

**: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :**

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

A Special Meeting of the City Council and Town Board of Trustees of Peoria, Illinois, was held December 5, 2017, at 5:00 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, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Moore, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11.

Absent: None.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Jim Ardis requested a moment of silent prayer or silent reflection, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**(17-366) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the ORDINANCE Levying a SPECIAL SERVICE AREA REAL ESTATE TAX, in the Amount of \$65,000.00, for the Tax Year 2017 for the WESTLAKE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA.**

Council Member Montelongo moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the Ordinance levying a Special Service Real Estate Tax, in the amount of \$65,000.00, for the tax year 2017 for the Westlake Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Akeson.

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

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Public Hearing opened as 5:05 P.M.

Mr. Chris Oswald, Attorney for Westlake Limited Partnership, provided an overview of the proposed real estate tax levy as it related to the Special Service Area (SSA). He said the Real Estate SSA, which was separate from the Sales Tax SSA, would be paid by the owner. He said the amount of the Real Estate Tax Levy for 2017 would be \$65,000.00 in order to meet the repayment obligations for the SSA improvements. He said the increase would assist in offsetting the changes in the sales tax revenues and ensure the debt service was provided for in 2018, and he stated that Morton Community Bank still expressed confidence that the Special Service Area was still working.

At the conclusion of Attorney Oswald's comments, Mayor Ardis called for additional comments from the public. After the third call, he determined no one else wished to speak on the matter and requested the Public Hearing be closed.

Council Member Montelongo moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the Ordinance levying a Special Service Real Estate Tax, in the amount of \$65,000.00, for the tax year 2017 for the Westlake Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Turner.

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

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis closed the Public Hearing at 5:08 P.M.

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

**(17-355) Communication from the Town Officials Budget Committee with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE LEVYING and ASSESSING TAXES for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2017, and Ending March 31, 2018, of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois for the TOWN GENERAL FUND and ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND, in the Amount of \$778,001.00.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance levying and assessing taxes for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2017, and ending March 31, 2018, of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois for the Town General Fund and Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, in the amount of \$778,001.00; seconded by Trustee Akeson.

ORDINANCE NO. TO-17-03 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Chairman Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

**(17-356) Communication from the Town Officials Budget Committee with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE LEVYING and ASSESSING TAXES for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2017, and Ending March 31, 2018, for the GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois, in the Amount of \$1,565,872.00.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance levying and assessing taxes for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2017, and ending March 31, 2018, for the General Assistance Fund of the Town of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and State of Illinois, in the amount of \$1,565,872.00; seconded by Trustee Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. TO-17-04 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Chairman Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

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

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

- (17-357) **Communication from the City Clerk with a Request to APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 17-357 in Support of the ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS.**
- (17-358) **Communication from the Firemen’s Pension Fund Board of Trustees Regarding the MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE REPORT, with Request to Receive and File.**
- (17-359) **Communication from the Police Pension Fund Board of Trustees Regarding the MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE REPORT, with Request to Receive and File.**

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

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

Item Nos. 17-357 through 17-359 were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

**FIRST READINGS**

- (17-360) **Communication from the City Manager with a Request for a FIRST READING of an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 21 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Pertaining to SPECIAL EVENT FEES.**

After a brief overview by City Manager Urich on the proposed Ordinance, noting it would insert language into the Municipal Code that would cover special event fees, Council Member Oyler moved to receive and file the first reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 21 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to special event fees; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggenschach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

*CLERK’S NOTE: Item No. 17-360 will be placed on the December 12, 2017, Regular City Council Meeting agenda.*

**(17-361) Communication from the City Manager with a Request for a FIRST READING of an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 11 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Pertaining to FIRE PREVENTION and PROTECTION FEES.**

City Manager Urich provided an overview of the proposed Ordinance noting it would provide an additional \$175,000.00 in revenues. He commented that these fees had not been increased since 2006.

Council Member Jensen expressed her appreciation on Staff's efforts on this item stating the proposed fees would provide for approximately three additional Firefighter positions.

Council Member Jensen moved to receive and file the first reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 11 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to fire prevention and protection fees; seconded by Council Member Akeson.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

*CLERK'S NOTE: Item No. 17-361 will be placed on the December 12, 2017, Regular City Council Meeting agenda.*

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

**(17-328) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 31 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Pertaining to STORMWATER UTILITY.**

City Manager Urich provided an overview of the stormwater utility noting it would be imposed upon all real estate parcels, both taxable and non-taxable. He said billing would be based upon the amount of impervious surface on the property such as rooftops, sidewalks, patios and driveways. He said the Stormwater Utility Program would help manage all drainage and wet weather programs and assist with the combined sewer overflow and the managing of a green infrastructure. He reviewed the timing of the first billing cycle noting the first bills would be sent out in June 2018 with a due date of July 1, 2018. He said the City anticipated generating approximately \$4.67 million for the first year and over \$8 million for 2019. He said the City would hold public discussions regarding the Credit and Incentive Manual that would provide property owners credit for certain improvements made to their properties that helped with stormwater issues in order to offset the utility.

