



**: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :**

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

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held on September 27, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Ali presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were present: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali – 10. Absent: Velpula – 1.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.**

Bradley University 125th Anniversary  
22VA Suicide Awareness Day

**MINUTES**

Council Member Oyler moved to approve the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on September 13, 2022, as printed; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE, with Recommendations as Outlined:**

- (22-314) Communication from the Mayor and Interim Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.
- (22-315) Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE a SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE of ShotSpotter Investigate and Software Setup Yearly Maintenance Costs for 3 Years from SHOTSPOTTER, INC., in the Amount of \$84,900.00.

- (22-316) Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE the PURCHASE of Twenty (20) Panasonic Toughbook FZ-55 Laptop Computers, Twenty (20) Extended Warranties for Panasonic Toughbooks, and Twenty (20) Havis Toughbook 55 Docking Stations and Mounts with Combination Antennae for Use in Police Squad Cars, from CDS OFFICE TECHNOLOGIES, in the Amount of \$91,440.00.
- (22-317) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the LOW BID of ILLINOIS CIVIL CONTRACTORS, INC. (ICCI) in the Amount of \$59,154.25 for the MCCLURE AND NORTH TRAFFIC SIGNAL REMOVAL PROJECT, with an Additional Authorization of \$5,915.75 (10%) for Contingencies, for a Total Contract Award of \$65,070.00. (Council District 2)
- (22-318) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for the Following:
- A. ACCEPT the LOW BID from STARK EXCAVATING, INC., in the Amount of \$1,265,139.00, and APPROVE a CONTRACT for Culvert Replacement Carrying the East Branch of Dry Run Creek Under MERLE LANE, with an Additional Authorization of \$126,861.00 (10%) for Contingencies, for a Total Award of \$1,392,000.00. (Council District 2)
  - B. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 18,001 Amending the City of Peoria 2022 BUDGET to Allocate \$881,000.00 from the Stormwater Utility Fund Balance for the MERLE LANE CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT.
- (22-319) \* Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a Change Order for a \$120,000.00 Extension of the STORM SEWER CLEANING, TELEVISIONING, AND EVALUATION CONTRACT with J.C. DILLON, INC., and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Change Order for a Total Amount of \$386,000.00. (All Council Districts)
- (22-320) \*\* Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the City Manager to Execute an AGREEMENT with ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT), in the Amount of \$108,507.00, Plus up to 125% of the Estimated Cost for Contingencies, for the City's Participation in the BOB MICHEL BRIDGE REHABILITATION. (Council Districts 1 & 2)
- (22-321) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE an INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT between the City of Peoria and the GREATER PEORIA SANITARY DISTRICT to Clean and Televiser the City's Combined Sewer Overflow Outfall Lines, for an Amount not to Exceed \$272,202.50. (Council Districts 1, 2, & 3)



- (22-322) Communication from the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and City Clerk with a Request for the Following:
- A. APPROVE an AGREEMENT with DILIGENT CORPORATION to Provide a Council Agenda and Meeting Software and Boards and Commissions Software known as iCOMPASS, in the Amount of \$19,935.00; and,
  - B. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 18,002 Amending the City of Peoria 2022 – 2023 Biennial Budget Relating to the Use of General Fund Balance, in the Amount of \$19,935.00.
- (22-323) 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 Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R-2 (Single-Family Residential) District, for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL for the Property Located at 2305 EAST GRANDVIEW AVENUE (Parcel Identification No. 14-26-176-017), Peoria, IL. (Council District 3)
- (22-324) 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 Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R-1 (Single-Family Residential) District for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL for the Property Located at 3119 NORTH KNOXVILLE AVENUE (Parcel Identification No. 14-28-377-071) and Including, for Access only, the Property Located at 3207 NORTH KNOXVILLE AVENUE (Parcel Identification No. 14-28-377-070 and 14-28-377-048) in a Class R-1 (Single-Family Residential) District and a Class R-3 (Single-Family Residential) District, Peoria IL. (Council District 2)
- (22-325) Communication from the City Manager and Fire Chief with a Request to  
\*\*\*\*\* ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2022-2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET, Related to the Use of General Fund Balance, in an Amount not to Exceed \$101,000.00 in 2022, for Reimbursement Received from BIOURJA for Fire Services.
- (22-326) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION to ADD a Subclass 1A (2:00 A.M. Closing Hours) to an Existing Class K (Rental Hall) Liquor License with On-Site Consumption and Retail Sale of Alcohol for RED HAT ENTERPRISES, INC., D/B/A GONE AXE THROWING, 1001 SW WASHINGTON, SUITE 5-201, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 1)
- (22-327) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the PEORIA URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD with a Request to Concur:

