

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

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held November 14, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Jim Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were physically present: Akeson (Arrived immediately after roll call), Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen (Arrived at 6:08 P.M.), Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 10. Absent: Ruckriegel - 1.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ardis requested a moment of silent prayer or reflection and he requested to keep the family of Dave Ransburg, former Mayor of the City of Peoria, in prayer in light of his recent passing. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.****Small Business Saturday****MINUTES**

Council Member Grayeb moved to approve the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on October 24, 2017, the Special City Council Meeting held on October 26, 2017, and the Special City Council Meeting held on October 31, 2017, as printed; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner,  
Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

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

**(17-331) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the Proposed Creation of the STERLING AVENUE/ROCKWOOD ROAD SPECIAL SERVICE AREA and to Consider a Proposed Additional Municipal Sales Tax of 1.0%.**

Council Member Montelongo moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the proposed creation of the Sterling Avenue/Rockwood Road Special Service Area and to consider a proposed additional Municipal Sales Tax of 1.0%; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

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

Yeas: Akesson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner,  
Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis opened the Public Hearing at 6:10 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 Montelongo moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the proposed creation of the Sterling Avenue/Rockwood Road Special Service Area and to consider a proposed additional Municipal Sales Tax of 1.0%; seconded by Council Member Turner.

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

Yeas: Akesson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner,  
Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis closed the Public Hearing at 6:11 P.M.

**(17-332) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the Proposed Increase in the Special Municipal Sales Tax of 0.25% for the WESTLAKE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA.**

Council Member Montelongo moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the proposed increase in the Special Municipal Sales Tax of 0.25% for the Westlake Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Turner.

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

Yeas: Akesson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner,  
Mayor Ardis – 10;

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 Montelongo moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the proposed increase in the Special Municipal Sales Tax of 0.25% for the Westlake Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Turner.

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

Yeas: Akesson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner,  
Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

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

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

- (17-333) Communication from the City Manager and the Community Development Director with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Heart of Illinois Homeless Continuum of Care (HOIHCO) for the Funding Allocation of the 2017-2018 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) to Specified Agencies.
- (17-334) Communication from the City Manager and the Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE and ACCEPT the PARTNERSHIPS TO REDUCE VIOLENT CRIME GRANT from the ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY, in the Amount of \$160,983.00.00.
- (17-335) Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the LOW BID (#45-17) of MOBOTREX, INC., in the Amount of \$33,160.60, for the Purchase of Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Signal Lights.
- (17-336) Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Human Resources with a Request to Authorize the Execution of a CONTRACT with RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES (RMA), in the Amount of \$42,860.00, to Administer the Fire Battalion Chief Promotional Examination.
- (17-337)  
\* Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Community Development with a Recommendation to APPROVE an AGREEMENT, which Supersedes all Previous Agreements, with the EAST BLUFF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES (EBNHS), Regarding the Use of Special Service Area (SSA) Funds for FY2018.
- (17-338) Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Community Development with a Recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission and Staff to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,518 Removing the Local Landmark Designation for the Property Located at 401 NE MONROE STREET (Parcel Identification No. 18-04-476-006), Peoria, Illinois.
- (17-339)  
\*\* Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Community Development with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Levying a Tax for FY2018 for the EAST BLUFF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES (EBNHS) SPECIAL SERVICE AREA and Direct the City Clerk to File a Certified Copy of the Ordinance with the County Clerk to Allow this Tax to be Extended as Provided by Law.
- (17-340) Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Public Works with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,519 to VACATE 7,693 Square Feet (0.177 Acre) of West Arrowhead Street to Lots 53 & 54 of the Northcrest Subdivision in the Southwest Quarter of Section 31 - Township 9 North - Range 8 East, Generally Addressed Properties at 2229 & 2305 NORTH NORTHCREST DRIVE. (Council District 2)

- (17-341) **Communication from the City Manager and the Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION for a Class B (Restaurant, 50% Food) Liquor License with the Retail Sale of Alcohol at AZTECA MEXICAN RESTAURANT, 319 MAIN ST, Contingent Upon the Issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 1)**
- (17-342) **APPOINTMENTS by Mayor Ardis to the DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**
- Paige Dodson (Voting) - Term Expires 06/30/2019**  
**Gary Roberts (Voting) - Term Expires 06/30/2018**
- (17-343) **GREATER PEORIA MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT'S FY 2016 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE.**

