

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois
held on the 31st day of August, A.D. 2009***

PRE-COUNCIL MEETING of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois held on Monday, August 31, 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 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 2 COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY M. BROPHY.

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

The City Manager 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 #763-09 dealing with the Annexation of 75.63 Acres at the Southwest Corner of Millsdale and Vetter Roads and the Preliminary Plat, Final and Recording Plats of Stepan Industrial Park. He stated everything is the same as was presented to the Mayor and Council previously; there have been no changes from the City's perspective and the negotiations that have been going on over the last few weeks have involved issues pertaining to CenterPoint and Stepan Company.

Attorney David Silverman representing Stepan Company and Mr. Jeremy Grey of CenterPoint Properties were present on behalf of the petition.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she noticed at the public Plan Commission hearing that Mrs. Judy Kreiser had a request about the roads and she asked if that issue had been addressed.

The City Manager said the Vetter Road issue is something that is part of our annexation agreement and Vetter is going to be one of the roads that will be fully improved by CenterPoint as the build-out occurs. He said Vetter will not be rebuilt in the near future; it will take a few years and a lot of that will be dependant upon the velocity with which CenterPoint sells the industrial sites. He said Vetter will not be part of the main road to get into the rail yard so at this point we've asked CenterPoint to continue working with the 10 or so homes that are along Vetter to make sure their access is not impeded. He said at some point in the future there will be a complete reconstruction of Vetter Road.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked if the potholes have been filled in.

The City Manager said yes. He said he and Mr. Grey of CenterPoint Properties have met on a few occasions to actually make sure the potholes were addressed immediately; that also affects Challenge Park/CPX Sports and Leisure Hours. He said there is no doubt that the roads are taking a beating because there is an incredible amount of truck traffic going on out there, but we're trying our best to

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work with the 10 or so residents in that Vetter Road stretch to make sure that we don't infringe on their peace and quiet to the best that we can.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said with respect to the Baseline Road extension, what does it do to the project and to the City and who needs the extension and for what purpose.

The City Manager said Baseline Road is the main artery in and out of the CenterPoint Intermodal Facility that is currently under construction. He said this is pursuant to the annexation agreement that was approved in July of 2008 and what that will connect to is the new Arsenal Road Interchange which will be completely reconstructed as a result of the Capital Bill that was approved by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor a few weeks ago. He said the truck traffic that will be going in and out of the Intermodal Facility will be channeled along the Baseline Road extension which is picking up where Millsdale and Vetter intersect and moving it south to connect with the current Baseline Road that connects the traffic to the Elwood Intermodal Facility. He said there will be one main road into Elwood and that same road will be extended in a northerly direction to connect the Joliet facility with the Arsenal Road Interchange. He said it is a very important connection point.

1. Status Report on CenterPoint Intermodal Center - Joliet

Mr. Jeremy Grey stated he wanted to give the Mayor and Council a status update on the intermodal facility. He said CenterPoint and Union Pacific are pushing forward on the 900 acre intermodal facility and are still shooting for a mid-2010 opening. He said at this point all of their permits have been obtained and he reported on the progress being made of the bridges, public utilities and roadway construction work. He said everything so far is on schedule and they look forward to seeing the Mayor and City Council at the groundbreaking ceremony this Thursday.

MAYOR SCHULTZ asked how much money they have in this project.

Mr. Grey said overall it's a \$2 billion investment.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked if the off-site concerns of the EPA and the sinkhole issues have been addressed.

The City Manager said we've stayed in contact with the citizens who were raising those geological issues during the approval process last year and we will deal with those particular areas when a development proposal comes forward.

The City Manager then explained Council Memo #775-09 dealing with the Dedication of Real Property for a Municipal Well and Water Treatment Facility on CenterPoint Property Located on the North Side of the Realigned Millsdale Road approximately 2,280 ft. East of Vetter Road.

Mr. Grey of CenterPoint Properties was present to respond to any questions.

It was requested that this item be voted on today.

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2. A RESOLUTION Accepting the Dedication of Real Property for a Municipal Well and Water Treatment Facility on CenterPoint Property Located on the North Side of the Realigned Millsdale Road approximately 2,280 ft. East of Vetter Road was presented and read.
(Council Memo #775-09)

COUNCILMAN SHETINA moved that said Resolution be adopted.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

(RESOLUTION NO. 6297)

The City Manager then explained Council Memo #767-09 dealing with a Variation of Use to Allow a Gift Shop at 464 E. Washington Street. He said this petition was tabled at the last Council meeting in order for the applicant to provide an itemized cost estimate plan which has been completed and is attached to the Council Memo.

