

: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held August 14, 2018, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

#### ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were physically present: Akeson, Cyr (Electronic Attendance), Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 10. Absent: Turner - 1.

#### REQUEST BY COUNCIL MEMBER CYR FOR ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

After having established that a quorum was physically present, Mayor Ardis said a notice was received from Council Member Cyr in accordance with the rules established by Ordinance No. 16,142. He said Council Member Cyr would be authorized to attend the meeting electronically unless a motion objecting to his electronic attendance was made, seconded, and approved by two-thirds of the members of the City Council physically present at the meeting. He said if no such motion was made and seconded, then the request by Council Member Cyr to attend electronically shall be deemed approved by the City Council and Council Member Cyr would be declared as present.

Hearing no objection on the request for an electronic attendance, Council Member Cyr was declared present by Mayor Ardis.

#### INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ardis requested a moment of silent prayer or reflection and then he led the pledge of allegiance.

#### PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

**ABG Retirement Plan Services 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Moser's Shoes**

**Recognition of Art, Inc. Selection as a State Farm Neighborhood Assist Top 200 Finalist**

#### MINUTES

Council Member Grayeb moved to approve the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on July 24, 2018, as printed; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach,  
Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

**PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA****CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE, with Recommendations as Outlined:**

- (18-236) \* Communication from the City Manager and the Chief Innovation Officer with a Request to APPROVE a Sole Source Contract with CHANGE AND INNOVATION AGENCY, LLC for Innovation and Performance Training, in the Amount Not To Exceed \$41,500.00 for a 3-day Innovation Academy Training Expert Consultation and Related Travel Costs.**
- (18-237) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION for a Class H (Temporary Outdoor) Liquor License from Peoria Firefighters Local 50 for an event to be held at 112 State Street, on Friday, August 31, 2018. (Council District 1)**

Mayor Ardis questioned if the Council wished to have any of the Consent Agenda items removed for further discussion.

Council Member Jensen requested Item No. 18-236 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve the Consent Agenda item as outlined in the Council Communications; seconded by Council Member Akeson.

Item Nos. 18-236 and 18-237 (excluding Item No. 18-236, which was removed for further discussion) was approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

- (18-236) \* Communication from the City Manager and the Chief Innovation Officer with a Request to APPROVE a Sole Source Contract with CHANGE AND INNOVATION AGENCY, LLC for Innovation and Performance Training, in the Amount Not To Exceed \$41,500.00 for a 3-day Innovation Academy Training Expert Consultation and Related Travel Costs.**

Council Member Jensen requested Chief Innovation Officer Anthony Corso review the innovation and performance training and questioned the i-team's future once the Bloomberg Grant was complete.

Chief Innovation Officer Corso explained the innovation and performance training would allow 25 City Staff Members to learn cross-departmental innovation and performance training. He stated the Innovation Academy curriculum draws on industry best practices, leverages process improvement, and empowers employees to make meaningful and impactful change throughout the City.

City Manager Urich stated the i-team was very valuable to the City. He said, with the City's fiscal challenges, the i-team's future would be discussed.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve a Sole Source Contract with Change and Innovation Agency, LLC for Innovation and Performance Training, in the amount not to exceed \$41,500.00, for a 3-day Innovation Academy Training Expert Consultation and related travel costs; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Motion to approve a Sole Source Contract with Change and Innovation Agency, LLC for Innovation and Performance Training, in the amount not to exceed \$41,500.00, for a 3-day Innovation Academy Training Expert Consultation and related travel costs was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oylar, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

### FIRST READINGS

**(18-238) Communication from the City Manager and the Community Development Director with a Request for a FIRST READING Review of an ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 5 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to Registration of Residential Properties and Inspections of Dwellings.**

A replacement Ordinance and handouts were distributed to all Council Members.

Community Development Director Ross Black provided an overview of the proposed changes to property inspections and registration requirements. He indicated the Community Development Department had made changes to improve the condition of properties throughout the City by implementing a notification system to property owners when violations occurred, emphasized education efforts and positive reinforcement to maintain code compliance and creating a mapping feature of environmental citations. Director Black stated the breakdown of Code Enforcement actions were as follows: 59% Non-Owner occupied parcels, 28% Owner occupied Parcels, 7% vacant parcels, 5% abandoned parcels and 1% exempt parcels. He expressed that 81% of all code enforcement actions over the past 18 months have been at the properties of repeat offenders. Director Black indicated his department would be shifting towards a focused deterrent strategy to hold habitual offenders accountable while not punishing the majority of property owners who maintain their properties. He stated in 2009 the City of Peoria changed the registration requirement to an annual registration fee for owning non-owner occupied properties and in 2011 the City Council raised the registration fee, but offered a discount to property owners who attended a two-hour educational seminar hosted by the Community Development Department. Director Black said in 2018, 86% of properties received the discounted rate and the current fee structure generated about \$900,000.00 annually for the City's general fund.