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

Council Member Riggerbach requested Item Nos. 17-337 and 17-339 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Item Nos. 17-333 through 17-343 (excluding Item Nos. 17-337 and 17-339) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

- (17-337) **Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Community Development with a Recommendation to APPROVE an AGREEMENT, which Supersedes all Previous Agreements, with the EAST BLUFF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES (EBNHS), Regarding the Use of Special Service Area (SSA) Funds for FY2018.**

Council Member Riggerbach moved to defer this item to the December 12, 2017, Regular City Council meeting; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Motion to defer to the December 12, 2017, Regular City Council meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

- (17-339)**      **Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Community Development with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Levying a Tax for FY2018 for the EAST BLUFF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES (EBNHS) SPECIAL SERVICE AREA and Direct the City Clerk to File a Certified Copy of the Ordinance with the County Clerk to Allow this Tax to be Extended as Provided by Law.**
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Council Member Riggerbach moved to defer this item to the December 12, 2017, Regular City Council meeting; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Motion to defer to the December 12, 2017, Regular City Council meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

**REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:**

- (17-344)**      **PRESENTATION from the Fire and Police Commission with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS REPORT Covering the PERIOD of JULY 1, 2016 through JUNE 30, 2017.**

City Manager Ulrich distributed the City of Peoria Fire and Police Commission Diversity Report 2017 to all Council. He introduced Lisa Snow, Special Assistant to the Police Chief, Division Chief Phil Maclin from the Peoria Fire Department and Mr. Al Hooks from the NAACP who provided a presentation regarding the City's efforts to diversify the Police and Fire Departments.

Ms. Snow and Chief Maclin reviewed the 2017 Diversity Report and provided an update on the Explorer and Cadet Programs for each Department, noting these programs were a way of growing each Department. They provided a review of the demographics of each program since inception and explained how Police and Fire were building their future with these programs, noting that each program provided quality education with on-the-job learning. The recruitment efforts were reviewed noting how those efforts had expanded and become more complex. Ms. Snow and Chief Maclin reviewed the hiring process for their respective Departments, and they provided a demographic review of each. A review of separations was also provided for each Department along with the demographics for each. Ms. Snow remarked that the current decrease in Police Officers were due to retirements. In conclusion, Chief Maclin announced that the Police and Fire Explorers were having a competition collecting canned goods and he encouraged everyone to donate.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Al Hooks of the NAACP provided an overview of the recommendations offered by the Subcommittee of the Fire and Police Commission. He provided background information on why this was brought to the Council's attention, stating that the vision was to have a commissioned Police and Fire workforce that mirrored the demographics of the City of Peoria. He reviewed the recommendations of the Subcommittee and identified what had been completed. He reviewed the annual placement goals and noted the progress of the Departments since 2015 and the long-term goal dating out to 2025.

Council Member Moore commended the Police Department, Fire Department, the Fire and Police Commission and the NAACP for the presentation, noting it would be difficult to reach the goals that were established. She expressed her appreciation for the work and analysis that went into the report, and she commended Mr. Donald Jackson for his efforts in this matter in the beginning stages.

In response to Council Member Jensen, discussions were held regarding the goals for 2016 and 2017 and what impacted those goals and outcomes. It was noted that it would take time to reach the goals outlined, but it was stated that the City was heading in the right direction. Discussions were held regarding the minority increases in the Police and Fire Departments, and what impacted or impeded the progress and how the City would overcome those impediments.

Ms. Snow commented that the Subcommittee had presented this research to an international group and that the Committee would continue to meet and recruit more women to each Department. She said the City would be submitting a paper to an International Journal on their findings, noting that these ideas were progressive and would continue on this path.

Chief Mitchell stated, in response to Council Member Jensen, that the City of Peoria's demographics were better than most communities. He reported that progress was impeded by applicants turning down a job offer at the last minute. Chief Maclin reported that the Fire Department had the same outcome as the Police Department.

