
(ORDINANCE NO. 15992)
3. AN ORDINANCE For the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2007 and Ending December 31, 2007 In and For the 1999 Joliet Special Service Area Number 66 (Raceway Associates L.L.C. Project) was presented and read.  
(Council Memo #1428-07)  
(ORDINANCE NO. 15993)

COUNCILMAN DORRIS moved that said Ordinances be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN BROPHY.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

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4. Ordinance re: Approving the Preliminary Plat of Drauden Pointe Center, a Planned Unit Development (#P-13-07/Dist. #1)  
(Council Memo #1429-07)
5. Ordinance re: Approving the Final Plat of Drauden Pointe Center, a Planned Unit Development (#FP-9-07/Dist. #1)  
(Council Memo #1429-07)
6. Ordinance re: Approving the Recording Plat of Drauden Pointe Center, a Planned Unit Development (#RP-20-07/Dist. #1)  
(Council Memo #1429-07)

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

4. AN ORDINANCE Establishing Salary Ranges and Fringe Benefits for Exempt Employees was presented and read.  
(Council Memo #1430-07)

COUNCILMAN SHETINA moved that said Ordinance be adopted as recommended.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked the Corporation Counsel if he could explain exactly what we're voting on here.

The Corporation Counsel said this is an Ordinance which is regularly presented to the Mayor and City Council every few years for approval and governs what City Hall employees are paid on an annual basis. He said the current Ordinance is scheduled to expire at the end of December and the City does have working agreements with the Police and Fire Unions and with AFSCME that provide for a 4% increase in base pay for 2008 and future years, and in keeping with the City's previous practice the City Manager is recommending that we extend the City Hall employee pay package into those years as well. He said it provides for up to a 4% base salary increase if the Council approves it tonight. He said there also has been some discussion about studying salaries in other cities and that work is underway and when that work is completed and reported back to the City Council, there will then be additional discussion on other types of merit increases that are currently authorized for City employees and union employees as well.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said today we are just voting on 4% for exempt employees for 2008, is that correct.

The Corporation Counsel said he believes it's for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC said so we're voting on this for the next four years.

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The Corporation Counsel said yes. He said the City has working agreements with other unions for that time period and it has been the City Council's policy to extend to City Hall employees the same basic compensation, so the Ordinance as presented deals with 2008 through 2011.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS asked if we have our unions under contract until 2011.

The City Manager said yes and some through 2012. He said those contracts have all been brought to the City Council and you have approved all of those.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS asked if we have voted on this particular one year by year.

The City Manager said no, it has always coincided with the other ones.

COUNCILMAN TURK said this is in the 2008 budget and the projections done for the 5 year plan are also in those budgets.

The City Manager said absolutely.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said that's not what we discussed at another meeting; we discussed this just for 2008. She said she has no problem giving people raises but in this particular instance she thinks we need to look at the long range. She said these are non-union employees.

The City Manager said he believes what we discussed at the other meeting was there is a 4% salary increase and then there is a step increase, and what we discussed was the difference between those two and whether we were going to proceed with the 4%. He said he was authorized to bring to the City Council the 4%. He said that's what was discussed at the meeting and that's what he's done.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said it was 4% for 2008. She said she didn't know it was for four more years.

The City Manager said he doesn't believe that there was any discussion at the meetings specifically that this was restricted; we are saying that we are doing the same as we've done in the past and the same to match the agreements with the other bargaining units. He said that's what we've always done.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said he doesn't remember discussing whether it was one year or four years, but he does remember saying that they deserve the same raise that the bargaining units get and the bargaining units right now are committed through 2012 although there is one up now and one up in three years. He said the long term is through 2012, although we did not discuss one year or four years.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said he believes that our employees work hard and deserve the raise, however it is difficult being from the private sector and being used to negotiating contracts to say because the union negotiated a contract we should do the same for our exempt employees. He said we know that with the legislation in Springfield now there may be other riverboats in the State of Illinois which could affect our revenue. He said he thinks that we have the ability to approve the raises for 2008 and then look at the revenue stream of what it is

