



: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

A Regular Meeting of the Joint City Council and Town Board of Peoria, Illinois, was held on September 13, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Ali presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were present: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly (electronic attendance), Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11. Absent: None.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

Hispanic Heritage Month
National Preparedness Month
Hunger Action Month
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Acknowledgement of Fire Department Promotions –
Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger & Assistant Fire Chief Rick Morgan

MINUTES

Council Member Oyler moved to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on August 23, 2022, as printed; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

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

(22-297) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the AUGUST 2022 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the SEPTEMBER 2022 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.

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Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the August 2022 actual expenditures and to approve the September 2022 anticipated expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS –CITY OF PEORIA

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

- (22-298) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**
- (22-299) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources with a Request to AUTHORIZE the Payment of a WORKERS COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT, in the Amount of \$148,313.79, to a Police Officer Injured on Multiple Dates Going Back to 2014.**
- (22-300) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources with a Request to AUTHORIZE the Payment of a WORKERS COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT, in the Amount of \$135,675.27, to a Fire Captain Injured on July 18, 2015.**
- (22-301) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the PURCHASE of a Portion of Parcel 18-03-226-006 from ADAMS OUTDOORS in the Amount of \$4,600.00, and Payment for Relocation of an Existing Billboard for the ABINGTON CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT to Adams Outdoors in the Amount of \$32,500.00, for a Total Cost of \$37,100.00. (Council District 3)**
- (22-302) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a PERMANENT EASEMENT AGREEMENT with a Variance with OSF HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, for the OSF COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER PROJECT.**
- (22-303) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,996 Approving the HEINZ BROTHERS TRUCKING PARTNERSHIP REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT for 2301 W. CLARK STREET. (Council District 1)**
- (22-304) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,997 Amending the TRAVEL POLICY Pertaining to Travel, Meal, and Lodging Expenses for the City of Peoria.**
- (22-294) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,998 Amending Appendix A of the Unified Development Code, Relating to DATA CENTERS.**

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- (22-293)** **Communication from the City Manager and Interim Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending ARTICLE 19 (Operation of a Cannabis Business) of CHAPTER 18 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Related to LICENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS REGULATIONS.**
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- (22-305)** **APPROVE the COMMITTEE REPORT (POLICY SESSION) from the AUGUST 16, 2022, Special City Council Meeting, Regarding CORONAVIRUS STATE and LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS.**
- (22-306)** **Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the Month Ended JULY 31, 2022, UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.**

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

Council Member Jensen requested Item No. 22-293 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 Ruckriegel.

Item Nos. 22-293, 22-294, and 22-298 through 22-306 (except Item No. 22-293, which was removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

- (22-293)** **Communication from the City Manager and Interim Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending ARTICLE 19 (Operation of a Cannabis Business) of CHAPTER 18 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Related to LICENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS REGULATIONS.**
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Council Member Jensen expressed her concerns with adopting exception to the limitation the Council initially set regarding cannabis business regulations, noting she was not in favor of this item. She asked if the proposed Code revisions were in response to the Social Equity regulations adopted by the State of Illinois.

Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka explained the existing limitations in the Code of the City of Peoria related to Cannabis Business Licenses, the State of Illinois' minimum distance requirements for cannabis businesses with and without the Social Equity designation, as well as the ongoing research to determine if the Council could adopt minimum distance requirements for all cannabis businesses to supersede the State exception for Social Equity applicants. She noted the amendments would not affect any current applicants.

Discussions were held concerning the number of cannabis licenses the State of Illinois awarded when the substance was initially legalized as well as the latest and upcoming lotteries for additional licenses in Illinois.

Council Member Jensen said it was important to prohibit cannabis businesses from closely congregating in the City and more time was needed to research alternative options.

At the conclusion of her comments, Council Member Jensen moved to defer the item to the September 27, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Council Member Jensen moved to defer the Ordinance amending Article 19 of Chapter 18 of the Code of the City of Peoria related to Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations to the September 27, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

After Council Member Allen said he would support the two-week deferral in order to ensure the amendments were comprehensive, he said it was important to include language prohibiting the immediate sale of a cannabis business achieved through the Social Equity process. He said he was in favor of supporting the Social Equity applicants within the spirit of the designation, and he suggested comparing the regulations of other municipalities to ensure fairness. He said proactive efforts would behoove the community and a Policy Session would be appropriate to discuss strategies for dispensaries.

