

: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held September 24, 2019, 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: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen (Arrived at 7:12 P.M.), Kelly, Montelongo (Arrived at 6:08 P.M.), Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach (Attended by teleconference), Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 11. Absent: None.

ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

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

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

**25th Anniversary of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Bradley University
Census 2020 Complete Count Committee
22VA Suicide Awareness
Constitution Week
70th Anniversary of Lippmann's Furniture and Interiors**

MINUTES

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on September 10, 2019, as printed; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

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

- (19-293) Communication from City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,708 Granting a VARIANCE from Certain Provisions of the Flood Damage Prevention and Control Ordinance for ARDOR BREADS at 101 LIBERTY STREET. (Council District 1)
- (19-294)
* 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 REZONING Property from Former Public Right-of-Way to a Class C-1 (General Commercial) District for the Properties Located at 4700 and 4726 N STERLING AVENUE (Parcel Identification Nos. 14-19-401-001 and 14-19-401-017) Peoria IL. (Council District 4)
- (19-295) 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 ORDINANCE NO. 17,709 Amending an Existing SPECIAL USE Ordinance No. 15,418 as Amended, in a Class C-2 (Large Scale Commercial) District, for a Shopping Center, to Increase the Size of a Menu Board from 30 sq. ft. to 46.29 sq. ft. and the Height from 5 feet to 6 feet, 3 inches, for the Property Located at 4612 N. UNIVERSITY ST, (Parcel Identification No. 14-20-401-033), Peoria IL. This Includes the Properties Located at 4608 and 4536 N UNIVERSITY ST (Parcel Identification Nos 14-20-401-034, 14-20-401-035, and 14-20-451-012) Peoria IL. (Council District 3)
- (19-296) 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 ORDINANCE NO. 17,710 Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class I-1 (Industrial/Business Park) District for a Carpet Cleaning Plant for the Property Located at 2601 WEST ALTORFER DRIVE (Parcel Identification Nos. 14-06-300-013 and 14-06-300-017), Peoria IL. (Council District 5)
- (19-297) Communication from the City Manager and Community Development Director with Request to Concur with the Planning and Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,711 Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R-4 (Single Family Residential) District for a Place of Worship for the Properties Located at 1700, 1704 and 1708 W LINCOLN AVE (Parcel Identification Nos. 18-17-103-004, 18-17-103-005, and 18-17-103-006), Peoria, IL. (Council District 1)
- (19-298) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to Approve the SITE APPLICATION for a Class C-G (Gas Station/Convenience Store) Liquor License with Retail Sale of Alcohol at HY-VEE FAST & FRESH EXPRESS, 4123 N. SHERIDAN ROAD, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve, contingent upon the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy. (DISTRICT 3)

(19-299) ** Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to Approve the SITE APPLICATION for a CLASS H (TEMPORARY OUTDOOR) Liquor License for an Event to be held at 1601 W. NORTHMOOR (EXPO GARDENS) by EXPOSITION GARDENS, INC. on October 12, 2019. (DISTRICT 4)

(19-300) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the PEORIA/PEKIN URBANIZED AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (PPUATS) POLICY COMMITTEE, with Request to Concur:

**Public Works Director Rick Powers (Voting)
City Engineer Bill Lewis (Alternate)**

(19-301) APPROVE the COMMITTEE REPORT (POLICY SESSION MINUTES) Regarding the CANNABIS REGULATION AND TAX ACT.

