

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois
held on the 5th day of May, A.D. 2009***

REGULAR MEETING of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, Joliet Municipal Building, 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois.

INVOCATION

An Invocation was delivered by Father Chris Groh, St. Mary Nativity Catholic Church, 710 N. Broadway Street, Joliet, Illinois.

Father Groh then led the pledge to the flag.

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, COUNCILWOMAN AT LARGE JAN QUILLMAN, DISTRICT 1 COUNCILMAN JOSEPH R. SHETINA, COUNCILMAN AT LARGE MICHAEL F. TURK and DISTRICT 3 COUNCILMAN ANTHONY UREMOVIC.

ABSENT: DISTRICT 4 COUNCILWOMAN SUSIE A. BARBER.

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

OATH OF OFFICE FOR RE-ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

The City Clerk administered individually the Oath of Office to Councilman Elect Thomas C. Giarrante, Councilwoman Elect Jan Hallums Quillman and Councilman Elect Michael F. Turk.

STATEMENTS FROM RE-ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE thanked his wife Rose of 47 years for putting up with the hectic campaign. He thanked all of the citizens of this great City of Joliet for having the confidence to re-elect him to serve the citizens for the next four years. He said to those of you who did not support him hopefully over the next four years he will gain your support and confidence. He thanked the bargaining units of the City of Joliet including Local 440, Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council, Joliet Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council, Local 44 and Local 2369 for all of their support and confidence. He thanked his family, friends and campaign committee for all of their hard work. He also thanked the Will-Grundy Central Building Trades and Will-Grundy Central Trades for their continued support. He thanked everyone for all they did to help him get re-elected and said he couldn't have done it without them.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN thanked God for getting us through this and she knows He will be with us through these hard times. She thanked her wonderful committee and everybody that volunteered to go door to door. She thanked John Albrecht and Chris Lunningham for their help and so many others too numerous to mention. She thanked her Dad and her mother-in-law who did stickers and stuffed envelopes, the people that made phone calls and her niece who put up with her aunt and uncle not being home to make dinner and her having to eat a lot of fast food. She thanked her husband of soon to be 29 years on May 24th

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who just recently retired for his support and years of service to the City of Joliet; she is very proud of him. She also wanted to thank all of the unions that supported her and the trades too numerous to mention because she doesn't want to leave anyone out but she does want to thank them and she sees a lot of them that are represented here today and she thanks them for that as well. She thanked the citizens of Joliet for allowing her to serve for another four years. She said the first four years are quite a learning curve and now that's she's learned so much it's getting down to business and making things happen and getting things done. She said there's a lot of hard work ahead of them and some hard decisions are going to have to be made but she's not afraid to make those decisions. She wanted to thank all of the candidates that ran, just because they're not up here taking the Oath of Office doesn't mean they're losers, and she thanked them for running and putting themselves out there and for a nice, clean campaign that everybody ran in this election. She said with that she is humbled and honored that the citizens allowed her to continue to serve them for another four years. She said she knows it's not enough but all she can say is thank you and this moment is bittersweet because four years ago her Mother was here and she's not tonight, but she feels she is with her and she thanks Mom and everybody.

COUNCILMAN TURK thanked all of those who voted for him in the election and all of the union and labor support that he has received in this election and over the years. He said he is very appreciative to all of those that allowed him to put signs in their yards and with all of the help he had putting them up and then taking them down. He thanked his friends Jim and Vicki Murphy for their assistance with all of his media advertising, their advice and their support. He said he also appreciates the help of the City Manager and each and every City of Joliet employee who he has worked with to help him do his job. He thanked Mayor Schultz and his fellow Councilpersons for their support. He said it's an honor to serve on the Joliet City Council and with all of them. He said a big thank you to his Dad Stan Turk for all of the guidance and support he has given him not only during the campaign but always. He said he had a handle on all of his signs and put up the large majority of them himself. He thanked his brother, sister-in-laws, brother-in-law, nieces and nephews and his entire extended family for all of their help and support; it is truly a family effort. He said finally he would like to thank his wife Kathy of 19 years who was extremely understanding and supportive of all of his endeavors who plans their schedule around Council Meetings, Council Committees and other Council events which can change at a moment's notice. He said he would not be able to do his job without her support. He said he loves her and thanks her. He said he looks forward to working with everyone to move Joliet forward during these difficult financial times and thank you very much.

