



: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

A Regular Meeting of the Joint City Council and Town Board of Peoria, Illinois, was held on November 8, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Ali presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were present: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11. Absent: None.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

Peoria Area Community Festival of Nativities 2022
Community Foundation Week – November 12-18, 2022
Native American Heritage Month

MINUTES

Council Member Oyler moved to approve the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting held on October 18, 2022, and the Joint City Council & Town Board Meeting held on October 25, 2022, as printed; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA

(22-374) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the OCTOBER 2022 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the NOVEMBER 2022 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the October 2022 actual expenditures and to approve the November 2022 anticipated expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Velpula.

Motion to approve the October 2022 actual expenditures and to approve the November 2022 anticipated expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

(22-375) Communication from the Town Officials Budget Committee with a Request to APPROVE the PROPOSED ESTIMATED TAX LEVY OF \$1,338,046.00 with an Estimated Tax Rate not to exceed 0.087714 (Pursuant to 35 ILCS 200/18-60) for the TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA.

Council Member Grayeb said the proposal kept the tax rate the same as what was approved the previous year. He said the need for Township Assistance Programs was increasing and many applications were from first-time applicants.

Township Supervisor Latrina Leary said the Town Officials Budget Committee decided not to increase tax rate because the Township reserves were in good standing.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the proposed estimated Tax Levy of \$1,338,046.00 with an estimated tax rate not to exceed 0.087714 for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS –CITY OF PEORIA

PUBLIC HEARINGS

(22-353) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the 2023 REVISED BUDGET.

Council Member Jensen moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the 2023 Revised Budget; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Motion to open the Public Hearing regarding the 2023 Revised Budget was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali opened the Public Hearing at 6:22 P.M.

Following a third call for comments from the public regarding the 2023 Revised Budget, Mayor Ali determined no one wished to speak, and she requested the Public Hearing be closed.

Council Member Allen moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the 2023 Revised Budget; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Motion to close the Public Hearing regarding the 2023 Revised Budget was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oylar, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali closed the Public Hearing at 6:23 P.M.

(22-376) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the ANNEXATION of Parcel Identification Numbers 13-01-503-004, 13-01-503-005, 13-01-503-007, and 14-06-503-001, Peoria, Illinois.

Council Member Cyr moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the annexation of Parcel Identification Numbers 13-01-503-004, 13-01-503-005, 13-01-503-007, and 14-06-503-001; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Motion to open the Public Hearing regarding the annexation of Parcel Identification Numbers 13-01-503-004, 13-01-503-005, 13-01-503-007, and 14-06-503-001 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oylar, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali opened the Public Hearing at 6:24 P.M.

In response to Mayor Ali's question about the parcel locations, City Manager Patrick Urich said they were City-owned railroad line parcels that did not have a street address.

Following a third call for comments from the public regarding the annexation of Parcel Identification Numbers 13-01-503-004, 13-01-503-005, 13-01-503-007, and 14-06-503-001, Mayor Ali determined no one wished to speak, and she requested the Public Hearing be closed.

Council Member Cyr moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the annexation of Parcel Identification Numbers 13-01-503-004, 13-01-503-005, 13-01-503-007, and 14-06-503-001; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Motion to close the Public Hearing regarding the annexation of Parcel Identification Numbers 13-01-503-004, 13-01-503-005, 13-01-503-007, and 14-06-503-001 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oylar, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali closed the Public Hearing at 6:26 P.M.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE, with Recommendations as Outlined:

- (22-377) **Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**
- (22-378) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request from the CDBG Public Services Commission to APPROVE the 2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC SERVICE Funding Recommendations, in the Amount of \$275,000.00.**
- (22-379) **Communication from the City Manager and Fire Chief to APPROVE the SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE of 11 Sets of Fire Gear from MUNICIPAL EMERGENCYSERVICES (MES), and Distribution of Gear from FIREDEX, in the Amount of \$28,215.00.**
- (22-380) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ACCEPT the LOW BID from JIMAX LANDSCAPE, LLC, in the Amount of \$80.90 per Ton for a Total Purchase of \$323,600.00 for 4,000 Tons of ROCK SALT, for 2022-2023 Winter Snow Events and Replenish Depleted Stock.**
- (22-381) *** Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a RESOLUTION for SIGNATORY AUTHORITY with the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT), for Authorizing the City Manager to Sign Federal-Funding Forms and Electronic Signature Forms on behalf of the City.**
- (22-382) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from Staff to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 18,012 Annexing the Property Identified as Parcel Identification Nos. 13-01-503-004, 13-01-503-005, 13-01-503-007, and 14-06-503-001, Generally Located West of Allen Road, East of IL Route 6, South of Parcel Identification No. 13-01-200-001, and North of Parcel of Identification No. 13-01-401-002, Peoria, IL.**
- (22-383) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS with a Request to Concur:**
Yolanda Wallace (Voting) - Term Expires 06/30/2025
- (22-384) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the MAYOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES with a Request to Concur:**
Bree Muehlbauer (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2025
- (22-385) **Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the Month Ended SEPTEMBER 30, 2022, UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.**

