

CITY OF TROY
Regular City Council Meeting
April 21, 2008

The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at 116 E. Market Street, Troy, Illinois. Mayor Tom Caraker, Sr. called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Present; Mayor Tom Caraker, Sr.; Aldermen Adomite, Brannon, Davis, Evans, Italiano, Lanahan, Metcalf, McTaggart,; Clerk Mitchell; Treasurer Roady

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Administrator Soland, Attorney Manion, Chief Rizzi, Director of Public Works Secrest, Code Administrator Frey.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes from April 7, 2008 regular City Council Meeting: Alderman Lanahan had a correction on page two that the Mayor did not say it was an emergency. Mayor Caraker stated we can just strike that from the Minutes. Alderman Italiano moved, seconded by Alderman Adomite to approve the Minutes from the April 7, 2008 regular City Council meeting as changed. Roll call vote was taken: Aldermen Adomite yea, Brannon yea, Davis yea, Evans abstained, Italiano yea, Lanahan yea, McTaggart yea, Metcalf abstained, 6 yeas, 2 abstentions, 0 nays, motion carries.

Minutes from the Public Workshop for the Klaustermeier Park: Alderman Italiano moved, seconded by Alderman Brannon to approve the Minutes from the Public Workshop for the Klaustermeier Park. Roll call vote was taken: Aldermen Adomite yea, Brannon yea, Davis yea, Evans abstained, Italiano yea, Lanahan yea, McTaggart abstained, Metcalf yea, 6 yeas, 2 abstentions, 0 nays, motion carries.

COMMUNICATIONS: Clerk Mitchell has nothing to report at this time.

MAYOR'S/ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS/CITY ATTORNEY'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Caraker announced that Congressman Shimkus will be here at City Hall on Monday, April 28 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.

Mayor Caraker congratulated Administrator Soland on becoming a Grandpa.

Status of "Kick Off" meeting with Economic Development Resources: Administrator Soland commented that they had their meeting with EDR-Mr. Norber on April 10. We had some staff member and others here to get more familiar with what it is going to take to develop a Comprehensive Plan for the City. We believe we have a lot of citizens getting involved and we will have another meeting soon and Mr. Norber is going to walk us through the steps needed for this process.

Meeting with IDOT on STP and Top Grant Program: Mayor Caraker said that you are aware that we have been working on the STP (Surface Transportation Program) for the downtown area. Last year Alderman Brannon stated we should change this program at this time because we are not getting anywhere. Mayor Caraker commented that Mr. Cissell from Oates and Associates has agreed to do a design for us free of charge until we receive this grant. Mayor Caraker was proud to announce we have received this grant. There are several programs that he will need to attend some meetings on April 30 and May 5, 2008 for Lower Marine Road and others. The City of Troy is very fortunate to receive this. North Staunton Road is \$1,250,000.00 fully funded.