Brian Probst (Voting) - Term Expiration 06/30/2025

(22-328) REAPPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY with a Request to Concur:

Alma Brown (Voting) - Term Expires 6/30/2025

(22-329) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the PEORIA CIVIC CENTER AUTHORITY with a Request to Concur:

Norris Chase (Voting) - Term Expiration 07/01/2025

(22-330) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the FAIR EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:

Brittany Strickland (Voting) - Term Expires 6/30/2025

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

Council Member Cyr requested Item Nos. 22-319 and 22-320 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Riggerbach requested Item No. 22-323 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Grayeb requested Item No. 22-324 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Jensen requested Item No. 22-325 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Item Nos. 22-314 through 22-330 (except Item Nos. 22-319, 22-320, and 22-323 through 22-325, which were removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

(22-319) \* **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a Change Order for a \$120,000.00 Extension of the STORM SEWER CLEANING, TELEVISIONING, AND EVALUATION CONTRACT with J.C. DILLON, INC., and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Change Order for a Total Amount of \$386,000.00. (All Council Districts)**

In response to Council Member Cyr's request for additional details on the project, Public Works Director Rick Powers described the ongoing mapping and surveying of the sewer system, as well as the condition of the existing lines and scheduled plans for upgrades.



Council Member Cyr moved to approve a Change Order for a \$120,000.00 extension of the Storm Sewer Cleaning, Televising, and Evaluation Contract with J.C. Dillon, Inc., and to authorize the City Manager to execute the Change Order for a total amount of \$386,000.00; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

**(22-320)**      **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the City Manager to Execute an AGREEMENT with ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT), in the Amount of \$108,507.00, Plus up to 125% of the Estimated Cost for Contingencies, for the City's Participation in the BOB MICHEL BRIDGE REHABILITATION. (Council Districts 1 & 2)**  
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In response to Council Member Cyr regarding the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Bob Michel Bridge Rehabilitation project involvement, Public Works Director Rick Powers said it was an IDOT project with City participation for the pedestrian and bike trail. He said work was scheduled to begin in 2023.

Council Member Cyr moved to approve and authorize the City Manager to execute an Agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), in the amount of \$108,507.00, plus up to 125% of the estimated cost for contingencies, for the City's participation in the Bob Michel Bridge Rehabilitation; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Council Member Kelly asked for clarification on the contingency allocation. Director Powers confirmed the 125% contingency amount could take the possible total over \$200,000.00.

Council Member Grayeb commented on the importance of repairing and improving infrastructure and the role the Bob Michel Bridge Rehabilitation had in achieving progress. He asked about lighting plans and Director Powers said ornamental lighting would be included.

Motion to approve and authorize the City Manager to execute an Agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), in the amount of \$108,507.00, plus up to 125% of the estimated cost for contingencies, for the City's participation in the Bob Michel Bridge Rehabilitation was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

**(22-323)**      **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 Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R-2 (Single-Family Residential) District, for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL for the Property Located at 2305 EAST GRANDVIEW AVENUE (Parcel Identification No. 14-26-176-017), Peoria, IL. (Council District 3)**  
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Council Member Riggerbach said he received requests from residents from the neighborhood of the STR to speak on the item, he moved to grant privilege of the floor to Gary Neuhaus.



Hearing no objections, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to Gary Neuhaus.

Gary Neuhaus, a concerned citizen, said the proposed Short-Term Rental location would be a poor choice due to pedestrian traffic on nearby streets as well as safety and parking concerns.

Council Member Jensen moved to grant privilege of the floor to Scott Carnehan.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to Mr. Carnehan.

Scott Carnehan, a concerned citizen, said 95% of the neighbors objected to the Short-Term Rental location citing safety, traffic, and road condition concerns. He said the property owner could not guarantee the elimination of raised concerns and he asked the Council to deny the request or to defer the item.