Mr. Hooks commented that the goals outlined were not easy goals to achieve. He said it was the community's and the City Council's responsibility to ensure that the goals were met. He said working together would make the achievements happen, noting how important it was for the youth of the community and that the jobs each Department had to offer would help diffuse some of the hopelessness in the community.

Mayor Ardis expressed his appreciation for the presentation and the work that the Police and Fire Departments have done along with the Fire and Police Commission and the NAACP. He commented that the City Council was focused on achieving goals outlined.

Ms. Lynn Pearson, Chair for the Fire and Police Commission, spoke on the matter noting that the Commission acted as a civil service authority. She reviewed how the Commission was comprised along with its purpose. She said the City Council adopted a goal of achieving the diversity within the Fire and Police Departments, and she said the Commission supported and made a commitment to the same. She urged Mayor Ardis and all Council Members to recognize that there was a momentum of reaching this important goal as well as providing reasonable staffing levels to meet the needs of the public.

Council Member Oyler moved to receive and file the presentation from the Fire and Police Commission regarding the Annual Performance Goals Report covering the period of July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner,  
Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

**(17-345) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Levying an Addition to Sales Tax within the WESTLAKE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA. (Fourth District)**

Council Member Montelongo moved to defer this item to the November 28, 2017, Regular City Council meeting; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Motion to defer to the November 28, 2017, Regular City Council meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

**(17-346) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to ADOPT the Following:**

- A. An ORDINANCE Establishing the STERLING AVENUE/ROCKWOOD ROAD SPECIAL SERVICE AREA in the City of Peoria, Illinois; and,**
- B. An ORDINANCE LEVYING A SALES TAX for the Sterling Avenue/Rockwood Road Special Service Area. (Fourth District)**

Council Member Montelongo moved to adopt an Ordinance establishing the Sterling Avenue/Rockwood Road Special Service Area in the City of Peoria, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Montelongo said there had been a fair amount of public discussion regarding the Sterling Avenue/Rockwood Road SSA and he encouraged the Council to vote in favor of this item. He recognized Assistant City Manager Chris Setti for his diligent work in bringing forth this item to Council. He commented on how the Portillos development would positively impact the community. He remarked that this SSA would assist with improvements to the property, which were to be outlined in the SSA. He reviewed the structure of the SSA noting its expiration in 15 years or up to \$650,000.00, whichever came first. In that SSA, he said the City would receive 2.0% of revenues collected for administration fees. He noted that should the development fail, there would be no loss to the City. He commented on the positive effects the SSA would have on employment opportunities and he reviewed the financial impact this development would have on the community. He said this development was taking place in the "Uptown District" and would have a positive economic impact on the community, and he encouraged the City Council to pass this item.

Council Member Oyler provided an overview on SSAs noting they were a development tool that would not raise taxes for everyone in Peoria, noting that the tax would only be paid for by those who chose to frequent the restaurant. He commented that the fee could be applied toward managing the operations. He said the revenue generated could only be applied on what was outlined in the SSA. He said this would not tie the City's money into the program, noting that if the business closed, it would not have a long-term impact on the City. He commented that Westlake already had an SSA and he said this development would bring revenue streams into the City to help with the challenges facing the City. For these reasons, he said he would support this item.

Discussions were held on how the restaurant would impact the community and the increase in sales in the City.

Council Member Cyr expressed a concern on the impact this development would have on the small local stores, noting that the money spent from the small local stores would shift to the big restaurant. He remarked that some citizens were unhappy with the City helping Portillos and how it would impact the smaller local stores. He said, in light of the communications he received from his constituents, he would not be voting in favor of this item.

Council Member Jensen said she would support this project, noting the SSA would not present a risk to the City. She said it would bring in a substantial amount of revenue to the City and provide employment to the community. She said she was pleased that the SSA would not be passed on to new property owners should the developer sell the property. She said she also agreed with the 15-year limit on the SSA. At the conclusion of her comments, she said she would be supporting this item.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,520 establishing the Sterling Avenue/Rockwood Road Special Service Area in the City of Peoria, Illinois, was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner – 8;

Nays: Cyr, Mayor Ardis - 2.

