

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

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held May 9, 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, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore (Arrived at 6:29 P.M.), Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11. Absent: None.

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.

Mardi Gras In May - May 13, 2017

Poppy Days - May 18 - 20, 2017

Osteogenesis Imperfecta Awareness Week - May 6 - 13, 2017

National Public Works Week - May 21, 2017

Richwoods High School Speech Team

Peoria Healthcare Advocate of the Year

Council Member Moore arrived at 6:29 P.M.

MINUTES

Council Member Grayeb moved to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on April 25, 2017, and the Special City Council and Town Board Meeting held on May 2, 2017, as printed; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA**MOTION TO MOVE FIRST READING, ITEM NO. 17-138, FORWARD ON AGENDA AND TO WITHDRAW THE ITEM**

- (17-138) **Communication from the City Manager and the Corporation Counsel with a Request for a FIRST READING Review of an ORDINANCE Amending Section 3-92 of CHAPTER 3 of the CODE of the City of Peoria, Requiring Newly Site Approved Class A, B, B-1, G-A, or G-B Liquor Licensee to Have a MINIMUM AVERAGE MONTHLY SALE of at Least \$20,000 from the Sale of Food, Alcoholic or Non-Alcoholic Beverages, and/or General Merchandise For One Year Prior to Adding Video Gaming Terminals.**

Council Member Turner moved to move Item No. 17-138 forward on the agenda and to withdraw said item; seconded by Council Member Riggenbach.

Motion to withdraw was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

- (17-130) **Communication from the City Manager and the Fire Chief with a Request to ACCEPT the Bid for the REFURBISHMENT of Fire Truck 40 from GLOBAL EMERGENCY PRODUCTS in the amount of \$124,164.00 and RENEWED PERFORMANCE COMPANY in the amount of \$125,816.00 for a total of \$249,980.00.**
- (17-131) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to Authorize Change Order #1 for a One-Year Extension of the LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT with JIMAX LANDSCAPE, LLC to December 31, 2017, and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Change Order for a Total Budget Amount of \$200,000.00. (Amends 16-354) [All Council Districts]**
- (17-132) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the VENDORS FOR 2017 STREET MAINTENANCE MATERIALS.**
- (17-133) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE an AGREEMENT to Pay FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS in the Amount of \$55,208.00 for the Relocation of Existing Fiber Optic Cables for the Construction of the Alta Lane and Radnor Road Roundabout Project. [Council District 5]**
- (17-134) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a MOTOR FUEL TAX RESOLUTION, in the Amount of \$500,000.00 for the Construction Contract of the ALTA LANE & RADNOR ROAD ROUNDABOUT PROJECT.**
- (17-135) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY with a Request to Concur:**
- Linda Daley (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2019**
- (17-136) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE with a Request to Concur:**
- Zachary Oyler (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2018**
- (17-137) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS with a Request to Concur:**
- Lon Lyons (Voting) - Term Expires 06/30/2018**

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

Council Member Moore requested Item No. 17-131 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Item Nos. 17-130 through 17-137 (excluding Item No. 17-131) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

(17-131) * Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to Authorize Change Order #1 for a One-Year Extension of the LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT with JIMAX LANDSCAPE, LLC to December 31, 2017, and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Change Order for a Total Budget Amount of \$200,000.00. (Amends 16-354) [All Council Districts]

In response to Council Member Moore's question regarding the contract amount and the number of responses received to the City's Request for Proposal, Public Works Director Scott Reese said there was an additional \$150,000.00 added to the contract. He said this was the first RFP the City issued for a landscaping contract, noting the scope should be narrowed in order to attract more responses. He said the contract would include a participation requirement for the number of hours worked by minorities and women, which would be monitored and provided to Council in a Report Back upon completion of the contract.

Council Member Moore requested a copy of the Report Back upon its completion, and she moved to approve the Change Order #1 for a one-year extension of the Landscape Stewardship and Maintenance Project with Jimax Landscape, LLC to December 31, 2017, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the Change Order for a total budget amount of \$200,000.00; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Motion to approve the Change Order #1 for a one-year extension of the Landscape Stewardship and Maintenance Project with Jimax Landscape, LLC to December 31, 2017, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the Change Order for a total budget amount of \$200,000.00 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(17-139) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE a RESOLUTION Stating that the City of Peoria is Committed to being a WELCOMING CITY.