After Mayor Ali asked if any additional citizens present in Council Chambers had comments on the Short-Term Rental application, several residents indicated their desire to speak. Hearing no objection, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to the citizens.

A nearby resident of Grandview Avenue discussed pedestrian and bicycle traffic on the nearby Rock Island Trail, visual impediments on some of the streets, and other safety concerns. He asked the Council not to approve the Short-Term Rental application.

Julie Knoll, a concerned citizen, discussed safety and traffic concerns in the neighborhood. She said she appreciated the efforts of Staff to include more Short-Term Rentals in the City, noting they were greatly needed, but she said the proposed location was not a favorable for one.

Kelly LaHood, a nearby resident of Grandview Avenue, compared Short-Term Rentals to hotels, and discussed the narrow lot and parking concerns at the location. She said there were no sidewalks in the area, and the pedestrian and bicycle traffic were cause for concern. She discussed benefits of the neighborhood and how the Short-Term Rental would be detrimental with increased risk for crime. She asked the Council to deny the application.

Debbie McIntire, a nearby resident of Grandview Avenue, said the proposed location was in a family neighborhood and was not a place for businesses. She discussed safety and traffic concerns and she asked the Council to deny the application.

Shannon Pop, a concerned citizen, said the property was already in operation as a Short-Term Rental, and he said the neighborhood was not a place for a business attracting people that do not know the area. He discussed the narrow driveway, as well as parking and safety concerns.

Scott Demanes, a concerned citizen, said the condition of Peoria was declining and residents were leaving due to increased crime, beggars, and crumbling infrastructure. He discussed crime concerns with rental properties and how the approval of the application would ruin the neighborhood.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to grant privilege of the floor to Dimitar Atanasov and Keila Sierra, the Short-Term Rental petitioners.

Dimitar Atanasov, the property owner and a citizen of Peoria, said he and his family lived all around the country and decided to settle in Peoria because it was an amazing city. He proceeded to respond to several of the concerns raised by nearby residents, noting the collaborative efforts with City Staff during the application process and how that relationship would continue. He said if there were sign and street concerns, they should be reported to the City to address.



Keila Sierra, co-owner of the property, said Peoria had a lot to offer, especially for families. She said people staying at Short-Term Rentals respected the neighborhoods where they stayed, noting she was often a patron of them in other communities.

Council Member Riggerbach reviewed the extensive efforts of the Council to determine a process and regulations for Short-Term Rental Special Use applications. He said the result was a successful procedure starting with the Community Development Department and Planning and Zoning Commission working with the applicants to ensure compliance. He said without a logical reason to deny the request, the final step in the process was for the Council to approve the application. He recognized the citizens' comments, but he said because the application met qualifications and followed the process set by the Council, the application should be approved. He discussed additional details of the Short-Term Rental application process, including inspections, collaboration with City Staff, and standards required before the approval of the Council was sought. He said he visited the location multiple times, and he said City of Peoria Staff and Peoria Heights Staff confirmed there had been no reported issues or complaints with existing Short-Term Rental properties in their jurisdictions.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Riggerbach moved to adopt an Ordinance approving a Special Use in a Class R-2 District, for a Short-Term Rental for the property located at 2305 East Grandview Avenue; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Council Member Oyler said it was important to treat applications in all areas of the City in an equal manner, and he said there was no legal foundation to justify a denial in that case. He said if there were problems with the location in the future, the Special Use permit could be revisited.

Council Member Kelly referenced past Council discussions regarding eliminating the Special Use requirement for Short-Term Rentals to allow the Planning and Zoning Commission to completely manage the applications, eliminating the need for final Council approval. He said he would vote to approve the item.

After commenting that a parking limit condition was appropriate in response to parking concerns raised by nearby residents, Council Member Riggerbach requested a friendly amendment to his previous motion to include a four-vehicle parking limit condition. Council Member Oyler concurred with the friendly amendment.

Council Member Jensen reviewed the Council discussions that resulted in establishing the Short-Term Rental Permit as Special Use. She said it was important to consider the concerns raised by nearby residents in every case, noting the approved Short-Term Rentals were not equal because they were all in the older neighborhoods. After weighing the concerns raised, she said the Short-Term Rental application on East Grandview Avenue was not appropriate.