Mr. Sergio Abrego, the applicant, and Architect Jose Alvarado were present on behalf of the petition.

It was requested that this item be voted on today.

3. AN ORDINANCE Approving a Variation of Use to Allow a Retail Gift Shop in an R-2 District Located at 464 E. Washington Street as recommended by the Zoning Board of Appeals subject to the nine conditions listed in the Council Memo was presented and read. (#2009-29/Dist. #5)
(Council Memo #767-09)

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE moved that said Ordinance be adopted as recommended.

Motion seconded by COUNCILMAN DORRIS.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

(ORDINANCE NO. 16518)

The City Manager then explained Council Memo #765-09 dealing with a Special Use Permit to Allow a Tattoo Studio at 915 W. Jefferson Street. He said staff is requesting that this petition be tabled to the September 15, 2009 Council meeting to allow them time to gather additional information regarding this use at this location and to review how other communities regulate tattoo studios.

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4. Ordinance re: Approving a Special Use Permit to Allow a Tattoo Studio Located at 915 W. Jefferson Street (#2009-34/Dist. #2)
(Council Memo #765-09)

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN moved that said item be tabled to the September 15, 2009 City Council meeting.

Motion seconded by COUNCILWOMAN BARBER.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

5. Presentation on Use of Silver Cross Field by Joliet Township High School District

The City Manager said the proposed use of Silver Cross Field by Joliet Township High School District was a topic of conversation that started a few months ago with Superintendent Paul Swanstrom and Assistant Superintendent Rich Pagliari while talking about the future of Joliet Central and Silver Cross Field and the area between those two facilities and how they can make that area better. He said the conversation involved the creation of a football field knowing that the varsity programs are in the process of splitting so the District would have two programs, one at West and one at Central beginning in 2010. He said at that point we said why don't we explore the opportunity that might exist in Silver Cross Field and see if it could be retrofitted for football and other sports.

The City Manager said the District suggested that we contact Wight & Company who is one of the leading companies in the Chicago area for doing field turf projects at local high schools and colleges. He said we would like to show the Council a concept plan today which is just basically an idea and get the Council's input to decide whether we should keep moving forward because we want to make sure that both boards are operating at the same level. He said if given the green light to take the next step, then we'll need to do some design work with Wight and Company and then the two governmental agencies will have to reach an agreement on the use of the facility, payment for the expenses and how the facility will be managed. He said that agreement will be brought back to the Council and the members of the Joliet Township High School Board.

The City Manager said there are some initial costs such as the cost of getting the concept plan better defined at about \$25,000, and the School Board has indicated they're willing to pay that cost. He said we also have a proposed budget in the range of \$4 million to \$5 million to work with and that is an expense that the Joliet Township High School District would be willing to accept subject to their Board's formal approval and going through the whole process of making sure that's the right fit. He said there will be some other costs that will be City expenses and that goes back to a conversation we had last week at a special meeting with Mr. Pete Ferro and the JackHammers. He said Mr. Ferro has provided us with some information on some design issues that need to be addressed at Silver Cross Field and our recommendation would be to get those issues on the table and if we go to contract to have the field retrofitted for field turf and football and soccer facilities, that we also take care of those other issues

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so we do it all at once. He said that most likely would be at the City's expense since that's our facility and responsibility.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said that cost is there whether or not we do this football field.

The City Manager said that is correct. He said there is no doubt these are issues that need to be addressed. He said just like any other facility that's 7 or 8 years old there is a little wear and tear that needs to be addressed and a couple of things that we need to correct for our particular climate.

The City Manager said one of the benefits of this project would be the expanded use of our great facility from March to November. He said other additional opportunities might include concerts, new sporting activities like lacrosse and rugby and certainly expansion for soccer opportunities which is growing in popularity. He said we would be using it for economic development purposes and we might even see a hockey game there much like Wrigley Field had on January 1st of this year. He said other events might be festivals, graduations and 2016 Olympic opportunities for training for countries that may be coming here to compete in the games. He said we would like to see that become the home of the Steelmens and the home of the JackHammers. He said he knows we need to address the management, expenses, scheduling and those kinds of things but we'd like to make sure the Council is on board before we take the next steps.

