



: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

A Special Meeting of the Joint City Council and Town Board of Peoria, Illinois, was held November 16, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, with Mayor Ali presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were present: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11. Absent: None.

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

- (21-350) Communication from the Town Officials Budget Committee with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE LEVYING and ASSESSING TAXES for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2021, and Ending March 31, 2022, for the GENERAL FUND and ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois, in the Amount of \$470,612.00.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance levying and assessing taxes for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021, and ending March 31, 2022, for the General Fund and Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois, in the amount of \$470,612.00; seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Trustee Cyr asked how the proposed tax levy compared to what was approved last year. Township Supervisor LaTrina Leary said \$530,612.00 was approved in 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. TO-21-02 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

- (21-351) Communication from the Town Officials Budget Committee with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE LEVYING and ASSESSING TAXES for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2021, and Ending March 31, 2022, for the GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois, in the Amount of \$815,971.00.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance levying and assessing taxes for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021, and ending March 31, 2022, for the General Assistance Fund of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois, in the amount of \$815,971.00; seconded by Trustee Velpula.

Trustee Cyr asked how the proposed tax levy compared to what was approved last year, and he asked how much was in the reserve fund. Township Supervisor LaTrina Leary said the 2020 tax levy was \$715,971.00, and she said there was \$1,648,924.00 in reserves. Trustee Cyr asked Supervisory Leary why the proposed 2021-2022 tax levy was increased. She said funds were moved from the General Fund to the General Assistance Fund. Trustee Oyler said while the General Assistance Fund was increased by \$100,000.00, the General Fund was decreased by \$60,000.00, and he asked for details on the remaining \$40,000.00. Supervisor Leary said \$40,000.00 was decreased from the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.

ORDINANCE NO. TO-21-03 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA

(21-352) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.

Council Member Cyr moved to approve the Declaration of Local State of Emergency; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

(21-353) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE a Workers' Compensation SETTLEMENT, and a Release of Employment Claims between the City of Peoria and Anthony King.

Council Member Allen moved to approve a Workers' Compensation Settlement, and a release of employment claims between the City of Peoria and Anthony King; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

At Council Member Kelly's request, Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka confirmed the proposed settlement had the same conditions previously discussed with Council.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

(21-317) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the 2022-2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET.

The following handouts were distributed to all Council Members:

- 2022-2023 Recommended Budget Revisions
- 2022-2023 Budget Report Back 7
- 2022-2023 Budget Report Back 8
- 2022-2023 Budget Motions w/ Total
- 2022-2023 Budget Report Back 9

City Manager Ulrich reviewed Report Back responses and recommended Budget revisions, including the \$250,000.00 per year Springdale Cemetery subsidy and the PCCEO Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program (AHP) \$150,000.00 grant match. He also reviewed options to close the Police and Fire Pension Fund obligation gap.

Mayor Ali asked what happened to budgeted funds if they were unused at the end of the year. City Manager Ulrich said all unspent funds were returned to the General Fund Balance.

After confirmation from Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka that a motion to receive and file prior to Budget discussions was appropriate, Council Member Kelly moved to receive and file the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Discussions were held regarding deadlines in 2023 and 2024 concerning the pursuit of due diligence of the waterworks. Council Member Jensen stressed the importance of obtaining input from public meetings and experts before committing to due diligence. City Manager Ulrich said he would provide the Council a complete timeline regarding action related to the waterworks, and he noted there would be time to consider information and options once an evaluation was completed. Council Member Jensen said it was important to plan and work ahead so the Council was not rushed into a decision.

Council Member Jensen expressed her concerns with contracting out the Corporation Counsel position, stating it would be better to hire in-house Counsel and less costly. City Manager Ulrich explained the perspective of contracting only the position of Corporation Counsel, not the entire Legal Department. In response to Council Member Jensen's question regarding the proposed 2022-2023 Budget for the Legal Department, City Manager Ulrich said it was presented with the Corporation Counsel position being filled with a permanent full-time employee, and he reviewed the Legal Department's current staffing levels.

Council Member Cyr asked what the City's responsibilities were to Springdale Cemetery and the Peoria Civic Center. City Manager Ulrich said the City of Peoria owned Springdale Cemetery, noting a subsidy and equipment fund allowance were allocated annually. He summarized the conditions of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Peoria County and the Peoria Park District. He reviewed financial support the City provided to the Civic Center, and he said when the debt service was paid, \$4 million plus interest would be repaid to the City.

