

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

A Special Joint Meeting of the City Council and Town Board of Trustees of Peoria, Illinois, was held December 4, 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, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11.  
Absent: None.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**(18-350) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the ORDINANCE Levying a SPECIAL SERVICE AREA REAL ESTATE TAX, in the Amount of \$85,000.00, for the Tax Year 2018 for the WESTLAKE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA.**

Council Member Jensen moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the Ordinance levying a Special Service Area Real Estate Tax, in the amount of \$85,000.00, for the tax year 2018 for the Westlake Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Motion to open the Public Hearing was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis opened the Public Hearing at 6:04 P.M.

Chris Oswald, Counsel for the Westlake Shopping Center, commented on the proposed amount for the Westlake Special Service Area, noting he had worked with all parties involved to provide a realistic amount.

Following a third call for comments from the public, Mayor Ardis determined no one else wished to speak, and he requested the Public Hearing be closed.

Council Member Jensen moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the Ordinance levying a Special Service Area Real Estate Tax, in the amount of \$85,000.00, for the tax year 2018 for the Westlake Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Motion to close the Public Hearing was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis closed the Public Hearing at 6:06 P.M.

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

- (18-351) Communication from the Town Officials Budget Committee with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE LEVYING and ASSESSING TAXES for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2018, and Ending March 31, 2019, of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois for the TOWN GENERAL FUND and ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND, in the Amount of \$658,658.00.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance levying and assessing taxes for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2018, and ending March 31, 2019, of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois for the Town General Fund and Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, in the amount of \$658,658.00; seconded by Trustee Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. TO-18-04 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Chairman Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

- (18-352) Communication from the Town Officials Budget Committee with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE LEVYING and ASSESSING TAXES for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2018, and Ending March 31, 2019, for the GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois, in the Amount of \$1,173,235.00.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance levying and assessing taxes for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2018, and ending March 31, 2019, for the General Assistance Fund of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois in the amount of \$1,173,235.00; seconded by Trustee Turner.

Discussions were held regarding the amount to be levied noting the lower amount came from the Township reserves. Township Supervisor Frank Abdnour said the reduction would not affect the amount of money needed for assistance. He said the matter was previously discussed with all elected officials and no one felt client services would be jeopardized.

ORDINANCE NO. T0-18-05 levying and assessing taxes for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2018, and ending March 31, 2019, for the General Assistance Fund of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois in the amount of \$1,173,235.00, was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Chairman Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

**PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA**

- (18-353) Communication from the Firemen's Pension Fund Board of Trustees Regarding the MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE REPORT, with Request to Receive and File.**

City Treasurer Patrick Nichting said the Municipal Compliance Report reflected the amount the City needed to be contributed to the Fire Pension Fund in order to be compliant with the Illinois State Statute. He said the amount noted in the report was already budgeted by the City in order for the Pension Fund to be 90% funded by 2040. He said the report was being presented at the same time the City was setting the levy.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to receive and file the Municipal Compliance Report for the Firemen's Pension Fund; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Discussions were held regarding the decrease in Firefighters and whether it would impact the amount the City owned the Fire Pension Fund and City Treasurer Patrick Nichting stated the decrease in Firefighters would lower the normal cost, but would not lower the future accrued liabilities. He said the City had long-term liabilities where there would be more retired Firefighters than working Firefighters.

Discussions were held regarding the Pension Fund's investments and City Treasurer Nichting said, pursuant to State Statute, the maximum the Fund could invest in equities was 65% and 35% in fixed income. He commented that IMRF was allowed to invest in a full range of investments wherein the Police and Fire Pension Funds were not allowed the same range of investments. He recommended advocating with the State Legislators to change Police and Fire Pensions to get the Prudent Person Rule implemented wherein the restrictions would be lifted and would not cost the City anything to pursue.

City Manager Urich commented that if the assumed investment return was lowered, then the taxpayers would have to make up the difference.

Motion to receive and file the Municipal Compliance Report for the Firemen's Pension Fund was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

**(18-354) Communication from the Police Pension Fund Board of Trustees Regarding the MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE REPORT, with Request to Receive and File.**

Council Member Riggerbach moved to receive and file the Municipal Compliance Report for the Police Pension Fund; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

**(18-355) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Authorizing the Final Distribution of Funds from the NORTHSIDE RIVERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA and Dissolving the SPECIAL TAX ALLOCATION FUND.**

Council Member Moore moved to adopt an Ordinance authorizing the final distribution of funds from the Northside Riverfront Redevelopment Project Area and dissolving the Special Tax Allocation Fund; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,636 authorizing the final distribution of funds from the Northside Riverfront Redevelopment Project Area and dissolving the Special Tax Allocation Fund was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

- (18-356) Communication from the City Manager and the Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Levying a Special Service Area Real Estate Tax, in the Total Amount of \$148,060.00, Against the Specified Parcels as Described in Exhibit A, for the Tax Year 2018 for the KNOXVILLE JUNCTION SPECIAL SERVICE AREA.**

Council Member Riggerbach moved to adopt an Ordinance levying a Special Service Area Real Estate Tax, in the total amount of \$148,060.00, against the specified parcels as described in Exhibit A, for the Tax Year 2018 for the Knoxville Junction Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Akeson.