Council Member Allen thanked the citizens who provided feedback as well as Council Member Riggerbach and Staff for their diligent efforts on this item. He said he wanted to clarify for the record that Short-Term Rentals existed in all Districts in Peoria, including District 4, and he asked residents to work together as a neighborhood to benefit the community.

Council Member Jackson said she was not opposed to Short-Term Rentals, but she said the Council agreed to consider the applications on a case-by-case basis. She said it was important to consider concerns raised by nearby residents. She said she would vote against the item. Council Member Grayeb said the Council did not have a standard approach to processing Short-Term Rentals, which was a factor into the decision to make the permits a Special Use. He said it was important to listen to concerns of neighbors, and he said he appreciated the efforts of Council Member Riggerbach on the item. He said he had supported applications from the same petitioner for other properties, but he said he would vote against the application.



Council Member Riggerbach also stated for the record that Short-Term Rentals had been approved in all Districts of the City, not just in older neighborhoods. He discussed the Short-Term Rental next to his personal residence, including the variety of patrons and the local events that brought them from across the country to Peoria, noting it was important to embrace the opportunity to show what Peoria had to offer.

Mayor Ali thanked everyone for their comments, and she noted the work and efforts of Staff and Council Member Riggerbach to provide information to the Council in consideration of the application. She asked the Public Works Department Staff to follow-up on traffic and street safety concerns raised by citizens of the East Grandview Avenue neighborhood.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,003 approving a Special Use in a Class R-2 District, for a Short-Term Rental for the property located at 2305 East Grandview Avenue, as amended to include a four-vehicle parking limit condition, was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali – 7;

Nays: Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen – 3.

**(22-324)**  
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**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 Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R-1 (Single-Family Residential) District for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL for the Property Located at 3119 NORTH KNOXVILLE AVENUE (Parcel Identification No. 14-28-377-071) and Including, for Access only, the Property Located at 3207 NORTH KNOXVILLE AVENUE (Parcel Identification No. 14-28-377-070 and 14-28-377-048) in a Class R-1 (Single-Family Residential) District and a Class R-3 (Single-Family Residential) District, Peoria IL. (Council District 2)**

A revised Council Communication and Ordinance amended to include an additional condition to the Special Use to install a gate or similar barrier to prohibit vehicle access from the property to Linnhill Court was distributed to all Council Members.

Council Member Grayeb said he requested the amendment to include the additional condition to the Special Use in order to encourage patrons to use Knoxville Avenue for egress.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Grayeb moved to approve the Ordinance approving a Special Use in a Class R-1 District for a Short-Term Rental for the property located at 3119 North Knoxville Avenue and including, for access only, the property located at 3207 North Knoxville Avenue in a Class R-1 District and a Class R-3 District, as amended to include the additional condition to install a gate or similar barrier to prohibit vehicle access from the property to Linnhill Court; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,004 was adopted, as amended, by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali – 9;

Nays: Jackson – 1.

**(22-325)**  
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**Communication from the City Manager and Fire Chief with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2022-2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET, Related to the Use of General Fund Balance, in an Amount not to Exceed \$101,000.00 in 2022, for Reimbursement Received from BIOURJA for Fire Services.**



Council Member Jensen commended Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger and City Manager Patrick Urich for their innovative efforts in obtaining the reimbursement following the Biourja incident that expended extensive Fire Department resources.

At the conclusion of her comments, Council Member Jensen moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget, related to the use of General Fund Balance, in an amount not to exceed \$101,000.00 in 2022, for reimbursement received from Biourja for Fire services; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Discussions were held regarding depositing the reimbursement in the General Fund and reflecting the deposit in the Fire Department Budget for 2022.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,005 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

### FIRST READINGS

**(22-331) Communication from the City Manager and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer with a Request to Concur with the Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity to RECEIVE and FILE a FIRST READING of an ORDINANCE Regarding the RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (REIA).**

City Manager Patrick Urich introduced Timothy Bertschy and Mary Peterson, Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee of the Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity (JCRJE), who were present to discuss the Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA).