Council Member Kelly said he supported the motion to defer the item for two weeks, but he said he was not opposed to the common strategy of related businesses concentrating in one area.

Mayor Ali said a Policy Session would be scheduled to discuss cannabis business regulations along with the upcoming scheduled 2023 Budget discussions.

In response to Council Member Grayeb regarding cannabis businesses in Peoria, Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said there were currently two existing cannabis businesses located in the City of Peoria and the Council could choose to approve a moratorium on allowing new cannabis businesses to acquire a business license in the City.

Council Member Allen noted the Council recently approved a site application for a cannabis business with the Social Equity designation on Brandywine Road, located within 1,500 feet of an existing cannabis business on Glen Avenue. Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka summarized the multi-step process for a cannabis business to gain approvals before opening in Peoria. She said she would provide more information to the Council in a Report Back. Council Member Allen said another Social Equity applicant would be applying for Site Approval at the former Applebee's location on War Memorial Drive. Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka noted there was not an existing cannabis dispensary in that area, and she said the two Social Equity applicants had not yet applied for a business license with the City.

Council Member Grayeb said a Policy Session was appropriate to determine how the Council should move forward with cannabis business regulations.

Motion to defer the Ordinance to the September 27, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

FIRST READINGS:

(22-307) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Corporation Counsel with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a FIRST READING of an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE IV, SECTION 18-99, of the CODE of the City of Peoria, to Revise the Issuance of VIDEO GAMING LICENSES.

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka said the amendment was proposed in response to business owners' feedback on the City's 24-month waiting period for new businesses to obtain a Video Gaming License. She said a regulation comparison of Illinois municipalities showed that while the results were wide-ranging, other municipalities had consistently shorter waiting periods. She said it was the recommendation of Staff to reduce the waiting period to 6 or 12 months.

Discussions were held pertaining to the concerns expressed for the 24-month waiting period, including how it discouraged new businesses from opening in Peoria and how it was excessive.

In response to Council Member Velpula regarding video gaming license cap regulations, Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said the Council could implement a cap, but it was tough to make a recommendation based on the wide-ranging regulations and difficulty in measuring effects in other municipalities.

Council Member Allen said he was not a fan of video gaming, but he was interested in making Peoria more business friendly. He said based on feedback from the citizens, he would consider reducing the waiting period. He also said he would be open to discussion on a license cap.

Council Member Oyler questioned if a reduction to a 12-month waiting period was enough. He said he would support a reduction to less than 12-months, noting the number of terminals was limited for each license-holder and he was interested in helping new businesses open in Peoria.

Discussions were held concerning the intention of the Council to set the 24-month waiting period, including dissuading gaming parlors, and promoting businesses based on food and drink sales before permitting video gaming. After City Manager Patrick Urich confirmed the regulation was successful in that original intention, Council Member Ruckriegel said he supported reducing the waiting period to less than 12 months in order to support new businesses in the community.

Council Member Riggerbach noted the consensus of the Council regarding the 24-month waiting period was excessive, and he said, based on discussions, he believed a 6-month waiting period was appropriate.

After he said he would also support a 6-month waiting period, Council Member Grayeb moved to receive and file a First Reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 18, Article IV, Section 18-99, of the Code of the City of Peoria, to revise the issuance of Video Gaming Licenses; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

In response to Council Member Jensen regarding limitations of terminals and licenses for video gaming, Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said she would confirm in a Report Back that the City Code did not contain a cap on licenses and confirming the terminal limit of six.

Discussions were held on the profitability of video gaming, who would be affected by the wait period reduction if it was approved, and the difficulties the 24-month waiting period caused for business owners.

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Council Member Kelly said he believed the waiting period for video gaming licenses was an overreach by the Council to address issues that did not exist. He said he would be in favor of an Ordinance that would eliminate the waiting period, noting the waiting period hindered or discouraged business owners from opening establishments in Peoria.

Mayor Ali said she believed a 6-month waiting period for a new business to obtain a Video Gaming License was the best option.

