

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

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held May 26, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. by electronic means through Microsoft Teams with Mayor Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were electronically present: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Moore, Montelongo, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 10.
Absent: Oylar - 1.

ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

In accordance with Governor JB Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-10 prohibiting all public and private gatherings of 10 people or more in a single room or single space at the same time; and Executive Orders 2020-18 and 2020-32 extending that prohibition through May 30th, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation of gatherings of no more than 10 people in a single room or space and social distancing of at least six feet between persons; I, Mayor Ardis, declared a local State of Emergency and closed City Hall to the public to contain the spread of COVID-19.

To fulfill the requirements and recommendations and to comply with the spirit of the Open Meetings Act by conducting the May 26th, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting virtually through Microsoft Teams. Those City Council Members attending the meeting virtually shall be declared present. Citizens and media are invited to watch through the online or YouTube live stream, local TV channel 22, or WCBU radio. Submissions for Public Comment were received through the City Clerk's Office.

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.

National Gun Violence Awareness Day
100th Birthday of Bob Gilmore

MINUTES

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on May 12, 2020, as printed; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

- (20-110) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE a SETTLEMENT in FANNON V. PEORIA.
- (20-111) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Recommendation to APPROVE a Request from the DUNLAP COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 323 to Disburse \$137,056.00 from the Education Fund for the Construction of an ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING.
- (20-112) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE VENDORS for 2020 STREET MAINTENANCE MATERIALS to Secure Set Pricing for the Current Maintenance Season Rather than Market Pricing. (All Council Districts)
- (20-113) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for the City Manager to Execute an AGREEMENT with the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION in the Amount of \$24,219.00, Plus Contingency, for the City's Participation in an IDOT Project to MODERNIZE TRAFFIC SIGNALS at US ROUTE 150 at IL ROUTE 40 and IL ROUTE 40 at BIRD/FRYE. (Council District 5)
- (20-114) 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 APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 20-114 Approving the PRELIMINARY PLAT for THORNEWOOD ESTATES SUBDIVISION, in a Class R-3 (Single Family Residential) District, Generally Located at the Southeast Corner of WILHELM ROAD and the ROCK ISLAND TRAIL, (Parcel Identification No. 08-25-400-002), Peoria IL. (Council District 5)
- (20-115) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,773 VACATING 125 Feet by 15 Feet (0.043 Acres) of an Alley Running Parallel to S. WESTERN AVENUE and Bounded Generally by W. HOWETT STREET and W. MILLMAN STREET in Peoria, Illinois. (Council District 1)
- (20-116) Communication from the City Manager and Public Works Director with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,774 to RESCIND ORDINANCE #17103 which Amended SCHEDULE "N" of CHAPTER 28 of the CODE of the City of Peoria, by Designating the 1000 Blocks of NORTH UNDERHILL STREET and NORTH BOURLAND AVENUE (from WEST RUSSEL STREET South to the Alley) ONE-WAY STREETS in TRAFFIC SCHEDULE "N". (District 2)

(20-117) **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. 17,775 Amending an Existing SPECIAL USE Ordinance No. 14,832, as Amended, in a Class R-7 (Multi-Family Residential) District for a WIRELESS COMMUNICATION TOWER HEIGHT EXTENSION for the Property Located at 1601 W. GIFT AVENUE (Parcel Identification No. 14-32-153-022), Peoria, IL. (Council District 2)**

(20-118) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the SISTER CITY COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**

Melanie Coulter (Voting) - 6/30/2020

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

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

Item Nos. 20-110 through 20-118 were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(20-119) **Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

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

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Moore, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: Montelongo - 1.

(20-120) **Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Community Development with a Request from the CDBG Public Services Advisory Commission to APPROVE the COVID-19 CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES PRIORITIES AND APPLICATION.**

Council Member Moore moved to approve the COVID-19 CDBG Public Services Priorities and Application; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Council Member Moore commended the CDBG Public Service Advisory Commission on their efforts in determining the priorities that were acceptable by CDBG and then submitted to the City Council for review and approval. She commented that the list presented was longer than usual due to the additional COVID dollars received. She said the City Council was being asked to approve eleven priorities as outlined in the Council Communication, and she explained the

process once those priorities were approved. She said the CDBG funds with the additional COVID money would have a significant impact on the community, and she asked the Council for their acceptance and approval of the priorities and application.

Council Member Ali expressed her appreciation to the community-based agencies who applied for CDBG funds, stating these agencies were extensions of City services. She thanked those who partnered with the City and expressed appreciation for the additional Federal Funds that came from the CARES Act. She said she was looking forward to the promotional information to be dispersed to the community once Council approved the priorities and application.

Discussions were held regarding whether some of the CDBG funds could cover City expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19, and Community Development Director Ross Black said some of those funds could be used to cover Staff costs as it related to COVID-19. He said of nearly \$1.1 million that was made available, the City Council directed Staff to allocate \$300,000.00 towards public service. He explained the process of the public service component of the CDBG funds stating that recommendations would be presented to the City Council in July with funds available to the agencies in August. He explained that the remaining money from the CDBG funds would be used for the Small Business Assistance Program and for property owners; however, he said HUD had not yet released guidance for those monies. He said Staff would bring back information to the Council at a future meeting. He said a portion of the available CDBG dollars would be used to cover administrative costs for management of the CDBG programs, and he said he would provide the Council with a detailed expense sheet. He said none of the money would be used to cover \$605,000.00 the City expended for COVID-19 during the pandemic, stating that the CDBG money still had to be used for eligible CDBG costs.