PRESENTATION BY CANTIGNY POST #367

Commander Ron Fleig, Mr. Jerry Wirkus and Mr. Jim Clausen of Cantigny Post #367 presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to the Mayor and City Council.

Commander Fleig stated the City came to their aid a year ago when they were in trouble and now they are back solvent again but the City has some needs. He said they would like to return the \$5,000 that was granted to them back to the Mayor and Council to help out the City.

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MAYOR SCHULTZ then moved up the Proclamation on the agenda at this time.

A. Proclamation re: Proclaiming May 7, 2009 as "Westfield Louis Joliet Day"

COUNCILMAN SHETINA read a Proclamation issued by MAYOR SCHULTZ proclaiming May 7, 2009 as "Westfield Louis Joliet Day" as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary and the grand opening of a new state-of-the-art 14-screen Cinemark Theatre.

Mr. Bob Koys and Ms. Kate Knuth accepted the Proclamation on behalf of Westfield Louis Joliet. Mr. Koys said it is with the support of the City, it's workforce and our partners including Cinemark that we were able to complete this project on schedule and in time for a fabulous summer blockbuster season.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE moved that the minutes of the Pre-Council Meeting of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Monday, April 20, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. and of the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. stand approved as recorded.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN DORRIS.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND AGENDA ITEMS

A. Public Service

COUNCILMAN TURK said the Public Service Committee met this morning and reviewed the contracts, change orders, pay estimates and final payments and found them all to be in order and recommended their approval.

There were no other Committee reports.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve 2009 Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP) Modification No. 4 – Modification to the 2009 Districts 1 through 5 Neighborhood Improvement Programs
(Council Memo #376-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve the following modifications to the 2009 Neighborhood Improvement Program:

- 1) District 1: Deduct the 2009 Summer Work Program (\$25,000.00), the Tree Program (\$88,815.00), the Cumberland Subdivision Entrance Monument Signs (\$44,000.00) and \$442,185.00 from the District 1 2009 Contingency Fund.

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- 2) District 2: Deduct the 2009 Summer Work Program (\$25,000.00), the Tree Program (\$37,715.00), the Mason/Wilcox/U.S. 30 Beautification Project (\$150,000.00), the Taylor Street at U.S. 30 Beautification Project (\$117,200.00), the Terry Drive and Black Road Decorative Pillar Project (\$39,420.00) and \$230,665.00 from the District 2 2009 Contingency Fund.
- 3) District 3: Deduct the 2009 Summer Work Program (\$25,000.00), the Tree Program (\$15,275.00), the Cyclic Tree Pruning (\$23,812.50), the 2009 Sidewalk Program (\$5,000.00), the Houbolt/McDonough Imp. & Leg Intersect. (\$85,000.00), the Wooded Creek Parkway Tree Planting (\$12,000.00) and \$433,912.50 from the District 3 2009 Contingency Fund. Add the Ivy Street (Margaret-Stryker) Roadway Reconstruction Project (\$67,590.00).
- 4) District 4: Deduct the 2009 Summer Work Program (\$25,000.00), the Tree Program (\$29,605.00), the Briggs Street YMCA Sports Field Project (\$50,000.00) and \$495,395.00 from the District 4 2009 Contingency Fund.
- 5) District 5: Deduct the 2009 Summer Work Program (\$25,000.00), the Tree Program (\$15,275.00), the Briggs Street YMCA Sports Field Project (\$50,000.00), the Dewey Avenue (McDonough-Morgan) Roadway Reconstruction Project (\$138,872.00), the Senior Services Center Project (\$66,667.00) and \$304,186.00 from the District 5 2009 Contingency Fund.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked for an explanation of the revised memo.

The City Manager stated as a result of the conversation yesterday at the Pre-Council Meeting, some changes were made to the reductions in the District 3 NIP allocation, otherwise the Council Memo and what's being proposed by the Administration remains the same which is the reduction of the NIP program for 2009 by \$3 million. He said we'll see about a \$4 million drop in gaming tax from the unfortunate fire at the Empress and that was already on top of the \$2.5 million that we were projecting as a shortfall for 2009 as well as a substantial sales tax drop that we're seeing to the tune of about 11%. He said the Administration is recommending that there be a \$3 million reduction in the NIP program for 2009.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said pursuant to our conversation yesterday with regards to the balance of the contingency on Cumberland, he still wants to talk to the Director of Public Works about that issue as he has enough money to do that project and it has been promised for about 4 years.