Council Member Jensen requested that once the Credit and Incentive Manual was completed, that it come before the Council for approval since it was part of the Ordinance.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 31 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to stormwater utility; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Montelongo said he would be voting against this item stating it was not the right solution for the community. He expressed a concern that this item came for approval prior to the settlement of the CSO. He said he was in disagreement with the proposed fee and would be voting against the Ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,523 amending Chapter 31 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to stormwater utility was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Moore, Oyler, Rigggenbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: Montelongo - 1.

**(17-329) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 13 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Pertaining to the Increase of the REFUSE FEE.**

City Manager Urich provided an overview of the proposed Ordinance stating it would change the City's Code for the residential trash collection fee. He reviewed the proposed rate increases from 2018 through 2021 for residential units and stacked condominiums.

Council Member Rigggenbach moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to the increase of the refuse fee; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,524 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Rigggenbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

**(17-330) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 27 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Pertaining to the AMUSEMENT TAX.**

City Manager Urich said this Ordinance would impose an increase in the amusement tax from 2% to 3%, which would generate about \$490,000.00 annually in additional revenues.

Discussions were held on how this Ordinance would impact the Peoria Civic Center, noting the impact it would have on pricing and event booking. Discussions were held about the Civic Center's current budget and the need to schedule and promote more events. The importance of keeping the Civic Center open in order to bring more people to the downtown area was discussed

Discussions were held about the HRA tax versus the Amusement Tax and how the two taxes were paid. It was mentioned that certain exemptions were provided.

Mayor Ardis commented that the Civic Center Authority did a good job managing its budget, noting that last year it had its lowest deficit in a long time. He remarked on the need to improve communications between the City and the Authority.

Council Member Rigggenbach moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to the Amusement Tax; seconded by Council Member Akeson.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,525 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Rigggenbach, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 9;

Nays: Cyr, Ruckriegel - 2.

- (17-362) Communication from the City Manager and the Corporation Counsel With a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Levying a SPECIAL SERVICE AREA REAL ESTATE TAX, in the Amount of \$65,000.00, for the Tax Year 2017 for the WESTLAKE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA.**

Council Member Montelongo moved to adopt an Ordinance levying a Special Service Area Real Estate Tax, in the amount of \$65,000.00, for the tax year 2017 for the Westlake Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,526 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

- (17-363) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel With a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Levying a SPECIAL SERVICE AREA REAL ESTATE TAX, in the Total Amount of \$148,060.00, Against the Specified Parcels as Exhibit A, for the Tax Year 2017 for the KNOXVILLE JUNCTION SPECIAL SERVICE AREA.**

Council Member Riggerbach commented that this item was established to facilitate the funding of the traffic signal between Junction City and Donovan Park.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Riggerbach moved to adopt an Ordinance levying a Special Service Area Real Estate Tax, in the total amount of \$148,060.00 against the specified parcels as Exhibit A, for the tax year 2017 for the Knoxville Junction Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,527 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

- (17-364) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE LEVYING the TAXES for FISCAL YEAR 2018 for MUNICIPAL PURPOSES for the City of Peoria, Illinois.**

City Manager Urich said the 2018 total levy amount was \$28,478,081.00 at an anticipated tax rate of \$1.34629. He reviewed the previous years' levies and tax rates. He said an item would be coming to the City Council on December 12, 2017, for an additional levy Ordinance for bonds. He stated that a Public Hearing was not necessary in this matter because the increase was not more than 5.0%.

Discussions were held regarding the cost of training of the incoming Assistant Chief of Police, noting it would take place during the first quarter of 2018 and that the City had already entered into a contract for such training.

Council Member Grayeb expressed a concern regarding the funds utilized for training the incoming Assistant Chief of Police. He commented on the need for continued succession planning that should have been in place. He noted that in years' past the Chief of Police had trained incoming Assistant Chiefs and he said the hiring of someone to do the training was not a necessity.

At the conclusion of the comments, Council Member Akeson moved to adopt an Ordinance levying the taxes for fiscal year 2018 for municipal purposes for the City of Peoria, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Moore.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,528 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

**(17-365) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to APPROVE a RESOLUTION Adopting the 2018 - 2019 BIENNIAL BUDGET for the City of Peoria.**

City Manager Urich provided an overview of the proposed 2018 – 2019 Biennial Budget noting that the budget for both years was approximately \$198 million each year. He commented that one goal of the budget was to increase the fund balance in the General Fund. He said for 2018 there would be an increase in the General Fund balance of \$1.6 million and an increase of \$564,000.00 in 2019. He said the budget, as outlined, established the stormwater utility, provided for an operating budget that still provided for the services that run the City, and attempted to replenish cash reserves.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve the Resolution adopting the 2018-2019 Biennial Budget for the City of Peoria; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Discussions were held regarding the possible need of hiring a retired Firefighter to train those that are being promoted. Council Member Grayeb requested if the contract exceeded \$15,000.00, that it come back to the City Council for approval. He commented on the importance of continued succession training in order to prevent the need for training upcoming employees to fill vacancies. He said he did not approve of rehiring a retired City employee to train an upcoming employee for a promotion. He remarked that succession planning would have prevented that need for additional training, which would have saved the City some money.