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

Council Member Kelly requested Item No. 22-381 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Item Nos. 22-377 through 22-385 (except Item No. 22-381, which was removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

(22-381) * Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a RESOLUTION for SIGNATORY AUTHORITY with the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT), for Authorizing the City Manager to Sign Federal-Funding Forms and Electronic Signature Forms on behalf of the City.

Council Member Kelly asked about the purpose for the Resolution for Signatory Authority. City Manager Ulrich said it would allow him to sign Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) forms physically and electronically on behalf of the City.

Council Member Kelly moved to approve a Resolution for Signatory Authority with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), for authorizing the City Manager to sign federal funding forms and electronic signature forms on behalf of the City; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-381 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(22-386) Communication from the City Manager and Deputy Corporation Counsel with Request for a DISCUSSION on the Feedback from the CANNABIS PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka summarized the attendance and feedback from the in-person Public Meeting held on November 2, 2022, the virtual Public Meeting held on November 3, 2022, and the online survey. She said a final report would be provided to the Council once the survey closed. She said a majority of the survey responses indicated they were not in favor of implementing a cap or imposing additional zoning restrictions on cannabis business licenses in Peoria, were in favor of onsite consumption, and were in support of social equity applicants. She said there was some opposition to the sale of cannabis in Peoria. She said Staff researched policies and procedures in other communities, such as Springfield who offered two Special Use applications for cannabis dispensaries, with one for on-site consumption that included regulations for compliance with the Smoke-free Illinois Act. She concluded with a request for a discussion to amend the Code of the City of Peoria to match the language in the Illinois State Statute regarding Social Equity applicants, and to offer a 50% fee reduction for Social Equity applicants to emulate State Licensing fees.

Discussions were held regarding the online survey (www.surveymonkey.com/r/cannabispeoria) expiration date, as well as the results and comments that would be provided to the Council once it closed. Existing and expired Special Use Permits for cannabis dispensaries in Peoria and standard Special Use expiration dates were also discussed. Deputy Corporation Counsel Kapustka said reducing the expiration period from two years to 12 or 6-months would be a prudent revision. Council Members Jensen, Allen, and Riggerbach said they supported a reduced time-period before a Special Use for a cannabis dispensary expired.

Council Member Allen said it was important to consider the spirit of the Social Equity designation when determining additional restrictions for applicants.

Council Member Cyr asked Staff to bring back an Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Peoria to change all zoning districts to Special Uses for cannabis dispensaries, including Industrial Districts.

Council Member Riggerbach said while he was not in favor of on-site consumption, he was interested in obtaining more information on the Springfield cannabis business model in order to make an informed decision. He said he supported the request from Council Member Cyr to amend the Code to indicate all zoning districts as Special Use for cannabis dispensaries.

Additional discussions were held concerning on-site consumption and existing cannabis dispensaries in Peoria.

Council Member Grayeb asked about the delay for applicants who obtained a Cannabis Dispensary Special Use Permit for a site in Peoria but had not yet opened their business. Deputy Corporation Counsel Kapustka explained the delay was due to State Licensing and the multi-step nonconsecutive application process for a cannabis dispensary at the State and Local levels.

Council Member Riggerbach said a new Special Use application for a cannabis dispensary was submitted that would be presented to the Council in January 2023. He recommended implementing a moratorium until January while the Council continued discussions.

Mayor Ali thanked the Council for their feedback, noting discussions would continue at a subsequent Council Meeting.

CLERK'S NOTE: No vote was taken as this was for information and direction only.