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

Council Member Montelongo requested Item Nos. 19-294 and 19-299 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Item Nos. 19-293 through 19-301 (excluding Item Nos. 19-294 and 19-299, which were removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

(19-294) * 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 REZONING Property from Former Public Right-of-Way to a Class C-1 (General Commercial) District for the Properties Located at 4700 and 4726 N STERLING AVENUE (Parcel Identification Nos. 14-19-401-001 and 14-19-401-017) Peoria IL. (Council District 4)

Council Member Montelongo provided an overview of the item noting that a change in ownership and parcel size required the parcels to be rezoned.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Montelongo moved to adopt an Ordinance rezoning property from former public right-of-way to a Class C-1 (General Commercial) District for the properties located at 4700 and 4726 N. Sterling Avenue (PIN Nos. 14-19-401-001 and 14-19-401-017); seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,712 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

- (19-299)** **Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to Approve the SITE APPLICATION for a CLASS H (TEMPORARY OUTDOOR) Liquor License for an Event to be held at 1601 W. NORTHMOOR (EXPO GARDENS) by EXPOSITION GARDENS, INC. on October 12, 2019. (DISTRICT 4)**
- **

Council Member Montelongo said Exposition Gardens would be holding a Last Bash Demo Fundraiser on October 12, 2019, from 9:00 A.M. until 12:00 A.M. He said the event was approved by the adjacent neighborhood association, noting it was just a single day event.

Council Member Montelongo moved to approve the Site Application for a Class H (Temporary Outdoor) Liquor License for an event to be held at 1601 W. Northmoor (Expo Gardens) by Exposition Gardens, Inc. on October 12, 2019; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

PRESENTATION

- (19-302)** **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a PRESENTATION by Peoria Public Works Department on SNOW REMOVAL OPERATIONS.**

Superintendent of Operations/Assistant Public Works Director Sie Maroon provided a presentation on the snow removal process for 2019-2020. He presented a map that outlined 21 different snow routes in the City. The presentation included an overview of winter season staffing, the snow route system, equipment inventory, parking, and the Sidewalk Snow Removal Ordinance. He said the snow route system recently added a new route to bring the route number up from 20 to 21 without additional personnel or additional equipment to the existing fleet, which provided for greater efficiencies and more opportunity to get through the snow route system. He said it was the City's goal to remove all snow on all streets within 24 hours after a snow fall had ended when accumulation was greater than two inches, but less than six inches, and within 36 hours when accumulation was six inches or more. He explained when a pre-treatment was used and when salt treatment was used along with plowing. Regarding residential streets, he said these streets did not receive salt applications except under extreme conditions and were plowed at two inches of accumulation after completing primary streets. He emphasized that there was a "No Bare Pavement Policy" for residential streets. He provided an equipment inventory and specifically noted the importance of the brine machine and brine applications of the streets. He remarked on the importance of the use of brine for future snow removal. He commented that brine solution could be produced in-house at less than five cents per gallon, noting it would be more cost effective than salt. He reviewed on-street parking, stating there were signs posted on emergency snow routes and examples were provided to the Council. He said there was no parking when accumulation of snow reached two inches or more and would remain in effect for 48 hours. He reviewed the current fines for tickets issued that violated the no parking events, noting that tickets could be reissued every 24 hours. He reviewed the no parking signs for the Downtown Business District highlighting the hours those took effect between 11:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. in order to not negatively impact businesses. He provided an overview of the City-wide no parking ban stating those were put into effect by the City Manager or his designee and would remain in effect until terminated. He reviewed commercial sidewalk snow removal citing the Sidewalk Snow Removal Ordinance Section 26-

251 of the Code of the City of Peoria wherein all commercial property owners were required to remove snow from public sidewalks adjacent to their property. He said commercial property owners included businesses, schools, churches and hospitals with the goal of ensuring a safe and walkable community. He provided an example of mailers that would be distributed to commercial property owners advising them of the City's Sidewalk Snow Removal Ordinance.

Council Member Moore expressed a concern for the three hours' notice for motorists to move cars during a City-wide no parking ban, and she provided possible scenarios. Assistant Director Maroon said that issue warranted further discussion. He commented that, in most cases, when a City-wide no parking ban went into effect, there was enough snow on the streets that schools would be closed and busses would not be operating. He said City-wide no parking bans did not go into effect very often and generally occurred during extreme cases, which had only been used once or twice over the last several years. At Council Member Moore's suggestion, he said those people affected by the ban could be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Council Member Jensen arrived at 7:12 P.M.

