

: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

A Joint Regular Meeting of the City Council and Town Board of Trustees of Peoria, Illinois, was held January 8, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Jim 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, Riggenbach, 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.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

125th Anniversary for the Peoria Women's Club Historic Building

MINUTES

Council Member Grayeb moved to approve the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on November 27, 2018, and the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held December 11, 2018, as printed; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

(19-001) REQUEST from the Township Supervisor to APPROVE a RESOLUTION Concerning the RATIFICATION OF ORDERS AND CLAIMS Against Peoria Township.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve a Resolution concerning the ratification of orders and claims against Peoria Township; seconded by Trustee Turner.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-001 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

- (19-002) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the DECEMBER 2018 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the JANUARY 2019 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the December 2018 actual expenditures and to approve the January 2019 anticipated expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE, with Recommendations as Outlined

- (19-003) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE the
* 2019 ANNUAL CITY AND COUNTY JOINT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.**
- (19-004) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE a
 FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM Grant for EPIC PEORIA, LLC at 927
 SW WASHINGTON ST, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$5,000.00. (Council
 District 1)**
- (19-005) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to Commence the
 Process to Expand the Boundaries of the PEORIA URBAN ENTERPRISE
 ZONE to Include VILLA BOURDEAUX APARTMENT COMPLEX (5250 N.
 KNOXVILLE AVE.), Former IDOT Site (6305-5831 N. KNOXVILLE AVE.), and
 BIG SHOTS (10000 N ORANGE PRAIRIE RD).**
- (19-006) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Director of Public
 Works with a Request to APPROVE Change Order #2 for an Additional
 Amount of \$30,000.00 for the Concrete Vertical Repairs CONTRACT - 2017
 Project with ILLINOIS CIVIL CONTRACTORS INC., for a Total Amended
 Contract Amount of \$480,000.00. (Ref. Item 17-228 and 18-177) (All Council
 Districts)**
- (19-007) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Director of Public
 Works with a Request to APPROVE Supplement No. 2 to a Preliminary
 Engineering Services AGREEMENT with HERMANN & ASSOCIATES, LLC,
 in the Amount Not to Exceed \$20,000.00 for Engineering Services for the
 NORTH UNIVERSITY STREET PROJECT (Pioneer Parkway to Townline
 Road). (Council District 5)**
- (19-008) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources
** with a Request to Authorize the City Manager to Extend the COLLECTIVE
 BARGAINING AGREEMENT Negotiated Between the City of Peoria and
 IBEW LOCAL 51 Covering the Period from December 1, 2018, through
 November 30, 2021.**

- (19-009) **Communication from the City Manager and Interim Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the STATE MOTOR FUEL TAX RESOLUTION NO. 19-009, in the Amount of \$118,000.00, for Engineering and Construction Services for the WAR MEMORIAL DRIVE PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENTS PROJECT between CHARTER OAK ROAD and CANNES DRIVE. (Council District 4)**
- (19-010) **Communication from the City Manager and Interim Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the Second Supplemental STATE MOTOR FUEL TAX RESOLUTION NO. 19-010, in the Amount of \$100,000.00, for Construction Services for the MACARTHUR HIGHWAY BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT. (Council District 1)**
- (19-011) **Communication from the City Manager and Interim Director of Public Works with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 31 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Pertaining to STORMWATER UTILITY.**

- (19-012) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the PEORIA/PEKIN URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (PPUATS) POLICY COMMITTEE, with Request to Concur:**
- Acting Public Works Director/City Engineer Bill Lewis (Voting)**
- (19-013) **Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with A Request to RECEIVE and FILE the Month Ended NOVEMBER 30, 2018, UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.**
- (19-014) **REPORT from the CITY TREASURER PATRICK A NICHTING for the MONTH of NOVEMBER 2018, with Request to Receive and File.**

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

Council Member Oyler requested Item No. 19-008 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Jensen requested Item No. 19-003 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Montelongo requested Item No. 19-011 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 Akeson.