Council Member Cyr said he did not support the creation of the Public Safety Pension Fee in 2018, and he clarified the Council voted to allow it to sunset at the end of 2021 as planned.

Discussions were held regarding the proposed Peoria Public Library 2022-2023 Budget, how it compared to pre-pandemic levels, and whether they received Federal funding assistance in response to the pandemic or assistance from other sources other sources.

In response to the proposed \$621,000.00 reduction to the Police Department Budget to address Pension Fund obligations, Council Member Allen asked Police Chief Eric Echevarria to describe the 2022 hiring schedule and onboarding process for new Police Officers. Chief Echevarria

described the six to eight-month process for new recruits, and the three scheduled Police Academy classes in January, May, and September 2022, with ten Peoria recruit slots for each class. Council Member Allen said it was important to fill all thirty Police Officer positions and said he did not want the \$621,000.00 reduction to impair those efforts. Discussions were held on hiring Officers with prior experience, the Officer Code Enforcement Aide Pilot Program, and strategies should additional Academy slots became available.

Council Member Ruckriegel asked for a Report Back detailing Federal funding assistance the Peoria Park District received in the past, noting they reported none related to the American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Funds.

In response to Council Member Ruckriegel regarding health equity concerns in the community, City Manager Ulrich said the City would use Fiscal Recovery Funds to match \$600,000.00 with Peoria County, in each eligible year. He said it was not intended for direct healthcare services but would focus on the issues outside access of healthcare such as increased violence.

Continued discussions were held regarding the two-year vacancy of the Corporation Counsel position, including recruitment efforts and future strategies. Council Member Ruckriegel stressed the importance of filling the position.

Further discussions were held about Police Officer recruitment strategies, candidate selection processes, and scheduled Academy classes in 2022. Council Member Riggerbach said it did not make sense to let \$621,000.00 go unused if ten recruits would not be hired until May and ten more in September, noting the reduction would not be a reflection on the work of the Police Department, but it would ensure the funds were utilized effectively.

Council Member Riggerbach said it was important to consider public input regarding the waterworks, noting the deadlines were in two years. He said citizens were already reaching out to the Council with their opinions and suggestions.

Discussions were held concerning City Staff grant-funded positions, the proposed Trewyn Park Agreement with the Peoria Park District, and the possibility of utilizing Park District Property for a new Fire Station.

Council Member Riggerbach asked for a delay on discussions regarding the proposed motion to establish a working group of community stakeholders to educate the citizens of Peoria on the issues regarding Public Safety Pensions and to engage with our State Legislators for meaningful and sustainable change; the group shall include (but not be limited to) the City's major employers, anchor institutions, hospitality industry, auto dealers, PAAR, NAACP, Peoria Chamber of Commerce and Greater Peoria EDC. He recommended moving the discussion to the December 14, 2021, City Council Meeting, as he noted it was not related to the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget. Council Member Grayeb expressed a concern to the proposed \$621,000.00 reduction to the Police Department Budget, stating he would not support such a motion. He commented how Police retirements and other factors would affect Staffing levels, even if all thirty planned hires in 2022 were successful. It was reported the authorized strength of the Police Department was 229 positions, with current level being at 197. Council Member Grayeb said he would not support a motion to reduce the Police Budget since the funds could be used to otherwise support Police efforts.

In response to Council Member Kelly's questions regarding the Police Department budget, City Manager Ulrich reviewed the staging of the 2022 Police recruit hires, noting ten recruits would be hired in January, ten in May, and the final in September. He said the proposed \$621,000.00

reduction resulted from the 120 months of total salaries included in the original proposed Budget that were no longer needed due to a delay in the academy class schedules.

Council Member Kelly moved to defer pension funding options (Report Back 8, Question 10) to the November 23, 2021, Regular City Council meeting; seconded by Council Member Oyler

Discussions were held on the potential deferral of decisions related to the City's Pension Fund obligation contributions in 2022 and 2023, as well as budget motions and voting processes.

Council Member Ruckriegel said the Council should discuss all options related to the proposed 2022-2023 Biennial Budget before deciding to defer. He said the Council was currently reviewing Receive and File Report Backs, which should be handled separately. He said deferring the matter would delay the process.