Motion to receive and file a First Reading of an Ordinance amending Chapter 18, Article IV, Section 18-99, of the Code of the City of Peoria, to revise the issuance of Video Gaming Licenses was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

CLERK'S NOTE: Item No. 22-307 will be placed on the September 27, 2022, Regular City Council agenda.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(22-308) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for the Following:

- A. APPROVE up to \$100,000.00 for the City's Contribution to Apply for the FEDERAL RAIL ADMINISTRATION CORRIDOR IDENTIFICATION and DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM with the Remainder of the Funds Coming from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and the North Central Illinois Council of Governments; and,**
- B. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2022-2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET Related to the Use of General Fund Balance, in an Amount not to Exceed \$100,000.00 in 2022.**

City Manager Patrick Urich said in July 2022 a Rail Feasibility Study for rail service from Peoria to Chicago was released. He said there was an amazing response to the published survey, with 31,000 people all along the route expressing their interest on the proposed route. He described the multiple Federal funding sources available that were applicable to the proposed project, including the application windows, qualifications, and requirements. He said the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Peoria County Board, and North Central Illinois Council of Governments would also contribute funding for the Federal Rail Administration Corridor Identification and Development Program, noting an Intergovernmental Agreement would be presented at a subsequent City Council Meeting for approval. Mayor Ali said the Peoria railway route was added to the Illinois State plan, achieving a requirement for grant applications. She said this project was an opportunity to impact Peoria for generations, and she recognized Council Member Ruckriegel and former US Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood who were members of the Passenger Rail Committee she assembled to pursue this endeavor.

Council Member Ruckriegel summarized the efforts over the last year that resulted in the advantageous position the region was in to achieve this railway route. He reviewed the results of the survey, the potential benefits the train would bring to all communities along the route, and the desire of citizens and leaders in Peoria for many years to reacquire rail services. He said now was the time to take the chance and fight for what the communities along the route said they wanted, leveraging the Federal funds and momentum of the initiative to create the best chance for success.

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Council Member Allen expressed his excitement at the possibility of the railway project and what it would mean for the future of Peoria.

Discussions were held regarding the available revenue sources and grants, the Bloomington-Normal railway project impact on the surrounding community, and the possible timeline to complete the project in Peoria. Council Member Jackson congratulated Mayor Ali for her focus and efforts on the railway initiative.

Mayor Ali introduced Former US Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, who she said worked countless hours for this project, and she thanked him for his leadership in the community.

Ray LaHood, former Secretary of Transportation and member of the Passenger Rail Committee, congratulated the Mayor for her vision on this endeavor to bring railway service back to Peoria. He said the timing was right to pursue the project to leverage the interest and available funding for the benefit of the region. He discussed the long history of interest to bring rail service back to Peoria as well as the Federal funding and grants available for infrastructure and transportation initiative. He said the project would benefit the entire region by bringing more jobs, investments, infrastructure, and economic development opportunities to the area, noting it was a once in a lifetime opportunity benefitting future generations.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve up to \$100,000.00 for the City's contribution to apply for the Federal Rail Administration Corridor Identification and Development Program with the remainder of the funds coming from the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and the North Central Illinois Council of Governments; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Kelly – 1.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget related to the use of General Fund Balance, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00 in 2022; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,999 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Kelly – 1.

(22-309) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a DISCUSSION on the 2023-2027 AT-LARGE COUNCIL COMPENSATION.

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka said it was the responsibility of the Council to set compensation for the At-Large Council Members for the May 2023 term. She said a compensation comparison was attached to the communication for the Council to review.

After Council Member Grayeb said he believed At-Large Council compensation should remain at the current amount, he moved to receive and file a discussion on the 2023-2027 At-Large Council compensation; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

Council Member Kelly said he was interested in pursuing a performance-based compensation rate based on assessed values to have an opportunity to be accountable for the decisions of the

Council. He asked for a Report Back to show how Council compensation would have changed over the last ten years if such a system were in place. He said he was not interested in continuing the process as it was.

Council Member Allen said the At-Large Council compensation was ranked fourth in Illinois and was similar to Aurora, Bolingbrook, and Waukegan. He noted they were making a decision for those elected for the May 2023 term and he said it was important to encourage participation. He said he was in support of keeping the compensation the same as it was currently, citing the difficulty to determine an assessed value of long-term Council decisions.

After Council Member Jensen asked when the last time Council Member compensation was increased, Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said the discussion that night was to determine what to bring back to the Council at a subsequent meeting for approval, and a Report Back would be provided with previous Council Member compensation information.