The City Manager said one issue he does want to address is the Joliet Park District. He said he wants to make it crystal clear that we're not in competition with the proposal that the Joliet Park District is pursuing; we think it's great that Memorial Stadium is going to see a facelift and get a field turf product down on the floor for its games and it will expand a lot of opportunities. He said he thinks what will happen is Joliet will really be able to market itself as a great location for tournaments including soccer or multiple football games or whatever the case may be. He said he knows it will help us on the item dealing with the 2016 Olympic games which he thinks we're really well positioned to take advantage of.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked if the field is big enough to handle this type of a function.

The City Manager said yes, but it will take some money and some moving of parts of the field. He said Wight and Company has three options to present and we think there is one that is starting to stand out as the leading candidate, but that's something that we need to work on with the School Board and the City Council to make sure that we pick the right option.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said if this is going to cost the City of Joliet any money he would not support it because we're looking at possible layoffs, etc. and we're asking our employees to go without a raise.

The City Manager introduced the members of the High School Board present at the meeting along with Superintendent Swanstrom and Assistant Superintendent Pagliari.

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Mr. Steve Collins, Vice President and Division Manager of Wight & Company, introduced Jim Nagle, Project Executive for Design and Construction Projects, and Leanne Meyer-Smith who will be the project manager if this project goes forward on the architectural side. He also introduced Group President of Architecture Rich Carlson and Chief Civil Engineer Byron Wyns.

Mr. Collins said they've been working around here for a long time and over the last 10 years they have done over \$675 million worth of project activity in Will County including a number of projects for Joliet Township High School, Lewis University, the Valley View School District, Bolingbrook High School and Romeoville and are currently doing a master plan for Will County to take them into the next 30 years.

Mr. Jim Nagle outlined some of the projects they have been involved with and their experience with these projects.

Ms. Leanne Meyer-Smith distributed a sample of the field turf and explained the advantages of synthetic turf. She also discussed the multi-use possibilities of the stadium and the necessary storage needed when switching equipment (i.e. portable pitcher's mound) for different events, locker room space, etc. She then explained the positives and negatives of the three different football field layouts that they are proposing.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA asked which option removes the least number of structures or buildings.

Ms. Meyer-Smith said Option C removes the existing barbeque/concession stand that's in the back in the tent area but nothing else. She said Options A and B remove no buildings.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked what a portable pitcher's mound is.

Ms. Meyer-Smith said it's made of a fiberglass type material and they cover it with the artificial turf surface and it is actually wheeled out and placed on the field and then taken away after the game.

Mr. Nagle said that at this early phase of the project they're just trying to see what's being contemplated from a design standpoint and if it's even something that fits within the concept of the budget. He said they took Site Plan A and put together a total estimated cost of \$5 million.

COUNCILMAN TURK asked if the three site plans are pretty much the same in cost.

Mr. Nagle said A and B are pretty much the same cost but C is going to be a little more expensive because the existing site would have a little more demolition and earthwork and around 2,500 new seats as opposed to 1,200.

COUNCILMAN TURK said last week when we talked about the stadium there was a concern about turning the water on too early in the spring for clean up and things like that, and he asked if there is a concern about keeping the water on inside the stadium that late in the fall or has that been addressed.

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Mr. Nagle said as far as the water for the locker room facilities and that kind of thing that shouldn't be a problem.

COUNCILMAN TURK said but water up to the suites would probably be a concern.

The City Manager said that's something that has been an issue and we need to work on that because certainly the skyboxes are very valuable as part of the football and soccer opportunities so we need to make sure that we address that as part of this project.

Mr. Nagle said as far as the construction schedule goes, it's really as fast as everyone wants to make it and this can be ready for spring baseball, but there is a lot of work and decisions that would have to take place quickly. He said with the College of DuPage they started from scratch in January of 2009 and they're playing football as of a week or two ago. He said the key is decision making early in the project in order to meet some key delivery dates and get site work done this fall and potentially get the turf down by the end of the fall. He said it would require the City and the School District to move quickly on the concept they want and be ready to move forward with that.

Board of Education President Chet June said they are no further along with this than the Council is; for many of them it's the first time they've seen the concept and they need to take a real good look at this.

COUNCILMAN SHETINA said he would assume the input of the baseball owners as well as the City would be engaged with respect to how the final concept would affect them.

Mr. Nagle said absolutely, we're looking for consensus.

