

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois
held on the 18th day of May, A.D. 2009***

PRE-COUNCIL MEETING of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Monday, May 18, 2009 at 3:30 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, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE THOMAS C. GIARRANTE, COUNCILWOMAN AT LARGE JAN QUILLMAN, DISTRICT 1 COUNCILMAN JOSEPH R. SHETINA and DISTRICT 3 COUNCILMAN ANTHONY UREMOVIC.

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

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

1. Strand Engineering re: Presentation of Awards to the City for the Water Treatment Facilities

Mr. Chris Ulm and Darcie Gabrisko of Strand Associates were in attendance to present several awards to the City of Joliet.

Mr. Ulm said in September 2003 the City of Joliet began a project to bring its potable water supply into compliance with new radium regulations and also renew many other of the system facilities for a total of 6 deep wells, 5 shallow wells, 10 water treatment plants, 2 new booster stations, 3 rehabilitated booster stations, 1 new 4 million gallon storage tank and a state of the art computer control and monitoring system that were added over the course of the 5 year project all without any interruption to the service that was taking place. He said a total of about \$54 million was spent on the project and it increased the City's water supply capability to almost 34 million gallons per day which will last many years to come, and then the system can easily upgrade to almost 50 million gallons a day when that initial capacity does run out. He said all of the water is now radium compliant using a new technology.

Mr. Ulm presented the American Public Works Association (APWA) Southwest Branch Project of the Year award, the APWA Metro Chapter Project of the Year award, the American Consulting Engineers Council Illinois Section Engineering Excellence Honor Award and the American Consulting Engineers Council National Recognition Award. He thanked the Council for selecting Strand to assist with this project and he also thanked current and retired staff members Tom Thanas, Jim Eggen, Harold Harty, Bon Mui, John Mezera and Dennis Duffield for their support and efforts.

The City Manager said he has gone to a couple of the awards ceremonies and we're competing with some very big and impressive projects. He said we seem to be right there at the top and we're very thankful for Strand's involvement and helping us get this project done. He said he thinks the ultimate compliment is they're doing some similar work for other communities now that would like to do what Joliet started in 2003. He thanked Chris and Darcie for their hard work and also staff who had a huge part in this.

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COUNCILMAN BROPHY said this and other projects like it have really changed the face of what our public works has been able to do with regard to water and sewer, however the public isn't necessarily aware of it. He said good news like this needs to be published and communicated.

The City Manager then asked for the Mayor and Council's indulgence in moving several items up on the agenda due to the presence of interested individuals.

The City Manager first explained Council Memo #415-09 dealing with the Vacation of the previously approved Stryker Professional Campus PUD and approval of a new Preliminary Plat of Stryker Professional Campus PUD.

Mr. Gene Briscoe and Mr. Keith Conroy were present on behalf of the petitions.

COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC said basically the only change is to the retention area.

Mr. Briscoe said basically that's it; they had to relocate part of their parking in order to not have to deal with the Army Corp of Engineers any further regarding a little swale that runs through there.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked if he had any idea when construction would start.

Mr. Briscoe said they're working with a couple of prospects right now and he hopes to land one of them so that by fall they could be moving some dirt.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said there are no dumpsters in this drawing.

Mr. Briscoe said this is just the preliminary plat and on the final plat is when they will finalize the actual parking lot layout and all the other things that go along with that, including the dumpster layouts. He said when a person comes in to get a building permit for one of the buildings they'll also bring in the site and landscape plan, the dumpster plan and the parking plan for review.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said this is all a 9 to 5 RB type use, but if there is a user with any heavy garbage production then we're going to need some dumpster space somewhere so staff has to be cognizant of that. He said he would like staff to pay attention to the back door and escape plan. He said he can't tell if the emergency escape toward the back of these buildings is a fall off or a step down and he wants to make sure that isn't the case.

Mr. Briscoe said on the lower level there will be a sidewalk and there will be some type of a rear access to the back of the building and an entrance onto a sidewalk that will lead to the parking in the front of the building.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked about the upper level and if there is a need for an upper level backdoor escape.

The City Manager said he's not sure but we'd certainly work with staff to make sure that we'll have whatever ingress and egress is required by code.

It was requested that these items be voted on today.

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2. AN ORDINANCE Approving the Vacation of Stryker Professional Campus PUD as recommended by the Plan Commission was presented and read. (#V-4-09/Dist. #3)
(Council Memo #415-09)
(ORDINANCE NO. 16471)
3. AN ORDINANCE Approving the Preliminary Plat of Stryker Professional Campus PUD as recommended by the Plan Commission was presented and read. (#P-2-09/Dist. #3)
(Council Memo #415-09)
(ORDINANCE NO. 16472)

COUNCILMAN SHETINA moved that said Ordinances be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

Deputy Liquor Commissioner Dan Campus then explained Council Memo #461-09 dealing with the Transfer of a Class "I-D" Liquor License at 324 Collins Street.

It was requested that this item be voted on today.