Item Nos. 19-003 through 19-014 (excluding Item Nos. 19-003, 19-008, and 19-011, which were removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

**(19-003) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE the
* 2019 ANNUAL CITY AND COUNTY JOINT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.**

Council Member Jensen requested an additional item be added to the Legislative Agenda. She recommended adding an item regarding the collection of the Home Rule Sales Tax, noting that the City had not been receiving its full amount over the last two to three years. She also commented that the City was being charged a fee on the collection of the Personal Property Replacement Tax.

City Manager Urich recommended, if there was no objection from the City Council, to include a statement under "Direct Sponsorship the Joint Request" regarding the Sales and Use Tax Reform requesting the State of Illinois to rescind the 1.5% withholding on the Home Rule Sales Tax. He said the County was also affected by that amount noting it impacted their Local Option Sales Tax.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve the 2019 Annual City and County Joint Legislative Agenda with the amendment to include, under Direct Sponsorships – Joint Request – Sales and Use Tax Reform, the State of Illinois to rescind its 1.5% withholding of the City's Home Rule Sales Tax; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Council Member Riggerbach commented on the Direct Sponsorship - Public Safety Pension Reform, noting it had the biggest effect on the City due to it being an unfunded mandate. He remarked on the importance of asking the State Legislators to help address this issue. He said it was not the intent to take pensions away; however, he remarked on the need to make some structural changes and to make some common sense reforms.

Mayor Ardis commented that one of the Illinois Municipal League's main initiatives was to bring money back to the municipalities, noting that the City would have strong support from the IML on rescinding the 1.5% withholding.

Motion to approve the 2019 Annual City and County Joint Legislative Agenda with the amendment to include, under Direct Sponsorships – Joint Request – Sales and Use Tax Reform, the State of Illinois to rescind the 1.5% withholding of the City's Home Rule Sales Tax was approved, as amended, by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Jensen remarked on the need for sales tax reform and the allocation of those taxes throughout the State and the need for municipalities to receive a fair share of the taxes.

City Manager Urich said the *South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc.* Supreme Court decision would open up more revenues across the State of Illinois wherein the City of Peoria would get a portion of those funds, which would not be substantive. He said as the State of Illinois had the conversation with other States about how to tax and collect on internet sales, there was a need for the Legislators to consider Peoria's local option sales taxes. He said if there was an opportunity for the Legislature to take that into consideration, then the City would see a significant increase in its revenue.

City Manager Urich said the formula used to disburse the taxes to various entities would continue to be discussed with Legislators and would be presented at the upcoming Legislative meeting.

**(19-008) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources
** with a Request to Authorize the City Manager to Extend the COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING AGREEMENT Negotiated Between the City of Peoria and
IBEW LOCAL 51 Covering the Period from December 1, 2018, through
November 30, 2021.**

Council Member Oyler said he would not support a pay increase due to the City's economic climate where the City Council had not addressed the long-term fiscal issues, and he said he would be voting against this item.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve the extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiated between the City of Peoria and IBEW Local 51 covering the period from December 1, 2018, through November 30, 2021; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Discussions were held regarding the union negotiations and City Manager Ulrich stated that this agreement provided for a slight wage increase of 1.25% for the first year. He said it would affect eight employees and was reflective of the current market. He said the total cost for the increase would be approximately \$6,000.00 for the first year, which was already part of the 2019 City Budget previously adopted by the City Council.

Motion to approve the extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiated between the City of Peoria and IBEW Local 51 covering the period from December 1, 2018, through November 30, 2021, was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: Oyler – 1.

**(19-011) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Director of Public
*** Works with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 31
of the CODE of the City of Peoria Pertaining to STORMWATER UTILITY.**

Council Member Montelongo requested information regarding the stormwater utility fee: the amount of money collected for 2018, the amount of money spent on the projects listed, and a list of the projects. He said the information would help the City Council see what projects were being addressed and/or completed. He said there was a lot of new information on the City's website regarding the stormwater utility and he commended the City Manager and Staff on their efforts in that matter. He said he would be voting no on this item in order to be consistent with his previous votes regarding the stormwater utility.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 31 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to Stormwater Utility; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Interim Public Works Director/City Engineer Bill Lewis announced that there would be two public meetings to discuss the stormwater utility, answer questions, and discuss the Combined Sewer Overflow issues. He said the two meetings were scheduled as follows:

- Thursday, January 10, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. at the Peoria Charter
- Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. at the Carver Center

Council Member Jensen requested a follow-up on a Report Back she requested a couple of months ago about complaints regarding the Call Center. Interim Public Works Director Lewis said he would check into the status of the Report Back and provide an update.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,646 amending Chapter 31 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to Stormwater Utility was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Montelongo – 1.