Dr. Swanstrom said this is the City's facility and the Council is hearing this full presentation before their Board has heard it. He said we've talked about the concept and this is a conceptual presentation. He said the timeline is important but really the most important thing today is whether or not the Council would entertain the concept and if so, we can get into the details of how it's going to work best for the City and also for the high school students for football and soccer and so forth. He said quite frankly he thinks this is a wonderful opportunity for a joint partnership between the City and the District and he can't see that it's going to be anything but beneficial to the students as well as to the City.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked how does this affect the minor league team we have now as far as the artificial turf and if we went with a portable mound, how does that reflect on the other teams that they play around the country.

Mr. Nagle said that's one of their main concerns too. He said they have identified one minor league team that does have that portable pitchers mound which would be required with Site Plan A. He said it's in Chillicothe, Ohio.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked if that would put our team at a disadvantage.

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Mr. Nagle said he doesn't know that it would put them at a disadvantage but it would certainly be different, and would perhaps be a competitive advantage if they're playing on it all of the time. He said he thinks keeping that mound is probably important but there may be many factors.

The City Manager said the field turf product itself is accepted by the Northern League. He said there are other leagues that authorize the use of field turf and we would certainly engage the JackHammers in the conversation whether it's the pitcher's mound or field turf in general, but he thinks the advantage for them would be the cost of maintaining the grass field which is a very expensive proposition. He said this will reduce their budget and be a six figure savings in what it cost to maintain on an annual basis. He said that would certainly help the JackHammers and City through some of the issues we've been working on recently. He said a lot of the new stadiums that are being built for minor league teams are going with field turf initially because of the long term cost savings. He said the pitcher's mound issue he knows is a foreign concept for those who have played baseball and something we'd have to work on.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she thinks it's a great concept to make use of a field that sits empty when we don't use it for JackHammer games. She said she's not opposed to it and she has other questions when we get to that point, but that was one that was kind of important to her.

Mr. Pete Ferro said this is the first time he's seen this also and he thinks it looks like a very exciting project and one that could be very beneficial to the Jackhammers, the City and the high school. He said he doesn't think the field turf is a problem but we need to check with the Northern League about certain specifications that have to be met. He said he's sure most all of these issues can be worked out and if everyone cooperates this could be a real exciting project. He said it's used 50 times a year and to bring more events in there would be fantastic.

The City Manager said the JackHammers will have a seat at the table along with the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and the City Center Partnership. He said he had invited Russ Slinkard of the Chamber and Tom Mahalik of the Partnership to view this presentation today and they are willing to help us out with this project. He said we see some good spinoff opportunities so that's why we're trying to get key institutions in the downtown area involved in the process.

The City Manager said they are just looking for some direction from the Mayor and City Council. He said they're not looking for a firm commitment today, just a general concept approval.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said he would really like to see the study proceed and said he thinks it would help with our downtown development plan because this would bring more people downtown on Friday evenings. He said he would like to see us at least proceed with the study.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said she would agree with that.

MAYOR SCHULTZ asked if we need to vote on this.

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The City Manager said we're just looking for a consensus from the Council to move forward and he didn't hear any objections so we'll take that as unanimous consensus to keep working with the Joliet Township High School District and Wight Co. and come back in a few weeks with something a little better defined.

Deputy Liquor Commissioner Dan Campus then explained Council Memo #802-09 dealing with the Issuance of a Class "I" Liquor License at 24 Ohio Street.

It was requested that this item be voted on today.

6. Issuance of a Class "I" Liquor License at 24 Ohio Street
(Council Memo #802-09)

A communication from the Liquor Commissioner regarding the application of La Hacienda DeLas Americas, Inc. (Juan and Maria Jaime) d/b/a La Hacienda DeLas Americas Banquet Center and Restaurant for the issuance a Class "I" Liquor License at 24 Ohio Street contained his recommendation that the issuance of this license is not in the best interest of the City, and therefore, denial is recommended.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE moved that the recommendation of the Liquor Commissioner be concurred in and that said application be denied.

Motion seconded by COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ABSTAIN: COUNCILWOMAN BARBER.

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

The City Manager explained Council Memo #769-09 dealing with Amending Chapter 31 of the Code of Ordinances in Regards to Water and Sewer Rates by increasing the volume charge for water and sewer usage by 35% on October 1, 2009 followed by 5% increases on October 1, 2010 and October 1, 2011.

The City Manager explained what impact the proposed rate increases and elimination of the gaming abatements has on several sample water bills with various degrees of usage.