Council Member Velpula asked how the motion on the floor would affect the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget and other items on the Agenda. City Manager Urich said, if approved, the remaining items on the Agenda pertaining to the Budget, Property Tax Levy, and Tax Abatement Ordinance would require a deferral as well. Council Member Jensen concurred the motion to defer was premature and she said she was prepared for further discussions and votes.

Continued discussions were held on whether it was appropriate to have a motion to receive and file the Budget presentation on the floor while motions to direct Staff to amend the Budget were being made. Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka reaffirmed a similar process was used by the Council in the past.

Council Member Grayeb said he would not support the motion on the floor, citing the need for continued discussions that evening.

Motion to defer pension funding options (Report Back 8, Question 10) to the November 23, 2021, Regular City Council meeting, FAILED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Cyr, Kelly, Riggerbach, Velpula – 4;

Nays: Allen, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Oyler, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali – 7.

Council Member Ruckriegel said he did not agree with unused funds for unfilled positions being repurposed. He said he supported Police Chief Echevarria's mission for the Police Department and commended how he was building relationships in the community. He said he believed reducing the Police Department Budget sent the wrong message to citizens. He said the Police Department could reappropriate those funds to continue their mission in the community.

Council Member Jensen asked for details regarding Cannabis sales, but City Manager Urich said the information was incorporated into Sales Tax Revenues due to a State mandate. He said the addition of Internet Sales Tax revenues was the largest contributor to the increased Sales Tax revenues in 2021.

Council Member Jensen said she agreed reducing the Police Budget by \$621,000.00 sent the wrong message to the community, and she said she was not in favor of the fourth option presented to address Pensions.

Continued discussions were held regarding procedures related to Budget motions and how meetings had been conducted in past years. Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka noted motions and votes made during budget discussions were not a final action and were only meant to give Staff direction.

Council Member Jackson asked about Police Department overtime costs and the effect staffing levels and overtime had on Staff morale. Finance Director Kyle Cratty said the cost of overtime in 2020 was \$2.8 million, and the cost for 2021 was projected at \$2.3 million. Chief Echevarria said hiring thirty new Police Officers in 2022 would help improve morale and, in the meantime, other methods were being explored, including redistricting and proactive solutions to improve health and safety of Officers.

Council Member Riggenbach said the intention was not to defund the Police Department. He said Council should not appropriate unneeded funds from the Police Department but said he did not want to send the wrong message to the community or limit the Police Department's mission.

Council Member Grayeb questioned if the solution could come from a different part of the Budget instead of from the Police Department and he reviewed other options proposed to the Council to address Pension Fund obligations. City Manager Urich summarized the options and concerns regarding the increasing Police and Fire Pension Fund obligations. He discussed results of Budget cuts in previous years to cover obligations, including a reduction in Staff that affected the delivery of services to the community. He reported the proposed 2022-2023 Biennial Budget would increase staffing levels back to 650 positions. Council Member Grayeb discussed the impact Public Safety Staff had in the community and how City investments would help citizen retention. He said he supported the proposed motion to amend the Proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget to reduce Police and Fire Pension contributions and set aside \$1,840,039.00 of 2021 fund balance to fund pension obligations in 2022 and 2023. He thanked City Manager Urich for his work providing suggestions to address Pension Fund responsibilities. In response to Council Member Riggenbach regarding expense reductions in the proposed motion, City Manager Urich said it was related to the administration costs of the Public Safety Pension Fee that would sunset at the end of 2021.

Council Member Allen commented on managing short-term needs while maintaining a long-term vision of the City's needs. He said he appreciated the options presented to address Pension Fund obligations, but he said he believed reducing the Police Department Budget was not beneficial. He said lowering pension contributions, eliminating pension fee expenses, and setting aside 2021 excess revenues to cover pension obligations in 2022 and 2023 was the most prudent option.

Council Member Oyler said there was a record amount of revenues and expenses built in the proposed budget and lowering the pension contributions was fiscal mismanagement.

Council Member Jensen said she agreed the best option was to lower the pension contribution, eliminate pension fee expenses, and set aside 2021 excess revenues to cover pension obligations. She noted that 2021 revenues were higher than projected, and the proposed budget afforded the restoration of a Fire Engine, the addition of thirty Police Officers as well as other Staff and included funding for road improvements and other Capital Projects.