Motion to receive and file a discussion on the 2023-2027 At-Large Council compensation was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

(22-310) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Corporation Counsel with a Request for the Following:

- A. RECEIVE and FILE a PRESENTATION from PEORIA INNOVATION HUB (d/b/a DISTILLERY LABS) Regarding the Smart City Initiative and Smart City Brokerage Agreement; and,**
- B. APPROVE the SMART CITY BROKERAGE AGREEMENT between the City of Peoria and PEORIA INNOVATION HUB (d/b/a DISTILLERY LABS).**

The Distillery Labs Smart City Initiative presentation was distributed to all Council Members.

City Manager Patrick Urich introduced Kurt Bialobreski and Chris Setti, representing Distillery Labs, to present the Smart City Initiative and explain the Smart City Brokerage Agreement.

Kurt Bialobreski, Chief Innovation Officer and Assistant Vice President at Hanson Professional Services, began the presentation by providing the mission and background of Distillery Labs. He described resources available to new businesses or existing businesses moving to the area, including the Central Illinois Living Laboratory (CILL), professional consulting, and networking. He explained the proposal by Distillery Labs regarding the Smart City Initiative, focusing on Right of Way (ROW) smart technology in the Heart of Peoria (HoP) through a Brokerage Agreement to facilitate permits and applications and provide professional insight on the third-party initiatives, noting there were already four start-up companies interested in the enterprise.

Mayor Ali thanked Mr. Bialobreski for the presentation and expressed her excitement for Smart City opportunities. She asked why the HoP area on the map was selected for the initial phase. Mr. Bialobreski said there were a multitude of factors involved in the selection of the HoP area of Peoria, including historically disinvested neighborhoods and mobility concerns.

Discussions were held regarding the costs to update the older technology in the designated area, collaboration requirements with utility providers or other companies involved in ROW

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zones, and the non-exclusivity of the Brokerage Agreement for smart technology companies to do business in the City of Peoria. The current and future investment of the City in Distillery Labs to support their efforts was also discussed.

Council Member Velpula asked what progress had been made with the \$100,000.00 the Council allocated to Distillery Labs, noting he was not in favor of the indirect approach to solicitations of new and prospective businesses to Peoria.

Chris Setti, Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council and Interim Executive Director of Distillery Labs, invited the Council to a Distillery Labs Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Collison and Startup Showcase event on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at the Scottish Rite Theater at 400 NE Perry Avenue. He reviewed social and educational events hosted by Distillery Labs, businesses that benefitted from Distillery Labs services, and plans to construct a physical location to enhance and expand those services. Mr. Bialobreski added the efforts and services provided by Distillery Labs provided opportunities for new and existing businesses in the technology field, which was capital-intensive.

In response to Mayor Ali's request for documented progress, Mr. Setti said he would provide reports to the Council and add them to their communications list regarding upcoming events and ongoing efforts.

Council Member Velpula said he did not want to discourage efforts of Distillery Labs, but he said he did not understand the purpose of the role of a broker for this initiative. Mr. Setti said the purpose was to provide a streamlined process to incentivize startup and existing businesses to test, invest, and develop their products or services in Peoria. He said the Brokerage Agreement would permit Distillery Labs to communicate and work on behalf of the businesses with City Staff to obtain permits or other requirements to conduct testing and product development.

In response to Council Member Oyler regarding financial obligations, City Manager Urich said the City of Peoria was not responsible for committing funds with the Brokerage Agreement, noting it was a relationship arrangement.

Discussions were held on the ROW focus and what the smart technology testing could include, as well as the involvement of Public Works and other City Staff to oversee the applications and process. The advantages of the Distillery Lab services working in conjunction with City Staff to encourage new business and investments in the area were also discussed.

Additional discussions were held regarding the four businesses interested in the proposed Smart City Initiative, the City's permit application process, and the role of Distillery Labs in encouraging efforts to establish Peoria as a startup and business friendly municipality.

After she said she believed the Smart City Initiative was a terrific idea, Council Member Jensen moved to receive and file a presentation from Peoria Innovation Hub (d/b/a Distillery Labs) regarding the Smart City Initiative and Smart City Brokerage Agreement; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Council Member Riggerbach said Distillery Labs was fulfilling a Council Legislative Agenda goal with the business incubator services they provided. He said they were presenting a tangible, business-friendly approach with the proposed initiative and he was in support of this item.