The City Manager said we've seen a drop in tap-on fees from \$9 million in 2005, and it's this \$9 million that we need to replace. He said we've been making transfers from the general fund and doing other things to try to make this work. He said looking out to 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, we really can't stand here and say we're going to get back to the day where we were building 2,000 new houses a year in Joliet. He said we also received about \$2 million in interest that we were getting from the bond issue that was invested and generating income and we've used most of that for major projects such as the 10 water treatment plants, building the Aux Sable Sewage Treatment Plant and quite a few other things over the past few years, and that money is gone. He said we also had the gaming transfer that we would make into the water and sewer fund to help us

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with the abatements that we were giving to our citizens. He said he is again making a request to approve the rate increase.

MAYOR SCHULTZ asked what break does a senior citizen get.

The City Manager said there still will be a senior citizen discount for the daily fee and he asked Finance Director Hugh Brennan to explain.

Mr. Brennan said in 2007 the senior rate was frozen for both the water and sewer consumption and they were receiving 100% rebate on the daily fees. He said those rates stayed frozen up to 2009 and the only thing we've done is we've taken the 100% rebate off. He said they still have a lesser daily fee than a resident owner has. He said as far as the rates are concerned, they were decreased in 2007 so they receive a discounted rate from the resident owner already. He said they would still be receiving about a 10% to 12% discount on their water bill depending on their consumption.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN asked how much in the long run is this going to save the City.

The City Manager said this should generate \$13 million per year and that basically replaces the \$9 million that we lost through the tap-on fee process, \$2 million in bond interest and the \$1 million in gaming revenue. He said it's about a \$13 million pot that is being created to help us run the water and sewer system and make it a stand-alone enterprise fund.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said having said that, how much more do we need to cut and where are we going to cut to get us to where we need to be to balance this budget. She said this is another piece of the puzzle and she wants to see the whole puzzle so she knows that we need to do this, this and this to get to here.

The City Manager said the water and sewer fund is a stand-alone budget. He said we're in the business of providing water and sewer to our customers. He said we are in fact the largest municipally owned water and sewer business in the State of Illinois. He said we are one of a kind and our obligation to the taxpayers is to have a balanced budget and what we've done here is try to bring a balanced budget to the Council for the water and sewer fund. He said the issues that we're dealing with on the general fund side aren't really directly related to this. He said no matter what we do on that side, we would still be making this recommendation to the Council. He said even if we had plenty of money and made all of our obligations on the general fund side, he would still be bringing this proposal to the Council and asking for authority to do this. He said we avoided this topic in the past because we had the tap-on fees and we had gaming transfers to cover the debt that was being accumulated through the years because of the desire to keep water and sewer rates the lowest in the Chicagoland area for Joliet residents. He said so if the Council is waiting to see what we're going to do on the general fund side he can let them know what we've done so far and what can happen in the future, but that will not have a major impact on what happens on the water and sewer fund side.

COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN said this is totally separate.

The City Manager said it is. He said there is a small piece in here dealing with salaries for the 100 or so utility employees in this budget and if there are some

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concessions or some benefits cut or something like that there will be some cost savings, but it's not big enough to make a big change in what he would recommend. He said the other thing is this doesn't create a large pot of money to handle the CSO Overflow project and it doesn't help us with some of the other EPA mandated projects. He said at the end of this three year process, we'd have about a \$1 million surplus which as the Council saw from the CSO proposal two weeks ago would not even come close to covering that obligation. He said this will at least balance the books for the water and sewer fund.

COUNCILMAN DORRIS said he appreciates the work that's gone into this. He said years ago when we were using the gaming funds to offset this, very few people even said thank you. He said we did it because we really wanted to keep the rates down for our residents and he think we did that. He said in retrospect looking back at what we know now, we may have been better off to put that money somewhere else and let this drive itself, but now we are at the point where this is something we have to do. He said even though it's controversial he thinks we need to stand up and do it and he's going to support it and he's ready to vote on it today.

COUNCILMAN TURK said a couple of weeks ago he attended a meeting of the St. Mary's Nativity area and the City Manager did an excellent presentation on exactly why this was being proposed. He said he thinks the majority of the people in that room understood it, while they weren't happy about it they understood it and they saw the need for it. He said he thinks a similar meeting like that would be beneficial to the community to explain exactly where this money is going and why the increase is being proposed. He said he thinks the people he talked to understand the gaming abatement elimination; if the money is not there it's not there, but it's the 35% increase that a lot of them have a concern with. He said to a senior living on a fixed income, an increase of \$17 or \$21 a month is a lot of money. He said he had a suggestion and he doesn't know if it's doable or not, but maybe a person who is in that situation could be given a break on the abatement elimination.