PRESENTATIONS

(19-015) PRESENTATION by DR. JOE COURI Regarding the DON'T START PROGRAM.

Dr. Joe Couri and Warith Muhammad introduced the Don't Start Program.

Dr. Joe Couri said the Don't Start Program originated with Carl Cannon who encouraged youth not to go down the path of drugs and violence. He said local musicians collaborated to write a song and produce a video. He recognized Maria Criss and Romell Lanier who assisted with the project. He provided statistics on drug overdoses in the community and the number of Narcan doses administered by AMT to reverse the effects of a drug overdose. He reviewed the murder rate in Peoria, which was up since 2013. He remarked on the importance of convincing the youth of society to not take the path that would lead to these types of behaviors. He said another part of the message was to encourage young people to stay in school and to hopefully become leaders of the community.

Warith Muhammad said music was a form of psychology that helped people work through their emotions. He said in order to address the problem, music had to be used to make a connection with the young people of society. He said if it played in Peoria, it played everywhere and he said the City of Peoria would be called the standard for the country noting that music controlled the world and hip hop controlled the music.

A video entitled, "Don't Start," was presented.

Mayor Ardis requested that Dr. Couri and Warith Muhammad's video be made available on the City's website for public access. He expressed his appreciation for their efforts noting that the citizens of Peoria wanted a safer community.

Council Member Jensen moved to receive and file the presentation by Dr. Joe Couri regarding the Don't Start Program; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(19-016) Communication from the City Manager and Assistant City Manager with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a PRESENTATION Regarding GPEDC CITY COMMITMENT and 2019 OUTLOOK.

Chris Setti, CEO of the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, provided an update on the City of Peoria's involvement with the GPEDC. He commented that the GPEDC collaborated with local professionals in order to drive economic growth in the Greater Peoria area through targeted businesses and talent development and attraction. He reviewed the City's labor force and the number of employees from January 2017 to November 2018. He said the GPEDC did

three things: strengthened communities, grew businesses, and grew talent. He reviewed the four key objectives from 2015-2019: act regional, expand economic performance, improve human capital, and value and enhance the quality of life. He reviewed business attraction such as the 2018 site selector requests, the 2018 trade shows and the 2019 goals and activities of the GPEDC. He reviewed the business assistance provided by the GPEDC and the assistance that would be offered in the future. He reported on the GPEDC's workforce development in 2018 and the goals for 2019. He remarked on the need for regional collaboration in order to achieve success. At the conclusion of his presentation, he expressed his appreciation to the City Council for the opportunity to work with the City and to collaborate in their efforts.

Council Member Grayeb expressed the importance of concentrating on various transportation links available in the City. He commented on the need for a four-lane highway to Chicago and how that would positively impact the community and he expressed a concern regarding the City's current transportation links.

Mr. Setti concurred with Council Member Grayeb noting that infrastructure was just as important as the workforce within the region. He said there had been meetings regarding a high-speed rail connection but nothing in regards to a four-lane highway to Chicago. He said the more connections the City had to the rest of the State and Midwest the better. He remarked that Peoria was one of the only places in the County that had rail, river, road and air services. He remarked on the importance of rail and river and what those provided to the community.

Council Member Grayeb said transportation links were critical and he remarked on the importance of implementing a four-lane highway to Chicago. He expressed an appreciation for the presentation and commented on the positive work ethics of Mr. Setti.

Discussions were held regarding the business community's focus and Mr. Setti said the main issue was the ability to attract or to have a quality workforce, and the ability to attract people to come to the companies in the community. He said the talent forecast looked at what jobs would be in demand in the near future. He said the forecast was available on the GPEDC's website. He said companies were looking for those with critical skills and soft skills. He said the GPEDC had been working with providers in order to address those needs.