Mayor Caraker commented, Phase I, Mr. Cissell has been working on, and the Mayor wanted to publicly thank him for a great job he has done. This basically runs from Market St. down Main St. to Center St. This will consist of sidewalk repairs and replacements, parking lane repairs, curb repair, and plant trees. Mayor Caraker commented what we will not be able to do in this program is the ornamental lighting. Mayor Caraker passed out some pictures of before and after, also if the Council approves this tonight for the Mayor to sign this agreement we will have the check tomorrow. Mayor Caraker would like to thank State Representative Jay Hoffman one hundred percent. We were turned down flatly and I was not taking “no” for an answer and State Representative Hoffman was there to help. Now that we have this grant we will move on to Phase II. Mayor Caraker introduced Tom Cissell. Mr. Cissell commented he asked to be on the agenda tonight to give the Council an update on the remainder of the Troy Downtown Redevelopment Program. Mr. Cissell commented that he is very excited to say Phase II is on its way. Last meeting he was here he received permission to apply for the STP (Surface Transportation Program Fund) grant. These funds are from East-West Gateway for the reconstruction of Main Street, Market Street to Prospect Street. This reconstruction includes the roadway work not the sidewalk work from Market St. to Center St. and the sidewalk and roadway from Center to Prospect. This grant we applied for was in the amount of \$385,000.00 and in the month of April East-West Gateway has been evaluating our project on a basis of cost benefit. We have received a letter this week that we ranked number one and they award from top to bottom. Mr. Cissell commented that we have those meetings on April 30, and May 5, 2008. Right now there is another grant out there for ornamental lighting and burying the utilities and we are applying for that one as well. Mr. Cissell is asking the Council to pass the resolution so we can move forward. Alderman Evans thanked Mr. Cissell for all the work he has done and asked why there was a difference in cost for what we applied for and the projected cost. Mr. Cissell commented the grant does not include engineering cost. Alderman Evans ask if the City picking up the cost for that. Mr. Cissell commented yes they are. Alderman Lanahan asked if we could use the motel tax for this. Mayor Caraker commented that Phase II is one hundred percent grant funded. Alderman Adomite had concerns that if we get the money for Phase I, and Phase II was denied, then could Phase III pick up the construction work for the utilities. Mr. Cissell commented that we are going to put an empty conduit in the ground during Phase II that way if and when we get to Phase III we can just pull the wires through for the underground utilities. Mr. Cissell commented Phase III the enhancement funds if we get that awarded this year we can join that with Phase II and do it all at one time. Alderman Davis thanked Mr. Cissell for all his work. Mayor Caraker commented we are looking tonight to approve the resolution and give approval for the Mayor to sign the documents. Mr. Cissell commented he would like to thank Alderman Brannon, Alderman Adomite, Administrator Soland, and Mayor Caraker, they have been very instrumental in supporting him in this program.

PEOPLE REQUESTING TO BE ON THE AGENDA: Dr. Robert Diaber, Regional Superintendent of Schools and Tom Caraker/Tom Cissell (above): Dr. Diaber Regional Superintendent of Schools presented the Council with a new proposal of turning the Freeman School into an Educational Therapy Center. Dr. Diaber commented that the Freeman school does not adequately serve the population of this community. This is not a new operation added by the schools; this in fact has been around since 1979 and is currently operating in Alton and Collinsville. The ETC serves children that have learning disabilities, disruptive and do not fit in the normal school environment, where they would have one teacher to four students.

This is more structured for their needs. The CEO is students that are expelled from school for example they showed up drunk at a football game they have made a wrong choice. Dr. Diaber commented this is an alternative for them to still get an education and receive credits. These schools are not open enrollment they must be referred to us by an existing school in Madison County. We are very interested in the Freeman School because the greatest populations in these schools are from Collinsville, Troy, and Highland. Freeman is more centrally located. Right now we only have five students in our Alton School and Alton has their own program and Bethalto is going to have theirs. Dr. Diaber stated we cannot feasibly operate another year for two different centers and consolidated this to one site. Freeman School could legally house 375 students according to the Boca Codes. We are only going to house 65 to 83 students in this school. A positive for this school we will create 14 or more jobs here in Troy. We have 2 vans that will be serviced in Troy. We serve 5th to 12 grades, the students will graduate from their own school district. We provide a unique service for students we have counseling for them which, they may not otherwise get for drugs or alcohol or behavior problems. We also have transition to employment counseling and placement. Dr. Diaber stated this is a closed campus to all students and public our hours are 8 am to 3:30 pm, bus transportation only (no student will be able to drive). There are metal detectors at student entrances. There is full-time principal and therapist on staff, highly qualified teaching staff, and full-time maintenance. We have never had any incidents of guns or knives ever being brought on campus. There is security to see every child enter and exit the school, every bus has a driver and an attendant. We have never had any major problem, we had some walk-offs and we had to call the police to pick them up because they are minors. If anyone would like to take a tour of either one of our facilities, you are more than welcome.

Alderman Davis had some concerns about the school next to it, what would stop a kid from leaving and going to disrupt another schools. Dr. Diaber commented that the doors are locked and you cannot leave. But, if they were to leave this campus then we would call the police.