The City Manager said he thinks it's doable to have a program that would help the hardship cases, and we've always worked on payment plans with people like that. He said if we need to work on that in conjunction with an approval of this we'll certainly work on that, but he doesn't think it would be available across the board. He said it will involve us getting into what the circuit breaker might be and he doesn't know the details on that but we might have to look at income tax returns or sources of revenue to determine whether somebody's eligible for a break or not.

COUNCILMAN TURK asked if we do that now with the utility tax.

The City Manager said no, if you're a senior you're eligible.

COUNCILMAN TURK said so it's not tied to income.

The City Manager said no. He said we mail out around 1,000 checks in the amounts of \$10, \$15 and \$20 and we have a recommendation coming to the Council to discontinue that program because the cost of administering it far exceeds it's benefits. He said if we need to come in with a social service program that will help the cause on the water we'd certainly work on that and make it happen.

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COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE said to get the abatement on their taxes, seniors have to go to the Tax Assessor's Office, and he suggested that they just bring the proof of that in to show they get this break because they only make so much money.

The City Manager said we could certainly adopt a similar program and bring that to the Council. He said obviously the Council wants the break to go to those who are truly in need and not to have a blanket amnesty for all seniors.

COUNCILMAN GIARRANTE asked if they came up with a number on how much money would it be if we did away with the gaming abatement and eliminate the 35% increase for the seniors.

The City Manager said if we didn't impose the 35% rate increase on seniors it would cost about \$400,000. He said we'll verify that amount between today and tomorrow night so we can get an accurate number.

The City Manager explained Council Memo #773-09 dealing with a Professional Service Agreement with Innovations Consulting for Representation and Assistance in Marketing to National Sports Organizations and Olympic Governing Bodies at a cost of \$7,100.00.

The City Manager said the City of Chicago will hear on October 2nd whether they will be the host of the 2016 Olympic Games. He said we think that there are many opportunities that Joliet will have in being able to attract various countries and teams along with other sports organizations who will be coming to Chicago to come and train and practice in Joliet in the weeks in advance of the Olympics. He said he thinks part of the initiative for bringing forward the Silver Cross project and encouraging the Park District to keep going with its project is for us to continue developing our venues that we already have to make our area look attractive. He said with Joliet Junior College, the Park District and the high school venues we've got a lot of great facilities plus we have the two commuter lines to get people in and out of Chicago. He said Innovations Consulting would help us position ourselves just in case there is an approval in October.

Director of Visitor Services Ben Benson stated they've been communicating with the City of Chicago 2016 Committee as well as Mayor Daley's Office of Special Events for awhile and now we're trying to take it to the next level where we can deal with an industry expert. He said we don't have a guarantee that the games are coming but we can't wait for it to be announced and then get in line with everyone else, we need to position ourselves now and see what we can get done.

The City Manager said regarding Council Memo #780-09 dealing with Awarding a Contract for the County Line Road/Theodore Street (Neustoneshire Subdivision) Roadway Improvements, the City has received a written objection in regards to possible inaccuracies of the apparent low bidder's submitted "Affidavit of Eligibility" which is part of their bid documents, and staff is currently reviewing this matter. He said we are waiting for some information and will be giving a recommendation at the Public Service Committee meeting tomorrow.

***Proceedings of the Council of the City of Joliet, Illinois
held on the 31st day of August, A.D. 2009***

7. Citizens to be Heard

- a. Trista Brown re: Request for Traffic Lights at Fifth/Chicago, Eastern, Wallace/DesPlaines, Dennis McDonough/DesPlaines; Police Officers Authority, and Responsibilities of Unity CDC

Ms. Brown commented on her request for streetlights and cameras to be installed in the above areas for security reasons and her work in trying to stop the violence in that area.

Ms. Robin Duke commented on the recent shootings in the area of Eastern Avenue and Cass Street and made several complaints against her landlord.

Ms. Renessa Brown of 526 S. Chicago Street commented on stopping the drug trafficking and shootings in her neighborhood.

The City Manager advised there was a need for a closed session to discuss litigation.

COUNCILWOMAN BARBER moved that the Mayor and Council recess to closed session at 5:35 p.m. to discuss litigation after which the meeting will be adjourned.

Motion seconded by COUNCILWOMAN QUILLMAN.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NAYS: NONE.

ARTHUR SCHULTZ
Mayor

JANET K. TRAVEN
City Clerk