

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois  
held on the 15th day of February, A.D. 2006***

SPECIAL MEETING of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 3:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers, Joliet Municipal Building, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: MAYOR ARTHUR SCHULTZ and DISTRICT 2 COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY M. BROPHY, DISTRICT 5 COUNCILMAN WARREN C. DORRIS, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE THOMAS C. GIARRANTE, DISTRICT 4 COUNCILMAN ALEX LEDESMA, COUNCILWOMAN AT LARGE JAN QUILLMAN and DISTRICT 1 COUNCILMAN JOSEPH R. SHETINA.

ABSENT: COUNCILMAN AT LARGE MICHAEL F. TURK and DISTRICT 3 COUNCILMAN ANTHONY UREMOVIC.

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

A Notice of Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois to be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 3:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, Joliet Municipal Building, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, called by MAYOR SCHULTZ for the purpose of discussing the proposed 2006 Budget was submitted.

The City Manager reviewed a summary of the adjustments that were made in the originally proposed 2006 budget, including funding for the I-55/Rte 59 Access Report, Housing Authority Reimbursement, 3 new Police Lieutenants for a 4 month period, a Roller/Bobcat for the Street Division, increasing the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce allocation, HOME Fund and Block Grant Reductions, and funding for the West Fire, Police and Public Works & Utilities Facilities.

The City Manager advised that the Housing Authority has not renewed their agreement with the City to provide additional police services which paid for three police officers, so the City will be picking up the salaries for those officers who will be assigned to the west side. He said the Housing Authority may want to continue the program on a smaller scale in the future.

Sergeant John Albrecht, President of the FOP Supervisor's Unit, stated that their association would like to address the possibility of an additional Captain for the west side branch. He stated that they need a command structure at that station. He stated that they are happy with the three Lieutenants that were added because they are badly needed, but they also believe a Captain's position is needed. He stated that police officers are assigned out there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He said that when you build a fire station you put all the command structure there when it is built, and it should be the same for this building. He stated that recently there was a lot of vandalism on the far west side and it is important that there is a contact person that these neighborhood organizations can call.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked if that Captain would stay there all of the time.

Sergeant Albrecht stated that they would be assigned to that sub-station.

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois  
held on the 15th day of February, A.D. 2006***

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked for a response from the Administration with respect to this.

The City Manager stated that he and the Police Chief went through the priorities and they don't feel it is feasible to do that this year.

The Police Chief stated that the three Lieutenants that were just discussed are being created for the far west side. He said he feels that adding a Captain also would be overkill and a waste of money. He stated that they want to see how things work when the Lieutenants are in place a year from now. He said that the reason the Lieutenants are to start in October is the non-existence of a list. He stated that the testing process has begun, but it is a six month process.

Sergeant Albrecht stated that he read the other day that the treatment plant on the west side is scheduled to go online. He stated that he wants to make sure that the Police Department management keeps up with the expansion on the west side and that is one of the reasons that the union would like a Captain out there.

The City Manager stated that what you are going to see is steady growth, which is the same type of growth that the City has had. He said that there will be no explosion of growth out there and it has been planned into everything the City is doing. He stated that interim measures have been put in place to bring that on line and the pace has moved right along and the City will continue to move right along. He stated that they appreciate Sgt. Albrecht's input and the Police Chief's advice and it will all be looked at again next year. He stated that the City has done some real advances this year with the additional five people that are being put on and the situation at the Housing Authority that has caused the City to employ three more people. He stated that there are about 15 to 16 new people that will be added this year.

The City Manager said that also included in the budget is the movement of the Fire Maintenance garage west and the establishment of a far west facility for street maintenance someplace out by Arbeiter Road. He said that they put a newer addition onto the Gael Drive facility that is actually four double bays and that will be for the Fire Maintenance Shop. He stated that they are higher doors so you can get the equipment in there and there will be another 30 foot tall double bay added to that same side. He said at the other end of the facility there will be a couple of utility bays added for the Utilities Department. He stated that currently they are still on Washington Street. He said if they have a watermain break far west they have to take all of that equipment out there and come all the way back, which is about 30 to 45 minutes each way. He stated that this will cost about \$500,000, which will be taken out of the Water and Sewer Reserve. He said that the additions to the Fire Maintenance are about \$110,000, which they are suggesting be taken out of the Gaming Reserve. He stated that there will be a fuel facility, an 8 bay Public Works facility and a salt dome far west, and there will still be the Gael Drive facility for the rest of the Public Works Street Division. He stated that Utilities will be located there along with Fire Maintenance and it will be a nice central facility for everything. He stated that Public Works has gone through a phasing program and they would like to bring this whole program and show it to some of the Committees to make sure everyone gets a look at it. He stated that the far west facility will grow as needed from an 8 bay facility to possibly a 22 bay facility over time.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked how many acres the City has on Gael Drive.