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going to look like in 2009, 2010 and 2011 and do it year by year. He said he doesn't believe we're obligated to do something just because we've done it in the past. He said back in the 1980's when our business went down the tube it was the exempt employees that took a cut in pay in order to keep the business afloat. He said he would recommend because it's no hardship on anyone that we approve the raises that are duly deserved for 2008 and then look at the revenue stream which could change in 2009 and 2010. He said he thinks that gives us an opportunity to be fiscally responsible to the City of Joliet.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said he would make an amendment to this motion that we approve the raises for 2008 and then at this time next year we look at the budget and see if there is going to be an issue. He said if there is no issue he thinks we should proceed, but if there is an issue he thinks it is the exempt management employees that have to step to the plate first and say we have to do something different. He said he thinks it's just good fiscal responsibility that we do that and approve the raises for 2008 and look at what the revenue stream is going to be after we see the changes in the State legislature as it concerns riverboat gaming, which could be huge. He said we are taking funds from other places to make sure that we don't raise the taxes and we hold the levy. He said we don't know what's going to happen with the legislation with our riverboat gaming so he believes instead of encumbering the Council for the next three or four years with this 4%, it makes good business sense to do it for one year and let's wait and see what happens with this legislation which could change our revenue stream and then deal with it year by year and that would be his motion.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN seconded the amendment.

The City Manager said we don't have any problem with that, and if the Council wants to do it just for 2008, that's fine and we can review it annually.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY stated the range of the positions is what the 4% is applied to. He asked if the City Manager and his successor have the ability to amend that amount in a given year for performance-based evaluation type things.

The City Manager said we evaluate each employee and we can give them up to the 4% and we can give them less.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said so we are not binding a future City Manager nor Council, we're simply allowing the range of that position to move from year to year which we can do from year to year too.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS moved that said Ordinance be adopted with the amendment that this Ordinance is applicable only for the year 2008.

Motion seconded by COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: COUNCILMAN SHETINA.

Prior to her vote, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN reiterated she has no problem with 4% for one year and then we'll look at it again next year and she voted aye.

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Prior to his vote, COUNCILMAN SHETINA said we have bargaining units with the unions and we always have upheld our agreement with them except maybe one year back in the 1970's when we couldn't pay them their increases and couldn't give them a raise, but it is so easy to jump on the exempt employees, the management employees. He said they haven't got the parachute, they haven't got anybody to protect them, they haven't got a union to protect them. He said they are the easy people to beat up on and he's watched that happen not only in the upper level management but also people in just regular exempt capacities in some of the departments. He said he thinks if you're going to be honorable with the union bodies and he always has been, you need to be honorable with the exempt employee group also. He said his understanding was that the City Manager or the Director of Human Resources has the authority and actually the responsibility to look at each one of these employees every year and we have had years when we didn't give the employee a raise and maybe 3 or 4 times when we didn't have a specific employee that we felt was doing the job and we were unhappy with them, we related that to the City Manager and in some of those cases people were either let go or their salary was not increased. He said the City Manager and staff should have the ability to deal with the employee on that basis also. He said he thinks it is a duplication doing this on a yearly basis because it's kind of the same argument each year about the same exempt employees who happen to be management employees and those who are not management employees but work for some of these department heads, and he thinks that is wrong and he is voting no on this.

Prior to his vote, COUNCILMAN TURK said he doesn't have any problem voting on this from year to year and he intends to support it every year, however he is glad that we are doing this survey of other communities because at some point in time there is not going to be an incentive for somebody to accept a management position if the pay is equal to a non-management position, and he voted aye.

Prior to his vote, MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC stated he thinks COUNCILMAN DORRIS made the point exactly, it's not fiscally responsible to go out for four years, that's just a terrible recommendation. He said he agrees with one year because you don't want to tie a future City Manager over the next four years with that type of an expense and it is good fiscal responsibility, and he voted aye.

(ORDINANCE NO. 15994)

**B. RESOLUTIONS**

1. A RESOLUTION Establishing a Maximum Tax Rate for the City of Joliet was presented and read.  
(Council Memo #1434-07)

COUNCILMAN TURK moved that said Resolution be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

(RESOLUTION NO. 6000)

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2. A RESOLUTION Approving the Purchase of a Water Tower Site Near the Intersection of Route 6 and Parkwood Drive was presented and read.  
(Council Memo #1435-07)

COUNCILMAN DORRIS moved that said Resolution be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILWOMAN BARBER.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

Prior to her vote, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN stated the Edgecreek homeowners will be very happy and she voted aye.

Prior to his vote, COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked if we looked to see if there was any land that we own which could be used for the site.

The City Manager said we did look and we don't own any property that would have been large enough to do this.

(RESOLUTION NO. 6001)

**BIDS AND CONTRACTS**

**A. Award of Contracts**

1. Authorization to Purchase Vehicles for Motor Maintenance Division and Fire Department  
(Council Memo #1440-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve the following: 1) The purchase of one (1) Ford Extended Length 4x4 Expedition from Rod Baker Ford in the amount of \$29,348.32; and 2) The purchase of one (1) Ford E250 Cargo Van from Bob Ridings in the amount of \$20,345.00.