The City Manager said there are some contingency funds left in each district and we have a Cumberland meeting in about a week so we'll try to have the matter resolved by then.

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

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN DORRIS.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

A. ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance re: Approving the Preliminary Plat of Cherry Hill Business Park West Subdivision, Unit 4 (#P-1-09/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #379-09)
2. Ordinance re: Approving the Final Plat of Cherry Hill Business Park West Subdivision, Unit 4 (#FP-1-09/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #379-09)
3. Ordinance re: Approving the Recording Plat of Cherry Hill Business Park West Subdivision, Unit 4 (#RP-1-09/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #379-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained a request by the petitioner, Northern Builders, that said items be tabled to the City Council meeting to be held on May 19, 2009 in order to work out a Public Works issue.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY moved that said items be tabled to the May 19, 2009 City Council meeting.

Motion seconded by COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

4. AN ORDINANCE Repealing a Variation of Use to Allow the Continuation of an Existing Three-Unit in an R-3 District Located at 109 – 111 Third Avenue was presented and read.
(#1999-20/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #380-09)

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked the City Manager if we received an explanation on the questions she asked yesterday.

The City Manager said yes and he asked Director of Neighborhood Services Alfredo Melesio to address those issues.

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Mr. Melesio said regarding the elderly mother that was living there and whether or not she was safe and living in a safe, sanitary condition, he doesn't think that Neighborhood Services staff or even the Police Department ever felt that she was in danger when they were vacating the other parts of the building. He said there were a lot of things going on in other units that had a lot of unsafe and unsanitary conditions but her unit was never really a major problem.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said when there are roaches in a building and mold, they're all over, they're not just in the second apartment. She asked what about the stench from the urine and feces in the basement, that doesn't just stay down there, it permeates the whole house.

Mr. Melesio said the other problem is historically it was her individual home and they're dealing with somebody that it's their own personal residence.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she understands that but she thought somebody from a social service agency should have stepped in and gave her a clean place to stay until her place was cleaned up. She said she just finds this embarrassing and appalling that she was allowed to stay there; it wasn't safe and there were dirty conditions. She said if we had the rest of the apartments evicted why would we allow someone to stay like that.

The Director of Neighborhood Services said the other units were evicted for other reasons.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she understands that; she read the whole report. She said that place should have been cleaned before she was allowed to stay there; she should have been taken to a safe place until we made sure everything was fine for her and then we could put her back in her home.

Mr. Melesio said according to today's report from our checkup and the Police Department's checkup, she is fine and her unit is fine.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she would hope that this doesn't happen again and doesn't go on as long as this went on.

Mr. Melesio said the other question was about whether any permits had been secured and why did this take so long. He said basically they have been working for years with the representative of the family who owns the property. He said obviously he is not the best workman but whenever we would talk to him about things to do on the house he would actually do them. He said he would put the siding up and tried to build a deck and did a horrible job and our inspectors went out there and made him fix it. He said sometimes he would get permits and sometimes he wouldn't and we would always be right there behind him, but when we have somebody who was cooperative and was coming in and talking to us and asking what he needs to do next, we try to work with them. He said it would get to an extreme point and then he would do a lot of work and then it would get to another extreme point and he would do a lot of work. He said he had been living there up until a few months ago so they considered it a family home and not a rental and so that's why they worked with him.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked if he found out about the garage in the back and whether it had been there before.

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Mr. Melesio said the garage in the picture was there.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said the one statement says parking should be in the rear of the home and it's off to the side and paved.

Mr. Melesio said we could shut down both of his units but then he won't be able to collect any money to make improvements so we're constantly making those kinds of choices.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she hopes in the future that we could keep a little tighter rein on that and not allow people to live in deplorable conditions such as that.