Director Black explained the replacement Ordinance showed property owners not meeting certain conditions would be required to attend the education seminar in order to receive a reduced registration rate of \$125.00 per property instead of the original amount of \$100.00. He stated those property owners that didn't attend the education seminar would be required to pay \$250.00 per property. Director Black indicated the changes would allow his department to develop an educational agenda more tailored to landlords and property owners who have had code violations and give an incentive to property owners to proactively maintain their property to reward them for being a responsible property owner.

In response to Council Member Cyr's question, Director Black explained the City of Peoria had approximately 45,000 parcels and nine inspectors for this region. He stated 80% of complaints were inspector initiated with only 20% being complaint driven.

Council Member Akeson voiced concerns for the amount of fines currently owed the City and requested that Corporation Counsel Leist provide the City Council the amount currently owed the City. She emphasized the importance of collecting outstanding fines, especially with the City's budget crisis. She added the Legal Department should do everything possible to collect this money.

In response to Council Member Moore's question, Assistant Director Dulin explained the three types of notifications provided to property owners; a Notice to Abate notification, tag vehicle notification and work order notification. He stated property owners had five days to comply following a work order notification. Director Black explained the change in registration fee from \$100 to \$125.

Council Member Ruckriegel requested an explanation of Chapter 5 violations and Chapter 13 violations.

Assistant Director Dulin stated Chapter 5 violations were classed as violations involving structures, for example gutters, peeling paint, and foundation issues. He stated Chapter 13 violations were described as high grass and weeds, litter, etc.

Council Member Oyler voiced appreciation for the City working with the Peoria Area Association of Realtors in making changes regarding property inspections and registration requirements.

Council Member Jensen requested Staff consider adding chronic nuisance letters to the criteria checklist for rental registrations. Council Member Jensen requested a Report Back regarding the current amount of fines owed to the City.

Council Member Riggerbach requested a Report Back on the number of people that made up the 90% of code offenders and a report back on the number of repeat offenders.

Council Member Moore requested Community Director Black provide a breakdown of offenses committed by repeat offenders. She expressed appreciation for the work done by PAAR regarding the inspections and registration requirements, but voiced concerns that tenant concerns needed to be addressed as well. Community Director Black indicated the City would meet with Prairie State Legal Services to address those issues.

Council Member Montelongo requested a Report Back on the number of code violations being committed by single family and multi-family units.

Mayor Ardis requested that the proposed Ordinance be posted to the City's Website so it could be reviewed prior to final adoption.

Council Member Moore moved to receive and file the first reading review of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 5 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to Registration of Residential Properties and Inspections of Dwellings; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

*CLERK'S NOTE: ITEM No. 18-238 will be placed on the August 28, 2018, Regular City Council Meeting agenda.*

**REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:**

**(18-239) PRESENTATION from the Fire and Police Commission with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS REPORT Covering the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018**

Mayor Ardis recognized and thanked Junior Watkins and Lynn Scott Pearson members of the Fire and Police Commission who were in attendance.

Fire Chief Ed Olehy and Interim Police Chief Loren Marion provided a presentation regarding the City's efforts to diversify the Police and Fire Departments.

Chief Olehy and Chief Marion reviewed the 2018 Diversity Report and provided an update on Explorer and Cadet Programs for each Department. The recruitment efforts were reviewed noting how those efforts had expanded and become more complex. Chief Olehy and Chief Marion reviewed the hiring process for their respective Departments, and they provided a demographic review of each. A review of separations were also provided for each Department along with the demographics for each.

Discussions were held regarding the number of applications received by minorities and how the City could assist in raising the number of applicants hired by the Police and Fire Departments. Topics discussed were utilizing social media more aggressively to spread information regarding potential positions within the Police and Fire Departments, having workshops to assist with interview skills, looking at what similar cities used to help with recruitment ideas and instituting a pass/fail exam to accommodate more minority hiring.

Council Member Oyler requested a Report Back on the current budget used for recruitment campaigns. He suggested buying additional advertising from Facebook.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Al Hooks of the NAACP voiced concerns with the low numbers of minorities hired for the Police and Fire Departments and he expressed disappointment that the long term hiring goals of 2025 would not be reached. He stated the City needed to pressure the Illinois State Legislators to allow an exemption for the hiring process in regards to the rank and file mandate.