Motion to approve the COVID-19 CDBG Public Services Priorities and Application was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-121) Communication from Council Member Kelly with a Request to Direct Staff to Establish an URBAN DECAY ABATEMENT AREA for the NEAR NORTHSIDE, AVERYVILLE, and the FAR SOUTHSIDE, and to Amend the Boundaries of the City's EAST VILLAGE TIF on the Near Northside to Accommodate the Urban Decay Tax Abatement Area. (Council District 1)

Council Member Kelly explained that the communication presented was not prepared by himself, noting several errors in the communication. He moved to defer this item for two weeks stating that during that time he would be working with Staff on a Communication to present to the City Council. No second was heard.

Council Member Moore moved to defer this item to the August 25, 2020, Regular City Council meeting, stating that the Council's time was currently consumed with a budget situation that had to be addressed. She said should Staff be laid off due to budgetary constraints, then there would not be enough Staff to work on this item. She said she agreed with the deferral, but she said she preferred it to be deferred until the second Council Meeting in August.

Council Member Riggerbach seconded the motion.

Council Member Kelly expressed a concern that growth policies were not being addressed. He said the next Communication would be drafted by himself, stating he was aware of the current burdens on the City. He asked that the Council defeat the motion, commenting that the issue had been postponed for quite some time and was long past due for being addressed.

Council Member Riggerbach said he would support the motion to defer to August. He said the East Village Growth Cell (EVGC) Advisory Committee held meetings semi-annually, stating tax abatements should be discussed with that Committee. He said changing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) boundaries was not done lightly, noting that citizens were concerned with TIF policies. He said he could not support an item for tax abatement without additional information and that a deferral until August would be more appropriate. He commented that the EVGC had provided approximately \$500,000.00 to homeowners of the East Bluff for a Housing Rehabilitation Program; however, he said he would be interested to hear more about tax abatements and those potential benefits.

Council Member Ali said tax abatements would not be the work of one Council Member, but rather the work of a community and neighborhoods. She said it would require community input and engagement, noting there would also have to be an involvement of City Staff. She said tax abatements were not a solo project, and she said she agreed with the August deferral date.

In response to Council Member Grayeb's request for more clarity, Council Member Kelly explained that part of the EVGC was below the East Bluff. He said he reviewed boundaries to ensure there were no TIF funds generated in that area. He said there were TIF funds generated on the Bluff itself, stating that a tax abatement could not be a part of an active TIF. He said tax abatements cut taxes, which was the opposite from TIFs, and would be restricted to certain neighborhoods not producing TIF funds.

Motion to defer this item to the August 25, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Kelly - 1.

(20-122) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending an Existing OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN for Midstate College in a Class N-1 (Institutional) District, to Allow for a Revised Official Development Plan for TARANTINO AND COMPANY, BLEEDING & CLOTTING DISORDERS INSTITUTE, for the Properties Located at 405 and 427 W. NORTHMOOR ROAD, and 6112, 6126, 6200 and 6204 NORTHMOOR COURT (Parcel Index Nos. 14-16-155-014, 14-16-155-011, 14-16-155-010, 14-16-155-015, 14-16-155-016 and 14-16-155-006), Peoria, IL (Council District 4).

Council Member Montelongo moved to concur with the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and Staff to adopt an Ordinance amending an existing Official Development Plan for Midstate College in a Class N-1 (Institutional) District, to allow for a Revised Official Development Plan for Tarantino and Company, Bleeding & Clotting Disorders Institute, for the properties located at 405 and 427 W. Northmoor Road, and 6112, 6126, 6200 and 6204 Northmoor Court (Parcel Index Nos. 14-16-155-014, 14-16-155-011, 14-16-155-010, 14-16-155-015, 14-16-155-016 and 14-16-155-006), Peoria, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Community Development Director Ross Black provided an overview of the proposed development at the former location of Midstate College located on Northmoor Road, stating it was an amendment to an old official development plan and was a good use of the campus with possible expansion opportunities.

A presentation was provided by Becky Berns, Executive Director of the Bleeding & Clotting Disorders Institute (BCDI), and Scott Rinkenberger of PJ Hoerr. At the conclusion of the presentation Ms. Berns said they anticipated beginning construction in August of 2020 with completion of the project in the summer of 2021.

Mayor Ardis said it was an exciting project located near Kellar Station. He commented on how that area of the City was thriving and he said the new project was welcomed news.

Council Member Montelongo said he was excited for the BCDI to relocate to the Fourth District on Northmoor Road and Knoxville Avenue. He said it was a welcomed development to the area, he wished the company well and thanked them for the jobs and opportunities they brought to the City of Peoria.

Council Member Ali said she was excited for the project, noting the beauty of the design for the area.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,776 amending an existing Official Development Plan for Midstate College in a Class N-1 (Institutional) District, to allow for a Revised Official Development Plan for Tarantino and Company, Bleeding & Clotting Disorders Institute, for the properties located at 405 and 427 W. Northmoor Road, and 6112, 6126, 6200 and 6204 Northmoor Court (Parcel Index Nos. 14-16-155-014, 14-16-155-011, 14-16-155-010, 14-16-155-015, 14-16-155-016 and 14-16-155-006), Peoria, Illinois, was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-123) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a REPORT BACK on the Adoption of a BUSINESS REGISTRY with the City of Peoria.

