

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois  
held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, A.D. 2009***

SPECIAL MEETING of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois called for the purpose of discussing PERSONNEL AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING MATTERS held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 4:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers, Joliet Municipal Building, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: MAYOR ARTHUR SCHULTZ 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, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE MICHAEL F. TURK and DISTRICT 3 COUNCILMAN ANTHONY UREMOVIC.

ABSENT: NONE.

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

The City Manager said this special meeting was called for the purpose of reporting to the Mayor and Council what was discussed at the meeting held with the health insurance committee last week. He said union leadership is present today and they will be available during or after the closed session for any further discussions.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said before we do that she has something she'd like to bring up. She said she has to question why we're going into closed session. She said first of all she wants to know who's negotiating this contract, is it the City Manager or is it a member of this City Council, because apparently the minutes of the April 21<sup>st</sup> closed session meeting have been disclosed to the Fire Department retirees. She said e-mails were sent out to the retirees saying what was going to be discussed at this closed session and that a tentative agreement has been reached with the unions and that this certain person has lobbied the Council and is going to make a motion to pull retiree co-pay off of the proposal at the special meeting today and has the votes to have it removed. She said she knows it's not a legal issue but to her it is a very ethical issue, and she'd like to know why these were disclosed without Council consent and why somebody else is undermining the City Manager, but what really bothers her is that other personnel issues were discussed in these closed meeting minutes and it's all over and we have several personnel items that were discussed and these folks are very upset. She said instead of going into closed session why don't we just talk about it in the open since all of the information is out there anyway.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA moved to go into closed session.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she wants her question answered.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said he's asking to go into closed session.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said he wants to address that. He said at the meeting at Cantigny Post it was brought up that two members of this Council supported the union's proposal in executive session; that is a lie. He said he doesn't mind if people lie but when they lie and make him look bad he has a

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problem with that, that is why he disclosed the minutes of the executive session and he has a tape of the minutes of the executive session and nowhere in any of that did any member of this Council say that they supported the union's proposal and that is why he brought it up.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said there is other stuff mentioned in the minutes and she doesn't want to go into it because of other employees, but what really disturbs her is the confidentiality of these meetings when we're discussing personnel and one Councilperson takes it upon themselves to disclose these minutes without discussing it with not even the Mayor or anybody else on this Council and she takes issue with that.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said he takes issue when someone lies and they say things that are not true.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked who is "they" and COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said yourself.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she never said anything.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said to Councilwoman Quillman that he was told she made the statement that she supported the union's position and that was made public at the Cantigny Post the night of that meeting and nowhere in that meeting did she ever say that she supported that.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said right, she never said that, period. She said the first thing she knew about these closed session minutes being out there was when we went to the trades dinner and she was asked what happened and she said she did not want to discuss what happened in that meeting because that's not ethical; she doesn't work that way.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA called for a point of order.

COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC said the real issue here is who said what. He said he would rather have the union members with us when we meet and make sure that the May 4<sup>th</sup> minutes are typed verbatim and make sure all of us have a tape on that so there will be no questions after that. He said that's where he stands on this and then we'll see who said what and there will be no questions. He said why not have them come down right now, why wait, he doesn't understand that.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said he again moves that we go into executive session, seconded by COUNCILMAN DORRIS.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked if we're going to have the members of the union present.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said no.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she wants them present.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said that's not included in his motion.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said the City Manager stated the union representatives would be available if we want them to come in, but he thinks that with some of the things that have been raised here this City Council needs to go into executive

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session. He said we have a motion on the floor and it's been seconded and he would like to call the roll.

COUNCILMAN TURK asked if union membership will be here if we need them and we'll come back up here and take any action if necessary.

The City Manager said if necessary. He said it wasn't anticipated that we'd have final action today. He said he thinks what we're looking for is direction from the Council. He said if the Council's direction is favorable to what the final proposal is then we'll need to commit everything to writing and make sure that document is agreed upon by the bargaining team and City management and we would bring it back to the Council for final approval. He said he thinks the bargaining units have to take the same proposal back to their membership. He said they've made it crystal clear to him that that's not a done deal either; obviously the membership still has the right to vote on this and we're just trying to take this in the logical steps that we do with all of the contract negotiations that we have. He said this is obviously a little different because we've never had a reopener on health insurance before so it's new territory but we think we've teed this up in a logical progression for us to proceed. He said his request is to go into closed session to discuss this so we can tell the Council what was discussed at our last meeting. He said the union representatives will be available to be present to come into the closed session if there are questions or if there is a need for a presentation from the bargaining units.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said so the Council is just going to be made aware of what has been discussed with the unions.

The City Manager said that's correct. He said he will tell the Council what the position was as of the meeting that we had Thursday.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said we should know what they know.

MAYOR SCHULTZ said so that is the only thing we're going to discuss in closed door.

The City Manager said yes, the collective bargaining matter dealing with health insurance.

A roll call vote was taken on COUNCILMAN SHETINA's motion that the Council recess to closed session to discuss personnel and collective bargaining matters at 4:10 p.m. after which the meeting will be reconvened.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN DORRIS.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

The meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m. with COUNCILMAN DORRIS being absent.

The City Manager said he has been directed to let the bargaining units know that the proposal that was presented at the meeting last week is feasible; there is some fine tuning that needs to happen and he thinks there are some issues with

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part timers and he knows there's been some agreements on it but we need to sit down and make sure that everything is committed to in writing. He said one issue that is of major importance to the Council is the reopener. He said the reopener can be an issue that may keep us from getting to finality on the health insurance and without us knowing what the reopeners are we're not in a position to give it the final stamp of approval tonight. He said consensus from the entire Council, which includes all nine members and Councilman Dorris who was present for the entire closed session, was that what was agreed upon or presented by the bargaining units last Thursday is feasible and something that the Council would like to work with.

Local #2369 President Greg Blaskey asked what the issue is with the reopener.

The City Manager said we'd like to know what the reopener is. He said what we don't want to do is take three steps forward and four steps back. He said we know the unions are going to be reasonable on their reopener knowing what the City's economic condition is and why we're even at this stage asking for health insurance to be paid for by employees and also asking for other contract adjustments. He said until that reopener issue is clarified, the Council is not in a position to give it's final approval to the health insurance plan. He said he hopes he has accurately summarized the Council's position on the issue.

Mr. Blaskey said they are ready to present their reopener at any time.

The City Manager said we would like to meet with each of the bargaining units in the next couple of days. He said the Council will be meeting next Monday and we would like to be in a position to let them know what the reopeners are by Monday if that works for the bargaining units.

MAYOR SCHULTZ said it doesn't have to be that quick.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said if we have to we can have another special meeting.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked the union members present if she called any of them personally after the closed session meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> to say she did this and she did that. She asked if she revealed any of that.

All of the union members present said she did not.

COUNCILMAN TURK moved that the Council adjourn at 6:10 p.m.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEN BROPHY, GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN, COUNCILMEN SHETINA, TURK, UREMOVIC, COUNCILWOMAN BARBER and MAYOR SCHULTZ.

NAYS: NONE.

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ARTHUR SCHULTZ  
Mayor

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JANET K. TRAVEN  
City Clerk

Recorded on Tape