The City Manager said the recommendation from staff is to take away from the owner the privilege of having a current lawful three-unit apartment building in what was an old single-family home that was built many years ago. He said this owner has not displayed any kind of responsibility to maintain the property in accordance with our ordinances and he has allowed illegal activity to take place there. He said if this ordinance is passed, then we will take that privilege away from him and we'll pursue the matter through enforcement.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN moved that said Ordinance be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN BROPHY.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

(ORDINANCE NO. 16470)

5. Ordinance re: Approving a Special Use Permit to Allow the Expansion of an Existing Community Center and Religious Institution (Salvation Army) Located at 300 E. Third Avenue (#2009-15/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #381-09)

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

B. RESOLUTIONS

1. A RESOLUTION Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with the University of Illinois for Publication of the Neighborhood Newsletter was presented and read.
(Council Memo #385-09)

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE moved that said Resolution be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN TURK.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

(RESOLUTION NO. 6258)

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2. A RESOLUTION Authorizing the Purchase of 1013 Cypress Lane, 2118 Dartmoor Drive, 1300 N. May Street, 837 Mulford Lane and 917 Summit Street for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program was presented and read.
(Council Memo #386-09)

COUNCILMAN BROPHY moved that said Resolution be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN DORRIS.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

Prior to his vote, COUNCILMAN SHETINA said he votes aye but he would also like to have the appraisals available for review. He said he doesn't want copies of them; he would like them available for review in the Neighborhood Services office or somewhere.

(RESOLUTION NO. 6259)

3. A RESOLUTION for Authorization to Enter into a 2009 Justice Assistance Grant Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Joliet and Will County was presented and read.
(Council Memo #387-09)

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE moved that said Resolution be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN SHETINA.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked for a brief explanation.

The City Manager said this is a request for authorization to enter into a grant agreement with the County. He said the City and the County are beneficiaries of a grant from the Federal government in the amount of almost \$460,000.00. He said City staff and County staff have met and we are recommending that we split the grant evenly so the City would receive just under \$230,000.00 and with that grant money we would purchase 20 in-car cameras for squad cars and 7 portable digital cameras that would be installed in downtown Joliet and would be connected to the watch commander's office that would assist us in law enforcement efforts in downtown Joliet.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked if there is any requirement for insurance on any of this or are we self-insured.

The City Manager said we're self-insured on items like this.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked how do you pick the 7 locations for the cameras.

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Police Chief Fred Hayes stated they conduct a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) analysis in the City Center area. He said basically that involves trying to assess locations where we have seen an increase in crime and in problems and we also take into consideration public access and public right-of-ways. He said the availability to actually tap into power sources for cameras also comes into consideration. He said we send people out for specialized training to make that assessment and that's how we are doing this particular project.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY asked if the grant covers the installation.

Police Chief Hayes said yes it does.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said if later on we want to move them then we would have to pick up that cost.

Police Chief Hayes said that's correct.

(RESOLUTION NO. 6260)

BIDS AND CONTRACTS

A. Award of Contracts

1. Authorization for the Foreign Fire Tax Board to Purchase Two Hundred and Five (205) 6-in1 Rescue Tools for the Fire Department
(Council Memo #391-09)

A report on four quotes received for the above contract was accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that the Mayor and Council award the contract to Home Depot in the amount of \$7,207.80.

2. Authorization for the Foreign Fire Tax Board to Purchase Nine (9) Hazardous Materials SCBA Cylinders
(Council Memo #392-09)

A report on three quotes received for the above contract was accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that the Mayor and Council award the contract to MES Corporation in the amount of \$7,803.36.

3. Award of Contract for the Deer Run Estates Sump Pump Project - 2009
(Council Memo #394-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council take the following actions: 1) Reject the bid and rescind the award of contract to Ziesmer Plumbing in the amount of \$55,520.50; and 2) Award the contract to Construction by Camco in the amount of \$83,136.00.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked why Ziesmer Plumbing backed out of the bid.

The Corporation Counsel said they were apparently unaware of the Responsible Bidder Ordinance the Council adopted about two years ago and could not comply based on the training requirements in that ordinance. He said because of that Ziesmer was allowed to withdraw.

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4. Authorization to Purchase and Install Lube Oil Tanks at the Gael Drive Fire Maintenance Facility
(Council Memo #395-09)

A report on two proposals received for the above contract was accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that the Mayor and Council award the contract to P.R. Streich & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$25,470.00.

5. Award of Contract for the 2009 Sidewalk/Curb Replacement Project – 2009 Neighborhood Improvement Program
(Council Memo #396-09)

A report on eight bids received for the above contract was accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that the Mayor and Council award the contract to M & A Cement Works in the amount of \$93,737.00.

The City Manager said this Council Memo was revised as a result of the deletion of the sidewalk program from the 2009 District 3 NIP allocation. He said other funds were used to pick up the balance.

COUNCILMAN TURK said M & A Cement Works has done work for the City before and performed adequately, is that correct.