Council Member Jensen moved to receive and file the Presentation from the Fire and Police Commissions Annual Performance Goals Report Covering the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

**(18-240) Communication from the City Manager with a PRESENTATION of the MODIFIED 2018 MID-YEAR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS with a Request to RECEIVE AND FILE.**

Several handouts regarding the budget were distributed to all Council Members.

City Manager Urich distributed a presentation on the Mid-Year Budget Adjustments, which indicated the City was downgraded by Moody's from A1 to A2 status. He discussed the decline of City's reserves partly because of legal fees of \$900,000, weed and litter abatement \$200,000 and the voluntary separation incentive of \$1,100,000 from 2016 -2017. He discussed potential new revenue sources as follows: Fire Department charging for more services via 3<sup>rd</sup> party for an additional \$400,000 in revenues; Police Department raising tobacco and alcohol applications and licensing for an additional \$42,000 in revenues; a package liquor tax creating \$700,000 in additional revenue; Plastic Bag fee generating \$500,000 in additional revenue and requiring vehicle stickers generating \$1 million in additional revenue.

He reviewed the 2018 Second Quarter Financial Report for the General Fund showing a shortfall of \$605,443.00. City Manager Urich provided a staffing plan update, which indicated five furlough days for all City employees other than Police, Fire and ECC staff with one day used as a vacation day. He stated no City Hall closures, furloughs taken between Labor Day and Veteran's Day, four targeted layoffs and five unfilled vacant positions. He said should the unions not agree to furloughs, the City would implement contractual layoff language creating nine permanent layoffs in AFSCME and sixteen seasonal layoffs in Crafts and Trades from September to November. He reviewed the 2019 Budget projections regarding pensions, revenues and lawsuit, which showed Public Safety Pension Increases of \$1,400,000, Assessed Valuation down \$800,000, Sales Tax down \$900,000, Personal Property Replacement Taxes down \$500,000, other revenues down \$400,000 for a Total Deficit of \$4,000,000 and with the PAAG Lawsuit, there would be an additional \$2,000,000 deficit. City Manager Urich stated public safety pensions would increase \$80 million within the next ten years.

Finance Director Jim Scroggins stated the reduction in 2017 Sales Tax included a 2% fee the State of Illinois implemented and a 10% reduction in income tax distribution funds that would go into effect July 2017, he pointed out these reductions were not anticipated by the City during Budget discussions.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to receive and file the Modified 2018 Mid-Year Budget Adjustments; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Council Member Grayeb voiced concerns regarding the increases in Public Safety Pensions and the PAAG lawsuit. He stated the City needed to find additional revenue sources during this budget crisis. In response to Council Member Grayeb's question, City Manager Urich stated over the last ten years the City had eliminated approximately 114 positions. Council Member Grayeb expressed the importance of the City rebuilding infrastructure and he voiced concerns regarding the decline in assessed value of properties effecting the capability of the City continuing to rebuild infrastructure.

Council Member Ruckriegel expressed concerns with the competition the City of Peoria had with other cities attracting new businesses into the area, which would bring additional revenue into the City's budget. He stated for the record that he did not vote in support of the 2018 City Budget because no combination of proposals last year or now addressed the issues facing the City. He explained in a City that had a median household income of \$45,552 the City of Peoria had 250 plus employees making over \$150,000.00 apiece. Council Member Ruckriegel stressed the issues were structural especially when the current and expected revenues were not meeting the current and expected expenses giving the runaway cost of binding arbitration required by the State of Illinois. He requested the City Manager bring back an additional resolution that addresses a reduction in wages, pensions, health care costs and other benefits received by City Council Members.

Council Member Jensen suggested the City review its self-insured status in order to assist with expenses regarding lawsuits against the City. She requested a public discussion assessing the various lawsuits facing the City, which could affect the City's budget. She expressed the need for additional revenue sources.

Council Member Riggerbach agreed structural operations of the City needed to be examined. He voiced concerns in the declining sales tax facing the City of Peoria. He reminded the City Council raising taxes would not mean additional revenues for the City. He spoke about the City of Carbondale, Illinois, billing non-citizens for emergency services within their City. He requested the Police and Fire Department join arms with the City to discuss the mandated pension obligations with the State.

Council Member Oyler discussed the need for a business plan and expressed that 2019 budget would have tougher choices because of the structural problems. He said the cuts were not deep enough and this could not continue. He said the Council, as a group, needed to work with business leaders to solve this problem.

Council Member Moore requested City Manager Urich to review salaries compared to similar cities. She expressed concern about any additional taxes being placed on the citizens and businesses within the City of Peoria and she said she objected to removing money from the road fund to meet other obligations when the City roads were in dire need of repair. She thanked the Fire Department for suggesting possible revenue sources and requested the City Police Department develop suggestions as well for additional revenue sources.