Mary Peterson reviewed the establishment of the JCRJE, including the composition, subcommittees, and multifaceted plan to address racial inequities in the community in order to determine best practices for inclusion, education and understanding. She reviewed the four-phase plan put in place by the JCRJE Steering Committee, and she recognized the several commissioners in attendance and listening remotely through Channel 29 or via YouTube.

Tim Bertschy reviewed the REIA proposal presented to the Council that would award the City the opportunity to evaluate impact of proposed actions on marginalized communities. He said similar processes had been implemented in large cities such as Seattle and Washington D.C. and were garnering interest for implementation in other municipalities. He said the assessment would be proposed to the Peoria County Board, local school districts, park districts, and other municipalities in Peoria County as well. He said adopting the assessment would demonstrate Peoria was focused on progress, and he asked the Council to approve the item when it was presented for adoption at the next Council Meeting.

Mayor Ali said the REIA assessment offered a great opportunity for Peoria to take intentional action on racial justice and equity. She discussed the JCRJE annual report out meeting and the progress the commission made in their first year working to address those issues in the community. She thanked the commissioners for their efforts and commitment to the process.

Council Member Allen said the assessment was a step in the right direction on the journey to achieve racial justice and equity. He asked the Council to perform due diligence to address any questions regarding the process to ensure adoption of the Ordinance at the next Meeting.



Discussions were held regarding the ability of City Staff to determine the racial justice and equality impact of decisions without the need for the assessment, as well as how the data and reporting would be compiled to measure the effectiveness of the assessment and decisions made by the Council.

Mayor Ali reviewed the data-driven approach the JCRJE used to identify problems with racial inequities in the region and efforts of entities to scrub policies and remove barriers negatively impacting minority communities. She said Peoria had a poor reputation regarding quality of life for minority citizens and the assessment was a step in the right direction towards redemption.

Discussions were held regarding the assessment process and how the information would be reported to the Council as it related to items presented at Council Meetings. City Manager Urich described how the implementation would be a staged process to allow for extensive Staff training, data collection, and creation of a JCRJE dashboard to share data with other entities in the network. Similar efforts in other municipalities and institutional challenges addressing codes, policies and procedures were also discussed.

After Council Member Jensen asked how concerns identified by the assessment would be addressed, City Manager Urich said Staff would reassess and modify the proposal as needed. Council Member Jensen suggested an amendment to the Ordinance to include an opportunity for revisiting an action item approved by the Council if it was later determined alternative action was preferable to address racial justice and equity concerns. She asked for a Legal review to determine what conflicting policies or Codes would be affected by the Ordinance or removing the language stating the Ordinance would repeal conflicting Ordinances and policies. Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka said she would provide the information to the Council.

After Council Member Oyler said he appreciated the work put into that item, he asked for additional information referenced in the packet so he could perform due diligence prior to the next City Council Meeting. Mayor Ali said the available information would be sent to the Council and she noted a more extensive report would be available by the end of 2022 as well.

Continued discussions were held concerning the City's ongoing efforts to make decisions based on racial justice and equity, how the information would be collected regarding the REIA assessment, and the Council's desire to foster an inclusive community for all citizens.

Council Member Grayeb asked for more information regarding the REIA administration process and how it differed current Staff procedures.

Discussions were held regarding the role of the Chief Diversity Office to champion the City's efforts to promote racial equity and inclusion.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to receive and file a First Reading of an Ordinance regarding the Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA); seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

*CLERK'S NOTE: Item No. 22-331 will be placed on the October 11, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting agenda.*



**REGULAR BUSINESS**

- (22-307) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 18-99, of the City's Municipal CODE, to Revise the Issuance of VIDEO GAMING LICENSES.**

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka said, as a result of discussions during the First Reading of the Ordinance, the waiting time to apply for a Video Gaming License was reduced to six months. To answer an inquiry from Council Member Jensen at the September 13, 2022, City Council Meeting regarding limitations to video gaming terminals, she said the Code of the City of Peoria did not limit the number of licenses per establishment, but the State of Illinois Code limited the number of terminals to six per establishment, except for truck stops.

Council Member Kelly said he was in favor of eliminating the waiting period, but he noted six months was a better alternative to the current twenty-four month waiting period.