Council Member Cyr expressed the importance of accentuating the positives of the City of Peoria. He commented that the biggest battle the City faced was image. He said the City needed to overcome what was perceived as a problem with real facts.

In response to Council Member Moore, Mr. Setti said the GPEDC mainly focused on workforce development and not with retail operations, but rather with companies. He said there needed to be an attraction strategy to bring minority businesses to the community.

Council Member Moore said with Peoria being approximately 30% minority, there needed to be a strategy developed to attract and assist minority businesses to come to the City. She also remarked on the need for diversity on the GPEDC Board.

Council Member Montelongo said the City should look at some of the top universities to determine that type of research was conducted and to identify the new industries that had large growth.

Mayor Ardis said he was encouraged by the conversation with the City Council and the value the City received working with the GPEDC, and he said it merited discussion. He remarked on the importance of everyone meeting one-on-one to continue to help one another until the State offered more help to the municipalities.

Council Member Cyr moved to receive and file a presentation regarding GPEDC City Commitment and 2019 Outlook; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis recognized Illinois State Senator Chuck Weaver and he expressed his appreciation for his attendance.

FIRST READING

(19-017) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request for a FIRST READING Review of an ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 18, Article IV, of the CODE of the City of Peoria Regarding the OPERATION OF VIDEO GAMING TERMINALS.

Corporation Counsel Don Leist provided an overview of the item noting an Ordinance addressing video gaming was originally adopted over four years ago. He said there was an amendment to the Ordinance that addressed gaming in restaurants. He said Staff reviewed the Ordinance and proposed changes to the Code as it related to food and beverage sales, changes to the fee structure, and to allow current establishments the ability to open at a new location in the City with a video gaming license without waiting the two-year waiting period.

Mayor Ardis said the video gaming license ran January through December while the liquor license ran March through February. He said one objective was to get the two licenses to coordinate with the same renewal and expiration dates. He said in order for an establishment to have a video gaming license they needed to have a liquor license. He also addressed the fee increase recognizing that it could impose a hardship of some establishments. He said if the fee was increased, then payment would be in two installments.

Council Member Turner left the meeting at 7:45 P.M.

Corporation Counsel Leist commented, in response to Council Member Jensen regarding compliance, that the City would take action if an establishment was not in compliance with the food and beverage sales. He commented that the intent of the Ordinance was to become more collaborative versus more punitive.

Mayor Ardis commented that the City received complaints from businesses that other businesses were not in compliance with the request for the sale of food and alcohol. He said the Finance Department was monitoring those issues more closely. He said video gaming was public information provided by the State of Illinois that was accessible through the State's website.

Council Member Riggerbach said the proposed Ordinance was a good starting point. He explained that the food requirement was an attempt to divert video gaming cafes. He remarked on the importance of enforcing the sale of food and alcohol. He said he would like to see some enforcement mechanism in place. He stressed that the City did not want to have video gaming cafes to proliferate the City.

Council Member Akeson remarked on the importance of enforcement on the food and alcohol sales. She expressed a concern that the City Council did not have all the information needed in order to make an informed decision.

In response to Council Member Ruckriegel regarding enforcement, Corporation Counsel Leist said fines could be written for violating the requirements of the Ordinance and video gaming machines could be turned off just by notifying the State of Illinois. He said there were adequate mechanisms in place in order to address non-compliance.

Council Member Cyr remarked on the importance of the City being business friendly and the need for the City to have a reason to double the fee. He reviewed surrounding municipalities and their fee structure for gaming terminals. He said the City increased its fee in the last year to \$500, double of what other municipalities charged. He remarked that the Ordinance needed more discussion and input.

In response to Council Member Oyler regarding video-gaming enforcement, Corporation Counsel Leist said if it was the intent of the Council to have more active enforcement, it would be done by the Finance Department and Legal Staff on a case-by-case basis as to whether a license should be pulled or the establishment fined.