Council Member Montelongo moved to adopt an Ordinance levying a sales tax for the Sterling Avenue/Rockwood Road Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,521 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner – 8;

Nays: Cyr, Mayor Ardis - 2.

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

- (17-322)      1. **Request by Council Member Akeson for the Following:**
- A. **REQUEST TO RECONSIDER Item No. 17-322.**
2. **Communication from the City Manager and the Community Development Director with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from Staff to:**
- A. **APPROVE a RESOLUTION Approving an ANNEXATION AGREEMENT for the Property Located at WEST GRANGE HALL ROAD, (Parcel Identification No. 08-35-100-033);**
  - B. **ADOPT an ORDINANCE Annexing Territory Located at WEST GRANGE HALL ROAD, (Parcel Identification No. 08-35-100-033);**
  - C. **ADOPT an ORDINANCE REZONING Property from a Class R-3 (Peoria County Single Family Residential) to C-1 (General Commercial) Located at WEST GRANGE HALL ROAD (Parcel Identification No. 08-35-100-033);**

- D. **APPROVE a RESOLUTION Approving a PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISION PLAT for the Property Located at WEST GRANGE HALL ROAD, (Parcel Identification No. 08-35-100-033);**
- E. **ADOPT an ORDINANCE Approving a SPECIAL USE for Outdoor Recreation with Conditions for the Property Located at WEST GRANGE HALL ROAD, (Parcel Identification No. 08-35-100-033) (Council District 5);**
- OR
- F. **APPROVE the Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission to DENY the Above-Mentioned Requests.**

Council Member Akeson moved to reconsider Item No. 17-322; seconded by Council Member Montelongo.

Motion to reconsider Item No. 17-322 was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Jensen, Montelongo – 3;

Nays: Cyr, Grayeb, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 7.

**(17-326) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to CONTINUE DISCUSSION of the 2018 - 2019 BIENNIAL BUDGET.**

City Manager Urich distributed two handouts, one entitled "City of Peoria Budget Reconciliation Worksheet" and "Report Backs 11/14/2017." He reviewed the nine Report Backs that were distributed along with the budget reconciliation worksheet.

City Manager Urich said he met with Fire Chief Lauss and Assistant Fire Chief Olehy regarding making adjustments to the recommendation of decommissioning Truck 14. After much discussion, he said it was determined to allow the Fire Chief to manage the resources within his budget that would be allocated by the City Council. He said doing this would task the Chief with having to manage the operations and live within the budget authority, which was similar to the direction given to the Police Chief. He said the Fire Department had some vacancies, which could not be filled right away. He reported that the Fire Chief made changes to his operations and how he would manage the fourth shift. He said the Fire Department currently had 18 vacancies. He said allowing the Fire Chief to oversee his budget would allow for those vacancies to be filled. He said, as a professional, the Fire Chief and his team were capable of manning the Fire Department operations and to live within the means of their budget.

Fire Chief Lauss said the review of the Fire Department's budget had been a long process and he said what was presented by the City Manager was the best option. He said this would give him the opportunity, responsibility and accountability to work under the budget established by the City Council.

Discussions were held regarding the number of Firefighters each shift had to maintain for adequate staffing, noting it would take a total of approximately 53 personnel. It was further noted that if there were not enough Firefighters on duty, then a machine would be temporarily shut down for a shift, which was not anticipated to occur. Fire Chief Lauss said he would provide a Report Back on historical data on how often a shutdown occurred due to decreased

staffing levels. Council Member Jensen requested additional information on the impact shutting down a machine would have on response times.

Discussions were held regarding increasing fire revenues, which could provide for two positions within the Fire Department.

In response to Mayor Ardis, Fire Chief Lauss said the hiring of two additional people would allow for additional floaters, but would leave one shift short one floater. He said the hiring of two additional people would provide the Fire Department with a slight cushion. Council Member Jensen said additional floaters could cover a shift when the Department was short, which could prevent shutting down a machine.

Council Member Grayeb expressed his concern with the Fire Department's budget and the shutting down or decommissioning of a truck. He said the proposal gave too much authority to management. He recommended reviewing other administrative positions within the City that would not affect public safety. He remarked on the importance of providing safety to the entire community and he asked the City Council to reject the current proposal and to have Staff conduct another review of options.