Council Member Jensen moved to amend the Proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget to lower the pension contribution by \$2.2 million, eliminate the pension fee expenses, set aside \$1.84 million of 2021 excess revenues to cover pension obligations in 2022 and 2023; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Council Member Oyler said a solution involving reduced Pension Fund contributions while the City received increased revenues was not the answer and it would exacerbate the problem.

Council Member Velpula said he was not ready to vote on the motion without more time to consider the information presented to the Council. He expressed his concern the Council received information a couple of hours to moments prior to the start of the meeting.

After noting a very similar motion was present to the Council at the last meeting, Council Member Ruckriegel said the Police and Fire Pension Fund obligations was the biggest problem the City faced. He discussed the effects of decisions made by the Council in previous years and stressed the importance of making a long-term solution strategy.

Motion to amend the Proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget to lower the pension contribution by \$2.2 million, eliminate the pension fee expenses, set aside \$1.84 million of 2021 excess revenues to cover pension obligations in 2022 and 2023 FAILED by roll call vote:

Yeas: Allen, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Mayor Ali – 5;

Nays: Cyr, Kelly, Oyler, Riggensch, Ruckriegel, Velpula – 6.

Council Member Jackson moved to amend the Proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget for a grant match from the South Village TIF of \$150,000.00 as a grant match for PCCEO and the Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program (AHP); seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote:

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggensch, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Continued discussions were held concerning revenues from cannabis sales and when information would be released. City Manager Urich discussed probable revenue growth related to Local Use Taxes and State of Illinois Grant programs the City could apply for, related to how they affected future Capital Projects.

Council Member Cyr asked how budgeted funds could be reallocated. City Manager Urich explained the process for Budget amendments, including Council approval, reasons for amendments, and annual Budget deadlines.

Council Member Allen moved to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget to lower the pension contribution by \$2.2 million, eliminate the pension fee expenses, set aside \$1.22 million of 2021 excess revenues to cover pension obligations in 2022 and 2023, and reduce the police department budget by \$621,000.00 by managing vacant positions; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Council Member Jensen said she supported motion on the floor because it was a good compromise, considering the failure of the previous motion and related discussion.

Council Member Oyler said the motion was detrimental and noted Budget reductions were focused on the Police Department during a time when the City was experiencing increased violence. Council Member Kelly said he would not support the motion, stating the Council needed to consider long-term solutions and citing the safety of citizens and retention concerns.

Council Member Ruckriegel said he did not support the motion, citing record numbers of homicides and recent incidents of violence in the community. He said a solution should provide for citizen and small business retention strategies, and he said he would not be in support of

any solution that reduced the Police Budget because funds could be reappropriated to benefit the department's mission. He said Police Officers deserved every opportunity to aid the community and decreasing funds sent the wrong message. He said safety was the priority and recent increased violence affected the entire City.

Council Member Riggenbach asked if the \$621,000.00 could be reappropriated within the Police Department for expenses such as overtime. City Manager Urich said the reappropriation of funds within a Department was allowed with his or the Council's approval. Council Member Riggenbach reviewed options the Council had considered regarding Police and Fire Pension Fund obligations, and he asked the Council to explore the option to lower the pension contribution by \$2.2 million and cut expenses by \$1.930 million over two years. City Manager Urich stated it was the request of many Council Members to keep the Police Budget intact, so expense reductions would affect other Departments and Staff. He suggested a new option, to apply funds received in 2021 due to increased revenues to cover 2022 and 2023 Pension Fund obligations, allowing the Council more time to consider long-term solutions. He noted the option would result in less than 20% of the General Fund Balance in reserves.

Mayor Ali said the sunset of the Public Safety Pension Fee at the end of 2021 left a large gap to resolve and said the new option would preserve Staff positions and public safety. She said it was a short-term solution but seemed like a good strategy.

Council Member Allen agreed the Police Budget should be left intact, citing increased violence and homicides, and allowing for the reappropriation of the unused funds.

Hearing no objection, Council Member Allen's motion to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget to lower the pension contribution by \$2.2 million, eliminate the pension fee expenses, set aside \$1.22 million of 2021 excess revenues to cover pension obligations in 2022 and 2023, and reduce the Police Department Budget by \$621,000.00 by managing vacant positions was withdrawn.