Assistant Director Maroon remarked on the importance of parking bans remaining in effect for 48 hours, noting there were individuals who thought parking on the street was allowed immediately after a snow plow had passed. He said on many occasions, once there had been a snow event, another snow system would come through which would warrant the snow plow to pass through the streets again.

At the request of Council Member Cyr, Assistant Director Maroon provided an explanation of a No Bare Pavement Policy stating that once the snow plows entered the residential streets, there had been traffic on the snow and packed the snow down making it difficult to fully remove the snow off the street. He also provided an explanation of how the routes were shuffled, noting that there were routes within routes which would be shuffled in order to prevent the same routes from being addressed last each time.

Discussions were held regarding GPS systems on the snow plows, and it was discussed that budgetary constraints prevented them from running these systems. Assistant Director Maroon commented that the City was in a good position with salt resources that would last the rest of 2019 and into 2020.

Council Member Ruckriegel remarked on the recent Snow Road-ee commenting that the Peoria Public Works Department Snowfighters received a number of awards, noting they had competed against other cities and governmental entities. Assistant Director Maroon said it was a State-wide competition wherein they could show their skills and do some training on the course. He said the competition was comprised of an obstacle course, written test and a circle of safety.

Council Member Ruckriegel recommended notifying the Chamber of Commerce, private snow removal contractors and landlords with the postcards regarding the City's Ordinance requiring commercial property owners to remove snow within 24 hours after a snow event. He also recommended researching GPS systems, noting they have gotten cheaper over the years, for the snow plows to provide better communication for the citizens.

Council Member Montelongo commented on the need to address the 4th District after a snow event and the amount of time it took to address those streets. He said he concurred with the need for implementing a GPS component in the snow plows in order to keep constituents informed of the snow removal efforts.

In response to Council Member Montelongo, Assistant Director Maroon said the City had the option of extending its work shifts to 16 hours and to hire private contractors as needed.

Council Member Montelongo commented on commercial sidewalks noting the City had an Ordinance in effect for a number of years. He said enforcement of the Ordinance needed better management and more effective communication. He recommended sending out reminders to businesses, and suggested that if the businesses did not clean their sidewalks, then the City would clean them at a cost to the business. He also remarked on the need to inform apartment complexes of abiding by the City's Ordinance as well, and the importance of sending the message that Peoria was open 24/7 and was business and community friendly.

Discussions were held regarding the trimming of limbs from utility lines, and Assistant Director Maroon said the City had a forestry staff who trimmed all service routes in the rights of ways. He said the City was not able to address utilities on private property.

Mayor Ardis remarked on the efforts of Assistant Public Works Director Sie Maroon, commenting on how he and his team had excelled over the recent years in addressing the issue of snow removal. He remarked on the communication efforts noting the Council received emails 24 hours a day during snow events. He said Assistant Director Maroon kept various forms of media apprised of the City's efforts as well and worked with the City's Strategic Communications Manager Stacy Peterson to keep the public and the Council informed. He expressed his appreciation for all of his efforts along with the efforts of Staff.

Assistant Director Maroon said the snow removal process was a team effort, noting that snow storms and ice storms were difficult to manage. He requested patience from the Council and the public when there was a snow event. He said with patience, he and his Staff would be able to help citizens get where they needed to go.

Council Member Cyr moved to receive and file a presentation by Peoria Public Works Department on snow removal operations; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(19-303) Communication from the City Manager and Assistant City Manager to APPROVE the PEORIA CIVIC CENTER BUDGET AND ANNUAL REPORT.