2. Authorization to Purchase UPM Cold Patch Material  
(Council Memo #1442-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve the purchase of 150 tons of UPM cold patch material from Gallagher Asphalt in the amount of \$13,425.00.

3. Award of Contract for Gabion Basket Repair Along Thorn Creek in the Regency Ridge Subdivision  
(Council Memo #1443-07)

A report on four proposals received for the above contract was accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that the Mayor and Council award the contract to Construction by Camco in the amount of \$12,800.00.

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4. Authorization to Purchase a Water Meter for the Will County Detention Facility  
(Council Memo #1444-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council award the contract to HD Supply in the amount of \$12,100.00.

5. Authorization to Purchase Gloves for the Public Works and Public Utilities Department  
(Council Memo #1445-07)

A report on four proposals received for the above contract was accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that the Mayor and Council award the contract to McCann Industries in the amount of \$6,470.20.

6. Authorization to Purchase Asset Management and Work Order Software for the Public Utilities Department  
(Council Memo #1446-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council take the following actions: 1) Approve the purchase of the software as produced by Trimble Navigation for the amount of \$142,000.00; 2) Approve professional services for program enhancement services for a fee not to exceed \$106,600.00; and 3) Approve payment of 2008 customer support services valued at \$7,031.25.

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

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

**B. Change Orders and Payments:**

1. Approve Change Order No. 5 and Payment No. 5 for the Asbestos Abatement of the South End of the Municipal Building  
(Council Memo #1450-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 5 in the amount of \$1,830.00 on behalf of ARC Environmental Consulting and Engineering, Inc.

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2. Authorization to Award Annual Service Contract for Zoll Cardiac Monitors and Zoll AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators)  
(Council Memo #1451-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council award the contract to Bio-Tron, Inc. in the amount of \$9,900.00.

3. Approve Change Order No. 1 and Pay Revision for Physicians Immediate Care – Chicago for Fire Department Annual Physicals  
(Council Memo #1452-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 1 and Payment No. 2 and Final in the amount of \$5,200.00 on behalf of Physicians Immediate Care.

4. Approve Payment No. 1 and Final for the 2007 Fall Tree Planting Contract  
(Council Memo #1453-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Payment No. 1 and Final in the amount of \$48,060.00 on behalf of B&T Landscaping.

5. Approve Change Order No. 9 for the 10D and 11D Water Treatment Plants and Booster Station and Reservoir Modifications Project  
(Council Memo #1454-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 9 in the amount of \$75,364.95 on behalf of Allan Mack and Sons, Inc.

6. Approve Change Order No. 4 for the 18D and Washington Street Water Treatment Plants Project  
(Council Memo #1455-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 4, a deduction in the amount of \$23,778.21 on behalf of Allan Mack and Sons Inc.

7. Approve Change Order No. 2 and Payment Estimate No. 10 and Final for the 2006 Footing Tile Separation Project  
(Council Memo #1456-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 2, a deduction in the amount of \$75,034.93 and Pay Estimate No. 10 and Final in the amount of \$38,547.37 on behalf of Austin Tyler Construction.

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8. Approve Change Order No. 1 and Payment Request No. 4 and Final for the Caton Crossing Subdivision Drainage Improvements Project – 2007 Neighborhood Improvement Program  
(Council Memo #1457-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 1, a deduction in the amount of \$2,775.25 and Pay Request No. 4 and Final in the amount of \$6,641.74 on behalf of Austin Tyler Construction.

9. Approve Change Order No. 1 and Payment Request No. 2 and Final for the Essington Road at Randy/Rosemont/Twin Oaks Decorative Pillars Project  
(Council Memo #1458-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$3,133.90 and Pay Estimate No. 2 and Final in the amount of \$33,668.31 on behalf of Lindblad Construction.

10. Approve Amendment No. 2 and Payment No. 7 for the Professional Services Agreement for the Southside Comprehensive Plan  
(Council Memo #1459-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Amendment No. 2 in the amount of \$3,741.00 and Pay Estimate No. 7 in the amount of \$3,741.00 on behalf of Ruettinger, Tonelli & Associates.

11. Approve Change Order No. 1 and Payment Estimate No. 9 and Final for the Gravel Wells 104 and 105 Facility Reconstruction  
(Council Memo #1460-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$23,174.00 and Pay Estimate No. 9 and Final in the amount of \$83,029.70 on behalf of Layne Christensen Company.