The Director of Public Works said yes, they have done work for two years.

The City Manager said the bid was almost \$30,000.00 below the engineer's estimate which is something we've been seeing quite a bit recently so it is a nice cost savings for the City.

6. Award of Contract for the 3206 Hickory Creek Drive Yard Drain Project – 2009 Neighborhood Improvement Program
(Council Memo #397-09)

A report on thirteen bids received for the above contract was accompanied by a recommendation from the City Manager that the Mayor and Council award the contract to Ed Henry Concrete Construction in the amount of \$12,245.92.

7. Award of Contract for the Westport/Jeffrey Yard Drains – 2009 Neighborhood Improvement Program
(Council Memo #398-09)

The City Clerk noted that this item was taken off of the agenda.

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

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

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B. Change Orders and Payments:

1. Approve Payment of Tri-River Police Training Membership Dues
(Council Memo #402-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve the payment in the amount of \$19,530.00 on behalf of Tri-River Police Training Region for membership dues for July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2010.

2. Approve Change Order No. 1 to the Contract for Weed Cutting and Clean-up of City Owned Properties
(Council Memo #403-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 1, a decrease in the amount of \$1,736.00 on behalf of Culpeppers Lawn Works.

Mr. Robert Webb commented on this item that money could be saved by this being done by individuals needing community service hours by the courts and the high schools.

3. Approve Change Order No. 1 for the Stryker (Ferris – I-80) Roadway Improvements – 2009 Neighborhood Improvement Program
(Council Memo #404-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$54,090.20 on behalf of P.T. Ferro Construction Co.

4. Approve Change Order No. 1 to the 2009 Plant Mix Contract
(Council Memo #405-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$12,051.80 on behalf of D Construction Inc.

5. Approve Payment to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the Community Water Supply Testing Fund – Fiscal Year 2009
(Council Memo #406-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve the payment of \$26,500.34 on behalf of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the period July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2010.

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6. Approve Change Order No. 1 to the Arbeiter Road Salt Storage Facility Contract
(Council Memo #407-09)

A communication from the City Manager contained his recommendation that the Mayor and Council approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$33,572.00 on behalf of Bulk Storage Inc.

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

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN TURK.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

MAYOR

- A. Proclamation re: Proclaiming May 7, 2009 as Westfield Louis Joliet Day

This item was presented earlier in the meeting.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

COUNCILMAN UREMOVIC said regarding beautification in areas coming into the City like Larkin and Houbolt, he was in Chicago this weekend and they had Cook County inmates doing a lot of pick up work. He asked that we contact County Executive Larry Walsh tomorrow and see if we could get the same thing around these areas on the highway for beautification and clean up. He said a lot of private sector companies are pitching in on beautification along the highway and he's already contacted Frank Quigley and the Empress is interested and so is Midwest Generation, Caterpillar and Sam's Club. He asked that someone contact these individuals tomorrow and start this moving immediately because there is some real interest here and we do have some funding yet for these things.

The City Manager said he would meet with the Planning Department tomorrow and see what the options are and report back to him.

COUNCILMAN TURK said he talked to a retired worker this afternoon who needs everyone's prayers, Jim Embling, who is going through some tough times with the return of his cancer after being in remission for 14 years.

COUNCILMAN TURK then thanked Councilman Shetina for providing the refreshments tonight.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked the City Manager for an update on the Empress.

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The City Manager stated the Empress will be proceeding with the opening of a temporary facility towards the end of June or early July. He said the gaming floor is going through a remodeling process right now which is something that they were already doing on March 20th. He said that has moved forward at a very fast pace. He said General Manager Frank Quigley has assured us that they will be open right around that time frame. He said our staff is working very hard to make sure that the City does whatever it can to help accommodate a quick opening. He said after the temporary facility does open, Penn National Gaming, the parent company, will be bringing in plans for a permanent structure to be built on the location. He said he thinks we will see some very creative and innovative structures built. He said their goal will be to bring back the business that's been lost and then some.

The City Manager said we've gone through a very dramatic change in the gaming industry over the last 18 months and right now throughout the State of Illinois, not just Joliet, gaming facilities are down about 30% in business which translates into tens of millions of dollars of losses for the City of Joliet and other municipalities that host gaming facilities and hundreds of millions of dollars for the State of Illinois. He said a lot of that business unfortunately has been lost from the Chicago area to the four casinos in northwest Indiana. He said it's going to be tough getting that business back but Frank is up to the task and he knows Harrah's is working very hard to do the same to bring that business back. He said we're optimistic but he doesn't think it will return to the levels that we saw in 2007 and he hopes that the business grows again.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked if there is any indication of how much percentage increase has occurred at Harrah's as a result of the Empress fire.