In response to Council Member Moore, Chief Lauss provided an overview of the different types of trucks in the Fire Department and how the Department would compensate for a 24 hour shutdown of a truck.

City Manager Ulrich said the Report Backs distributed to the City Council included drive time maps, which reflected a difference in response times of approximately three minutes. He said what was presented was common practice and was a way to manage the budget. He added that different trucks and engines were taken out of service at different time for training.

In response to Council Member Jensen, Chief Lauss said the Fire Department had to continue to train and he said shutting down a machine would be based upon need.

Council Member Oyler inquired if there were office staff members within the Fire Department who had the ability to go out on a call should the Department be one short, and Chief Lauss said they were looking at some of the office staff that would have to transition back to the line.

Council Member Grayeb expressed a concern for the proposal, remarked on the importance of protecting their constituents, and said the Council should not allow the reduction of a fire truck.

Mayor Ardis said the Fire Department was capable of operating with 53 Firefighters. He said the Council had the responsibility to establish a budget and to have the City Manager operate within that budget. He commented that the City had encountered challenging times and the City Manager was tasked with a difficult job of closing the budgetary gap. He said the \$8 million deficit had been reduced to \$1 million. He expressed a concern on decommissioning a truck, noting it was not an ideal situation; however, he said he would be supporting the recommendation of the City Manager. He said if the Council was against the proposal and the decommissioning of a Fire Truck, he said an additional revenue source to compensate for keeping the truck needed to be provided.

Council Member Grayeb moved for the City Manager to reduce administrative costs by \$1 million.

Discussions were held regarding the unrepresented employees, noting that making a \$1 million cut would create a 13% reduction in administration.

The motion for the City Manager to reduce administrative costs by \$1 million died for lack of a second.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve the proposed increase to the ancillary fee schedule of permits, which would equal \$200,000.00 and to use that money to fund two additional firefighter positions; seconded by Council Member Montelongo.

Council Member Riggerbach said he supported the idea of raising the proposed fees in order to increase revenue, noting that most of the fees only affected special situations. He said he supported the City Manager's recommendations along with incorporating the additional revenue streams. He said he was supportive of the increase in fees, but not on the exact allocation of the money those increases would generate.

Council Member Riggerbach offered a friendly amendment to strike the words "to use that money to fund two additional Firefighter positions" from Council Member Jensen's motion. Council Member Jensen said she was agreeable to that amendment.

Council Member Grayeb moved to grant Privilege of the Floor to the President of Peoria Firefighters Local 50 Ryan Brady.

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the Floor to President Ryan Brady.

Peoria Firefighter's Local 50 President Ryan Brady said the budgetary cut presented, whether it was decommissioning of Truck 14 or decreasing staff levels, would impact the level of service the Fire Department would provide on a daily basis. He said should the City go through with the cut, the Fire Department would not be able to provide the same level of service beginning January 1, 2018. In response to Mayor Ardis, he said if one truck was decommissioned, then another machine would have to compensate. He said the amount of time for a neighboring company to respond would pose a risk to lives and he commented that the Department currently did not meet the recommended response time for the Fifth District.

Discussions were held regarding the decrease in staffing levels in the Fire Department, and Council Member Riggerbach stated that the Fire Department was not something he wanted to jeopardize. He asked if there were other areas within that Department to make up for a 5% reduction.

City Manager Urich said he discussed with the Fire Chief if there were positions that could be eliminated, but in the end it was determined to task the Fire Chief with managing his budget and to stay within the budgetary constraints.

Council Member Riggerbach requested, for the next Council Meeting, for the Fire Chief and Staff to review other areas where cuts could be made while maintaining the integrity of the Department.