(22-387) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the THIRD AMENDMENT to the Revised REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT and PARKING DECK LEASE with OSF HEALTHCARE SYSTEM and 124 ADAMS PROPERTY HOLDINGS, LLC.

City Manager Urich explained the progression of the OSF Healthcare Redevelopment Agreement and subsequent amendments, noting the third amendment related to unexpected expenses with fire suppression upgrades in the building and the use of the remaining Central Business District TIF Funds for that expense.

Council Member Cyr said the Council was supportive of OSF's efforts in downtown Peoria contributing to the vibrant downtown. He asked for a Report Back regarding when the additional workforce would arrive at their new downtown location.

After Council Member Kelly asked about the deadline for the distribution of TIF funds; City Manager Ulrich confirmed the funds had to be spent by the end of 2022.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Kelly moved to approve the third amendment to the revised Redevelopment Agreement and Parking Deck Lease with OSF Healthcare System and 124 Adams Property Holdings, LLC; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyer, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

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

- (22-361) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R3 (Single-Family Residential) District, for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL for the Property Located at 2724 W NEWMAN PARKWAY (Parcel Identification No. 14-31-178-002), Peoria, IL. (Council District 1)**

Council Member Jackson moved to adopt an Ordinance approving a Special Use in a Class R-3 District, for a Short-Term Rental for the property located at 2724 W. Newman Parkway; seconded by Council Member Allen.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,013 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyer, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

- (22-348) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to Hold a DISCUSSION on the 2023 REVISED BUDGET.**

A handout with the revised 2023 Budget Questions – Council Report Backs – Part 3, was distributed to all Council Members.

City Manager Patrick Ulrich presented the third series of Report Backs to the Council.

Sidewalk Locations

Public Works Director Rick Powers reviewed sites identified for sidewalk improvements in 2023. City Manager Ulrich explained the Lamont Street Special Assessment project. Director Powers explained how Special Assessments differed from the past Sidewalk Participation Program or Special Service Area (SSA) designations. He said the implementation of an Asset Management System would consider infrastructure condition to drive funding recommendations.

Discussions were held on the Lamont Street project, the possibility of a Sidewalk Improvement Grant in 61605, and the proposed Asset Management System. Council Members Jensen and Riggerbach said they supported the implementation of an Asset Management System to evaluate the condition of infrastructure.

Council Member Jensen said she wanted increased funding toward sidewalk improvements in older neighborhoods in the First, Second, and Third Districts. City Manager Urich said \$800,000.00 was allocated for sidewalk improvements in 2023. He said an additional allocation would require a Budget Motion to direct Staff to amend the 2023 Revised Budget.

Director Powers said the Asset Management System would review all layers of infrastructure to evaluate the condition as well as the best improvement plans and schedule. Council Member Riggerbach said it was important to communicate the results of assessments and data used to drive decisions made by Staff to the Council in order to understand where the greatest needs were in the City.

Summary of CIP by Council District

Finance Director Kyle Cratty provided a summary of the Capital Improvement Plan by Council District, detailing the projects and funding sources across single and multiple Districts. Council Member Cyr said it was important to note to let citizens know the Council was committed, emphasizing all Districts needed to be as strong as the next.

Discussions were held regarding the definition of “surplus,” and Director Cratty explained that surplus was the cash reserves on-hand and what was available to meet the City’s obligations. He said the decisions the Council make could impact the City’s financials in the outyears.

Garbage Fund: 5-year Repayment Plan

Director Cratty discussed the timing of the closure of Landfill No. 2, and how it would reduce costs by 50%. He said, as a result of the proposed plan, the account would be repaid by the end of 2027. Council Member Cyr remarked on the importance of funding operations from the appropriate accounts.

Streetlights: Division between Ameren and City

Director Powers said a map was provided representing the areas of the City with streetlights managed by Ameren versus the Public Works Department. He said the City paid the electric bill for all streetlights in the City, but the installation and maintenance of lights in the designated areas were managed by Ameren. He said the Ameren streetlights were on wooden poles while City-owned streetlights were steel or concrete. He discussed the transition to LED and smart lighting, utility cost increases, and the process to request or assign streetlighting to Ameren or to the Public Works Department in the City.

Discussions were held regarding City-owned streetlighting, the Ameren Agreement, and the history of electricity providers for Peoria. The lack of response from Ameren for streetlight installation or maintenance requests and ways to communicate to Ameren the urgency of the requests was also discussed.