Council Member Oyler moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 18, Article IV, Section 18-99, of the City's Municipal Code, to revise the issuance of Video Gaming Licenses; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,006 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ali – 9;

Nays: Cyr – 1.

- (22-332) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending an Existing SPECIAL USE (Ordinance Nos. 13,111 and 13,194), in a Class C-2 (Large-Scale Commercial) District, to Allow for an ADULT USE CANNABIS DISPENSARY for the Property Located at 3929 WEST WAR MEMORIAL DRIVE, Commonly Known as the WILLOW KNOLLS SHOPPING CENTER (Parcel Identification Nos. 13-12-300-032, 13-12-300-018, 13-12-300-020, 13-12-300-021, 13-12-300-022, 13-12-300-024, 13-12-300-030, 13-12-300-031, and 13-12-302-003), Peoria, IL. (Council District 4)**

Assistant Community Development Director Leah Allison said the application was a request to amend an existing Special Use at the Willow Knolls Shopping Center in the former Applebee's location to allow for the cannabis dispensary.

Council Member Allen said he was involved with the proposed location for the dispensary since its genesis, and he said it was important to use objective reasoning when performing due diligence on the applications. After he asked for an explanation of the application process, Assistant Director Allison described the process Community Development Staff employed to ensure standards and requirements were met for the location before presenting the report to the Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration. She said the final step for the application was Council approval.

Council Member Allen moved to grant privilege of the floor to Gregory Elliot and Ed Farrell.

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to Mr. Elliot and Mr. Farrell.



Gregory Elliot, the property owner, said he was a social equity applicant and he wanted to encourage neighbors to contribute to efforts to benefit the community.

Ed Farrell, owner and managing partner at Silver Star Protection Group, said he had experience with over one hundred cannabis dispensaries in the region, and he said the key to security was collaboration and communication with the community, police, and other businesses in the area. He described the security measures that would be implemented at the location and the process for citizens to gain access to the facility and purchase goods.

Council Member Allen thanked Mr. Elliot and Mr. Farrell for providing the information to the Council, and he said he was excited for the vacant location to be transformed for this new use.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Allen moved to adopt an Ordinance amending an existing Special Use in a Class C-2 District, to allow for an Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary for the property located at 3929 West War Memorial Drive, commonly known as the Willow Knolls Shopping Center; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Discussions were held regarding a possible cannabis dispensary moratorium and the Policy Session to discuss cannabis dispensaries scheduled for October 11, 2022.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,007 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ali – 8;

Nays: Cyr, Jackson – 2.

**(22-333) Communication from the City Manager and Assistant City Manager to APPROVE the PEORIA CIVIC CENTER BUDGET and ANNUAL REPORT.**

A handout with the presentation on the Peoria Civic Center Annual Report was provided to all Council Members.

Council Member Ruckriegel recognized the Peoria Civic Center Authority Board Members for their efforts. He said the Civic Center was a hub for monumental extensive entertainment and business events, attracting visitors to Peoria from all over the region and beyond, cementing its role as an economic driver in the community. He introduced Rik Edgar who presented the Annual Report and discussed the Peoria Civic Center Budget.

Rik Edgar, General Manager at the Peoria Civic Center, said they were celebrating 40 years in downtown Peoria. He said the pandemic afforded many challenges, even after they reopened their doors on July 24, 2021, when a lot of confirmed shows were postponed or cancelled and attendance at events were greatly reduced. He said in January 2022 attendance was showing great improvement and triggered records in the Country, Family, Comedy categories, among others. He said staff worked to increase revenues per event and they were trending to make the fiscal 2022 Budget projections. He reviewed the efforts to diversify events, retain staff, and capital projects ongoing, scheduled, and yet unfunded. He said due to reduced Hotel, Restaurant, and Amusement (HRA) tax revenues received by the Peoria Civic Center, priority projects had to be identified and alternative solutions were sought. He discussed technological changes and upgrades to the facility and parking solutions, the focus on building relationships across multiple industries to provide unique experiences in Peoria, and how the Civic Center impacted the lives of locals, tourists, as well as promoters and entertainers.