Alderman Lanahan asked Chief Rizzi if we would need to hire another police officer. Chief Rizzi stated he is not aware of this program enough to know if we would need another officer. Dr. Diaber stated there were 9 calls for police intervention from two schools last year. Dr. Diaber stated if we start having any problems we would hire our own SRO Student Resource Officer. The Police were only called about 6 times in Collinsville and 3 in Alton. We are only talking about 60 to 80 students. Dr. Diaber commented that when students come to our alternative schools this is their last hope if they get kicked out of our school then they are done. Therefore, most of them behave and go to school without incident.

Alderman Adomite commented he would like to take him up on his offer and take a tour of the school.

Mayor Caraker commented this is a closed campus and the school is in charge so if you have any questions please refer them to Dr. Diaber.

Treasurer Roady commented if the students are expelled for some reason can they automatically go to that school. Dr. Diaber commented no they cannot. The school will first notify us and the parents then the student would have to want to attend. Dr. Diaber commented you cannot drop out of high school and just come to us; that, is not the way it works. There could be all kinds of examples I have had 28 years of experience. Dr. Diaber commented this program keeps kids off the streets and gives them an education.

Mayor Caraker commented he would rather have children in school than on the streets anytime.

Mayor Caraker wanted to acknowledge Ken Miller and Jean Myers. Mrs. Jean Myers stated she shared some of her concerns with Dr. Diaber. She thought it was interesting that Tom Hoechst Madison County Board Member, who lives a few blocks away from the Alton School, stated he would hate to see it close. He was very reassuring and she found that comforting. Mr. Miller commented he is involved in all kinds of things and he feels if there were going to be any problems he would not want it, but he feels very good about this program.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES: *Alderman Evans*

Alderman Evans commented that we are in negotiations with Public Works representatives, Police representative, and Clerical representative. This meeting is set for this Wednesday the 23rd.

BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE: *Alderman Adomite*

Building Inspector's Report for March 2008: Alderman Adomite presented the Building Inspector's Report for March. The Estimated Value was \$664,627.46, Fees Collected was \$3,340.89, Permits Retired were \$1,575,861.80, and 45 Rental Inspections. Alderman Adomite moved, seconded by Alderman Brannon to approve the Building Inspector's Report as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Aldermen Adomite, Brannon, Davis, Evans, Italiano, Lanahan, McTaggart, Metcalf yeas, 8 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries. On the status report there has not been a lot of activity. Alderman Adomite commented last Monday we had a Klaustermeier Park meeting and we will have another scheduled soon as we get with Clerk Mitchell to get it posted. Alderman Metcalf commented there is a Public Hearing for Windsor Way on May 8th for the Planning Commission.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: *Alderman Brannon*

Business Registrations for March 2008: Alderman Brannon commented there was no Business Registration report this month.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: *Alderman Lanahan*

Treasurer's Report for March 2008: Alderman Lanahan moved, seconded by Alderman Adomite to approve the Treasurer's Report for March as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Aldermen Adomite, Brannon, Davis, Evans, Italiano, Lanahan, McTaggart, Metcalf 8 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries.

Sales Tax Report from Illinois Department of Revenue for January/April: Alderman Lanahan commented the Sales Tax from the Illinois Department of Revenue for January/April was \$71,655.82.

Bills to be approved and paid for the month of March 2008: Alderman Lanahan presented the Aged Obligation Report Summary as follows: Total manual Checks for the month of April were \$607,735.79, Total manual Checks for the month of March were \$25,151.74, and the Grand Total was \$632,887.53. Alderman Lanahan moved, seconded by Alderman Davis to approve the Aged Obligation Report Summary and Pay the Bills accordingly. Roll call vote was taken: Aldermen Adomite, Brannon, Davis, Evans, Italiano, Lanahan, McTaggart, Metcalf yeas, 8 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries. Treasurer Roady commented the \$316,000.00 was budgeted; we transfer from the water fund to pay this note that comes every year for the Alternant Bond payment. Treasurer Roady commented he would not know what to do with the Freeman School other than having at least we will have someone taking care of the grounds something will be done with the building.