Mayor Ali discussed leveraging grants and additional revenue sources to expand support for Distillery Labs and expanding Smart City technology in Peoria, and she said she supported collaborative efforts with Distillery Labs to achieve those goals.

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Discussions were held concerning Peoria Next Innovation Center, including their mission, concerns about the proposed agreement, and agreeable connotations with the general initiative. Council Member Grayeb said he believed the intermediary was unnecessary and City Staff should have direct responsibility for the initiative, but conceptually he was in support of it. Mr. Setti noted the City maintained oversight and approval authority of the process, and Distillery Labs would facilitate a fast-track opportunity with advisory provisions for the initiative.

Discussions were held concerning the Distillery Labs staffing and the interim status of Mr. Setti.

Council Member Grayeb said he needed more information before he would consider approving the agreement. After he asked for details on the insurance requirements in the proposed agreement, Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka explained the language and efforts to ensure coverage for the various and unknown applications for products or services that would be included in the Smart City Initiative.

Discussions were held concerning altering language in the proposed agreement regarding blanket permits and sponsor designation. The involvement and input from multiple City departments regarding the proposed Brokerage Agreement were also discussed.

Council Member Grayeb said he approved of the concept, however, he said because of questions regarding the language and the need for more information, he would vote no to approve the agreement that night but would be willing to consider it at a subsequent meeting.

Continued discussions were held on the mission and process of Distillery Labs, the lengthy and complicated process of applying for permits and other procedures with the City, as well as the benefits of accelerating the Smart City technology in Peoria. The Distillery Labs Staff and upcoming project to establish an office location in downtown Peoria were also discussed.

Council Member Velpula said multiple entities were working to develop and attract innovation to the City, and said he believed the Council should wait to vote to approve the agreement until the concerns mentioned could be addressed.

After Mayor Ali asked about the motion on the floor, City Clerk Stefanie Tarr confirmed the motion on the floor was to receive and file the presentation from Peoria Innovation Hub (d/b/a Distillery Labs) regarding the Smart City Initiative and Smart City Brokerage Agreement.

Discussions were held regarding the role of a broker, the non-exclusivity of the proposed Brokerage Agreement, and the overall mission of the non-profit organization Distillery Labs. The purpose of including warranty exclusions in the agreement was also discussed.

Motion to receive and file a presentation from Peoria Innovation Hub (d/b/a Distillery Labs) regarding the Smart City Initiative and Smart City Brokerage Agreement was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riegenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve the Smart City Brokerage Agreement between the City of Peoria and Distillery Labs; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Discussions were held regarding the communication and procedures between Distillery Labs and the City of Peoria outlined in the agreement, keeping the Council apprised of upcoming and

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ongoing Distillery Labs initiatives and efforts, as well as suggested amendments to the proposed agreement in collaboration with Peoria Next Innovation Center suggestions.

Mr. Setti said Distillery Labs did not profit from the businesses, and the only fees the businesses would pay would be the same fees to the City any business or entity applying for permits or applications would be required to pay.

After he said a deferral would allow time for suggested amendments to be added to the proposed agreement, Council Member Grayeb moved for a substitute motion to defer the Smart City Brokerage Agreement between the City of Peoria and Peoria Innovation Hub (d/b/a Distillery Labs) to the September 27, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

Mayor Ali agreed a deferral was appropriate to address the concerns and amendment suggestions, and she said she hoped the agreement would then be approved with full support.

Discussions were held concerning the impact of the deferral for the four businesses interested in participating in the Distillery Labs Smart City Initiative.

After Mr. Bialobreski confirmed the two-week deferral would not adversely affect the interested parties, Council Member Riggerbach said he would support the deferral as well.

Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka asked Council to review the agreement and provide feedback as soon as possible in order to prepare amendments before the next meeting.

Council Members Jackson and Jensen said they were in support of the deferral as well.

Motion to defer the Smart City Brokerage Agreement to the September 27, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

Council Members Cyr and Oyler exited Council Chambers.