4. Transfer of a Class "I-D" Liquor License at 324 Collins Street
(Council Memo #461-09)

A communication from the Liquor Commissioner regarding the application of Rodriguez1 Inc. (Rachel Reyes and Leticia Garcia) d/b/a La Villa Restaurant for the transfer of a Class "I-D" Liquor License at 324 Collins Street contained his recommendation that the transfer of this license is in the best interest of the City, and therefore, approval is recommended.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY moved that the recommendation of the Liquor Commissioner be concurred in.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

Deputy Liquor Commissioner Dan Campus then explained Council Memo #462-09 dealing with the Issuance of a Class "D" Liquor License at 3567 W. Jefferson Street.

5. Issuance of a Class "D" Liquor License at 3567 W. Jefferson Street
(Council Memo #462-09)

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A communication from the Liquor Commissioner regarding the application of Pita Patio Inc. (George and Eleni Anastopoulos) d/b/a Johnny's Beef & Gyros for the issuance of a Class "D" Liquor License at 3567 W. Jefferson Street contained his recommendation that the issuance of this license is in the best interest of the City, and therefore, approval is recommended.

COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC moved that the recommendation of the Liquor Commissioner be concurred in.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

The City Manager then went to the beginning of the agenda to explain the remaining items.

The City Manager explained Council Memo #416-09 dealing with the Extension of an existing Boundary Line Agreement with the Village of Channahon and a new Boundary Line Agreement with the Village of Minooka.

COUNCILMAN TURK arrived at the meeting at this point.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked if there has been any conversation with Shorewood.

The City Manager said we're currently talking with Shorewood about sewage treatment issues and about the boundary agreement which has five years left on it, but we think now is a good time to start talking. He said one issue involves Shorewood having to build their own sewage treatment plant and whether we might be able to provide service to them in lieu of them building their own plant. He said that would certainly help with some economic issues and some other projects that we have in mind, and we'll be bringing that back to the City Council in the next couple of months.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked what our sewer capacity is.

The City Manager said right now we have lots of capacity at the Aux Sable plant which is probably running at about 20%–25%. He said there is some capacity at the West Side Sewage Treatment Plant but we're talking about shifting some of that capacity to the Aux Sable plant to get that running more efficiently and freeing up some capacity at the West Side Sewage Treatment Plant so we can take on some additional responsibility from Shorewood. He said we currently have a sewage treatment agreement with Shorewood that has been in existence for almost 20 years and we're talking about adding some capacity to that to help with our business end where we can generate some additional revenue and Shorewood would have some savings if they don't end up building their own plant and having to run it. He said we're working with the engineering team on that to try to bring a recommendation back to the City Council.

The City Manager then explained the remaining items on the agenda.

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COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she received a phone call this afternoon from James Machak questioning the pole buildings that were built on Mound Road by the landfill. She said she understands there is a court date pending but in the meantime they're housing horses there. She asked if we can evict horses like we would be able to evict people since they are illegal.

The Corporation Counsel said if it's a violation of the law it doesn't matter if it involves animals.

The City Manager said he's guessing these are horses that are probably used as part of the horse show that is being proposed again this summer.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said that was her other question. She asked if they had a horse show yesterday.

The City Manager said he doesn't know and he doesn't know if anybody has checked it out.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said he was out there and he didn't see anything.

The City Manager said they have been informed not to have anything until we make a final decision on their application. He said they have applied for an amusement license again as they did last year and that's currently under review. He said there are several matters that are being dealt with including this particular item and we need to sort through all of that before a final decision is made.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said the other question that was brought up was that by digging and building those pole buildings without permits and surveys, they may have contaminated the well that is there also. She asked if we can do some water studies on that well which is on Mr. Machak's property.

The City Manager said he doesn't know if we want to take on the costs because that's in the County. He said we'll certainly look at that and we've heard as part of this process that there has been a penetration of the cap of the landfill. He said we are currently asking for information to show us how deep the poles are. He said the IEPA is investigating this part of it. He said it's really an IEPA function as they have jurisdiction over a closed landfill and they have the expertise and the engineers on staff that make those determinations and they and the State's Attorney's office and Attorney General's office have enforcement action that they can take against the landfill operator if there has been a violation of the closure order that was issued by the IEPA when the landfill was closed many years ago. He said we're working with them; it's not moving along as quickly as we'd like to see it move along so we can make some decisions about what to do with it this year. He said he knows that the horse show operator would love to get going on it but we're reluctant to authorize it until we have all of the answers to our questions.

COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC asked for an update on the Larkin and Houbolt/I-80 enhancement.

The City Manager said Councilman Uremovic had made a request that we clean up the interchanges that lead into Joliet and to look at a landscaping project that will make those interchanges look a lot nicer. He said we've seen some interchanges in other communities that have been improved like Rt. 53 and I-55

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in Bolingbrook and we're trying to work with IDOT to get permission to do something similar to that. He said the cleanup will proceed and we have some improvements that we made previously with landscaping and mulch and putting a monument sign there and he thinks that's probably part of the cleanup and we'll get that taken care of. He said we're getting a proposal on doing something that will look a lot nicer long term.

The City Manager advised there was a need for a closed session to discuss personnel, land acquisition, pending litigation and collective bargaining.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE moved that the Council recess to closed session at 4:10 p.m. to discuss personnel, land acquisition, pending litigation and collective bargaining after which the meeting will be adjourned.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN SHETINA.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ARTHUR SCHULTZ
Mayor

JANET K. TRAVEN
City Clerk

Recorded on Tape