Council Member Montelongo remarked on the importance of creating a business registry, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to help the businesses within the community. He commented that such a registry would provide information such as the number of businesses located within the City, their contact information and the industries they served. He said it was important to know the basic information in order to reach out to them to help during difficult times. He remarked on the challenges the City faced to disseminate information when there had been policy changes and amendments. He said it was important to keep businesses informed and would assist in economic recovery. He explained why the City Council needed to adopt such a registry stating it was about knowing the businesses in the community and how to reach out and assist them as needed. He said it would help to inform them to let them know when grants or loans were available, especially as it related to current times.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Montelongo moved to receive and file and Report Back on the adoption of a Business Registry with the City of Peoria; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Council Member Moore emphasized on the importance of a business registry, especially as it related to COVID-19. She said there had been many opportunities for funding, grants and loans at the onset of the pandemic and that it was difficult to distribute that information timely and appropriately to those businesses who were in need. She expressed her appreciation to Chris Setti, CEO of the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (GPEDC), for his efforts to distribute information in a timely manner during the crisis. However, she said a business registry would allow the City to disseminate information more efficiently. She recommended Staff review a process where a business could register themselves online by providing information such as a contact name and email addresses. She said she fully supported some type of registry to serve the business community better.

Council Member Ali said she would support an Ordinance creating a business registry. She recommended partnering with GPEDC and minority business organizations to form a committee to help establish such a registry. She said a committee comprised of key partners within the community would be helpful and a smaller committee could assist in establishing a short timeline to ensure the process was completed.

Council Member Kelly expressed a concern with creating a business registry, stating it was a redundant process. He said the GPEDC disseminated information nearly daily and was the information center for all businesses within the community. He remarked on the budgetary issues the City currently faced, noting it would take additional Staff time to complete such a project. He said he would prefer more time to discuss this matter further with those involved. He said he had spoken with some businesses who were concerned with the process and potential fees involved.

Council Member Grayeb said it would be helpful to know what businesses were currently operating in the community. He said there was a public interest in the number and types of businesses opening or opened. He said it was a positive factor to be able to distribute information to businesses, especially during the current crisis when businesses needed help.

Motion to receive and file and Report Back on the adoption of a Business Registry with the City of Peoria was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-124) Communication from the Mayor and City Manager Regarding OUTDOOR DINING AT BARS AND RESTAURANTS.

Mayor Ardis said the Governor had acquiesced to beginning the next phase of the reopening process to get the State back to a place so people could go back to work beginning Friday, May 29, 2020, for a partial reopening of business. He said it was his hope that the reopening process could be done in such a way that would encourage the Governor to expedite the next phase of the reopening process. He said the City Manager and Staff, in conjunction with the Health Department and Peoria County, developed the protocols for this process. He said the Heart of Illinois Implementation Plan identified different businesses and protocols that would be used to safely open these businesses and the process was beginning a month ahead of schedule. He said the intent was to bring the information to the City Council to solicit

feedback in order to formalize a process. He said the Council could impose more restrictions if it felt it was necessary; however, he remarked on the importance of staying within the guidelines. He said the bars and restaurants were highly regulated businesses who knew how to run a fun, safe and sanitary business. He said he worked with Monica Hendrickson of the Illinois Department of Public Health on the process. He said if the COVID numbers remained low and there was no surge, it would allow businesses with liquor licenses to take the next step to open further. He said some of the restaurants and bars were located within neighborhoods and he remarked on the need to respect those neighborhoods. He asked for assistance for those businesses in order to designate spaces on private property, on sidewalk space adjacent to the business's property, or other parts of public rights-of-way.

City Manager Urich said performance standards were distributed last week and it was being treated as a temporary extension of indoor dining spaces. He remarked on the need for flexibility in order to allow creativity for restaurant and bar owners to open for outdoor dining. He said space on private property pieces, sidewalks and City streets were defined. He said from the City and County perspective, it was making sure all the State COVID-19 guidance was being followed. He said fire lanes, handicapped spaces and visual boundaries outside the seating area should not be blocked. He said it was an attempt to clarify and amplify rather than alter guidance from the State. He said the issues remaining for the City Council to address related to live music and hours of operation.

Discussions were held regarding potential fees businesses would have to pay for outdoor dining or live entertainment, and City Manager Urich said during this situation those fees had been waived if it was built to the City's standards.

Council Member Kelly expressed his appreciation for the waiver of fees at this time. He said it would be difficult to impose one policy for all businesses, noting special circumstances such as streets and proximity to neighborhoods. He recommended live music would be permitted upon review by the City.

Council Member Jensen commended the City Manager, City Staff and the Health Department for developing the guidelines so quickly. She said she was very supportive of everything discussed and included. She said the sooner people get outside and frequent restaurants the sooner the economy would begin to recover. She inquired as to the guidelines provided, stating it did not allow for live music because social distancing could be a problem.

City Manager Urich said the State allowed for live music; however, it was the recommendation of the City to discourage it. He said live music was a policy question for the City Council to determine. He said the Council could impose stricter guidelines than the State during the next four weeks in order to balance the risks and allow restaurants and bars to reopen.

