

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

A Regular Meeting of the Joint City Council and Town Board of Trustees of Peoria, Illinois, was held October 27, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were present: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Rigggenbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 11. Absent: None.

COVID-19 PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Governor JB Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-43 which continues to limit any gatherings of more than 50 people, and Executive Orders 2020-07, 33, 44 and 59 requiring the provision of video, audio or telephonic access to meetings – as well as the CDC recommending social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons, City Hall is implementing changes and restrictions for the City Council Meeting on October 27th, 2020 while complying with the Open Meetings Act.

The Council Meeting will be conducted in person with members of the Council and some Staff present in Council Chambers with plexiglass barriers, and with Department Heads in room 404 with the ability to remotely answer questions while maintaining a six-foot distance. Fifteen members of the public will be permitted inside Council Chambers at a time. Temperature screenings are required upon entry to City Hall and face coverings are always required while inside.

Members of the public and media are invited to watch through the live stream, YouTube, Television Channel 22 or through WCBU Radio. Submissions for Public Comment were received through the City Clerk's Office. The agenda, minutes and video podcast of the meeting will be available online through the City website.

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 RESPIRATORY CARE WEEK**

MINUTES

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on October 13, 2020, and the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting held on October 20, 2020, as printed; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

(20-266) Communication from the Town Officials Budget Committee with a Request to APPROVE the PROPOSED ESTIMATED TAX LEVY OF \$1,286,533.00 (Estimated Tax Rate not to exceed .088) (Pursuant to 35 ILCS 200/18-60) for the TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA.

At the request of Trustee Grayeb, Township Treasurer Patrick Nichting described the deliberations of Township Officials in regard to the proposed tax levy and the unanimous decision to recommend its approval. He also said the tax rate for tax payers would be the lowest in 25 years without any reduction in Township Services.

After recognizing Town Assessor Max Schlafley and Town Clerk Beth Ball in attendance, Trustee Grayeb asked Township Supervisor Frank Abdnour to give his perspective on the proposed estimated tax levy. Township Supervisor Abdnour thanked the Township Staff for their hard work and collaboration, saying he believed the outcome was a great compromise.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the proposed estimated tax levy of \$1,286,533.00 (estimated tax rate not to exceed .088) (pursuant to 35 ILCS 200/18-60) for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Kelly.

Trustee Kelly thanked the Township Officials as well, stating that the outcome was favorable and welcomed. Chairman Ardis also recognized the Township Officials and the work they do, often behind the scenes, and for providing the lowest tax rate in 25 years for citizens.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIAPUBLIC HEARING

(20-267) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding Proposed 2021 CITY OF PEORIA REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET.

Council Member Grayeb moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2021 City of Peoria Revised Annual Budget; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Motion to open the Public Hearing was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis opened the Public Hearing at 6:12 P.M.

Following a third call for comments from the public, Mayor Ardis determined no one wished to speak, and he requested the Public Hearing be closed.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the proposed 2021 City of Peoria Revised Annual Budget; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Motion to close the Public Hearing was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis closed the Public Hearing at 6:13 P.M.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEM, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(20-268) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.

Council Member Rigggenbach moved to approve the Declaration of Local State of Emergency; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

After Council Member Montelongo inquired about specific line items in a Summary of Expenses to Date regarding COVID-19 that was provided to the Council previously, City Manager Patrick Urich said he would send the detailed version to the Council after the meeting. Council Member Montelongo also asked City Manager Urich to include any new expenses since the report had been compiled.

Council Member Kelly and Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Peterson discussed and clarified the purpose for the continuation of the Declaration of Emergency in regards to funding eligibility and purchasing powers outside of the budget.

City Manager Urich provided a brief update on COVID-19 in Central Illinois, citing the upward trend in the region and the potential consequences which could include mitigation by the State.

Motion to approve the Declaration of Local State of Emergency was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-269) Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Community Development with a Request from the CDBG Public Services Advisory Commission to APPROVE the 2021 CDBG PUBLIC SERVICES PRIORITIES AND APPLICATION.

Council Member Moore, the Council Liason for the CDBG Public Services Advisory Commission, thanked the CDBG Staff for their hard work on this item, explaining it included ten recommended uses of the funding to be awarded to applicants after Council approval.

At the conclusion of her comments, Council Member Moore moved to approve the 2021 CDBG Public Services Priorities and Application; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

At the request of Council Member Jensen, Community Development Director Ross Black explained the number of priorities had increased from 2019, but the topics were a mix of the same as the previous year, and the amount to be awarded was based on a percentage, which was not yet available.

Council Member Moore encouraged non-profit organizations to apply, even those that did not meet the requirements on their own, suggesting they could partner with a larger non-profit to become eligible. She concluded by saying anyone with questions should call the City's Grants Department or visit the City's website for more details.