(22-311) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to APPROVE the Application and Program Guidelines for the 2022 UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Community Development Director Joe Dulin said this item was to approve the application and program guidelines for the Utility Assistance Program he proposed to the Council at the August 16, 2022, Policy Session. He said the program would launch shortly after approval and would provide up to \$150.00 per month for utility assistance for residents below the 80% area median income from November 2022 through February 2023. He said he would provide Report Backs on demand and progress of the program as the Council requested at the Policy Session.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the application and program guidelines for the 2022 Utility Assistance Program; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Riggerbach exited Council Chambers.

(22-312) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2022-2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET, Related to the Use of General Fund Balance in an Amount Not to Exceed \$350,000.00 in 2022, for WORKER'S COMPENSATION CLAIMS.

Finance Director Kyle Cratty said the Ordinance to amend the Budget was necessary as a result of the worker's compensation settlement payment approvals. City Manager Patrick Ulrich confirmed a super-majority vote would be required to approve the Budget amendment.

Council Member Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget, related to the use of General Fund Balance in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.00 in 2022, for workers compensation claims; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Council Member Cyr returned to Council Chambers.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,800 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 9;

Nays: None.

Council Member Riggerbach returned to Council Chambers.

(22-313) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the 2021 ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT, Audited by CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP.

The CliftonLarsonAllen 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, 2021 Tax Increment Financing District Funds (TIF) Financial Statements, 2021 Single Audit Report, Letter to Governance, and the Audit Closing presentation were distributed to all Council Members.

Adam Pulley, Principal with CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), began the presentation with a review of the 2021 audit results, noting it was a unmodified audit opinion, which was the best result the City could receive. He said the Fire Pension Fund, the Police Pension Fund, and the Foreign Fire Insurance Fund were audited by a separate party, but they were also included in the report with an unmodified opinion. He reviewed the financial statements, audit adjustments, Governance Letter, and notations in the Management Letter regarding a corrected depreciation item from 2020.

Discussions were held regarding the changes in revenues and expenses from 2020 to 2021.

Council Member Cyr said he was disappointed at the continued issuance of debt instead of living within the City's means. Finance Director Kyle Cratty explained how the coronavirus pandemic influenced recent financial decisions.

Discussions were held regarding the timeline in which the audit was conducted.

Council Member Velpula moved to receive and file the 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, audited by CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

It was determined there was no Unfinished Business for discussion by the Council at that time.

NEW BUSINESS

Safe-T Act

Council Member Grayeb said it was important to communicate how the Safe-T Act would impact citizens, including how it would impact the Peoria Police Officers and other emergency response Staff. He said there were a lot of misconceptions and misinformation online and it was important to clarify the facts. He discussed what the Safe-T Act addressed and how it would affect the local community. He asked for a presentation to be added to the September 27, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting. City Manager Urich said they would send out information that was sent to the Council previously regarding the Safe-T Act and he would obtain information from the Police Department as well. Mayor Ali confirmed the misinformation circulating regarding the Safe-T Act and the importance of addressing it.

Wisconsin Avenue Project

Council Member Rigenbach invited East Bluff citizens to an event to provide visual representations of street improvements for the Wisconsin Avenue Project on September 29, 2022, from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Arcadia Avenue, and at the corner of Gift Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue. He said the project was in the works for many years and he credited the Public Works Department for their innovative efforts.

Mark Linder Walk for the Mind

Council Member Velpula invited citizens to attend the Mark Linder Walk for the Mind 20th anniversary event on September 24, 2022, at 7:30 A.M. at the University College of Medicine.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to those citizens wishing to address the City Council/Town Board.

John Hopkins, owner of the Neon Bison and a citizen of Peoria, said he sent information to the Council the day before the Council Meeting and he said it was time for the Council to address the gaming terminal fee issue after the State of Illinois ruled it would be split equally between business and terminal owners. He said the City payment structure was not amended and it has been an ongoing issue since February 2022. He provided the Council with suggestions on actions to take to address the issue and said he was willing to work with Staff as needed to get the revisions made as soon as possible.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Jensen moved to adjourn the September 13, 2022, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

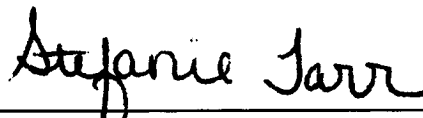
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Motion to adjourn the September 13, 2022, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Regular Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:23 P.M.



Stefanie Tarr, PMC, CMC, City Clerk
City of Peoria, Illinois

cc