City Manager Patrick Ulrich summarized the Resolution stating it was placed on the agenda at the request of Council Member Jensen that she made at the May 2, 2017, meeting. He said

due to travel and time constraints, Staff was unable to coordinate with Council Member Jensen when drafting the Resolution.

Council Member Jensen remarked that she would have preferred to provide input on the Resolution and she would have compared it with other cities who were passing a similar Resolution. However, she said she would support this item, noting the importance of the City taking a stand and welcoming all residents and that immigrants felt welcomed in the City of Peoria.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve a Resolution stating that the City of Peoria is committed to being a Welcoming City; seconded by Council Member Akeson.

Council Member Akeson said she supported this item, but she said she would like to see more actions taken on the matter than words. She recommended translating the City's website into multiple languages, noting Peoria Public Schools and CityLink had already provided translations on their websites. She said she would be meeting with the City Manager and the City's Communication Specialist to discuss the matter further. She said the City's website should also provide web links to all the services immigrants may possibly need. She said she would support this item, but she said the City needed to do all it could to help immigrants become successful in the community.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-139 stating that the City of Peoria is committed to being a Welcoming City was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(17-142) Communication from the City Manager with a REPORT BACK on the COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON RACE Working Groups with a Request to Receive and File

City Manager Urich distributed a Report Back regarding the Community Conversation on Race Small Work Group Follow-up dated May 5, 2017.

City Manager Urich said, at the request of Council Member Moore, Staff prepared a Report Back on the Community Conversations on Race Small Work Groups. He outlined the areas of focus as follows: economic development, infrastructure, health, justice, asset development, workforce development, and education. He provided an update on each group and said the City was looking to appoint citizens to each of the groups outlined.

Council Member Moore said the conversation began October/November of 2016. She said the community wanted to see exactly what was happening. She said the City Manager reviewed seven sections of the conversation and who or what organization was invested or participating in each of those sections. She reviewed the asset development section noting that affordable housing was a part of that section. She said tenant issues were identified from that group. She also said a meeting was held at the Carver Center for tenants in order to advise them of their rights. She said additional meetings would be held throughout the City. She remarked on the importance of community involvement stating that citizens needed to advocate and attend the meetings as well as reach out to their respective Council Members.

At the request of Council Member Moore, City Manager Urich said the Report Back presented to Council would be made available on the website.

Council Member Moore asked the community to review the Report Back and encouraged everyone to obtain a recent copy of the IBI Magazine that listed a number of organizations and groups for people to get involved.

Council Member Moore moved to receive and file the Report Back on the Community Conversations on Race working groups; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Council Member Jensen commended City Manager Urich, Staff and Council Member Moore for pursuing this matter; however, she expressed her disappointment in the attendance at the workgroups. She recommended the City do more outreach to educate the community of upcoming meetings and to provide alternative methods for community input. She recommended information be made accessible on the City's website and hardcopies distributed to various neighborhood organizations along with notices of upcoming meetings with a description of each workgroup.

Council Member Moore said it was her hope with this Report Back that there would be better attendance and community interest.

Council Member Ruckriegel expressed his appreciation to the City Manager for meeting with him and Council Member Moore on this issue. He recommended reaching out to various organizations to assist with community outreach. He said the City had a number of community partners who could help deliver the notices and encourage better attendance at the upcoming meetings.

Motion to receive and file the Report Back on the Community Conversations on Race working groups was approved.

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

Nays: None.

(17-140) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for a Policy Session on the SOLID WASTE CONTRACT, with a Request for Direction.

Council Member Grayeb moved to open the Policy Session on the Solid Waste Contract; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Policy Session was opened at 7:04 P.M.

A Policy Session on the Solid Waste Contract was held.

Council Member Grayeb moved to close the Policy Session on the Solid Waste Contract; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Policy Session was closed at 7:35 P.M.

(17-141) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for a Policy Session on the WATER COMPANY BUYOUT, with a Request for Direction.

Council Member Grayeb moved to open the Policy Session on the Water Company Buyout; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

CLERK'S NOTE: Council Member Akeson did not vote.