Council Member Jensen said she would strongly discourage live music at this phase of the reopening process, stating the City and the Health Departments discouragement of the same was appropriate.

Regarding hours of operation, City Manager said it was a policy decision for the Council.

Council Member Moore commented that conducting business outdoors was better than being indoors. She said that the City was not doing businesses a service by stating it "strongly discouraged" live music. She remarked on the need to provide businesses with more direction to that statement.

City Manager Urich said the Health Department was discouraging live music at this time, but they understood that the State was allowing it. He said it was a policy decision for the City Council.

Mayor Ardis offered some consideration in order to address short-term issues, he said he was optimistic that the COVID numbers would remain low and there would be no surge. He recommended businesses with live entertainment subclass liquor licenses could continue with that subclass. He said other establishments adjusting their business model may want music for ambiance, especially in higher commercial areas. He said it was the Health Departments concern that it would become a live concert versus a dining atmosphere. He said two areas that feedback was being sought was for hours of operation and live music.

Council Member Ali said she would defer to the Health Department in terms of understanding the concerns as it related to live music. She said she liked the hours of operations proposed, noting it was conservative. She said she would like the City to remain conservative to keep cases down so the businesses can open and stay open. She said whatever was determined, it should not be done on a case-by-case basis for the sake of fairness.

Discussions were held regarding Chapter 3 of the City's Code as it related to live music and whether DJ music and music piped in through speakers was considered live entertainment.

Council Member Riggerbach said there was a reason why live music was made a part of the Site Approval Process or Special Use. He said when the issue of live music came up in his Council District, the neighbors generally wanted to weigh in on the matter. He said deferring to the liquor license held by the establishment would be a natural extension to the process. However, he said the City could be more generous and allow for live music now until Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan began, wherein the liquor license would resort back to the previous classification. He said allowing this throughout the Restore Illinois Plan would be prudent and worthwhile, but he remarked on the importance of restoring normalcy at the conclusion.

Council Member Montelongo identified different locations within the City where restaurants and bars would be located, such as neighborhoods, malls, and downtown. Regarding weekdays for neighborhoods, he said he would not be in favor of those locations having live music. He recommended for large mall areas to have live music up to 10:00 P.M. He said the downtown location encompassed more housing than in the past, but he said he would be agreeable for those establishments to favor their current liquor license schedule. For a weekend schedule, he recommended the hours for neighborhood establishments to be until 9:00 P.M., mall areas until 10:00 P.M., and the downtown area whatever the liquor license currently outlined.

Mayor Ardis said there were potential issues trying to regulate live music. He said those establishments that held the subclass for live music should continue to do so. He said deviating for the license could create issues, noting that some bars and restaurants were within proximity to residential areas. He said the current proposed hours of operation were 7:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M., stating the opening hours were not as important and the closing hours. He recommended establishing weekdays as Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with weekends being Thursday, Friday and Saturday. He said there could be a later closing time for bars and restaurants located downtown that held a 4:00 A.M. license.

Council Member Moore commented on the establishments located on the Riverfront, stating she would prefer those places had a closing time of 1:00 A.M. on the weekends and 12:00 A.M. on the weekdays. She said she agreed with Council Member Montelongo's recommendations of hours for neighborhoods and mall areas.

Council Member Jensen stated if the City extended the establishment hours beyond the Health Department recommendations, then she would prefer those hours did not go beyond what was currently allowed for those that have outdoor permits.

Mayor Ardis summarized the various categories for the locations of establishments identifying neighborhoods, commercial/malls and the Downtown/Riverfront. He said the Downtown/Riverfront generally did not get busy until later in the evenings. He said those establishments paid more money for their liquor licenses, and he said consideration should be given for a later closing time, especially on the weekend.

After a brief comment regarding the parameters of a motion, Council Member Ali moved to allow live entertainment for those businesses that currently held a liquor license for live music for Phase 3 of Restore Illinois; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Discussions regarding hours of operation were held, and Council Member Moore moved that the limitation on the outdoor hours on the Downtown/Riverfront areas be 12:00 A.M. and beer gardens and sidewalk cafes have a closing time of either 11:00 P.M. or midnight; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Council Member Grayeb commented that the Mayor, as the Liquor Commissioner, should weigh in on these types of discussions, stating it was a complicated process with several unanswered questions.

Mayor Ardis said the City Manager and Staff wanted the City Council's input on the issue. He remarked on the importance of the discussions and the importance that the business community knew the Council did not want to make the process any more complicated for them. He said it was reasonable to use the current liquor licenses held by the establishments as guidelines. He said businesses were already licensed and would need to work within that licensing framework. He said if they allowed everyone to operate under their current license times, those moving their establishment outside who did not have a license for outside would be concerned with live music. He commented on the need to narrow the parameters for recorded music. He said no one would be disadvantaged while maintaining their current license.

Council Member Grayeb said he would not support a motion unless endorsed by the Liquor Commissioner.

Council Member Ali remarked on the importance of sending a message to the business owners that the Council supported them, but it would not be business as usual. She remarked on the current budgetary issues faced by the City and the possible conflicting messages it could be sending to the community during this pandemic. She said she would prefer earlier closing times, commenting that she could not support regular time periods during this phase of reopening. She said the State and the community was making progress by moving into the next reopening phase.