Council Member Montelongo commended the Fire Department for suggesting additional revenue sources and stated the City Manager needed to move forward with those ideas. He voiced concerns with the declining sales tax and spoke on the number of citizens buying online and suggested a delivery truck fee being implemented to cover cost of road repairs. He suggested utilizing the Innovation Team in assisting with economic development to help grow the economy. He commented that the nationwide economy was growing and

unemployment was down across the nation, so the City needed to use new tools to help growth.

Mayor Ardis voiced the difficult decisions in dealing with furloughs, layoffs and the declining budget numbers. He stated the pension obligations were unsustainable and communities needed to push Springfield to implement pension reform. Mayor Ardis indicated he would be contacting local business leaders to discuss the City's Budget issues.

Motion to receive and file the Modified 2018 Mid-Year Budget Adjustments Presentation was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Including but not limited to motions to reconsider items, if any, from the previous Regular Meeting)**

**(17-353) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE Related to TEMPORARY SIGNS. (City Wide)**

Council Member Grayeb moved to defer this matter to the November 13, 2018, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Riggenbach.

Motion to defer this item to the November 13, 2018, Regular City Council meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

**(18-168) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 15 of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to NOISE.**

Council Member Riggenbach moved to defer this matter to the August 28, 2018, Regular City Council meeting; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Motion to defer this item to the August 28, 2018, Regular City Council meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

**(18-185) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a Status of an AGREEMENT with the CEO COUNCIL.**

City Manager Ulrich stated he was meeting with the CEO Council on Friday, August 17, 2018, and he would have an update for the City Council at the August 28, 2018, Regular City Council Meeting.



Council Member Jensen moved to receive and file the status of an agreement with the CEO Council; seconded by Council Member Montelongo.

Motion to receive and file the status of an agreement with the CEO Council was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None

**(18-227) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION for a Class B (Restaurant, 50% Food) Liquor License with the Retail Sale of Alcohol at UNTAMED CHEF, 7338 N. UNIVERSITY, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 5)**

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to defer this item to the August 28, 2018, Regular City Council meeting; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Motion to defer this item to the August 28, 2018, Regular City Council meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

**Rivertrail Update**

Council Member Jensen requested an update on RiverTrail. City Manager Urich stated the City had an extension on the Simantel property until the end of September and the City was waiting on the appraiser regarding the Simantel and Southtown parcels.

**General Fines**

Mayor Ardis requested an explanation why general fines were half the amount from 8 to 10 years ago. He especially referenced traffic citations, which had dropped substantially, and he stated if the City wasn't going to enforce traffic laws, then he suggested a review of staffing needs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Central Illinois Ballet**

Council Member Grayeb announced an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Central Illinois Ballet's new location at 826 W. Main Street on Saturday August 25, 2018, from 12:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.

**Shakespeare in the Park**

City of Peoria's Communication Specialist Stacy Peterson invited everyone to Shakespeare in the Park for a showing of Shakespeare classic "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at 7:00 P.M. on Saturday August 18, 2018, and 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, August 19, 2018, at Glen Oak Park.

**CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD**

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the Floor to those citizens wishing to address the City Council/Town Board.

Andres Diaz, a citizen of Peoria, spoke regarding positive growth within the North Valley. He spoke about the new single family homes constructed in the area, the addition of the School of Arts and the Ronald McDonald House. He talked about Urban Acres, which provided fresh vegetables from the community garden within the North Valley.

Rhonda Sexton, President of AFSCME Local 3464, spoke on the Mid-Budget staff adjustments. She voiced concerns regarding the proposed layoffs. She said the union was not finished negotiating with the City, and they planned to make a proposal.

Ron Valle, a concerned citizen, commented on the need for better cooperation between City Council Members and the need for the City Council Members to contact their constituents regarding the City's Budget crisis.

Peg Pendell, a citizen of Peoria, expressed concerns regarding the City's Budget issues. She voiced concerns regarding the inspections process and she said she had an issue with the City removing a van from her property.

Rachel Abel, a Peoria Police Records Technician, expressed concerns with the City's Budget crisis and her potential layoff.

Kiara Sidener, an Information Office Technician voiced concerns with the City's Budget crisis and her potential layoff.

Zach Gittrich, a citizen of Peoria, spoke in support of a Welcoming City Ordinance. He requested a handout be given to the City Council to explain the need for such an ordinance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Consideration of a Motion to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that such an action is probable or imminent; and, 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.**

Council Member Grayeb moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to 2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that such an action is probable or imminent; and, 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Grayeb moved to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach,  
Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 P.M.



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Beth Ball, MMC, City Clerk  
City of Peoria, Illinois

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