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois  
held on the 15th day of February, A.D. 2006***

The City Manager stated that there were 40 acres and about 6 or 8 acres were given to the Park District and probably 20 acres to the Forest Preserve District. He stated that there is some room for expansion in the back. He stated that the storage of vehicles will be moved to the back.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA stated that buffers should be done also at this location.

The City Manager stated that landscaping could be done.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked if the City has any property in mind for the far west side facility.

The City Manager stated that the City needs about 7 acres and they are trying to find a location because it is not really compatible with residential. He stated that the City did talk with the Park District because they also have a need for some far west maintenance facilities.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked what will happen with the site downtown.

The City Manager stated that will still be used for all other maintenance. He stated that has been updated just recently also.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked if two different management staffs are needed.

The City Manager stated that the fire maintenance stands alone and they are self-supervising.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY stated that both libraries need to be kept up because they are big contributors to the community. He asked for an update on the repairs for the City Center facility.

The City Manager stated that they met with the library and they stated that \$1.5 million would be sufficient and last week they met with them again and they said they need another \$1 million or so. He said that he talked with them about timing and they can't get this work done in 2006 anyway. He stated that much of it is going to be done in 2007. He said he asked them to prioritize what they needed right away, and the HVAC system is the priority right now. He stated that they were told to bid that work out now and get that done in 2006 with the money that they have now and if they need more, then they can come back as the City starts their budget process in 2007. He stated that if the City stays within its means it will be fine all the way out to 2009 with a lot of big changes.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN stated she noticed that the Rialto has only \$400,000 allotted to them this year. She stated that there is a bill in Springfield now where each riverboat has to give \$1.5 million to the Rialto. She stated that with all of the publicity the Rialto has been getting lately it is really the jewel of Joliet and it has to be kept up. She said that it is in dire need of major repairs. She stated that Senator Wilhelmi has introduced a bill also that possibly could allow the sale of Rialto II next door and that would generate some revenue. She stated that if neither of those things goes through, they are going to be in trouble in trying to keep this beautiful building in the condition that it really should be in, especially with all of the people who are coming in and out of there now. She said that she was contacted by one of the Board Members who informed her that they really need more money to maintain this building.

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois  
held on the 15th day of February, A.D. 2006***

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked if anything has been prioritized by the Rialto Board or staff.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN stated they have not been able to meet due to illnesses.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked when was the last time our staff looked at the Rialto budget.

The City Manager stated that the City's Budget Analyst attends all of their meetings. He said that the staff did meet with the Rialto management and they have needs, but they also have programs they are working on to try and fund them. He stated that some are legislative and some are fundraising. He stated that they get \$400,000 in the budget and \$148,000 of hotel/motel funds, plus in addition to that there is a little excess that builds up from time to time. He said that there is probably \$250,000 available in that fund and every year they usually identify projects to use that funding. He stated that this excess amount is in the hotel/motel tax fund and there will be more by the end of 2006. He said that between now and the end of this year there will be about \$400,000 available to them beyond the \$400,000 allocated in the budget. He said they have loans and they are looking for operating funds also. He stated they were told to ask for the \$250,000 that is available now and they could pay off their bank debt and pick up the operating funds. He stated that they are about to do that. He stated that there is still going to be another \$150,000 during 2006 that they can develop a priority list for and then they will come in and make their case to the Council for it.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY stated he would like to study the selling of Rialto II and if appropriate look at a Resolution that supports it and send it to our legislators.

The City Manager stated that they are doing a feasibility study which would identify what part of their operating expenses is going into that building. He stated that when they get that done it will be brought to the Finance Committee to look at.

COUNCILMAN LEDESMA asked what the Rialto does with all the money that they make off the acts they bring in.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN stated that a lot of the shows they bring in such as Jerry Seinfeld, for example, are rentals. She said that it depends on what kind of deal is made, and many of the acts cost a lot.

COUNCILMAN TURK arrived at the meeting at this point.

The City Manager stated that the Rialto is not losing money on their shows now, even though they aren't making a lot of profit. He stated that they are a great asset to the community and they are doing many more shows now than they did in the past.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked for an update on the radium removal.

The City Manager stated that the program is just getting started now, and by 2007, the City will be well within the EPA standards.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked about the water program as far as providing water far west.