The following handouts were distributed to the City Council:

- Peoria Civic Center Annual Report 2019
- Peoria Civic Center Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2020 (August 26, 2019 Update)

Council Member Ruckriegel commented on the success of the Peoria Civic Center (PCC) over the last year. He said as a member on the Peoria Civic Center Authority, the Authority received letters on the efforts of the PCC and its recent success. He said it was a job creator both inside and outside the venue, noting the impact it had on economic development of the downtown. He said since the PCC's expansion in 2005, it only had two years of operating on the positive side

with last year being one of those years. He said continued success would create vibrancy in the City of Peoria. He said the key component of the Hotel, Restaurant and Amusement Tax (HRA) was coming from the PCC. He introduced Rik Edgar, General Manager of the Peoria Civic Center, who would provide a brief overview of the annual report and an update on the operating capital budget.

PCC General Manager Rik Edgar provided an update on the efforts of the Peoria Civic Center (PCC) with over 600,000 in attendance, over \$14.9 million in ticket sales for fiscal year 2019, and over 150 ticketed events. He said the PCC provided great entertainment and economic opportunities. He said 2019 was a record breaking year reporting Bob Seger as the highest grossing show in the venue's 37-year history; Blake Shelton being the highest grossing country venue in the arena history; John Mellencamp the highest grossing concert venue in theater history; MercyMe being the highest grossing contemporary Christian show in arena history; and Steve Martin & Martin Short the highest grossing single performance show in theater history. He remarked that people would pay for the right amount of entertainment. He reported that there were over 30 local non-profits supported by the events hosted at the PCC and that the PCC hosted a successful Better Built New Year's Eve Countdown & Kids Festival. He said new LED lights were installed in the parking lot and security procedures were updated. He reported PCC paid taxes to the City of Peoria for 2018-2019, in the amount of \$459,040.00, and to the State of Illinois in the amount of \$452,523.00.

Council Member Cyr congratulated Mr. Edgar on an outstanding year, noting the number of events that had been and continued to be booked. He commented on the PCC's mission statement and it being a cultural facility. He said the success of the PCC had a positive impact on the businesses in the downtown area.

Discussions were held regarding the taxes paid to the City and to the State, and it was noted that the taxes collected came from different revenue streams. Mr. Edgar said the City's portion of taxes was generated from ticket, food and beverage sales while the State collected from t-shirt, food and beverage sales.

Mr. Edgar commented on the efforts of Staff and the part they played at the PCC, noting they played a bigger part of the successful efforts. He said it was because of the personnel at the PCC that they were able to double their entertainment opportunities. He said should anyone see PCC Staff, to thank them for their efforts in making the Center a success.

Council Member Ali expressed her appreciation for the phenomenal leadership Mr. Edgar brought to the City of Peoria. She said due to his efforts revenues and participation had increased. She remarked on the need for more diverse entertainment and to be more inclusive of the attractions at the PCC in terms of types of acts. She commented on the annual report and the need for more diverse images. She said the PCC Board was diversified and was a great group; however, she asked that more events be booked that would attract more people of color.

Mr. Edgar said the PCC was an inclusive group. He said when he first arrived to the arena he was informed that the area was more focused on country music. He said Bob Seger was the first arena rock concert since 2012, which broke a record and provided an opportunity to introduce other artists. He remarked on the importance of people understanding that the PCC did not buy shows. He said it was not for a lack of effort that they were not bringing in some diverse acts, but was a matter of finding the right act. He said if enough interest was not generated, then the performer would cancel or pull out for lack of interest.

Council Member Moore said she was impressed with the increased attendance numbers and she requested that the Council be informed when a diverse group tried to book a show and then pulled out for lack of interest.

Discussions were held regarding the PCC's capital budget and whether the amount allotted was sufficient to maintain the facilities. Mr. Edgar remarked that the standard rule of thumb was 2.0% for annual maintenance of a facilities, noting there was currently \$600,000.00 budgeted for maintenance. He remarked on the needs of the theatre noting that carpet had not been replaced for 16 years. He said he would be happy to provide the Council a tour of the facility in order to discuss concerns.

Mayor Ardis complimented Mr. Edgar on his efforts and the amount of entertainment brought to the community. He said this was what the Council expected to see from SMG. He said people were coming regionally to the PCC, noting the entertainment that was drawing people to the community. He said the PCC had a lot of convention space and the best in the downstate area. He said because the largest hotel in the downtown area had been closed for the last 4-5 years, it had precluded the PCC from marketing for conventions. He remarked on the importance of conventions, noting they booked several years out.