Policy Session was opened at 7:36 P.M.

A Policy Session on the Water Company Buyout was held.

Council Member Grayeb moved to close the Policy Session on the Water Company Buyout; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Policy Session was closed at 8:44 P.M.

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

(17-067) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 20 of the CODE of the City of Peoria to Add Sec. 20-112 Regarding the POSSESSION OF CANNABIS UNDER 10 GRAMS AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA and Amending CHAPTER 32 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Amending Sec. 32-3 to ALLOW ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION OF ALL THE VIOLATIONS OF THE CITY CODE.

Corporation Counsel Don Leist said the proposed Ordinance took into consideration two statutes that had been amended in 2016 under the Cannabis Control Act and the Drug Paraphernalia Control Act. He said since the City of Peoria was a Home Rule unit, it could enact an Ordinance regulating possession of cannabis under 10 grams and drug paraphernalia as civil offenses. He said there was a wide range of fines the Administrative Hearing Officer could impose up to \$750 plus administrative costs. He said the range provided for in the Ordinance was in accord with surrounding neighboring communities. He said processing these types of offenses through the administrative hearing process would lessen the cost of first time offenders.

Mayor Ardis said the City was not bound by the structure outlined in Illinois State Statute; however, he said the City was paralleling its Ordinance with the laws of the State.

Corporation Counsel Leist said the City could set its fines at any amount it deemed appropriate. In response to Mayor Ardis's question as to whether there was a benefit to the City from the fine, he said there was minimal financial benefit other than to deter the use of illegal drugs. He said the majority of the money received from the fines would apply to the court process for various fees. He said even if the City adopted an administrative adjudication process, it still had the option of taking the matter to Circuit Court, if necessary.

Mayor Ardis said it was his hope to take action on this item saying he was an advocate to bring these type of fines into the administrative adjudication process. He said this item received a lot more undue attention due to the fee structure outlined by State Statute, but he said the City would not have to follow this fee structure provided.

Following a comment by Council Member Jensen regarding her concern about how the Hearing Officer had handled some cases and she could not support the proposed Ordinance until that had been addressed, Council Member Jensen moved to deny the Ordinance amending Chapter 20 of the Code of the City of Peoria to Add Section 20-112 regarding the possession of cannabis under 10 grams and drug paraphernalia and amending Chapter 32 of the Code of the City of Peoria amending Section 32-3 to allow administrative adjudication of all the violations of the City Code; seconded by Council Member Akeson.

Discussions were held about making this violation payable by fine only without appearing before a Hearing Officer and the ability for an offender to pay online.

Council Member Ruckriegel said by bringing these violations in-house, the City Council would be able to set the fine as it determined necessary. He said there was a discrepancy in fine amounts and he asked how the fines would be determined and how much it would cost the City to process these matters in-house.

Corporation Counsel Leist said all fines were punitive in nature in order to modify behavior. He said the City Council had the right to modify the fine amounts as they saw fit.

Discussions were held as to how other States handled these types of violations and how the legalization of marijuana impacted various States. Council Member Grayeb noted a discrepancy between Federal laws and State laws on this matter.

In response to Council Member Moore's question as to what would happen should this item not pass, Corporation Counsel Leist said the City currently did not have a system by which the City of Peoria ticketed small amounts of marijuana. Council Member Moore stated that when these matters went to court, the fines carried additional court costs.

Council Member Moore said, with regards to the administrative process, that the Hearing Officer who would hear these cases should receive some type of remedial training. She said her concern was that taking on administrative adjudication of all violations of the City Code would add to the workload of the Hearing Officer. She said she would like to modify the fine structure rather than dispose of the entire Ordinance.

Council Member Moore moved for a Substitute Motion to adopt the Ordinance amending Chapter 20 of the Code of the City of Peoria to add Section 20-112 regarding the possession of cannabis under 10 grams and drug paraphernalia and amending Chapter 32 of the Code of the

City of Peoria amending Sec. 32-3 to allow administrative adjudication of all the violations of the City Code, as amended to add a graduated fine structure with \$125 set for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense, \$500 for the third offense, and \$750 for the fourth offense under penalties for possession of less than 10 grams of cannabis and for possession of drug paraphernalia each; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Moore expressed a concern with the need to provide remedial education or customer service training for the Hearing Officer. She said if there were too many cases for one Hearing Officer to process, then additional help should be hired.