Mayor Ardis thanked the Commission for their extensive work, noting there was not enough funding to address all the needs of the community so prioritizing the requests was a tremendous task, and by doing so, the funds would be well utilized.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-270) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE a Budget Set Aside Authorization, in the Amount Up to \$1,185,000.00 (as amended*), for LOCAL CURE'S ECONOMIC SUPPORT PAYMENTS GRANT PROGRAM. (Council District All)

City Manager Patrick Urich explained this was the second round of funding to local governments outside of the metro-Chicago area made available by the State of Illinois. He said it would allow eligible local businesses and hotels to apply for support from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, and he reported the deadline was the end of 2020. After a recent conversation he had with the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO), he recommended amending the amount from *\$250,000.00 to \$1,185,000.00. He said the Economic Development Department was ready to allocate the approved funds before the end of the year.

Council Member Oyler moved to approve a Budget Set Aside Authorization, in the amount up to \$1,185,000.00, as amended, for Local Cure's Economic Support Payments Grant Program; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Council Member Montelongo said this was an incredible opportunity for local businesses, as the money from earlier in 2020 had already been spent and there was still a great need in the community.

Discussions were held regarding the deadlines for applications and disbursement of the funds, as well as the Economic Development Department handling the processing and questions regarding the Grant Program. City Manager Urich said the information would be available on the City's website.

Motion to approve a Budget Set Aside Authorization, in the amount up to \$1,185,000.00, as amended, for Local Cure's Economic Support Payments Grant Program was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-271) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources with a Request to APPROVE and Authorize the Execution of a CONTRACT with RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES (RMA), in the Amount of \$99,672.00, to Administer the Police Sergeant and Police Lieutenant Promotional Examinations.

Council Member Grayeb moved to approve and authorize the execution of a contract with Resource Management Associates (RMA), in the amount of \$99,672.00, to administer the Police Sergeant and Police Lieutenant promotional examinations; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-272) Communication from Council Member Moore with a Request to APPROVE a RESOLUTION Designating 409 WESTERN AVENUE as "EDWARD B. GAINES FIRE STATION #4."

After Council Member Moore described how appropriate it was to name the new Fire Station after Edward B. Gaines, the first African-American Firefighter for the City of Peoria who underwent hardships and adversity to serve his community, she moved to approve a Resolution designating 409 Western Avenue as "Edward B. Gaines Fire Station #4"; seconded by Council Member Ali.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-272 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

(20-198) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to Consider ADOPTING an ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 18 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Pertaining to BODYWORK ESTABLISHMENTS.

Council Member Jensen said this item was a great example of good government with meaningful discussion and collaboration leading to compromise, then she moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 18 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to Bodywork Establishments; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Mayor Ardis thanked Council Member Jensen and all parties involved for their effort and dedication on this item.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,802 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-226) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request for the Following:

- A. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, Relating to VARIOUS TEXT AMENDMENTS without Changes to Parking and Duplex Regulations;**
- B. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, Relating to PARKING IN FORM DISTRICTS;**
- C. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, Relating to DUPLEX REGULATIONS.**

Council Member Oyler explained this item was originally brought before the Council as one Ordinance, but at the Council's request, was split into three Ordinances. He moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, relating to various text amendments without changes to Parking and Duplex Regulations; seconded by Council Member Riggenschach.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,803 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

After explaining that more time was needed to work on the Ordinance, Council Member Oyler moved to defer the request to adopt an Ordinance amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, relating to Parking in Form Districts, to the November 24, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Motion to defer the request to adopt an Ordinance amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, relating to Parking in Form Districts to the November 24, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Oyler moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, relating to Duplex Regulations; seconded by Council Member Riggenschach.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,804 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-231) Communication from the Mayor and City Manager with a Request to DISCUSS a FIRE PROTECTION and POLICE PROTECTION TAX.

At the Council's direction from the September 8, 2020, City Council Meeting, City Manager Ulrich explained the impact the Police and Fire Departments had on the City's Budget, how much of a tax could be approved by the Council without voter approval, as well as how different rates would affect the City. He said the deadline to get an item on the April 6, 2021, ballot was January 19, 2021, which would give the Council ample time to decide a course of action.

Mayor Ardis explained the intent of this item was to obtain feedback from citizens on whether the Council should pursue placing a question on the ballot to fund Police and Fire Operations with a tax. He said it would be an advisory referendum.

Discussions were held regarding any costs involved with placing a question on the ballot. Discussions also included a Public Safety Pension Fee versus an increase in real estate taxes.

Council Member Jensen stated that this was an opportunity to educate the public about these issues as well as the need for public safety pension reform at the State level.

Council Member Kelly expressed the need for reform at the City level rather than temporarily fixing the budget problem. He said the State could not be relied upon to make the necessary changes in a timely manner. He said the Council needed to widen its scope and have strategic discussions regarding the Police and Fire Departments.

After Council Member Ruckriegel's inquiry, City Manager Ulrich said there was a cap of three referendum questions that could be included on a ballot.