12. Approve Change Order No. 4 and Payment Estimate No. 8 for the Gardner Street (Hickory Creek – Doris) Storm Sewer Project – 2007 Neighborhood Improvement Program  
(Council Memo #1461-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 4 in the amount of \$3,244.51 and Pay Estimate No. 8 in the amount of \$3,082.29 on behalf of J. Russ & Co.

13. Approve Change Order No. 1 and Payment Estimate No. 1 and Final for the 1404 Woodruff Road Yard Drainage Project – 2007 Neighborhood Improvement Program  
(Council Memo #1462-07)

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A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$4,882.60 and Pay Estimate No. 1 and Final in the amount of \$22,906.60 on behalf of Construction by Camco.

14. Approve Change Order No. 1 and Payout No. 4 and Final for the Oneida (Larkin-Woodlawn) Roadway Improvements – 2007 Neighborhood Improvement Program  
(Council Memo #1463-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$38,831.07 and Payout No. 4 and Final in the amount of \$78,464.70 on behalf of P.T. Ferro Construction.

15. Approve Change Order for the City-Wide Newsletter Contract with Gammon Group Inc.  
(Council Memo #1464-07)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve the Change Order in the amount of \$3,148.00 on behalf of Gammon Group Inc.

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

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN SHETINA.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

LICENSES AND PERMIT APPLICATIONS

- A. Issuance of a Class “B” Liquor License at 201 N. Ottawa Street  
(Council Memo #1467-07)

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

MAYOR

- A. Proclamation re: Recognizing the Joliet Catholic Academy Hilltoppers “State Championship Football Team”
- B. Proclamation re: Recognizing and Congratulating Virginia Ferry

These items were presented earlier in the meeting.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

COUNCILMAN TURK sent the Mayor get well wishes and a speedy recovery.

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COUNCILMAN TURK said with the EJ & E being sold to the Canadian Railway, he knows we're working on some things, but he asked if the City Manager could put together some information on the crossings within the City's boundaries and the increased volume to see what kind of an effect it will have.

The City Manager said there are going to be a couple of public hearings and we will have the opportunity to express our opinion or opposition to it. He said he has advised the staff to find out the dates of the hearings and do whatever we need to do to get in a position where we can provide comment.

COUNCILMAN TURK asked if we know what that opinion is going to be yet.

The City Manager said we do not know what the opinion is going to be but he suspects the Council may wish to preserve their position at those hearings by presenting some opposition. He said that might put us in a position where if the CN buys it there may be some stipulations that are put on the sale that might provide some restrictions on blowing of the whistles and maybe it might provide some revenue for railroad crossings, safety devices and things like that. He said he has asked the staff to put us in that position where we can comment and he said he will get him that information.

COUNCILMAN TURK asked if the 2008 Vehicle Tags are available now for those people who need to purchase them.

The City Manager said they will let him know when they are available.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA congratulated everyone who was involved in the annual Christmas Parade which was excellent. He said we had a great turnout with a lot of nice floats and a lot of new things which was nice.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked the City Manager if there is any possibility to look at whistle-free zones as there are subdivisions that are complaining about whistles at 4 a.m. He said he doesn't know if they're necessary at that time of the day, maybe they are and maybe they aren't but in this deliberation we could at least look at whistle-free zones. He said he knows it is not a good time to push that because we are trying to get them to do Theodore and some of those things and they need to make an expenditure there and they probably don't like whistle-free zones. He said he talked with the Director of Community and Economic Development and he has been working with them to find out if they are trying to extend the line down and any other things that they may look at changing and he asked the City Manager to include that.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said our thoughts and prayers are with the Mayor and she wished him well.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN thanked everyone for coming down this evening and congratulated Virginia Ferry again and said it was well deserved.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE congratulated the people who put on the parade including Tom Mihelich and his staff, and he wished the Mayor well and a speedy recovery.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS wished the Mayor well.

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COUNCILMAN DORRIS said there are some street lights out on Richards Street between Mills Road and I-80 and he asked if staff could look at those and get them replaced.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said at 757 Westport Drive they either need a tree replaced or just the hole filled in as they've been waiting quite a while. He said he knows they did hundreds and hundreds of trees so they may miss one now and then.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked the Corporation Counsel for an update on the Marycrest Shopping Center.

The Corporation Counsel said he doesn't have any recent news or report. He said he'll look into that and get back to him.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked if there is an update on Evergreen Terrace.