Mayor Ali congratulated Mr. Edgar and the Civic Center for the successful post-pandemic resurgence. Council Member Ruckriegel noted Mr. Edgar put Peoria on the map recently when he spoke at a National Conference. He asked for details on the estimated \$1.7 million loss that year. Mr. Edgar reviewed the many challenges faced by the Civic Center, including the drastic utility fee hike and the reduced HRA tax revenues.

Continued discussions were held concerning the necessary Civic Center capital projects funded through the Civic Center budget, prior to receiving funds from awarded grants. Mr. Edgar said once the funding was received, it would replenish the fiscal year budget.

Discussions were held regarding the three events held at the Civic Center since its inception: Peoria Rivermen Hockey, Bradley Sports, and the Peoria Symphony Orchestra.

Continued discussions were held regarding technology upgrades to the Civic Center and Parking areas, HRA tax allocations, and the repayment of the loan awarded by the City.

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

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

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

**(22-310) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SMART CITY BROKERAGE AGREEMENT between the City of Peoria and PEORIA INNOVATION HUB (d/b/a DISTILLERY LABS).**

City Manager Patrick Urich reviewed the changes made to the Agreement to address concerns raised by the Council at the September 13, 2022, City Council Meeting.

After he said the amendments would provide opportunities for innovations without exclusivity and allow the Council appropriate oversight, Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the Smart City Brokerage Agreement between the City of Peoria and Peoria Innovation Hub (d/b/a Distillery Labs); seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Motion to approve the Smart City Brokerage Agreement between the City of Peoria and Peoria Innovation Hub (d/b/a Distillery Labs) was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

**(22-293) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending ARTICLE 19 (Operation of a Cannabis Business) of CHAPTER 18 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Related to LICENSES & MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS REGULATIONS.**

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka said the information in the packet was updated to include municipal authority and zoning information pertaining to cannabis businesses. She



said since the Council adopted the Cannabis Business Special Use process, four applications were submitted, and two businesses were currently operating in the City. She provided details regarding the State Legislation regarding cannabis businesses and she explained additional restrictions could be implemented by the Council for Social Equity applicants in Peoria.

Mayor Ali suggested deferring the item until after the Policy Session regarding Cannabis Businesses scheduled on October 11, 2022, at 5:00 P.M.

Council Member Jensen moved to defer this item to the October 25, 2022, City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Motion to DEFER this item to the October 25, 2022, City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

### **Safe-T Act Presentation**

City Manager Patrick Urich said a presentation on the Safe-T Act would be scheduled for the October 11, 2022, City Council Meeting, as a result of Council Member Grayeb's request at the September 13, 2022, City Council Meeting. Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka said additional information was recently released, noting the issue was an ongoing topic of discussion for State Legislators.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Immigrant Intake Plan of Operation**

Mayor Ali said she wanted to dispel rumors that immigrants were planned to arrive in Peoria. She said a Plan of Operation was being discussed in the event immigrants were to arrive in Peoria, either announced or unannounced, in order to be prepared. She said it was important to determine culturally relevant response plans and to coordinate with local entities and resources regarding a response plan.

### **Food Carts/Trucks Restrictions**

Council Member Jensen asked to revisit the policy regarding restricted food cart and food truck locations in the City of Peoria at an upcoming City Council Meeting.

### **Asylum Information**

After Council Member Cyr inquired about immigrants seeking asylum, Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka provided an overview of different types of asylum citizens of other countries could apply for in the United States. Discussions were held regarding reasons people chose or were forced to leave their countries, what it would take for Peoria to offer resources to immigrants, and whether Peoria was a Sanctuary City.

## **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.

Yolanda Wallace, a citizen of Peoria, reviewed the murder of her son on September 20, 2006. She talked about her son, how the case was solved in 2007, and how she had worked with local entities, City Staff, and the Police Department to propose and implement community safety



programs. She discussed the memorial garden she established near the Peoria RiverPlex, and the effect her son's death had on her family and his friends. She said she founded the local Community Day of Remembrance, recognized on September 24, 2022, and she asked what she could do to volunteer to be a part of the solution to violence in Peoria.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was determined that there was no need to enter into Executive Session at that time.

### ADJOURNMENT

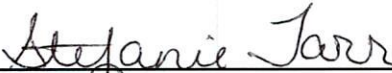
Council Member Allen moved to adjourn the City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Motion to adjourn was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

The Regular City Council Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

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

cc