Council Member Riggerbach said he preferred an adjudication with a fine versus filing in Circuit Court, which generated court costs. He said the fine structure offered by Council Member Moore provided clarification to the public of the structure. He said if the Substitute Motion was voted down, it would mean higher fines with court costs added.

Council Member Jensen said she would not support the Substitute Motion stating that she had concerns with the Hearing Officer process.

Council Member Akeson expressed a concern for crafting an Ordinance on the floor.

Discussions continued regarding the fine amounts, a fine schedule for repeat offenders, and the discretion of the Hearing Officer as well as whether it could be a ticketable offense. Corporation Counsel Leist said he would review whether this offense could be ticketable.

Council Member Akeson said a Policy Session on this issue needed to be held and the City Manager should advocate for uniformity throughout the State for some of these fines.

Council Member Oyler asked how much workload would be generated through the passing of this Ordinance and how it could be determined as to whether the Hearing Officer could handle the additional workload.

Corporation Counsel Leist said the workload would not be insurmountable and should not be of concern to the City Council.

Substitute Motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 17,463 amending Chapter 20 of the Code of the City of Peoria to add Section 20-112 regarding the possession of cannabis under 10 grams and drug paraphernalia and amending Chapter 32 of the Code of the City of Peoria amending Sec. 32-3 to allow administrative adjudication of all the violations of the City Code, as amended to add a graduated fine structure with \$125 set for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense, \$500 for the third offense, and \$750 for the fourth offense under penalties for possession of less than 10 grams of cannabis and for possession of drug paraphernalia each was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Cyr, Moore, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 6;

Nays: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Montelongo, Oyler - 5.

- (17-094) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION for a Class A (Tavern) Liquor License with the Retail Sale of Alcohol at WISCONSIN TAP, 1918 N. WISCONSIN, Contingent Upon the Issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 3)**

Council Member Riggerbach said Corporation Counsel had drafted a Plan of Operation and was waiting to hearing back from the Petitioner. He moved to defer this matter to the June 13, 2017, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Motion to defer to the June 13, 2017, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS

POW MIA Flag

Council Member Grayeb said most City facilities had the POW MIA flag flying, and he inquired as to when City Hall would fly the flag outside its building noting the importance of a consistent standard for all City buildings.

In response to Council Member Grayeb, City Manager Ulrich said POW MIA flags would be purchased for all City buildings and displayed.

In conclusion, Council Member Grayeb thanked Council Member Turner for his service in the military, noting he was the only veteran on the City Council.

Peoria Public Schools Art Display at City Hall

City Clerk Beth Ball announced a new art display by Peoria Public Schools on the third and fourth floors of City Hall. She said with the help of Mr. Scott Woodhall and Ms. Tonya Jenkins of Peoria Public Schools, the third floor display case contained the artwork from Roosevelt Magnet School and the fourth floor display case contained the artwork from Glen Oak School. She said these displays would be available until the end of the school year. She said it had been a joy to work with the teachers and students of Peoria Public Schools and said she hoped to work with them next school year to fill the display cases at City Hall.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

Mr. Doug Johnson, a concerned citizen, voiced his opposition to the water buyout stating there was a conflict of interest with Illinois Water being the largest donor to Peoria Promise. He voiced a concern regarding the proposed River Trail apartments and the people who would live there. He said the PDC contract was the largest contractor with the City that had no minority workers. He opposed the fines for cannabis possession noting that the possession of cannabis was slowly becoming legal throughout the country.

Ms. Valerie Ackerman, an interested citizen, stated a concern for fining people for less than 10 grams of cannabis, which she said was a natural substance. She commented on the garbage contract stating that people who lived in apartment buildings should have the option to recycle. She said if the purchase of the water company was for the good of the public, then it should be

done. She commented on the need for a Welcoming Ordinance versus a Welcoming Resolution.

Ms. Karen Wilson, Second Vice President of the NAACP – Peoria Branch, expressed a concern for the purchase of the water company stating it would be too much of a financial risk for the City. She said the money allotted to conduct the due diligence would be better spent on roads and sidewalks.

