

: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :**: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :**

A Regular Meeting of the Joint City Council and Town Board of Trustees of Peoria, Illinois, was held July 14, 2020, 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 present: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo (Arrived at 6:06 P.M.), Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 9.
Absent: Jensen, Moore - 2.

ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

In accordance with Governor JB Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-43 which continues to limit any gatherings of more than fifty people, and Executive Order 2020-44 requiring the provision of video, audio or telephonic access to meetings – and the CDC recommending social distancing of at least six feet between persons, City Hall is implementing changes and restrictions for the City Council Meeting on July 14, 2020 while complying with the Open Meetings Act.

The Council Meeting will be conducted in person with members of the Council present in Council Chambers with plexiglass barriers, with Department Heads in their offices and some City Staff in room 404 with the ability to remotely answer questions while maintaining a six foot distance. Fifteen members of the public and one member of the media will be present inside Council Chambers. Temperature screenings are required upon entry to City Hall and face coverings are always required while inside.

Members of the public and media are invited to watch through the live stream, YouTube, Television Channel 22 or through WCBU Radio. Submissions for Public Comment were received through the City Clerk's Office. The agenda, minutes and video podcast of the meeting will be available online through the City website.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ardis requested a moment of silent prayer or reflection and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on June 23, 2020, as printed; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: None.

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

- (20-127) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the JUNE 2020 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the JULY 2020 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the June 2020 Actual Expenditures and to approve the July 2020 Anticipated Expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Chairman Ardis - 9;

Nays: None.

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

- (20-182) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to DEFER until JULY 28, 2020, the Recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, Relating to SHORT-TERM RENTALS.**
- (20-190) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS with a Request to Concur:**
- Allison Galvan (Voting) - Term Expires 06/30/2021**
- (20-191) Communication from the City Manager, Treasurer and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the Month Ended May 31, 2020 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.**

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

Hearing no request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda, Council Member Grayeb moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as outlined in the Council Communications; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Item Nos. 20-182, 20-190 and 20-191 were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:**(20-192) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve the Declaration of Local State of Emergency; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

City Manager Urich provided an update on the expenses the City incurred through June as a result of COVID-19, totalling over \$1 million, which included the Library and the Civic Center expenses. He said all COVID-19 related expenses would be submitted to FEMA for reimbursement up to 75%. He said expenses would also be submitted to the State of Illinois through the CURES Program (Local Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency Support Program). He reported, under the CURES Program, the City of Peoria was eligible for reimbursement up to \$4.7 million in eligible expenses.

City Manager Urich reviewed Council Report Back #7 regarding past reimbursements the City received from FEMA. He provided a review for the last 11 years stating the City received FEMA reimbursement three times, and he provided an explanation of each event outlined in the Report Back.

City Manager Urich provided an explanation on how the City tracked COVID-19 related expenses. He said City employees tracked their regular time and overtime that was associated to the pandemic, Department Heads worked with the City's Purchasing Manager to track purchases related to the pandemic, and anything over \$5,000.00 was reviewed by the Assistant City Manager prior to its purchase. He said the City Manager provided approval of all COVID-19 related expenses.

In response to Council Member Ali regarding reimbursement for expenses, he said all eligible expenses would be reimbursable through the State's program up to \$4.7 million. He said the City had until the end of the year to seek State reimbursement. He said it was his hope to keep that money in the City through structured programs and reimbursements, and he said he would provide recommendations to the Council in the next week.

Motion to approve the Declaration of Local State of Emergency was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 8;

Nays: Montelongo - 1.

(20-193) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE a Loan from the City's REVOLVING LOAN FUND to FOLDAN VENTURES LLC, POP A SHOT LLC, AND ANTHONY STUCKER, in the Amount of \$100,000.00, and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Necessary Documents.

Council Member Oyler moved to approve a loan from the City's Revolving Loan Fund to Foldan Ventures LLC, Pop A Shot LLC, and Anthony Stucker, in the amount of \$100,000.00, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: None.

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

(20-141) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE a VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE (VSI) for Sworn, Full-Time Fire Employees.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to defer this item to the July 28, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Discussions were held regarding the deferral noting there may be additional information forthcoming in the next couple of weeks relating to the City's revenues that may be pertinent to this item.

Motion to defer to the July 28, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: None.

(20-125) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE the Recommended 2020 - 2021 BUDGET RESTRUCTURING as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

City Manager Ulrich provided a brief update regarding the budget as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. He distributed a copy of a spreadsheet reflecting revisions to the City's revenues. He reviewed the changes between projections and what was being realized in sales taxes were only down 27% and State sales taxes were only down 14% versus what was projected. He expressed a concern for the hotel and restaurant revenues. He reported income tax dollars were doing better; however, he expressed a concern on those numbers for 2021 where the full effect of unemployment would be realized. He said with the improved revenue projections, he recommended decreasing a working cash bond of \$15 million versus what was previously recommended. He reported the real impact felt by the local economy was approximately \$360 million. He said he was not asking the City to vote on the budget, rather, he asked the Council to receive and file the updated revenue projections as presented. He said the information presented to the City Council was available on the City's website.