Discussions were held regarding the process of a First Reading. Mayor Ardis said the Ordinance would not be adopted at this meeting, but would be received and filed. Council Member Riggerbach remarked on the importance of receiving and filing the information in order to have the discussion on file for future reference.

Council Member Ruckriegel said there was nothing that supported the increase in the video gaming terminal fee and he said he would not support the First Reading.

Mayor Ardis encouraged Council Members to review the Illinois State Gaming Board website. He commented on the number of establishments that had gaming licenses and he remarked on the ones that made over \$1 million in revenues. He said the purpose of video gaming was to help businesses make more money. He said these businesses were generating revenues; however, not all businesses would want to keep five machines if they were not generating enough revenue. He remarked on the need for enforcement, which had not yet been done. He said during the budget discussions there was a lot of discussion regarding traffic enforcement and the revenue that had left the City because of the lack of traffic enforcement. He said he was more concerned about traffic enforcement than he was about video gaming enforcement.

Council Member Jensen requested a Report Back on what other municipalities charged for video gaming terminals.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to receive and file the First Reading review of an Ordinance amending Chapter 18, Article IV, of the Code of the City of Peoria regarding the operation of Video Gaming Terminals; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Riggerbach, Mayor Ardis – 7;

Nays: Cyr, Oyler, Ruckriegel - 3.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:

It was determined that there was no Regular Business to come before the City Council.

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

- (18-231) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to DEFER until March 12, 2019 the Following to APPROVE the PURCHASE of the SIMANTEL PROPERTY Located at the Foot of SPRING STREET. (Council District 1)**

Council Member Moore moved to defer this item to the March 12, 2019, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Motion to defer to the March 12, 2019, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 9;

Nays: Akesson - 1.

Council Member Moore left the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

- (18-275) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request for DIRECTION on Amending CHAPTER 13 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Pertaining to REFUSE CONTAINERS.**

MOTION ON THE FLOOR: To adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to refuse containers.

Council Member Montelongo moved to defer this item to the February 12, 2019, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Motion to defer to the February 12, 2019, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 9;

Nays: None.

Peoria Police Accreditation

Council Member Akeson announced that the Peoria Police Department was in the assessment phase of earning an accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). She said it was the first step in a long process of being reviewed and approved. She said the self-assessment would reveal strengths and weaknesses. She said there was a City Council Member participation component as well as a citizen participation component.

Police Chief Loren Marion said the Peoria Police Department had been going through the accreditation process for the last couple of years. He reviewed the five-step review process and noted that out of 158 standards, the Department met 151. He said the seven standards that were not met had been corrected. He reviewed the benefits of becoming accredited and said additional information can be found at www.calea.org. He said the assessor would be at the Police Department January 14-16, 2019, with a public information session on January 14, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. at the Peoria Public Library, Main Branch.

Council Member Moore returned at 8:38 P.M.

Chief Marion said for those who were unable to attend the meeting at the public library, but wanted to be part of the process, could call (309) 494-8314 on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, between 1:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. He said during that time the assessor would monitor the phone. He said for additional information citizens should contact Peoria Police Sergeant David Smith at (309) 494-8324.

Peoria's New Recycling Program

Council Member Jensen inquired as to the plan for picking up recycling in certain areas of the City and she expressed a concern regarding the curb-side recycling pickup and how that would impact certain residents within the City.

City Manager Urich said Staff had been working with PDC and he noted that the current contract stated curb-side pickup; however, he said the City had to approve any changes made to the contract. He said Staff had been working with PDC on a process in the older parts of the City in order to keep the alley pickup. He said it was only recycling that was affected with the curb-side pickup. He said garbage and landscape waste would still be picked up in the alley. He said PDC prepared a letter that would be sent to the citizens. He said those on Schedule A recycling started this week and Schedule B recycling would begin next week. He said changes to the contract would not need to come back to the City Council for approval, noting that it was going through the administrative process. He said there had been an increase in recycling since the deposit waiver, noting recycling increased by approximately 3,000 residents. He said Staff would monitor the situation should residents decide to stop recycling and provide a Report Back to the City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Comments Regarding the Peoria Journal Star Article Regarding CSO and Public Safety Pensions