Mayor Ardis recommended establishing weekdays as Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and weekends as Thursday, Friday and Saturday. He said there was a recommendation of three areas within the City identified as neighborhoods, commercial and Downtown/Riverfront. He recommended closing hours of operations for establishments in neighborhoods as 10:00 P.M. Sunday through Wednesday and 11:00 P.M. Thursday through Saturday; commercial areas as closing at 11:00 P.M. Sunday through Wednesday and 12:00 A.M. Thursday through Saturday; Downtown/Riverfront as closing at 12:00 A.M. Sunday through Wednesday and 1:00 A.M. Thursday through Saturday.

Council Member Grayeb moved for a substitute motion to approve closing hours of operations for three designated areas as follows: neighborhood establishments close at 10:00 P.M. Sunday through Wednesday and 11:00 P.M. Thursday through Saturday; commercial establishments close at 11:00 P.M. Sunday through Wednesday and 12:00 A.M. Thursday through Saturday; and Downtown/Riverfront establishments close at 12:00 A.M. Sunday through Wednesday and 1:00 A.M. Thursday through Saturday; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Mayor Ardis commented that the Phase 3 of reopening only affected bars and restaurants. He said it was not yet appropriate at this time to open the clubs or establishments with a club atmosphere.

It was discussed that the Phase 3 of Reopen Illinois was currently set for 30 days with a sunset of June 30, 2020.

Council Member Montelongo said he was agreeable with the motion; however, he expressed a concern with neighborhoods who could be affected by live music outside. He suggested setting closing hours for establishments in neighborhoods at 9:00 P.M., but he said he could approve the current 10:00 P.M. motion. He said if there were several complaints from the neighborhoods, then the City Council could adjust those times. He said this proposed plan would provide restaurants an opportunity to recuperate their money lost during the pandemic.

Motion to approve closing hours of operations for three designated areas as follows: neighborhood establishments close at 10:00 P.M. Sunday through Wednesday and 11:00 P.M. Thursday through Saturday; commercial establishments close at 11:00 P.M. Sunday through Wednesday and 12:00 A.M. Thursday through Saturday; and Downtown/Riverfront establishments close at 12:00 A.M. Sunday through Wednesday and 1:00 A.M. Thursday through Saturday was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

City Manager Ulrich said Staff would gather the necessary information and post it to the City's website.

Mayor Ardis appealed to the business owners to be considerate of their nearby neighborhoods or residential areas. He said he would like establishments to reopen without creating additional calls for the Police Department.

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

City Manager Urich provided a presentation regarding a recommended 2020 – 2021 budget restructuring as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. He reviewed the current economic news noting unemployment numbers continued to increase. He said at the last City Council meeting the Council offered guidance on the levers of response to the development of a new budget for the four following areas: revenue, capital, borrowing and savings, and operations. Regarding budget restructuring, he provided a summary of proposed actions relating to the four areas. He reviewed the revenues stating there was a slight increase and he commented that the reopening of businesses in June versus July would improve estimated revenues for 2020. He reviewed the capital expense reduction and where those reductions would be made. He reviewed capital projects slated to receive State Capital Funding in 2021. He commented on the borrowing and savings, stating the restructuring of the debt service would cost \$2 million over 20 years and a working cash bond would require a repayment source of \$2 million per year. He reviewed operations and Staff reductions, stating there would need to be a reduction of 94 full-time employees and 28 temporary positions, which equated to 14% of the workforce. He provided a breakdown of how each City Department would be affected by the proposed reductions. He said if there was a reduction in the workforce, it would greatly reduce the City's service. He said the City was currently in discussions with bargaining units regarding the workforce reduction, but he said a 10% pay cut for all employees would eliminate the need for layoffs. He remarked on the possibility of offering a Voluntary Separation Initiative in order to reduce the number of layoffs. He reviewed how the proposed restructure would affect the 2020-2021 budget but commented on the continued growth of pension costs. He said the estimated Personal Property Replacement Tax and Income Tax passed by the General Assembly were not included in the estimates provided, but he provided a brief synopsis how those revenues would impact the budget. He reviewed the timeline for the restructuring process, stating it was the intent to have the City Council provide a final approval on policy decisions. He summarized the next steps stating the City Council should monitor the budget for the next 18 months in quarterly reviews. He said quarterly reviews would focus on new areas as the City progressed through the crisis and towards recovery.

Council Member Cyr expressed a concern with the proposed recommendations, stating that more time was needed to review the proposals. He inquired about the funding the City would receive for building Fire Station 4 and how it would affect the \$2.5 million the City currently had budgeted for that project.

City Manager Urich said he was uncertain when the City would receive capital funding from the State to build Fire Station 4. He said construction was due to begin in 2020, but he said he did not know how quickly the City would receive those funds from the State. He said he anticipated possibly receiving \$5 million from the State of Illinois in 2021 for that project.

Council Member Cyr recommended deferring the construction of Fire Station 4 until 2021 when the City was due to receive those funds from the State.

Council Member Cyr said there had been discussions regarding Library cuts, PDC contract cuts, deferral of debt repayment for the bond, and utilizing money from the stormwater utility, and he asked for continued discussions on those items.