Mayor Ardis said the number of calls for the Fire Department had increased over the years, but he said the reality of the nature of the calls have changed over the years. He said 82% of calls are medical related and in 2016 only 3% were fire related. He said no one was minimizing the importance of any of the calls and he said no one wanted to jeopardize the health and safety of

our Firefighters. He said if this should pass, it was going to have an impact on some of the fender benders and other calls to which the Department responded. He said the number of overall calls that were fire related was 3%, which was the lowest statistic in the history of the City's Fire Department. He said no one provided additional revenue sources in order to fully man the Fire Department and he remarked on the importance of the City living within their means. He said the biggest costs to the City were pensions and healthcare, which were increasing more than revenues. He remarked on the importance of balancing a budget.

Regarding the motion on the floor to approve the proposed increase to the ancillary fee schedule of permits by one hundred percent, Mayor Ardis said that increase would provide an additional \$200,000.00 in revenues, but in each of those cases it would double the fees. He said it was the duty of the Council to balance the budget and not to tell the Fire Department how to manage their budget.

City Manager Urich provided a review on the proposed fee increases noting that it would provide an additional \$200,000.00 to the budget.

Mayor Ardis remarked that most of the fees outlined had not been adjusted since 2006 and in all of the proposed increases, it would be about a 100% increase.

Motion to approve the proposed increase to the ancillary fee was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Jensen, Montelongo – 7;

Nays: Cyr, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 3.

Council Member Grayeb recommended waiting to address other budget adjustments until the Fire Department comes back with their recommendations.

Discussions were held regarding the \$1.1 million deficit noting that with the fee increases the deficit was now down to \$900,000.00.

Council Member Cyr expressed his concern regarding the decision to increase the proposed ancillary fees without discussion or providing notice to the small business owners or without conducting research. He said it was not the duty of the Council to oversee all the Departments and he noted that the Council had one employee. He recommended letting the professionals make the necessary decisions. He expressed a concern on having been put into a position to make a decision on something that was not researched.

Council Member Montelongo said he wanted to hear from the taxpayers on their thoughts regarding how the budget would impact the City's public safety.

Mayor Ardis recapped stating that along with the information coming back from the Fire Chief on closing the \$900,000.00 deficit, there would be information regarding possible cuts to the administration as well as corresponding revenue and to identify what a property tax increase would mean to address the deficit. He said a number of people were concerned about public safety, but he said they were also concerned about additional and increased fees and taxes. He commented that it was a matter of want versus need and the City had to live within its budgetary constraints.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE 2018-2019 BIENNIAL BUDGET**

Ms. Karrie Alms, a citizen of Peoria, said it was essential for the City to live within its means and spending priorities should be important. She said the City spent money on items that were not essential services, but Police, Fire and Public Works were essential services. At the conclusion of her comments, she said the City Council needed to get back to providing basic City services.

Mr. Amr Elsamny, a citizen of Peoria, remarked on City services that were being cut from the budget. He commented on City employees' annual compensations. He asked why services needed to be cut. He asked the Council to revisit all the salaries. He asked to bargain these salaries and revisit these packages.

Mr. Terry Spayer, President of the Homeowners Association for Richwood Knolls/Northmoor Estates, said they would be directly impacted by the reduction of a Fire Engine. He said the Fire Department has professionals and could find out how to make their Department work. He said for every two minutes of loss time in fighting a fire, it could have a dramatic impact in the outcome of fighting that fire. He encouraged the City Council to work the problem without losing what the City already had in place. He encouraged the Council to find alternative sources such as grants or volunteers.

Mr. Doug Johnson, a concerned citizen, asked when someone should be held responsible for the condition of the City. He expressed a concern about the budget process and who managed the budget after adoption. He reviewed the timeline for the new Portillo's development, the SSA that was previously passed, and how the additional sales tax would impact the City. He expressed a great concern for cutting the budget in the Fire Department and how that would impact the community.

**NEW BUSINESS****Shop Local**

Council Member Riggerbach promoted the Shop Local initiative explaining how shopping local would impact the community. He reviewed a brochure that was distributed to all Council Members and he asked the City Manager to have this brochure available to the public that showed the amount of sales tax the City received from businesses in the community versus the amount of sales tax the City received when individuals used Amazon.com. He encouraged everyone who wanted to support the City and the services offered to shop local.