City Manager Urich provided an update on the Four Points Hotel reporting he had conducted a walk-through with the head of the PCC and the Director of Facilities of the hotel company. He reported they were working hard to open the doors, noting all the rooms were in the process of being finished. He said they would be reaching out to the Community Development Department for final inspections.

Council Member Grayeb said he was delighted to see the City getting some great acts in the area and he thanked Mr. Edgar and his team. He said everyone was getting excited and that SMG needed to know it was a privilege to serve the people of Peoria. He said it was his hope that SMG listened carefully to what the Mayor conveyed with hope to have better negotiations for a contract.

Mr. Edgar said SMG would be announcing a positive merger with ASM Global in October wherein the company would grow significantly and would become the leader of management groups managing over 300 facilities. He said it was his intent to stay in the Peoria community, noting the positive momentum that had been created at the PCC.

Council Member Ruckriegel asked that the annual report be made available on the front page of the City's website.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the Peoria Civic Center Budget and Annual Report; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(19-304) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to APPROVE and Authorize the City Manager to Enter into a CONTRACT with GROUP O, INC. to Provide CALL CENTER SERVICES for the City of Peoria Relating to the Public Safety Pension Fee for a Six (6) Month Period with an Estimated Beginning date of October 1, 2019, in an Amount Estimated at \$90,000.00.

City Manager Ulrich said the City Council previously adopted a Public Safety Pension Fee with the intent to raise \$1.2 million to pay for public safety pensions. He said past experience with the stormwater fee showed there was a significant amount of phone calls received when those fees were implemented. He said the City did not have the resources to handle the anticipated number of calls. He said Staff was working on a dedicated webpage and other communications to go out to all property owners. He said this was an opportunity for the Council to ask Staff questions regarding the proposed contract for call center services.

Mayor Ardis said there was a large call center within the City of Peoria, and he questioned why that center was not chosen. City Manager Ulrich said the Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent to a number of call centers, including the local call center, but he said the local center did not respond; however, he said they had received 10 responses to the RFP.

Discussions were held regarding the responses to the RFP and whether they were local, state, or regional. Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins said they had received responses from all over the country; however, the center chosen was located in Milan, Illinois.

Council Member Moore said she was glad the services were kept in Illinois and she complimented the diversity scores, stating that Group O, Inc. was a 100% Hispanic-owned company certified in Minority Business Enterprises (MBE). She said it was recognized as one of the largest Hispanic-owned enterprises in the United States, and the largest in the State of Illinois. She said it was important for the City to reach out to contractors who mirrored the demographics of the City. She expressed her appreciation for continuing to look at minority firms stating that minority firms were just as qualified and professional as any other firm.

Council Member Moore moved to approve and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Group O, Inc. to provide call center services for the City of Peoria relating to the Public Safety Pension Fee for a six (6) month period with an estimated beginning date of October 1, 2019, in an amount estimated at \$90,000.00; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Discussions were held regarding the cost of the call center and how those costs would be paid. Finance Director/Comptroller Scroggins said it was anticipated that approximately \$1.6 million would be generated from the pension fee with approximately \$45,000.00 to \$90,000.00 budgeted for expenses incurred in its implementation.

Council Member Riggerbach said there was nothing more frustrating for a citizen than to call City Hall or a Council Member and get voicemail or be put on hold. He said it was important to know this was going to help with the public understanding for this fee at a high level. He said Council Members had been meeting with constituents explaining the fee, with the understanding that it would only be for 3 years until the City looked for a more permanent solution. He expressed his appreciation for the clarification on the expenses, noting it was important that the \$1.2 million was the net amount after the anticipated costs.