Council Member Oyler commented that the Council set out to create a budget without increasing sales taxes and property taxes, which was accomplished in the proposed budget. He said he would be voting in favor of the proposed budget; however, he remarked on the importance of immediately beginning the budget process for the next cycle. He commented on the issues of pensions, stormwater, and CSO, all of which greatly impacted the City's budget. He stressed the importance of addressing these long-term issues, and finding ways to run better government more efficiently and to deliver value to the taxpayer.

Council Member Ruckriegel expressed his appreciation to the City Manager and Staff for their efforts on the proposed budget; however he said he was concerned it had not addressed any of the issues that had built up over the years. He said there was nothing in the budget that moved the neighborhoods or businesses forward; however, there were a number of fees imposed on the community. He commented on the need to review those issues that affected the City's taxing base in the upcoming years. He said taxes and fees would increase in the upcoming years. He said the budget showed that the City's budget would be in the positive in two years, but that was not what the trend showed. He commented on the last two-year budget cycle noting the City was off by a considerable amount in its second year. He remarked on the need to ensure pensions were paid. He noted that there was no room for error in the budget presented, stating that the City relied too heavily on Federal and State funding. In conclusion, he said he would not be voting for approval of the budget presented noting it was not

sustainable and that the City would find itself in the same situation in two years. He said the City Council was tasked to create a budget that moved the City forward, and he said the budget presented did not accomplish it.

Council Member Grayeb commented that the State of Illinois had created a \$2 million deficit in the City's budget; however, the City's lobbyist said the City might be provided some legislation that would allow the City to recuperate about half of that amount. He said the City responded in the best manner possible in light of the issues that impacted the City. He said the City needed to start planning on building another fire house and filling the safety gaps in the northern part of the City. He remarked on the importance of the City continuing to provide core and basic services.

Council Member Montelongo said he would be voting against the proposed budget, citing his concern with the stormwater utility fee. He stated that the formula and the policy for the stormwater utility was created to fix areas of the City that did not have a stormwater or CSO issue.

Council Member Cyr expressed his appreciation to the City Manager and Staff for their efforts on the budget, noting that he would be voting in favor of the item. He expressed a concern that the Strategic Plan did not come before the budget in order to coordinate the two while creating a budget. Going forward, he asked if there needed to be a calendar of important events in order to better prepare, have more time for discussion, and to conduct research.

Council Member Jensen expressed her appreciation to the City Manager and Staff who were faced with a difficult task of filling an \$8 million gap in the budget and she said she would support the budget. She said Council was able to raise fire revenues and restructure the Fire Department in order to keep from decommissioning a fire truck. She said the City needed to have a more thorough review of whether to consolidate the Township and the City and see what efficiencies and money could be saved.

Council Member Grayeb said there needed to be a thorough discussion on the Township issue. He asked Clerk Beth Ball to arrange to have a thorough discussion in February 2018. He asked City Manager Urich to redistribute the City's memo and analysis regarding the consolidation.

Council Member Jensen provided a draft outline of what needed to take place during the discussion on the consolidation of the Township. She requested that all Township officials provide a brief presentation on their office's duties, to have a Human Resource expert review all the duties similar to reclassifications, and to conduct public meetings in order to obtain meaningful public input.

Council Member Turner expressed his appreciation for the work the City Manager and Staff had done on the budget. He commented that Peoria was not the only City facing budget issues. He said unless a sizeable revenue stream was found, the budget process would continue to get harder each year.

Mayor Ardis expressed his appreciation to the City Manager and to Staff for their work on the budget, noting an unprecedented number of meetings and Report Back requests. He remarked that everyone had to vote their conscience on this matter and he said he could appreciate every view point. He commented on the issue of pensions, noting they were unsustainable. He said the issue was not only in Peoria. He said the City had no control over the pensions. He commented on the need to do a more comprehensive review of the City's Fire Department. He said out of all the calls the Fire Department received, only 4% were actual fire calls. He said the



City was spending thousands of dollars to respond to calls that he questioned if the City was obligated to respond. He asked the City Manager to provide monthly reports to the City Council on the status of the budget and to track the stormwater projects throughout the City.

Council Member Akeson said, in light of the request for further review of the structure of the Township and the Fire Department, she said it would be appropriate to do a thorough review of all City Departments keeping in mind there could be areas where adjustments could be made for future budget cycles.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-365 adopting the 2018-2019 Biennial Budget for the City of Peoria was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Turner,  
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: Montelongo, Ruckriegel - 2.

**CITIZEN'S 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. Suzie Walden, an interested citizen, expressed a concern for the Police Department and the Fire Department and the affects the budget process had on those Departments. She expressed a concern for the City's budget and said those departments should not have to work within a budget.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**


Council Member Grayeb moved to adjourn the Special City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Special City Council and Town Board Meeting adjourned at 6:21 P.M.



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