Council Member Riggerbach commented that this SSA was a mechanism that created the intersection between Junction City and Donovan Park. He said it was paid for by the developer, Mr. Kazaam, who showed a commitment to the community.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,637 levying a Special Service Area Real Estate Tax, in the total amount of \$148,060.00, against the specified parcels as described in Exhibit A, for the Tax Year 2018 for the Knoxville Junction Special Service Area was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

- (18-360) Communication from the City Manager and the Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Levying a Special Service Area Real Estate Tax, in the Amount of \$85,000.00 for the Tax Year 2018 for the WESTLAKE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA.**

Council Member Montelongo moved to adopt an Ordinance levying a Special Service Area Real Estate Tax, in the amount of \$85,000.00, for the Tax Year 2018 for the Westlake Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Akeson.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,638 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

- (18-357) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied to Pay Principal of and Interest on GENERAL OBLIGATION CORPORATE PURPOSE BONDS, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois 2010 Series C & D, 2011 Series A & B, 2012 Series A & B, 2013 Series A, 2014 Series A & B, 2015 Series B, C & D, 2016 Series C, and 2018 Series A and the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2009 Series A General Obligation Bonds in the Amount of \$371,625.00; the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2015 Series A General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$2,014,000.00; and the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2016 Series A General Obligation Bonds in the Amount of \$247,665.00.00; and the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2018 Series B General Obligation Bonds, in the Amount of \$590,516.00.\***

\*A replacement Ordinance was distributed to all Council Members.

After a brief explanation of the item by City Manager Urich, Council Member Riggerbach moved to adopt an Ordinance abating the tax heretofore levied to pay principal of and interest on General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois 2010 Series C & D, 2011 Series A & B, 2012 Series A & B, 2013 Series A, 2014 Series A & B, 2015 Series B, C & D, 2016 Series C, and 2018 Series A and the partial abatement of taxes levied to pay principal and interest on 2009 Series A General Obligation Bonds, in the amount of \$371,625.00; the partial abatement of taxes levied to pay principal and interest on 2015 Series A General Obligation Bonds, in the amount of \$2,014,000.00; and the partial abatement of taxes levied to pay principal and interest on 2016 Series A General Obligation Bonds, in the Amount of \$247,665.00.00; and the partial abatement of taxes levied to pay principal and interest on 2018 Series B General Obligation Bonds, in the Amount of \$590,516.00; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,639 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

**(18-349) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending Article VII and Creating Article XVIII of Chapter 27 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Providing for the REGULATION AND TAXATION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR SOLD AT RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS.**

City Manager Urich said this item was one of the new revenues included as part of the budget. He said it would add a 2.0% tax to all packaged liquor, which would generate approximately \$700,000.00 annually.

Council Member Akeson moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Article VII and creating Article XVIII of Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Peoria providing for the Regulation and Taxation of Alcoholic Liquor Sold at Retail Establishments; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,640 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 9;

Nays: Moore, Ruckriegel – 2.

**(18-341) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Creating Article XVIII (PUBLIC SAFETY PENSION FEE) of Article 18 (Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations) of the CODE of the City of Peoria.**

City Manager Urich said this was the second fee that was proposed as part of the budget that would generate approximately \$1.2 million for 2019. He provided an overview of the parcel fee noting it was built on the size of the structure on the parcel. He reviewed the fee schedule ranging from \$10.00 for no structures on a parcel to \$200.00 for structures greater than 10,000 square feet, which would be collected on an annual basis. He reviewed how the fee would increase between 2020 and 2023 and the amounts that were anticipated to be collected. He said this fee would be in addition to the property taxes and was solely for offsetting the cost of the public safety pensions.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to adopt an Ordinance creating Article XVIII (Public Safety Pension Fee) of Article 18 (Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations) for the Code of the City of Peoria; seconded by Council Member Turner.

In response to Council Member Grayeb, City Manager Ulrich said if the City Council did not pass this item, then the property tax levy would need to be amended in order to provide for an increase or additional cuts would need to be made to the budget, which could be another 12-15 positions throughout the organization.

Council Member Moore expressed a concern on how this fee would impact the small non-profit organizations in the First District, specifically noting the North Valley and the South Side, and she said she would not be able to support this item.

Council Member Riggerbach said additional cuts to public safety weighed heavily on the City Council. He said between the cuts and structural changes that were being made in revenues, the City Council was taking the first steps necessary to address the situation.

Council Member Jensen said she could neither support the fee nor support the elimination of additional jobs. She said it was her hope that the City Council would consider alternative proposals such as reducing the amount allotted to the reserve fund or reducing the contributions going towards the Peoria Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau and eliminating the Municipal Band. She said she would not support the fee as proposed.