Mayor Ali commented Ameren made a lot of money from the City, and she expressed the need for them to upgrade the old poles and power lines.

Council Member Jackson said she had met with Ameren over a year ago regarding streetlighting concerns in District 1 and still have not hear back from them.

Council Member Jackson exited Council Chambers.

After Council Member Allen asked for additional information on temporary lighting fixtures in his neighborhood.

Council Member Ruckriegel asked for additional information on the previous communications and meetings had with Ameren along with any minutes or notes from those meetings to shed some light for the Council as to the situation.

UnityPlace Capital Contribution

City Manager Urich reviewed the three funding options presented at the November 1, 2022, Special City Council Meeting, and he presented two additional options for the Council to consider. He said the fourth option shifted funding for some scheduled capital projects to TIF funding sources in order to allocate \$875,000.00 to support UnityPlace, while the fifth option proposed allocating \$275,000.00 per year for three years, for a total of \$825,000.00, to reduce the impact on each annual Budget.

Discussions were held regarding the different funding amounts in the presented options, comparable nonprofit contributions made by the City, and the impact UnityPlace behavioral and mental health services will have on the community.

Council Member Velpula said he was in favor of the fifth option allocating \$275,000.00 per year for three years, for a total of \$825,000.00, to reduce the impact on each annual Budget.

Council Member Jackson returned to Council Chambers.

Council Member Kelly said he was supportive of the UnityPlace project, but he said he was hesitant to allocate funding as presented, citing precedence and differences with other contributions made by the City for nonprofit organizations.

Council Member Jackson said it was important for the Council to focus on fostering healthcare assets and investing in projects providing needed services for the community.

Council Member Allen said mental health was a priority for the community, stating he was in favor of the option to spread the allocations over three years in order to be reserved with the budget and to support the project long-term. He said the Council should invest in this project to address the needs of the community.

2023 Revised Budget Motions

Council Member Riggerbach moved to direct staff to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2023 Revised Budget to reduce the Rock Island Greenway Project \$95,000.00 in 2023 and \$1,100,000.00 in 2024 and increase the project \$1,210,000.00 in 2025; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

City Manager Urich described the Rock Island Greenway Project, the State Grant application process, and proposed extension route.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

After she said the Kickapoo Terrace road improvements were needed, Council Member Jackson moved to direct staff to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2023 Revised Budget to increase the Stormwater Utility Budget in 2023 to include the Kickapoo Terrace Project; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oylar, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Council Member Jensen moved to direct staff to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2023 Revised Budget to increase the Stormwater Utility Budget in 2024-2027 to include the Curb and Gutter Program; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oylar, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

City Manager Urich said the proposed motion should be revised to remove 'sidewalk' and replace it with 'streetlight'. He said the Grant for streetlighting the City received required an adjustment of City funds to account for the award.

Council Member Grayeb moved to direct staff to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2023 Revised Budget to reduce the Local Motor Fuel Tax Budget by \$90,000.00 in 2023 to tie out streetlight projects; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oylar, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Council Member Jensen thanked Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth for her efforts to secure the \$2.5 million Grant for streetlighting improvements.

Council Member Grayeb moved to direct staff to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2023 Revised Budget to increase the Capital Fund Budget by \$65,000.00 to undertake a Downtown Parking System Study; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oylar, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Council Member Jensen said she was in favor of the fifth presented option, allocating \$275,000.00 per year for three years, for a total of \$825,000.00, noting it was a fiscally responsible decision.

At the conclusion of her comments, Council Member Jensen moved to direct staff to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2023 Revised Budget to increase the Budget to fund a \$275,000.00 contribution in 2023, 2024, and 2025; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Noting a potential change in Council Members over the next three years, Council Member Cyr asked for a friendly amendment to reduce the commitment to two years. City Manager Urich noted the decision to provide a contribution could occur annually instead of making a three-year commitment. Council Member Jensen said she was not agreeable to the amendment, citing the commitment to support UnityPlace long-term.

Council Member Grayeb said the Council determined long-term commitments on a regular basis. He said it was prudent the Council allocate the funds in increments in order to reflect on project updates after the transition to Carle Health Services.

Motion to direct staff to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2023 Revised Budget to increase the Budget to fund a \$275,000.00 contribution in 2023, 2024, and 2025 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: Cyr – 1.