To access City Council Agenda information and supporting communications and documents, City Manager Urich provided the following information:

- Go to www.peoriagov.org
- On the right-hand side under "QUICK LINKS" select [Council Meeting Information](#)
- Under "COUNCIL AGENDAS AND MINUTES" select [Click here to view minutes from 1957 to 2011 and 2014 to present](#)
- In the Search Box select the year 2020
- Select [Meeting Details](#) for the meeting date

Council Member Oyler moved to receive and file the recommended 2020 – 2021 Budget Restructuring Information as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Council Member Grayeb said one of the most difficult impacts for the Council was the inability for them to fully engage with their constituents. He remarked on the importance of being able to meet with the citizens of Peoria and to explain the issues the City faced. He remarked on the need to hold a community meeting in accordance with social distancing guidelines in order to explain what the City was considering in order to close the budget shortfalls and to explain how that would impact City services. He recommended scheduling one to two meetings throughout the City to explain to the community the unprecedented issues.

Council Member Cyr expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the City Manager providing the City Council up-to-date information. He said the report provided for a number of assumptions, and he inquired whether the timeline had changed for the Council to make a final decision relating to the budget.

City Manager Urich said Staff was not prepared to make workforce reductions right now other than the current vacant positions being eliminated. He said no changes were proposed in the workforce until September. He said the City continued to wait for Congress to determine whether another stimulus would be provided. He said the earliest workforce reductions would take place would be September 1, 2020. He said the items remaining on the restructuring of the budget related to public safety and the borrowing of working cash. He reported, based upon the current revenues, the City was looking at borrowing \$15 million in working cash, versus the \$20 million that was previously proposed. He said based upon the fluidity between projections and actual revenues, he recommended deferring this item to a later date in order to determine actual results and what Congress might provide.

Mayor Ardis reiterated that the motion on the floor was only a receive and file of the information presented and not an approval of any recommendations to the budget.

Motion to receive and file the recommended 2020 – 2021 Budget Restructuring Information as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic was approved by roll call vote.
Motion to defer to the July 28, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: None.

Additional Unfinished Business**VSI Discussion Relating to Item No. 20-141**

Council Member Ali inquired about the Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI) offering and why it only pertained to the Fire Department. City Manager Ulrich said offering a VSI for the Police Department would accelerate and exacerbate the current issue of understaffing. He said meetings were held with Staff to discuss the issue and it was determined not to offer a VSI for Police at this time.

NEW BUSINESS**Police Resource Center Opening on Wisconsin Avenue**

Council Member Riggerbach expressed his appreciation to Police Chief Loren Marion and his Command Staff at the Police Department for being creative with the topic of community policing. He said he was reassured with the good things that were happening within the community. He said a second Police Resource Center recently opened on Wisconsin Avenue, noting the first Center opened near Harrison Homes. He remarked on the importance for resources to be made available to the community, noting the City was working to be more creative with the implementation of the Residential Officer Programs and Police Resource Centers in neighborhoods.

Importance of Masking and Social Distancing During COVID-19 Pandemic

Mayor Ardis said there had been a number of discussions with Public Health Administrator Monica Hendrickson. He said she and her team had done an outstanding job negotiating through the COVID-19 pandemic. He said he wanted to reinforce to the community on the importance of wearing masks and social distancing. He said the City was currently in a good place, noting there had been an increase in cases in other parts of the United States. He appealed to the public to continue with the social distancing guidelines, stating the importance of not becoming too overly confident. He remarked on the need to get the community back on track and for businesses to reopen. He said the community would not be able to get back on track if citizens became careless. He expressed his appreciation to businesses for putting time and effort in providing a clean and safe environment for their customers. He said should anyone receive a phone call regarding contact tracing, it was important for those people to quarantine themselves. He expressed his appreciation to Public Health Administrator Monica Hendrickson and the Public Health Department for their efforts during this pandemic situation.

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.

D. Denise Jackson, Board Member of Southside Community United for Change, remarked on the Wisconsin Avenue Redevelopment Project and she expressed a concern for the delay. She noted other projects were being completed throughout the City other than the project slated for the South Side. She provided an overview of the proposed redevelopment, noting discussions had begun nearly five years ago. She said the Southside Community United for Change was asking the Council to proceed with the project instead of delaying it until 2021.

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 Ruckriegel 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 Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Cyr moved to adjourn the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: None.

The Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 P.M.



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