Council Member Riggerbach said, even with the implementation of this fee, there would continue to be issues with the budget. He commented on a recent mailing by the Illinois Realtors Association noting its late timing in the budget process. He said the budget was comprised of taxes, noting that was how most municipalities functioned. He said the City Council's purpose was to make sure they were getting the most out of the budget. He commented on the issues of the State Legislators passing on unfunded mandates to the cities. He said of the taxes the citizens paid, the City of Peoria only received \$0.12 on the dollar.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Riggerbach moved to amend his motion to provide for a three-year sunset on the Ordinance as presented with the understanding that a Commission would be established to review all revenue sources collected by the City and pensions from Springfield; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Turner said the budget was not about politics, but about where the City Council stood when it came to making the difficult decisions. He said this was the new normal and that the economy would not turn around significantly for quite some time. He said he would support the motion as amended.

Council Member Cyr said he would not support this motion noting that the citizens in the Fifth District already paid more than their fair share.

Council Member Akesson said the motion proposed would create a commission of people outside the City Council who could begin meeting in February to review the City's revenues and to see where the City should restructure. She said a citizen had recommended adding a \$1.50 fee to the water or electric bill to address the pension issues.

Corporation Counsel Leist expressed a concern for adding a fee to the water or electric bill noting it could be subject to a taxpayer suit.

Discussions were held regarding the proposed fee, and Mayor Ardis commented it was an annual fee based upon the size of the building on the lot. He said the highest amount a property owner would have to pay for a structure of 10,000 square feet or higher would be \$200.00. He said a structure 2,000 square feet or less would be assessed a fee of \$25.00 for the whole year. He said he could appreciate the financial situation of the community; however, he said these fees were minimal compared to the amount of reduction that would have to be made to the City's Public Safety personnel should the item fail. He said if the City Council did not approve this revenue, then the City Manager would have to come back and make additional cuts to the budget.

Council Member Moore recommended closing the gap in the budget by reducing the amount of money put into the Reserve Fund by \$1 million in order to address the public safety pension costs.

Mayor Ardis commented on the Illinois Association of Realtors and the impact they had on the City noting that they drove homeowners out of the City of Peoria and into adjoining cities. He said in light of their recent fliers, the Association needed to present the City Council with recommendations. He said a lack of ability to get support for ideas meant the work was not done in order to get an item passed. He said the Business PAC of Central Illinois had already reviewed various issues the City faced noting that those issues came from Springfield. He reviewed the recommendations presented by the Business PAC noting the importance of not using money from the General Fund to pay bills. He further stated that the Business PAC said there could not be a reduction in non-union salaries without cuts to equal union salaries, no cuts to the Convention and Visitors Bureau because they brought business to the City, no increase to the income tax because the City of Peoria was already the highest in the country, reduce the amount of equipment and personnel responding to minor vehicle calls, eliminate funding to the Municipal Band, no wheel tax, reduce the subsidy to Springdale Cemetery or outsource and privatize its operation to minimize cost, and not to push capital repairs off, but to make important decisions now. He commented on the amended motion on the floor noting the sunset did not have to be three years. He said the proposed pension fee was not nearly as bad compared to another reduction in public safety.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,641 creating Article XVIII (Public Safety Pension Fee) of Article 18 (Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations) of the Code of the City of Peoria was adopted as amended to include a three-year sunset clause on the Ordinance as presented with the understanding that a Commission would be established to review all of the revenue sources collected by the City and pension obligations from Springfield was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Moore, Riggerbach, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 6;

Nays: Cyr, Jensen, Montelongo, Oyler, Ruckriegel – 5.

**(18-358) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE LEVYING the TAXES for FISCAL YEAR 2019 for MUNICIPAL PURPOSES for the City of Peoria, Illinois.**

City Manager Urich said this was the property tax levy Ordinance with an anticipated levy amount of \$27.766 million, down from 2018 as the property tax base had contracted. He said it would keep the property tax rate at \$1.3476, noting it was in line to keep constant as per the direction from the City Council.

Council Member Akeson moved to adopt an Ordinance levying the taxes for Fiscal Year 2019 for municipal purposes for the City of Peoria, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,642 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

**(18-359) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to APPROVE a RESOLUTION Adopting the 2019 REVISED BUDGET for the City of Peoria.**

Two handouts were distributed to the City Council.

City Manager Urich reviewed the Resolution that provided for the adoption of the 2019 Revised Budget reporting that the overall budget for the Library was \$6,504,638 and for the City was \$203,792,629, which included putting \$2 million back into the General Fund balance. He said the budget incorporated all the issues discussed for the operating and spending plan in 2019.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve the Resolution adopting the 2019 Revised Budget for the City of Peoria; seconded by Council Member Turner.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-359 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Grayeb, Moore, Riggerbach, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 6;

Nays: Cyr, Jensen, Montelongo, Oyler, Ruckriegel – 5.

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

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the Floor to those citizens who wished to address the City Council.

William Jones, a concerned citizen, spoke on the significance of the Springdale Cemetery noting the progress and improvements it had made over the years and the legacies it contained. He commented on the Alexis Scott campaign and asked that the FBI be allowed to make a statement to alleviate the family's concerns.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Consideration of a Motion to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees 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 Riggerbach moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees, 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 Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

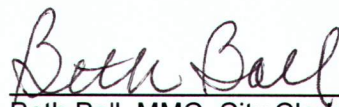
Council Member Akesson moved to adjourn the Special Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

The Special Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

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