City Manager Urich said any reduction to the Library Budget would need a motion from the City Council to direct the Library Board to make those reductions. He said he was uncertain whether changes to the Library's budget could be made for 2020, but he said it could be reviewed for 2021. Regarding PDC, he said Staff would have those conversations, but he said it would not affect any actual adjustment to the Garbage Fund other than how the General Fund would be reimbursed. He said it was a liquidity issue that would not be reflected in the numbers presented. He said the stormwater utility fee was scheduled to increase in 2021, and he said Council could consider foregoing an increase in stormwater utility. He said it would be a revenue-neutral discussion and the City Council would need to provide policy direction regarding the same. He said the City would not be able to defer any additional payments, stating it would give a negative perception. He said any additional borrowing and restructuring would be difficult at this time, particularly when it would be coupled with a \$20 million working capital bond and a \$10 million debt restructure. He said the debt restructuring would be on a 10-year amortization schedule and the working capital bond was on a 20-year amortization schedule.

Council Member Cyr reviewed the Growth Cell Strategy Report dated 2011 and how the Growth Cell Strategy impacted Council District 5 and the revenues it generated. He commented on the Fire Stations located in the Fifth District and noted that his District currently had the slowest emergency response times. He expressed a concern for eliminating Fire Station 20, especially after having encouraged residents to build in that location during the Growth Cell Strategy. He said the people of Council District 5 wanted three things: better roads, a safe community, and protection for their home investment. He said he would not vote for the recommendation presented and he said he could not vote until the proposals he provided were reviewed. He expressed a concern for the safety of the citizens in Council District 5, noting that all conversations had to be exhausted first. He said he would not vote on the proposal as presented.

Council Member Ali expressed her appreciation to State Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth and State Senator David Koehler for their efforts in securing capital money for the City. She said the City of Peoria would be receiving an additional \$82 million for capital projects. She said there was a strong indication that a stimulus bill was forthcoming to support municipalities, stating that the Council should not be quick to make deep budgetary cuts. She asked City Manager Urich for more information on the Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI), which would reduce the number of layoffs.

City Manager Urich said the City Council needed to provide him direction to bring back an Ordinance to adopt a VSI. He said a VSI would provide for \$25,000.00 of healthcare coverage to an employee upon retirement, stating the employee would have to retire within a certain timeframe. He commented that the retirement of one individual would prevent the layoff of one individual. He said an employee at the top end of their salary range made considerably more than an entry level position, which would allow the City to cover the VSI.

Council Member Ali moved to direct the City Manager to draft an Ordinance for the City Council to adopt a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program.

Council Member Riggerbach inquired about IMRF costs, and City Manager Urich stated with a VSI there would be no IMRF cost. However, he explained IMRF had an Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) where an employee could buy five years and for each year purchased, it would increase the employee's retirement age accordingly. He said the City would incur a large financial liability with an ERI. He said the last ERI offered by the City was approximately 10 years ago. He explained that a VSI could be offered by the City only, stating that IMRF did not

have an involvement with a VSI. He said the only cost to the City for a VSI was the \$25,000.00 plus benefit time to the employee. He said he was uncertain whether an ERI would provide a benefit to the City's budget explaining that the challenge with an ERI was that a position may have to be filled after the employee left, especially a Department Head position. Additionally, he said the City would still have to pay back the liability of an ERI for the five years that employee purchased.

Council Member Riggerbach said responses to a VSI should be reviewed, and if there was a low response, then an ERI could be offered.

Council Member Grayeb commented on a potential federal stimulus bill and the recent reconvening of the State Legislature. He remarked on the importance of the City Council reconvening as well, while maintaining social distancing. He said reconvening was important while discussing important budgetary issues. He remarked on the negative impact a VSI would have on the workforce, noting those positions would not be filled once vacated. He said those lost positions would greatly impact the service the City provided the community. He expressed a concern for laying off Police Officers and closing Fire Stations, which would impact citizen safety. He said more time was needed to gather additional information previously discussed. He said there needed to be additional budget discussions that included the City's Department Heads.

Council Member Riggerbach asked for a friendly amendment to Council Member Ali's motion to include information with a corresponding Ordinance for an ERI. He requested the number of employees in could impact along with the additional cost to the City. He asked that the ERI information be included with the VSI information.

Council Member Ali said she would accept the friendly amendment to include the ERI information and Ordinance along with the VSI information and Ordinance.

Council Member Moore seconded the motion directing the City Manager to provide information and draft corresponding Ordinances for the City Council to adopt a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program and/or an Early Retirement Incentive.

Council Member Jensen said she was supportive of and looked forward to seeing proposed Ordinances for a VSI and ERI along with a report on the estimated dollar amounts for both incentive programs. She said such programs were tools to help reduce positions without the layoffs that were proposed.

Motion directing the City Manager to provide information and to draft corresponding Ordinances for the City Council to adopt a Voluntary Separation Incentive Program and/or an Early Retirement Incentive was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Riggerbach, Mayor Ardis - 8;
Nays: Grayeb, Ruckriegel - 2.

Mayor Ardis clarified Council Member Cyr's request for a Report Back from the City Manager outlining the need for additional discussions regarding PDC and the Library providing for contract and budget cuts.

In response to Council Member Kelly regarding the increase in revenues, City Manager Urich said the previous budget scenario provided for \$30 million in borrowing and \$10 million in debt restructuring. He said with the additional revenue and operating cuts, the budget scenario now provided for \$20 million in borrowing. He said he took the guidance of the City Council to find

\$10 million in operating cuts and provide a restructuring with that scenario. He said with the information of some additional revenues, he said the City could reduce its borrowing, but would still need to reduce the operating budget by \$10 million.