Council Member Jensen said the new option was the best solution given the circumstances because it allowed for preservation of Public Safety Staff positions, Police Department's Budget, and scheduled Capital Projects. She asked Council if a motion to amend the Proposed 2022-2023 Biennial Budget for \$2 million in 2022 and \$2 million in 2023, for a total of \$4 million, from the General Fund to apply to Police and Fire Pension Fund contributions was appropriate at that time. City Manager Urich said the option was not suggested previously because unappropriated funds in the General Fund allowed for greater flexibility in times of need.

Council Member Velpula said he wanted time to consider all options regarding Pension Fund contributions and suggested the Council continue deliberations at the November 23, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting.

Additional discussions were held regarding the motion to receive and file the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget, holding Budget discussions, consideration of new motions, and short-term fixes versus long-term solutions for Pension Fund contribution obligations.

Council Member Ruckriegel stressed the importance of a long-term outlook for the City's Budget and said the General Fund dollars were one-time use that was not meant to cover ongoing and growing obligations.

After he said more time was needed to consider presented options, Council Member Kelly moved to end the discussion and call the question of the motion to receive and file the Proposed 2022-2023 Biennial Budget; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Motion to end the discussion and call the question of the motion to receive and file the Proposed 2022-2023 Biennial Budget was approved by roll call vote:

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Motion to receive and file the Proposed 2022-2023 Biennial Budget was approved by roll call vote:

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

(21-354) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE LEVYING the TAXES for FISCAL YEAR 2022 for MUNICIPAL PURPOSES for the City of Peoria, Illinois.

Following City Manager Ulrich's request for a deferral, Council Member Grayeb moved to defer the item to the November 23, 2021, City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Motion to defer the item to the Regular City Council Meeting on November 23, 2021, was approved roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

(21-355) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE ABATING the TAX Heretofore Levied to Pay Principal of an Interest on GENERAL OBLIGATION CORPORATE PURPOSE BONDS, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, 2015 Series B, C & D, 2016 Series C, 2018 Series A, 2020 Series A & B, and 2021 A and B, and the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2016 Series A General Obligation Bonds in the Amount of \$222,062.00; the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2018 Series B General Obligation Bonds in the Amount of \$584,114.00; the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2019 General Obligation Bonds in the Amount of \$2,395,705.00; and the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2021 Series C General Obligation Bonds in the Amount of \$547,661.00.

Following City Manager Ulrich's request for a deferral, Council Member Cyr moved to defer the item to the November 23, 2021, City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Motion to defer the item to the Regular City Council Meeting on November 23, 2021, was approved roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

(21-356) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT a RESOLUTION Adopting the 2022-2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET for the City of Peoria.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to defer the item to the November 23, 2021, City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Motion to defer the item to the Regular City Council Meeting on November 23, 2021, was approved roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to those citizens wishing to address the City Council/Town Board as follows:

Anthony Walraven, a concerned citizen employed at the Peoria Emergency Communications Center and the Secretary of AFSCME Local 3464, discussed ongoing union agreement negotiations with a focus on COVID-19 related pay concerns. He also discussed retention and hiring issues as well as how emergency response procedures were affected. He concluded by asking City leadership to address the concerns, noting the effect it had on Staff morale.

Karrie Alms, a concerned citizen, said requesting citizens names and addresses was a violation of the Open Meetings Act (OMA). She asked Staff to reconsider policies and the Code to ensure OMA compliance. She discussed abstention vote rules and the availability of agenda item handouts and Council correspondence to the public. She discussed the importance of transparency, especially related to the City Budget and Committee Meetings. She said she believed citizens should be able to trust the process. She discussed Robert's Rules regarding Council discussions, and how she believed respect for each other was a prime concern in Peoria, especially regarding youth, and asked the Council to be a positive role model.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of a Motion to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; 2(c)(1), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body; 2(c)(5), the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; and 2(c)(21), discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes.

Council Member Allen moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been

filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; 2(c)(1), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body; 2(c)(5), the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; and 2(c)(21), discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,
Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Allen moved to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,
Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

The Special City Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 P.M.



Stefanie Tarr, RMC, CMC, City Clerk
City of Peoria, Illinois

cc