Council Member Riggerbach noted an editorial from the Peoria Journal Star wherein it was reported about the City's new fees to address CSO issues and Public Safety Pensions. He said the editorial had made some misstatements about the City's handling of these items. He said the City had been working on the combined sewer overflow situation for quite some time and had conducted due diligence on the issue. Regarding Public Safety Pensions, he said the State of Illinois had set statutory requirements noting that the City always funded pensions according

to State Statute. He encouraged everyone to attend the Legislative Breakfast on Friday, January 11, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. to support Public Safety Pension Reform. He remarked on the importance of changing the amortization table. He said combining downstate Police and Fire Pensions would save the City a lot of money and he remarked on the importance of having the business community's support in the matter.

Recognition of Newly Appointed Police Chief Loren Marion

Council Member Cyr congratulated Chief Marion on his recent appointment to Chief of Police.

Traffic Enforcement within the City of Peoria

Council Member Cyr requested a Report Back from the Chief of Police regarding traffic enforcement within the City of Peoria. He expressed a concern regarding Alta Road and the need for enforcement at that location.

Mayor Ardis requested, as part of the Report Back, the number of Police Officers who worked in the Traffic Division of the Police Department and the shift duties when tickets were not being issued.

Report Back on Grants Affected by the Government Shutdown

Council Member Jensen asked whether there was a negative impact on grants the City received from the Federal Government during the government shutdown. City Manager Urich said Staff started to receive letters and guidance from State and Federal agencies regarding the shutdown. He said he would prepare a report for the next Issues Update that would address the issue.

Decreased Assessments for Big Box Stores

Council Member Jensen said big box stores were getting property taxes reduced through reduced assessments. She asked if there was a plan to monitor the decreased assessments and how that would impact the City of Peoria. She inquired whether the City would object to the decreased assessments.

City Manager Urich said property assessments were a Township issue; however, he said he would speak with the Township Assessor to discuss the matter. He said should the assessment decrease and affect the City, the City Council would be notified.

Public Radio WCBU

Council Member Jensen said she was a public radio listener and supporter and she remarked on the importance of having local public radio. She said she would like the City Council to approve a Resolution on how important public radio was to the community. She remarked on the importance of ensuring the City continued to receive local coverage of City Council Meetings. She requested a Resolution be brought to the City Council at the next Council meeting for approval.

Council Member Jensen moved, as an advisory motion, to have Staff draft a Resolution to bring before the City Council for approval regarding the importance of public radio and local coverage of the City Council meetings to the community; seconded by Council Member Akeson.

Mayor Ardis said the Resolution needed to include wording on the importance of keeping public radio within the City of Peoria.

Council Member Moore said she needed to abstain due to connections with public radio stations.

Advisory motion to have Staff draft a Resolution to bring before the City Council for approval regarding the importance of public radio and local coverage of the City Council meetings to the community was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Oylar, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis – 9;

Nays: None;

Abstentions: Moore – 1.

The Importance of Technology to the Economic Development of the City

Council Member Montelongo reported on a recent meeting with OIT Meet-Up noting that this particular group would be part of future economic development. He said the top priority for the group was the City's need for 5G wireless. He said another priority was for the City to adopt a policy regarding access to data, noting that it could attract researchers to the City for information and data. He said the City needed to adopt a technology plan centered around Industry 4.0, which focused on virtual reality, autonomous reality, autonomous vehicles, robotics, cloud computing, and data analytics. He said the City needed to focus on these strategies in order to move the City forward at a faster pace. He said there was a lot to learn about the City of Peoria stating that implementing these new ideas would bring ways to grow revenue. He remarked on the importance of putting information out in a way that researchers could gather it. He suggested creating a committee that had technology in mind while discussions continued on the path of economic development.