City Manager Urich said Staff would amend the 2023 Revised Budget as directed by the Council. He said it would be presented at the November 15, 2022, Special City Council Meeting for adoption. He listed additional agenda items that would be presented along with the Budget adoption, including an Ordinance to freeze Stormwater Utility Fee rates and an Ordinance to increase Parking Rates in Downtown Peoria. Director Cratty said Ordinances for Special Service Area (SSA) abatement of taxes would be presented at the December 13, 2022, City Council Meeting.

Council Member Kelly discussed incentives and investments in citizens to enhance community growth and build enhanced revenue streams to allow the City to keep up with increasing pension fund obligations and other financial responsibilities. He asked Staff to bring back motions in December 2022 to eliminate building permit fees and landlord registration fees. He said increasing costs to the landlords in the City was not addressing the substandard housing concerns the fee was supposed to address.

NEW BUSINESS

Civic Center Events

Council Member Allen discussed recent well-attended events at the Peoria Civic Center.

Council Member Oyler exited Council Chambers.

Council Member Allen said an important part of investing in a vibrant downtown area featured the Civic Center bringing visitors and patrons to hotels and restaurants.

Utility Bill Assistance

Council Member Cyr said he received calls from citizens regarding increased utility bills and he asked about available assistance and services. City Manager Urich described City efforts to respond to increased utility bills, including offering a Utility Assistance Program and efforts to exercise purchasing power options to purchase energy on behalf of citizens through the Aggregation Program.

Council Member Oyler returned to Council Chambers.

After Council Member Cyr asked where citizens could find more information, Community Development Director Joe Dulin said the best choice was to dial 2-1-1 to contact the Heart of Illinois United Way for a comprehensive list of available assistance programs from all organizations.

Township Supervisor LaTrina Leary described utility assistance provided by Peoria Township. She said there was a significant increase in demand, noting resources were limited. She invited citizens to contact Peoria Township for more information.

Vincent Richmond

Mayor Ali made a statement regarding the recent officer-involved shooting, expressing her condolences to the family and friends of Vincent Richmond. She said he was a family-man and a member of the community, and his loss was felt in the East Bluff neighborhood and across Peoria. She said she recognized the family and the community wanted answers, noting the Illinois State Police were the lead agency in the investigation. She said transparency was important, and the Peoria Police Department would work with the State Police until the investigation was concluded. She asked for patience as they completed the process.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to those citizens wishing to address the City Council/Town Board.

Mike Rucker, Chairman of Trail Advocates for Central Illinois, described the history of the Rock Island State Trail and efforts to invest and expand it through collaborative efforts of several organizations and governmental entities. He provided a proposed map of the Rock Island Greenway Extension and a brochure from the Inauguration the Extension of the Rock Island Greenway to all Council Members. He discussed the proposed extension route, and he thanked Staff for their efforts on the project.

Matthew Hayes, a member of ASCME Local 3464, said several employees were in attendance in support of the union. He said the union had leadership issues in the past that led to a poor work environment, but he said he was looking forward to where the union would take them in the future. He said the union employees' hard work was praised by the Council, noting it was the duty of the union to make sure workers had the working conditions and pay they deserved.

Alejandro Aguilar, a member of ASCME Local 3464, red a letter from Union Vice President Anthony Walraven regarding the working conditions of employees and the impact of reduced services and Staff on citizens. He said a fair contract was necessary for the union employees that consistently rose to the occasion to serve the City.

Brandon Lynxwiler, a member of ASCME Local 3464, described challenging working conditions at the Emergency Communications Center (ECC), including training, staffing, and quality of service concerns. He said he loved working for the City by providing aid to citizens, but they were at a point where change was necessary.

Council Member Jensen left Council Chambers at 8:38 P.M.

Christopher Farris, Reference Assistant Librarian at Peoria Public Library and member of ASCME Local 3464, said it was the responsibility of the union and the City to participate in negotiations . He discussed recent Teacher's Union negotiations with a lack of oversight from leaders that led to difficulties, and he encouraged the City to not allow something like that to happen with ASCME Local 3464's upcoming negotiations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was determined there was no need to enter into Executive Session at that time.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Cyr moved to adjourn the November 8, 2022, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,
Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

The Regular Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.



Stefanie Tarr, RMC, CMC, City Clerk
City of Peoria, Illinois

cc