Discussions were held regarding the length of time the contract would be in effect, and Finance Director Scroggins said the contract would be evaluated on an ongoing basis each month and that the length of the contract would be determined by the volume of calls. Discussions were held about the City having a dedicated line for an informational recording about the pension fee, and Interim Information Systems Director Rachel Cook said the City had the ability for a voice recording, but did not have the phone lines to handle the anticipated volume of calls. Discussions were held about educating the call center on the issues and questions they would receive, and City Treasurer Patrick Nichting said training would be provided to the call center and a list of anticipated questions and answers would be drafted to be used by those answering the calls.

Council Member Ruckriegel recommended including in the first set of bills a letter or fact sheet on the specifics of the pension fee that would answer anticipated questions. He said he was unable to support this item. He said the pension fee was a fee that was supposed to sunset in three years and he said he did not foresee it addressing the City's pension issues. He said this fee was approved with the understanding to the citizens that all this money was needed to ensure the City took care of its public safety pensions. However, he said now the City was going to take money from each fee to apply towards a call center to answer questions because that City had not been communicating the coming of this fee for the last several months. He said last year the Council decided it was important to put that money towards the pensions, and he expressed a concern with using \$90,000.00 of those monies to pay for the call center. He said the citizens were expecting each and every dollar to go toward the pensions. He said a letter or fact sheet attached to the bill was where people would read things and would be where they get their information first. He commented that there should have been information on the City's website for the last six months informing the public of this fee. He said the City could not fine and fee and tax itself into prosperity. He said he would not support this item.

Council Member Ali said she was opposed to the pension fee, noting it was an additional property tax imposed upon the citizens. She said including the word "tax" or "fee" in the title placed blame on the public safety employees. She said the City needed to find another way, commenting on a possible brick campaign for the new firehouse in order to raise money to be contributed toward the pensions. She said there were other approaches other than taxing the citizens of Peoria. She said she would not support this item stating the calls should be answered locally.

Council Member Jensen expressed a concern for this item and the lack of communication prior to the bills being sent. She said she would not support this item, stating she had concerns with using a call center outside the City of Peoria. She recapped the issues with the call center used for the stormwater fee, stating they had provided bad information.

Discussions were held regarding the number of phone lines available to the City, and Council Member Cyr recommended researching what the City needed to increase the number of lines. He remarked on the importance of providing all the information in a fact sheet accompanied with the first bill going out to property owners.

Council Member Kelly said he concurred with Council Member Ali regarding a tax or fee being issued that would discourage capital investment in the City. He recommended compiling an analysis of what the problems were from the stormwater fee and to eliminate those problems with the pension fee and to provide a script to the call center. He said the call center could be a real asset or a real liability. He said he would like to see some analysis of why people were upset from the stormwater utility fee. He said this money was going towards supplementing the pension expense and now there was money being taken out for the call center. He said most of

the community thought all of this money would go toward defraying the pensions cost, but now there was \$90,000.00 going out for other expenses. He said without adopting a budget amendment, the Council could not do anything about the expense. He said if it did not pass, then the cost would have to come out of the City's general fund. Because of this, he said he would vote in favor of this item.

Council Member Riggerbach reiterated that the fee would generate \$1.6 million and the Council was informed at that time that after the necessary expenses there would be \$1.2 million applied toward pension costs. He said it was not anticipated at the time of the passing of this pension fee that the entire amount would be applied toward the pension fee. He said the discussions held at the time always included how much would go toward the expense of implementing the fee.

Council Member Montelongo commented that the stormwater utility fee was a complicated calculation. He said this pension fee was much simpler wherein there would be two mailings going out to the property owners. He said he was confident that the City could implement the technology to handle the phone calls. He said Group O, Inc. was an excellent company, but he said he would not be supporting this item.