Council Member Denise Moore Selected for National Task Force on the National Housing Crisis

Council Member Moore announced that she had been selected to a National Task Force on the Housing Crisis in the country. She said she would be going to Washington DC to represent the State of Illinois in order to devise solutions that would be rendered in a white paper from the National League of Cities. She said she would be contacting organizations within the City that dealt with housing issues. She invited those with suggestions to address the need for affordable house and housing for the homeless to contact her in order for her to take those suggestions to Washington. She complimented Community Development Director Ross Black and his team for a pamphlet that brought forward suggestions on how to change zoning rules and to look at other avenues to increase affordable housing and housing in general in the community. She asked that suggestions be sent to her email at dmoore@peoriagov.org. She said those organizations already dealing with affordable housing issues would receive a formal email requesting input.

Mayor Ardis complimented Council Member Moore on her appointment to the Task Force and he asked for additional information on her appointment.

Council Member Moore said the National League of Cities was a national organization of member cities that was chaired by the Mayor of Washington DC. She said the committee reached throughout the nation for those to assist in the matter of addressing the housing situation.

Fundraiser for the Greely School Renovation into a Community Art Center

Mayor Ardis announced that Jonathon and Nikki Romain were recipients of the State Farm Neighborhood Assist Grant wherein those funds would be used to help turn Greely School into a Community Art Center. He said an inaugural evening of art fundraising would be held this Friday, January 11, 2019, at 7:00 P.M. at the Gateway Building in order to raise additional fund to help with the renovations.

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 citizen of Peoria, said he previously met with Chief Marion regarding missing person Alexa Scott and he expressed his appreciation for the same. He spoke on the Springdale Cemetery and suggested charging an admission to enter the cemetery, noting several large cemeteries in the nation charged an admission fee.

Terry Burnside, a citizen of Peoria, remarked on the violence in the City noting that the Police could not address the situation alone. He said it was a community effort and he remarked on the efforts of the Peoria Community Against Violence (PCAV) in the community. He said the City needed to work more closely with PCAV and other organizations in order to address the violence.

Jeff Griffin, President of the Peoria Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber and the Board of Realtors wanted to see the City of Peoria be great and succeed. He expressed a concern for the budget discussions as it related to private industries. He said the Chamber offered a lot to the business community, noting it currently had 1000 members, wherein free monthly seminars were provided.

Wayne Nowlan, a citizen of Peoria, expressed a concern for the closing of radio station WCBU, noting he and his wife had been dedicated listeners to the radio station since the 1970s. He said WCBU had been a part of the community for nearly 50 years. He expressed a concern that the Bloomington radio station would not accurately or consistently report the Peoria news. He inquired as to the agreement between Bradley University and Illinois State University and what it entailed. He asked the City Council to contact the President of Bradley University and the Bradley University Board of Trustees to discuss this issue.

Elaine Hopkins, a citizen of Peoria, remarked on the potential closure of WCBU radio station noting Bradley University was in negotiations with WGLT in Bloomington-Normal (ISU) to form a partnership. She said the agreement had not yet been finalized. She said WCBU was a cultural treasure to the City noting that many community members depended on the radio station. She asked that the City Council pass a Resolution in support of WCBU.

Kathryn Mosher, a volunteer reader at WCBU, said she and others read the Peoria Journal Star cover to cover for those who were unable to read the newspaper. She remarked on the needs of the community in this capacity and asked the Counsel to consider who would continue to read the newspaper for those who were unable to read for themselves.

Jessamyn "Jess" Hill, a broadcasting and history enthusiast, said the City would lose an important asset should WCBU close or merge with another station. She said WCBU was the only local media outlet by and for Peoria. She expressed a concern for the visually impaired on obtaining the news. She asked the City Council to consider a plan to save WCBU noting that Bradley University's communication students benefited from the radio station.

Marilyn Copp, a citizen of Peoria, said she started a business in the City of Peoria in 1976 and she said during that time the only form of media she had was radio station WCBU. She commented that WCBU played a part in forming her citizenry. She expressed her appreciation to Council Member Jensen for her efforts in the matter and she remarked on the need for more transparency, noting that rumors had existed since August 2018 regarding the possible closure of WCBU.

Tom Hunt, retired Executive Director of WCBU, explained the need for more news outlets. He said one of the most important Resolutions the City Council could pass would be an advisory Resolution to keep the radio station local. He expressed his appreciation to Council Member Jensen for her efforts in the matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was determined that an Executive Session was not needed at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 P.M.



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