Council Member Kelly expressed a concern for the City's deficit and the impact it would have on the community. He commented on the number of citizens out of work or working less than normal. He said the City Council was elected by and represented the citizens of Peoria. He commented on the proposed tax increase, stating that the City already had the highest taxes in the nation. He said he would not accept any measure that included tax increases.

Mayor Ardis remarked on the advocacy for keeping taxes under control; however, he said there was a cost to acquiring working capital. He said working capital or working cash needed a revenue stream.

Council Member Kelly expressed a concern for the City borrowing money. He said if the City wanted to incur debt, then there needed to be a debt service stream, or savings, without increasing taxes. He remarked on the effectiveness of the Fire Department; however, he commented on the redundancy of the emergency medical attachment to the Fire Department. He said these redundancies increased staffing, which the City could not afford. He remarked on the competency of the AMT services in Peoria that should be fully utilized, which would help reduce costs. He said it was not necessary to create a new revenue stream in order to borrow money, noting that if the City had cash each year it should pay off its debt.

Mayor Ardis asked Council Members to provide direction in a form of a motion to determine whether there was support for the any part of the proposals provided. He said a motion would provide the City Manager direction, stating the Council could not continue to wait to see if a stimulus bill was forthcoming.

Council Member Riggenbach moved to direct the City Manager to pursue debt restructuring in the amount of \$10 million, as outlined; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Council Member Ruckriegel inquired about refinancing the debt and how much it would cost the taxpayers through 2040, and City Manager Urich stated there would be an additional \$2 million overall cost. He explained that the debt restructuring piece reduced the \$20 million debt service repayment for 2020. He said the other debt instrument was a \$20 million working cash bond, which would require a new revenue stream. He said Council Member Riggenbach's motion would not require a new revenue stream.

In response to Council Member Montelongo's question regarding the debt, City Manager Urich said the debt included the restructuring of the general capital-related debt, some Civic Center debt, the Pere Marquette debt, sewer bonds, and stormwater debt. He said those were the five areas the Council was looking to restructure. He said he would provide the Council with specific numbers under a separate cover.

Motion to direct the City Manager to pursue debt restructuring in the amount of \$10 million, as outlined, was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: None.

(Clerk's Note: Council Member Grayeb was not available to vote.)

As it related to the removal of three engine companies, Council Member Moore asked Fire Chief Ardis to provide an explanation of how those removals would impact other machines and Fire Stations.

After a brief comment explaining the staffing of the Fire Department and how it was less staffed now than in previous years, Chief Ardis reviewed how eliminating three Engine Companies would affect the Fire Department, Fire Stations, and the assignments of other Engines. At the request of Council Member Moore, he said he would provide a diagram for the Council that outlined the proposed changes.

Council Member Moore commented that when the new Fire Station 4 opened, then Fire Station 8 would be closed. She expressed a concern that Fire Station 8 had an increase in fire call volume of approximately 143%, and she referred to a report distributed to all Council Members on May 11 that provided that statistic. She said she was also concerned that Fire Station 8 was proposed to be closed, especially in light of the increase in fire calls for that Station.

Council Member Moore requested a Report Back on potential response times of the Fire Department and its Fire Houses with the proposed recommendations.

Council Member Moore inquired about the stormwater utility fee, and City Manager Urich said that fee was not accessible. However, he said the City Council could freeze the Council-approved increase in the stormwater utility fee and, instead, utilize property taxes to cover the debt service. He said doing so would not decrease or eliminate the need for a property tax increase.

Council Member Moore commented that the citizens of Peoria did not want to pay more property taxes, nor did they want any of the proposed cuts. However, she said cuts needed to be made and City service levels were going to suffer. She recommended the City Council conduct a meeting similar to the State Legislature while exercising social distancing during the pressing budgetary issues. She said it was her hope that when the City Manager went back to the Unions, they would see the City was cutting where it could and Staff Members were being asked to take cuts in salaries in order to prevent layoffs. She said once the Unions saw what was taking place, then perhaps they would be willing to negotiate. She said if the Unions were not willing to negotiate, then the City would have to make workforce cuts.

Council Member Ruckriegel asked Fire Chief Ardis to provide maps and information of each Fire Station and their duties and responses prior to and after Rescue 1 and Rescue 2 were removed.

Council Member Jensen asked Fire Chief Ardis to provide information and percentages on how the reduction at the Central House would look and how it would impact the downtown.

Council Member Jensen asked the City Manager for information regarding a 5% and 10% reduction in vendor services and she inquired whether discussions with those vendors had begun.

City Manager Urich said Staff was reviewing vendor services. He reported the Public Works Department held most of the large dollar contracts, but he said those reductions may only provide a one or two year savings and not necessarily a long-term savings. He said it was more important to address the City's workforce, which was a bigger expense and would provide for longer and more savings.

Council Member Jensen said, along with reviewing cuts to vendor contracts, she wanted a report reflecting the benefit of reducing work hours for all non-public safety employees by eight hours per week.

Council Member Urich said information relating to a reduction of work hours for non-public safety employees was provided in a previous Report Back. He said the challenge with reducing the work week was with the Unions. He said the City was currently in negotiations with the Unions about making reductions in the workforce, but he said he was willing to discuss alternatives with them.