**Dream Girls Third Anniversary Celebration**

Council Member Moore announced that the Dream Girls Third Anniversary Celebration would take place Sunday, November 19, 2017, from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the North Branch Library. She said cake and ice cream for the young girls would be provided. She provided an overview of what the Dream Girls organization had to offer noting that it provided mentorship to young girls who desire brighter futures. She said awards would be handed out to the girls who had been participating in and sticking with the program. She encouraged those women interested in providing mentoring to contact the Dream Girls organization.

**Funeral Arrangements for Former Mayor Ransburg**

Mayor Ardis announced that former Mayor Dave Ransburg passed this week. He said services were scheduled for this Saturday, November 18, 2017, at 10:00 A.M. at First Federated Church, 3601 North Sheridan Road.

**CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD**

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the Floor to those citizens wishing to address the City Council/Town Board.

Ms. Karrie Alms, a member of Friends of Riverfront Park, requested the City to withdraw its NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund conversion application and not sign the conversion amendment. She provided a review of the activities that had been occurring on the Riverfront and the economic impact those activities had on the City. She said should the City continue to pursue this development, then the Friends of Riverfront Park would pursue a lawsuit.

Mr. Doug Johnson, a concerned citizen, commented on the investigation process for missing people. He discussed economic development, noting the City heavily relied on sales tax. He recommended raising the minimum wage, which he said would inject more money into the local economy. He said the biggest beneficiaries of the minimum wage increase would be small and local businesses.

Mr. Amr Elsamny, a citizen of Peoria, commented that City employees were overpaid. He also proposed a new initiative or sponsorship providing transportation for school children of Peoria Public Schools who did not have bus service. He said the sponsorship was to provide transportation of children to school who lived within the 1.5 radius and did not qualify for bus service. He said he intended on sponsoring 10 students per year and he said it was his hope that others would sponsor children as well to get them to school safely, especially during the winter months.

Mr. Anthony Walraven, a concerned citizen, commented on Council Member Grayeb's efforts as it related to the City's Fire Department. He said the City of Peoria Fire Department received more calls than the City of Springfield with less Firefighters to attend them. He commented on the City's investment in various developments and how that impacted the City's budget. He said the economic conditions of the City had changed and the proposed development in Riverfront Park had now become moot and City services continued to be impacted. He strongly encouraged the City Council to reconsider the proposed cuts to the Fire Department.

Ms. April Allen-Scott, mother of missing person Alicia Scott, expressed her appreciation to the City for what they had done on the case to date. She said she still had not heard from her daughter and she asked what the Police Department's efforts were in this matter. She said she needed help and she said she thought the Detective assigned to the case needed help as well. She said she did not know from whom to ask for transparency. She said she wanted to know whether any progress had been made. She expressed a concern for the proposed budget cuts to the Police and Fire Departments, especially in light of the needs there were in the community.

Ms. Tanicia Causey, a concerned citizen, said she was present to support Ms. April Allen-Scott. She said there was not enough public outcry for looking for missing persons. She said there needed to be more attention than just on social media and she commented that now was not the time for budget cuts.

Mr. Josh Battles, a concerned citizen, recited a quote from Malcolm X, "If you don't stand up for something, you'll fall for anything." He remarked on the need for a purpose in life. He expressed a concern for the lack of help from the City in locating the missing persons Alicia Scott.

Ms. Christina, a citizen of Peoria, expressed a concern for the missing person Alicia Scott. She commented on possible trafficking occurring in the City of Peoria and she expressed a concern that young ladies were being sold in prostitution rings. She encouraged everyone to always make sure they know where their children are.

Mr. Savino Sierra, a citizen of Peoria, said Council needed to make a decision on whether they were for something or against something. He said he supported the City's public safety, and he said Council Members needed to voice their position on whether they were for or against public safety.

Fire Chief Chuck Lauss remarked on the budget and said \$900,000.00 would be difficult for the Department to find. He said the option that was previously presented to the City Council was the best workable solution they could find. He also announced that two Division Chiefs were retiring on Friday, November 17, 2017, Chief Maclin and Chief Jones who were present in the audience.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

### ADJOURNMENT

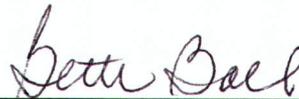
Council Member Cyr moved to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner,  
Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 P.M.



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

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