The Corporation Counsel said we have cases at the federal and the state level still pending. He said it is his understanding at the state level that the Illinois Supreme Court declined to accept their appeal of a lawsuit we brought requiring the ownership to bring that property into compliance. He said it's been a long and difficult path with the ownership of Evergreen Terrace and it looks like we're going to have another round of presentations to a judge locally on the conditions over there. He said on the federal level the last report we had is that the Judge who is handling both the condemnation case and the fair housing case has ruled in favor of the City of Joliet's position on the condemnation case. He said that is still the last ruling that we have received. He said the Judge is entertaining other constitutional motions and he doesn't want to predict the outcome of that, but so far we've been doing pretty well. He said as soon as those motions are resolved we will proceed with the condemnation and that would involve discovery and a trial as to the purchase price of the property.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said once the re-financing was completed, we were told by Burnham that we'd see a significant improvement in the property. He asked the City Manager if we have seen any improvement at all and are those improvements we were told that would definitely happen done. He asked if anyone knows if there has been any change.

The City Manager said no, it has not happened. He said the projects they said they were going to do including the security projects, the parking lot and fixing up of the units have not proceeded.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said when they talked to HUD that is specifically what they said they were going to do and then HUD made their decision based on those commitments, and none of that has happened.

The City Manager said no. He said he can't say there hasn't been anything done; they do repair emergency problems.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said but the major issues they said they were going to fix have not happened. He said they were going to spend \$1.2 million to do some things over there and we don't see \$1 million spent over there.

The City Manager said no, absolutely not.

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COUNCILMAN BROPHY said we've argued that mobile vouchers would be better for the tenants at Evergreen Terrace rather than program project based vouchers. He said referring to Poole Gardens, can you tell me the experience we had when the residents were all issued a mobile voucher to go anywhere they wanted and can you summarize who went where and who stayed.

The City Manager said almost everyone took the mobile voucher and went to better housing in better neighborhoods. He said it was a quick process and the process was exactly as we proposed and there was more than enough housing within the community to do that and it could have been done with Evergreen Terrace. He said it is a better situation for everyone involved.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said he had asked the Director of Public Works to put together a memo regarding what original Neighborhood Improvement Program purpose-type work there is yet to be done including streets, curbs, gutters, storm sewers and so on. He said it highlights the fact that as we've grown to the west we've left a lot of undone things to the east, and so he hopes the Council will look at that when we talk at budget time because we need to do our homework before we go out and play. He said this kind of stuff is really important to get done. He said the total rough estimate is about \$56 million City-wide and he thinks we need to take a bite out of this and do it. He said the City Manager knows he proposed a large public works project to take advantage of the companies that are done now working on the tollway and the employees that are not working in the housing industry, so odds are there could be a big win, win, win here especially with rates in the bond market at or near all time lows. He said it's possible to borrow the money at a very low cost and get some work done more quickly. He said he's not suggesting the exact method or the exact amount but he would like the staff to look hard at that and see if there is some way that we can maintain the equity in the NIP program. He said he doesn't want to be unfair to any resident in one district or another but he wants to recognize the need to do some work where it needs to be done.

The City Manager said his initial response to that is that he believes one of the reasons that the NIP is difficult each year is because we're currently paying debt service for a \$15 million bond issue that we did some years ago. He said had we done that on a pay-as-you-go basis some of the Councilmen would not be strapped with \$300,000 or \$400,000 or \$500,000 debt service payments now. He said his recommendation to you is to continue to go on a pay-as-you-go basis and try to prioritize those projects that absolutely need to be done. He said he has talked with the Director of Public Works about the list for this \$56 million worth of projects and what that says is there's \$56 million that could be spent; does it need to be spent right now, no. He said many of those streets are adequate and if we maintain them properly and we overlay them, they will be fine for many years. He said it's a wish list and if you wanted to get everything done and have it all be up to snuff that's what you would do, but most cities are not in a position to be able to do the wish list and they look at the items that are most needed and what he would suggest we do is to continue to try to do the things that are most needed. He said if that means we need to work with each other a little bit between districts that's up to the Council to decide where you think the highest priority is, and it's up to us as a staff to do whatever you recommend. He said whatever you decide to do is what we will work on for the next year, 5 years, 10 years, whatever you desire.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER congratulated Joliet Catholic High again for a job well done and wished the Mayor a speedy recovery.

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MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC asked if staff could check on the Silver Leaf development. He said there is a house that is being built right off of McDonough Street and we're getting calls from the Oakwood Estates Homeowners Association because the ordinance states 50% brick is required around the houses that face Oakwood Estates. He asked them to contact Jim Szczepaniak of Oakwood Estates.

MAYOR PRO-TEM UREMOVIC wished the Mayor a very speedy recovery and thanked everyone for coming tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER moved that the Council adjourn.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN BROPHY.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

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ARTHUR SCHULTZ  
Mayor

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JANET K. TRAVEN  
City Clerk

Recorded on Tape