Council Member Jensen said the Council needed to see additional information prior to addressing personnel cuts. She said she was not prepared to support the reduction of the workforce as proposed; however, she said she was supportive of debt restructuring, a VSI and reduction of non-emergency personnel work hours. She said she wanted to review the impact of reducing contractor fees.

After a brief comment, Council Member Kelly moved not to establish a real estate tax increase as part of the budget proposal.

Mayor Ardis remarked on the recommendation of not increasing the stormwater utility fee in lieu of increased taxes; however, he said that would not be well received by the community.

Council Member Kelly's motion died for lack of a second.

Council Member Ali said, relative to borrowing \$20 million, she wanted to disassociate a property tax increase to it, stating she was not able to support a property tax increase. She said other than a property tax increase and borrowing, the City would have to reduce expenses by \$2 million per year. She asked City Manager Urich to provide a Report Back identifying potential options for those reductions.

Council Member Riggenbach remarked on the importance of not getting engrossed with Council Districts and their boundaries, stating that after the 2020 Census, those Districts could be redrawn. He said Council District 3 only had one Fire Station, but that District was served by multiple Fire Stations. He said most citizens did not care about the geography of the Station as long as the response time was appropriate. He commented on the potential layoffs and possible 10% reduction in salaries. He said it was his hope that if certain proposals were accepted by the Unions it would prevent the number of proposed layoffs.

Mayor Ardis commented that the main issue with Union negotiations was the Unions would be negotiating against themselves. He said until the Unions saw direction from the Council, budget reductions would be necessary. He said if an additional \$2 million in operating costs had to be cut, there would be more jobs lost. He said it was extremely difficult to renegotiate Union contracts under the current circumstances. He said he did not want to see any employee let go, but he said it would be an impossibility at this time.

In response to Council Member Grayeb regarding proposed cuts in the Police Department, Police Chief Marion said it would change the way the Department provided service. He said until a definite number of cuts was provided, it was difficult to determine how those services would be impacted.

Council Member Grayeb said the Council needed to take time to review its options, especially with a pending Federal stimulus. He said cuts should be as minimal as possible, stating that too many cuts would affect the neighborhoods. He said the City should utilize its reserves, not start a line of credit until necessary, and keep as many jobs as possible.

Council Member Ruckriegel said citizens' main concern was crime. He remarked on recent events that involved the City Police Department and other local agencies. He said the City had previously passed a budget with a deficit in the Police Department and was looking to eliminate more positions. He said safety greatly affected the equalized assessed value in the City. He commented on the new class of Police Officers and the equity piece it contained, noting it took time to create such a diverse class. He said he could not support the reduction of Police Officers in the Police Department. He expressed a concern that the additional revenues received would not be invested in public safety.

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Virtual Groundbreaking in the East Bluff

Council Member Riggerbach announced that the East Bluff would be holding a virtual groundbreaking for the Peoria Opportunities Foundation (POF) for the construction of 20 single-family homes and five duplexes. He said the groundbreaking would be Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at 11:00 A.M. and could be accessible on POF's webpage at www.pof.org. He said there was an option under the "Media" link to participate in the virtual groundbreaking. He expressed his appreciation to the Peoria Opportunities Foundation for their efforts and involvement in the East Bluff, and he encouraged everyone to tune in.

Capital Investments in the Community

Council Member Grayeb recognized the efforts of State Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth and others who worked together to obtain funding for Central Illinois. He expressed his appreciation for their efforts in investing in the community.

Road Improvements

Council Member Montelongo said he concurred with Council Member Grayeb's comments regarding capital investments in the community and he said he wanted to express his appreciation for the various road improvements that were taking place within the City, specifically noting the intersection of War Memorial and Glen Avenue. He expressed his appreciation to all the State Representatives who worked to get funding for these projects in the City of Peoria.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ardis asked City Clerk Beth Ball to read the citizen comments into the record as follows:

Andrew Rand, CEO of Advanced Medical Transport of Central Illinois, reaffirmed his commitment to providing the best patient care along with the first responders in the Police Department, Fire Department, and Emergency Communications Center. He reviewed the Fitch Study conducted in 2019 and commented on the recommended protocols and improvements to continue to address community needs.

Ed Olehy, a citizen of Peoria, commented on the proposed budget cuts to the City's 2020 – 2021 budget and how those cuts would impact the City's Fire Department and City services. He commented on the Fitch Study conducted in 2019 and the recommendation to not make any additional cuts to the cuts previously made without further study of the impact.

Beth Olehy, a citizen of Peoria, said their home was annexed into the City in order to receive City services. She commented on the property taxes she paid, stating they deserved good, basic City services for that money. She expressed a concern for balancing the City's budget based on City workers. She said citizens would not want to live in a City that was not safe.

Denise Adams, a bar owner in the City of Peoria, expressed her appreciation for the Council considering options to reopen businesses; however, she said outdoor seating was not enough. She remarked on the length of time her business had been closed during the pandemic and the impact it had on her revenues. She said there were precautions a prudent businessowner could take to ensure the safety of its patrons. She remarked on the need to fully open her business as quickly as possible.

Judith E. LePine, a concerned citizen, remarked on the recent passing of House Bill 2682 that would allow bars and restaurants to provide alcoholic beverages available for curbside pickup and the concerns she had for individuals drinking and driving.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Riggerbach moved to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Regular City Council Meeting was adjourned at 10:41 P.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Ball". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

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