The City Manager said we had hoped for a more dramatic increase at Harrah's but it has only been in the 10% to 12% to 14% range depending upon weekends and weather and things like that. He said it's not been a big jump in their business and he had talked to the general manager of Harrah's right after the fire and they were gearing up for a substantial increase, but he doesn't think that materialized to the level that they had hoped.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said in thanking everyone earlier she left out a very important person in their family, Sister Jeremy Conrath. She said she's always been there to help them including during times of trouble and she thanked Sister Jeremy.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN thanked everyone for coming tonight and supporting them and said she doesn't want to say it again, but she does get it.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY offered condolences to the family of Joe Broderick and asked everyone to keep them in their thoughts and prayers.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY said some thanks are due to some City employees that helped with the low-income, elderly and disabled household modifications on 8 homes that were completed and he thanked the staff. He said we partnered with the Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living, Senior Services and the Will County Center for Community Concerns. He said we got all those jobs done and so now some folks have better access to their homes and we appreciate that project.

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COUNCILMAN BROPHY said there is a meeting on May 11th at the Troy Township offices on Seil Road for the Glenwood Manor homeowners. He said he thinks the main item on the agenda is assessments and the assessor will be there to talk to the homeowners and those that want to attend.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked if this is the same night as the Cumberland meeting again.

The City Manager said they are the same night. He said the Glenwood Manor meeting sounds like it's focusing on township assessments that are usually out of our hands. He said we'll have a representative attend the Glenwood Manor meeting so we can have someone make a report to the Council and if there are any City of Joliet questions that arise and it looks like there is a need for Joliet officials to meet with the homeowners group we'll certainly schedule that quickly.

COUNCILMAN BROPHY then asked the Corporation Counsel about the clock ticking on the Evergreen Terrace appeal, what day are we at.

The Corporation Counsel stated we're about half way through the 45 day period that the ownership and HUD has to file an appeal of the case. He said we have heard nothing and their habit has been to drag everything out as long as they can so we've kind of expected that on day 45 we'll know.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said over the last week or so he's gotten a lot of phone calls and talked to active employees and retirees and they were all courteous. He said one individual that lives in the Neufairfield Subdivision asked about the property on the north side of Route 6 where they're talking about putting a horse trail in. He asked if that is the Will County Forest Preserve's project and not the City's.

The Director of Community and Economic Development said that is in fact the Forest Preserve's project. He said they bought several hundred acres and they are going to put a trail head in right across from Neufairfield. He said he believes some of the trails will be horse friendly but not all of them.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said he also wanted to thank Jim and Vicki Murphy who did all of his ads.

Ms. Zina Lain of 414 Morgan Street commented on numerous complaints she had about her landlord and the landlord's leasing fees.

Fire Captain Greg Blaskey, President of Local 2369 and Chairman of the Joint Insurance Committee representing the unions, said a few months ago they were told by City officials that we were in the midst of a long-term financial crisis the City had not seen in quite some time. He said you asked us to do our part to help; the unions met and decided this was not your average negotiations but an extraordinary issue that needed to be dealt with in a positive and timely fashion. He said the union membership answered that call and offered a plan to save the City over \$2.5 million the first year. He said that offer was presented as an opportunity to show the Council and citizens that they were committed to respond and to respond quickly. He said now they have been told that is not enough. He said while not one other plan has been brought forward before the public to save their hard earned dollars, the membership has stepped up again and it's not enough. He said our retirees have been referred to as a "protected species" as if they were a meaningless group and their years of dedicated service forgotten.

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He said the union membership will remain committed to the citizens by continuing to offer real and attainable solutions to the problems placed before them, but they cannot do it without the support of this Council. He said they are willing to take the time and meet with each Council member individually to answer questions, address their concerns and share ideas. He said when the Council called upon us to meet the challenges of our community we responded, now we are asking that the Council does the same for us.

ADJOURNMENT

COUNCILMAN DORRIS moved that the Council adjourn at 7:22 p.m.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ARTHUR SCHULTZ
Mayor

JANET K. TRAVEN
City Clerk

Recorded on Tape