Council Member Riggerbach said he agreed with Council Member Kelly on a lot of points, but also described the opportunity to add a referendum to the ballot as an attractive educational component and would keep pressure on the State Legislature.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Riggerbach moved to direct the City Manager to bring back an item to approve placing a referendum on the April 6, 2021, ballot regarding a Fire Protection and Police Protection Tax; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Discussions were held regarding high tax rates in Illinois, the importance of Public Safety Departments and the need to sit down with State Representatives regarding the issues the City faced. The importance of getting the opinion of the citizens on the issue by placing a referendum on the ballot was also discussed.

Mayor Ardis explained the ability to place the question on the ballot and to continue further discussions were not mutually exclusive, stating the results would just validate the Council's direction. He reiterated the need for State Representatives to meet with the Peoria City Council to discuss how they could work together to achieve the City's goals. He said the high taxes citizens paid were not driven by the City, noting only 12% was allocated to the City of Peoria.

Further discussions were held on the lack of desire for higher taxes or fees and the need for a different solution, as well as the importance of collaborating with State Representatives. Council Member Ruckriegel said there was not one single solution that would fix the budget, and he said meeting with the State Representatives could help to discover a strategy. He concluded by stating this was a good way to engage the community and give them a voice on the matter.

Council Member Ali said the question could be considered tricky if placed on the ballot, asking citizens if they wanted to fund basic services or risk the perception they do not support public safety.

Additional discussions were held regarding where tax payer funds are allocated, the choice of placing this item on the ballot, and the responsibilities of the Council to come up with permanent solutions to the budget problems.

Motion to direct the City Manager to bring back an item to approve placing a referendum on the April 6, 2021 ballot regarding a Fire Protection and Police Protection Tax was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Cyr, Jensen, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 7;

Nays: Ali, Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo - 4.

CLERKS NOTE: Council Member Montelongo accidentally voted Yea, but corrected his vote after the Mayor tallied the vote. Mayor Ardis then recognized Council Member Montelongo's vote as a Nay vote.

(20-244) 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 CN (Neighborhood Commercial) District for an ASSISTED LIVING (Sober Living) FACILITY, for the Property Located at 2419 N PROSPECT ROAD (Parcel Identification No. 14-34-327-009), Peoria IL (Council District 3).

Council Member Moore left Council Chambers.

Council Member Riggenbach moved to table an Ordinance approving a Special Use in a Class CN (Neighborhood Commercial) District for an Assisted Living (Sober Living) Facility, for the property located at 2419 N Prospect Road (Parcel Identification No. 14-34-327-009), Peoria, IL; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Motion to TABLE the item was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

(20-265) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a PRESENTATION and Discussion of the 2021 REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET.

City Manager Urich summarized previous discussions and reviewed the presentation from the October 20, 2020, meeting. He then discussed the Report Back Handouts included in the Agenda Packet.

Council Member Jensen inquired about the Report Back regarding the staffing discrepancy that was requested at the previous meeting, and City Manager Urich said he would distribute that information to the Council as soon as possible.

Council Member Moore returned to Council Chambers.

At the request of Council Member Cyr, City Manager Urich explained the 20-year projection regarding fire and police pension payments as well as the shortfalls the City would have to cover, referencing page 7 of the budget Report Back. They further discussed the affect of tax levied funds and the need for a solution to fill the gap.

City Manager Urich explained if Council had no more questions than those already asked, they could choose to vote on the budget at the next City Council Meeting scheduled on November 10, 2020, instead of the original date of November 17, 2020.

Council Member Cyr moved to direct the City Manager to bring back a Resolution adopting the 2021 Revised Annual Budget to the November 10, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Cyr, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: Ali, Grayeb - 2.

ADDITIONAL UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Additional Discussion Regarding Item 20-231

Council Member Kelly said he was in favor of meeting with State Legislators before the end of the year, prior to the 2021 session beginning, even though he felt they were aware of the budget issues as many other municipalities were in the same situation. He stressed the importance of the Council making new decisions instead of going down the same path as well as calling for balance within the budget.

Council Member Kelly moved to direct the City Manager to bring back a schedule for strategic discussions regarding the Police and Fire Departments at the November 10, 2020, City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Montelongo.

Council Member Ruckriegel suggested speaking to State Legislators prior to the proposed discussions, while also commenting on the importance of having such discussions.

Council Member Grayeb said he did not consider asking for State or Federal Funding as a 'handout', rather it was due to the citizens that paid taxes to those government bodies as well.

Motion to direct the City Manager to bring back an agenda for strategic discussions regarding the Police and Fire Departments at the November 10, 2020, City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Moore - 1.

Fire Station 4

Council Member Moore asked citizens not to forget that the Southside lost a Fire Station during a time of year fire risk was on the rise. She encouraged everyone to reach out to Council Members about how this effected their community. She said she was not in support of closing Fire Station 4 and thanked those citizens who have voiced their opinions.

NEW BUSINESS**P-Town Soup**

Council Member Riggerbach said the first P-Town Soup since the quarantine would take place with drive-thru or carry-out orders on Thursday October 29, 2020, at the East Bluff Community Center. This event will support the food pantry at the East Bluff Community Center.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

It was determined there were no citizens who wished to address the City Council/Town Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Cyr moved to adjourn the Regular City Council meeting; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Regular Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.



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