Mr. Kacc Gettrich, a citizen of Peoria, commented on the Resolution for a Welcoming City stating that the immigrant community deserved a strong proactive welcoming Ordinance.

Mr. Chris Wade, a concerned citizen, remarked on the issue of fining for possession of less than 10 grams of cannabis as a City offense. He reviewed statistics regarding cannabis and asked whether the City should punish for possessing cannabis or have compassion.

Ms. Joan Cotton, a member of Peoria No Ban No Wall, commented on the issue of the City becoming a welcoming City and the need for the City to defend the immigrants and refugees who lived there. She said it was important for Peoria to back up its words with actions. She expressed a concern with passing a Resolution, which was non-binding.

Ms. Carrie Hayes, a citizen of Peoria, expressed her concern for the increased fine for the possession of cannabis within the City limits. She also commented on the water buyout by mentioning Flint, Michigan, and she recommended that the City to research what Phoenix, Arizona was doing with its water supply.

Ms. Mary Givens, a concerned citizen, remarked on the City's budget and the increase of fines for City Ordinance violations and she asked the City Council to enforce the fines across all five Council Districts.

Mr. Terry Brink, a citizen of Peoria, commented on the issue of Peoria being a welcoming City and said a Resolution was non-binding and requested an Ordinance in its place. He said an Ordinance would benefit all Peorians, including immigrants. He said communities with welcoming Ordinances had lower crime rates, lower unemployment and higher income. He said an Ordinance would be to everyone's benefit.

Mr. Anthony Walraven a citizen of Peoria, remarked on the issue of new fines for possession of cannabis under 10 grams. He stated that the fine for the same offense was \$50.00 in the City of Urbana. He said cannabis should be legalized and he said the City should strive to make possession as non-punitive as possible. He commented on the City's due diligence on the water buyout noting it would cost the City too much money to conduct the due diligence and that he was not in favor of the buyout.

Ms. Katie Jones, an interested citizen, remarked on the importance of having a healthy community and commented on how a healthy healthcare system would look. She said all families were vulnerable to job losses and everyone should support the health and wellbeing of all Americans. She remarked on the water buyout and she suggested inviting environmental advocates such as the Sierra Club to participate in the due diligence in order to achieve transparency. She commented on the garbage contract noting that recycling should be made frequently and affordably.

Mr. Kacey Johnson, a citizen of Peoria, commented on the cannabis issue stating there were numerous uses for it. He said hemp was one of the first plants that had multiple uses, and he provided examples. He mentioned the garbage contract and stated more people needed to utilize the recycling program that was offered.

Mr. Tom Conlin, a retiree from Illinois American Water, expressed his opinion regarding the water buyout. He said Illinois American Water was the world's largest home investor of water utilities. He reviewed potential issues of it becoming a City-owned utility by referencing Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Flint, Michigan. He asked the City why they would want to be rid of a company that has done a good job for a long time.

Mr. Amr Elsamny, a concerned citizen, expressed a concern with the water bill stating that the City of Peoria paid twice as much for water than the City of Chicago. He mentioned the water buyout and asked whether the buyout process could be challenged. He said an estimate of the buyout would give everyone a better vision of potential benefits.

Mr. Roger Goodson, Senior Manager Production and Field Services, Western Division at Illinois American Water – American Water, provided an overview of the water company stating that they were proud of the team that worked for the company. He said the employees took pride in their work delivering safe and clean water to families in the community. He said the City should save its money and not conduct a due diligence on the water buyout. He said the water bill was still the lowest bill of each household. He commented that Illinois American Water made numerous donations within the City. He said it costs Illinois American Water less for water main pipes than it would for the City and he encouraged the City leaders to learn from the past and not pursue the buyout.

Council Member Montelongo left the meeting at 10:41 P.M.

Mr. Bud Grieves, former Mayor of the City of Peoria, remarked on the water buyout, and he provided background information. He stated that the Appellate Court ruled that it was a valid option for the City to review, on a periodic basis, whether to purchase the water company and he explained some of the benefits the City would receive should it buy the water company.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of a Motion to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that such an action is probable or imminent; and 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to 2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that such an action is probable or imminent; and 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 P.M.



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

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