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Alderman Lanahan stated he has brought this up for three meetings that if you work at the City then you cannot have family work for the City. You have to have liability insurance and he would like to see the law and when it was passed. Mayor Caraker commented he is having the City Attorney looking into this, and there is no statutes stating City employee husband, wife etc. cannot do city work but there is a law that states a City employee cannot bid into a City job but not say there family. The City Administrator has the right to hire someone to do this work. Alderman Lanahan continued to question this. Mayor Caraker asked the City Counselor to have a full report for the next meeting of the combined State Statues on this matter.

Alderman Lanahan asked what is going on at Jennifer Court. Mayor Caraker commented that is between the Contractor and the Developer.

LAND USE COMMITTEE: *Alderman Metcalf*

Report on Planning Commission: Alderman Metcalf commented that for almost 2 years they have been working on this area across from the China Garden. There first application has expired and they have to go though it again. Alderman Davis commented that it was stated these are Villa's that are multi family. Mayor Caraker commented if you have concerns you need to attend the meeting.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES: *Alderman McTaggart*

Police Report for March 2008: Alderwomen McTaggart moved, seconded by Alderman Brannon to approve the Police Report as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Aldermen Adomite, Brannon, Davis, Evans, Italiano, Lanahan, McTaggart, Metcalf yeas 8 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries. Chief Rizzi stated the cars should be in about the first week in May.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: *Alderman Italiano*

Water and Sewer Report for March 2008: Alderman Italiano moved seconded by Alderman Evans to approve the Water and Sewer report for March 2008 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Aldermen Adomite, Brannon, Davis, Evans, Italiano, Lanahan, McTaggart, Metcalf yeas, 8 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries.

Director of Public Works: Director of Public Works Alan Secrest commented they have been working on storm sewer cleaning and some ditch work. They have started the street sweeper and filling pot holes, put in four new water services, four minor leaks and one larger leak. They have finished the 12 inch water main that crosses Route 162 for Walgreens we are just waiting for the samples to come in back. The Ground Storage Tank will be completed this week if the weather holds up. They also have being tabs on all the Construction.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: *Alderman Davis*

Ordinance to Vacate a Portion of N. Washington St.: Alderman Davis moved, seconded by Alderman Lanahan to pass Ordinance 2008-06 for Vacating a Portion of North Washington Street. Roll call vote was taken: Aldermen Adomite, Brannon, Davis, Evans, Italiano, Lanahan, McTaggart, Metcalf yeas, 8 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries.

Authorization for the Mayor to Execute Grant for Downtown Improvements: Alderman Davis moved, seconded by Alderman Lanahan to give authorization for the Mayor to Execute the Grant for Downtown Improvements for a Local Agency/State Agreement in the amount of \$200,000. Roll call vote was taken: Aldermen Adomite, Brannon, Davis, Evans, Italiano, Lanahan, McTaggart, Metcalf yeas, 8 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries.

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Resolution of Support for Transportation Enhancement Program Grant: Alderman Davis moved, seconded by Alderman Brannon to adopt Resolution 2008-04 for Support of the Transportation Enhancement Program Grant. Roll call vote was taken: Aldermen Adomite, Brannon, Davis, Evans, Italiano, Lanahan, McTaggart, Metcalf yeas, 8 yeas, 0 nays, motion carries.

Alderman Italiano moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to go into executive session for the purpose of 5ICLS 120/2-(C) (6) Sale of Real Property, 5ICLS 120/2-(C) (11) Existing Litigation, all Aldermen present yeas, 0 nays, motion carries, went into closed session at 8:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:25 p.m. Alderman Italiano moved, seconded by Alderman Evans to adjourn, all Aldermen present yeas, 0 nays, motion carries, meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Tammy J Mitchell, RMC, CMC
City Clerk