Council Member Grayeb said the City Council was faced with a \$2.4 million deficit in last year's budget. He said there were a number of cuts made to the City's public safety. He commented on the name of the fee, noting it should actually be called a tax. He said the public safety division of the City had earned their pensions. He said this was something the City needed to do to prevent an additional \$1.2 million in cuts to public safety. He said this item was a mechanism to help collect the money that would prevent \$1.2 million in public safety cuts, noting the importance of ensuring citizens were safe in their neighborhoods. He said he would support this item, stating he did not like how it made it sound like public safety did not earn their pensions. He said it was impossible to bring this service in-house and it was unrealistic to think it could be brought in-house. He said he would support this item.

Discussions were held regarding the possibility of using other revenue coming into the City that was not anticipated last budget season, and whether those revenues could be used to pay for this service or to upgrade the City's phone lines and hire temporary personnel. However, it was noted that those revenues would not be coming back to the City until mid-2020. Interim Information Systems Director Cook said there was \$150,000.00 allotted to upgrade the City's phone systems; however, she said it would take a minimum of six months to upgrade. She said the phone system was currently maxed out with only 47 phone lines. She said should the City take on the phone calls for the pension fee it would shut down the phone system.

City Manager Urich said the pension fee bills would be going out and calls would be coming in. He said the mailers needed to include a phone number for citizens to call with questions, stating they would want to speak with someone about the bill. He said this was the most cost effective way to establish a call center for a short period of time. He said should this item fail, then Staff would have to see if additional lines could be added and to find personnel to answer the calls.

Mayor Ardis said this fee was approved last year and would be going out. He said the implementation had to occur and there would be a cost to its implementation. He said he understood the concerns of those who spoke against this item; however, he said there was going to be a cost, regardless.

Council Member Cyr agreed that the pension fee was considered and approved last December, stating he would vote in favor of this item. He said Staff had provided the best possible solution.

Motion to approve and authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Group O, Inc. to provide call center services for the City of Peoria relating to the Public Safety Pension Fee for a six (6) month period with an estimated beginning date of October 1, 2019, in an amount estimated at \$90,000.00 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Moore, Riggerbach, Mayor Ardis - 6;

Nays: Ali, Jensen, Montelongo, Oyler, Ruckriegel - 5.

(19-291) Communication from the City Manager and the Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the CODE of the City of Peoria by Adding ARTICLE 19 (Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax) of CHAPTER 27 (Taxation) Imposing a MUNICIPAL CANNABIS RETAILERS' OCCUPATION TAX.

A handout showing the various taxes that could be imposed on recreational cannabis was distributed to all Council Members.

City Manager Urich said in order for the City to impose a Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax, the Council needed to adopt an Ordinance by the end of September and notify the Department of Revenue that the City was willing to impose such a tax. He said adopting this Ordinance would not preclude the Council from rejecting the sale of recreational cannabis in the City limits. In addition to this tax, he said there would be a Cannabis Purchaser Excise Tax based on the levels of THC, a State Sales Tax, and County Sales Tax, a School Facility Sales Tax and a County Cannabis Retailer's Occupation Tax.

Council Member Jensen moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the Code of the City of Peoria by adding Article 19 (Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax) of Chapter 27 (Taxation) imposing a Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

In response to Council Member Montelongo, City Manager Urich provided a timeline for presenting a Recreational Cannabis Ordinance to the City Council. He said Staff was currently working on zoning regulations that would go before the Zoning Commission on October 3, 2019, at 1:00 P.M. at City Hall, Room 400. He said on October 8, 2019, a First Reading of the rescission Ordinance would be presented to the Council with request for adoption on October 22, 2019. He said if the Council voted down the zoning regulations, then the possession Ordinance would be void. He said if the Council decided not to have zoning regulations, it would make a statement that there would be recreational cannabis sales in the City of Peoria.

Council Member Kelly commented on the amount of tax assessed recreational cannabis that could drive the black market. He said he was opposed to adding a municipal tax on top of the other taxes.

Mayor Ardis said if this passed, then consenting adults who wanted to participate would want to pay more money for a safe product.