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois  
held on the 15th day of February, A.D. 2006***

The Director of Public Works and Utilities stated that everything is under contract. He stated that two wells are being drilled right now and then they will move to another well site. He said that they are also going through all the existing wells and replacing pumps that have lost capacity. He stated that all the wells except Well No. 27, which is a deep well on Black Road east of Ridge Road, should be operational in May. He said that the City will go to even/odd with hours year round for watering. He stated that Well No. 27 should be done in June.

The City Manager stated that the highest demand was around 25 million gallons and the City will be at about 33 million gallons in terms of capacity. He congratulated the Director of Public Works and Utilities for getting the Sewage Treatment Plant on line in January. He stated that was a huge project.

The Director of Public Works and Utilities stated that all the water treatment plants are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007. He stated that the one that may be a problem is the Caterpillar well that was added to the program late. He said that it is currently programmed to be the last treatment plant, but the equipment is already in the equipment contract with a change order so everything is on track. He stated that the City is building 11 water treatment plants. He said that this budget keeps everything funded.

The City Manager stated that the last thing that will be done is the combined sewer overflow that has to be done to satisfy EPA rules and that will require another bond issue. He said revenue to support that bond issue, the debt service, is in this budget and is programmed in the future years also to take care of that. He said that sometime during 2006 or 2007 the Council should see the last bond issue that is required for all of these capital improvements and then the water and sewer system will all be completed.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked what the end date is for the combined sewer overflow system to be completed.

The Director of Public Works and Utilities said in 2008.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked if the CSO date includes residential separation.

The Director of Public Works and Utilities stated that it does not.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY stated then there still could be blocks and blocks that can't enjoy the storm sewer system that was built because their sewage is combined with their storm water.

The Director of Public Works and Utilities stated that is correct, but there is very little of that left.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked how many high priority areas are left.

The Director of Public Works and Utilities stated that a lot of what is left is in neighborhoods where the sewer was originally designed as a combined sewer and they don't experience back ups. He stated that the neighborhoods they were the most worried about were the neighborhoods where it was designed as a separate sewer connected to a sewer and that is the project that is being done with the sump pumps outside the house. He stated that is the one that gets water out of the basements.

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois  
held on the 15th day of February, A.D. 2006***

The City Manager stated that the Neighborhood Improvement Program has made a huge difference and also the sump pump program.

COUNCILMAN LEDESMA asked if Neighborhood Improvement Program funds will increase.

The City Manager stated that there is no plan to increase the NIP. He stated that in order to stay balanced through 2009 there is no extra funding available. He said that if revenue sources come in above what has been laid out in the four year plan, those revenue sources can be used for whatever the Council wants.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS left the meeting at this point.

COUNCILMAN LEDESMA stated he would like any extra revenue sources to be put into NIP before it is put somewhere else.

The City Manager stated that if you put it anywhere, think about what you are going to do in 2010 because the City is balanced through 2009 and in 2010 there will be a gap of about \$15 million. He said that what is being suggested is that the extra funding that is being developed in the gaming funds be saved and rolled over. He stated that this budget has about \$10 million being rolled over into next year and most of that continues to roll over until 2009. He stated that you need to develop a source to plug the gap in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked about the Route 59 interchange.

The City Manager stated that the deal that Senator Wilhelmi was able to make with IDOT is that if the interchange study was approved that they would approve the funding to change the plans which would cause the intersection to be able to be raised up. He stated all of that work is being done. He stated that the construction has not been worked out yet so there are four or five months in which to work on this, and if it is feasible then the City will have to try and figure out how the City will fund the interchange in two pieces. He stated that the first piece is probably \$2.5 million, which is raising up the Seil Road interchange, and the other is probably another \$15 million. He said that the staff is working on a couple of things including a letter to Senator Wilhelmi asking him if he would talk with the Governor about the big bond program that is coming up, which is \$3.2 billion, to see if funding is in there for the interchange. He stated that this is a high priority interchange and it could develop a great project that would be good for the State and good for the City. He stated if the City gets an obligation to pay for some of the initial phase, the Administration would probably suggest that future Motor Fuel Tax Funds be used to pay for some of that. He said that if that doesn't get raised up there will never be an interchange so it has to get done now.

The City Manager noted that the proposed budget includes an increase in the development impact fees, a \$1 per month increase in the refuse collection fees, and the continuation of a 2% increase in the water and sewer rates.

It was suggested that the proposed 2006 Budget and the fee increases be placed on the next Council meeting agenda for approval, and there were no objections.

The meeting adjourned.

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois  
held on the 15th day of February, A.D. 2006***

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ARTHUR SCHULTZ  
MAYOR

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JANET K. TRAVEN  
CITY CLERK

Recorded on Tape