Council Member Cyr said he was in favor of the medical marijuana and expungement, but he said he could not vote for recreational cannabis, stating it was his belief to be a gateway drug.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,713 amending the Code of the City of Peoria by adding Article 19 (Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax) of Chapter 27 (Taxation) imposing a Municipal Cannabis Retailers' Occupation Tax.

Yeas: Ali, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: Cyr, Kelly - 2.

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

Request for Update on the Public Access Billboard

Council Member Moore requested an update regarding the public access billboard at the next City Council meeting.

Fitch Study Update

Council Member Ruckriegel inquired about the EMS public safety command study coming back to the City Council for review, noting it would be an important aspect as it related to the City's budget. City Manager Ulrich said the second part of the Fitch Study was complete and would be disseminated to the City Council. He said the Fitch Group would attend a Council Meeting in October to provide a presentation, which would include the EMS Call Center.

Request for Report Back the Recreational Cannabis Public Meetings

Council Member Jensen requested a Report Back from the two public meetings held in the last two weeks, along with the City's plan. City Manager Ulrich said the Clerk disseminated one set of minutes from two weeks ago and another set from this week's meeting would be drafted and disseminated to the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

It was determined that there was no new business to come before the City Council.

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.

Valerie Tyson, a citizen of Peoria, expressed a concern that the Peoria Police Department was not responding to her issues. She said she had sought help with no response. She asked the City Council to help her and other individuals like her whose voices were not being heard.

Bryan Evans, a concerned citizen, remarked on the need for the City of Peoria to become a sanctuary city for the unborn. He said it would be consistent with the Oath of Office that each Council Member took and he read part of the State Constitution and Bill of Rights that applied.

Billy Young, a citizen of Peoria, expressed a concern regarding the new pension fee, noting that the fee was not just attached to property, but was attached to people as well. She remarked on the hardships it would impose on the elderly and disabled and how the penalties could compound or worsen the situation. She remarked on the comments of Valerie Tyson noting that she was asking for help and someone needed to get her zip code, know her district, and investigate her concerns.

Toni Young, a citizen of Peoria, commented on the new pension fee, commenting that it should be called a tax. She commented on the lag of time between the time the fee was passed and the time it would be issued. She said during that time the City should have been reaching out to the citizens and informing them of the fee rather than waiting until the last minute. She remarked on the concern that the fee would not end after three years. She said the City should utilize its own staff to address the phone calls and to conduct the mailings.

April Allen-Scott, mother of missing person Alexis Camry Scott, expressed a concern with how the case had been handled. She said Alexis had been missing for two years and that the FBI would not handle the matter. She said the FBI needed to take control of the case. She said if there was any information that Alexis was deceased, then those people needed to be brought to justice. She said this now needed to be a homicide investigation and she asked that Crime Stoppers increase their award to \$5,000.00. She remarked on the need for closure. She said she would seek legal representation in order to get these issues addressed, if necessary.

Sara Martin, a citizen of Peoria, remarked on the Alexis Camry Scott campaign, noting that Alexis had been missing for two years.

Darcie Cady, a concerned citizen, commented on the Alexis Camry Scott campaign, stating that the FBI needed to be involved. She encouraged young women to become advocates to help one another. She said Alexis Scott should no longer be a missing person's case, but a murder investigation.

Micheilei Traver, a concerned citizen, remarked on the Alexis Camry Scott campaign. She commented on the impact that the marches had on the children in the neighborhoods and their fear for being lost and their interaction with the Police. She commented that the Police Department needed to go through training on how to handle sensitive situations.

William Jones, a concerned citizen, remarked on the lack of Council participation in the Alexis Camry Scott campaign. He commented that the FBI needed to be working on the matter. He also commented on a recent march that occurred in memory of Alexis Scott and the interaction with Police Officers. He said Alexis had been missing for two years and the FBI was still not involved.

Natasha Allen, a citizen of Peoria, spoke on behalf of the Alexis Scott campaign, noting she had been missing for over two years. She asked for justice for Alexis and for the City of Peoria to do its part.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT


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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Regular City Council Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 P.M.



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

st