

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

A Regular Meeting of the Joint City Council and Town Board of Trustees of Peoria, Illinois, was held August 11, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE – COVID-19

In accordance with Governor JB Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-43 which continues to limit any gatherings of more than fifty people, and Executive Order 2020-44 requiring the provision of video, audio or telephonic access to meetings – and the CDC recommending social distancing of at least six feet between persons, City Hall is implementing changes and restrictions for the City Council Meeting on August 11, 2020 while complying with the Open Meetings Act.

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

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

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were present: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Moore, Montelongo (Attended by Teleconference), Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 11. Absent: None.

ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

After having established a quorum, Mayor Ardis said a notice was received from Council Member Montelongo and that he will be deemed authorized to attend the meeting electronically unless a motion objecting to the member's electronic attendance is made, seconded, and approved by two-thirds of the members of the City Council physically present at the meeting. If no such motion is made and seconded, then the request by Council Member Montelongo to attend electronically shall be deemed approved by the City Council and shall declare Council Member Monelongo present.

Hearing no objection to the request for an electronic attendance, Council Member Montelongo was declared present by Mayor Ardis.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mayor Ardis expressed his condolences for the friends and family of Norm Kelly, a well-known author, historian and avid supporter of the Peoria community, who passed away on August 4th.

MINUTES

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on July 28, 2020, as printed; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

(20-202) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the JULY 2020 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the AUGUST 2020 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the July 2020 Actual Expenditures and to approve the August 2020 Anticipated Expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-203) Request by Township Supervisor to grant \$10,000 to the Peoria Friendship House, with Request to Approve the Following:

A. Move Funds, in the Amount of \$10,000, from Account No. 201-1030-525.10-30 Agency Grant/Center for Abuse to Account No. 201-1030-525.10-20 Agency Grant/Other as a grant to Peoria Friendship House; and

B. Approve the Resolution for the Town of the City Peoria Authorizing a Grant to the Peoria Friendship House, in the Amount of \$10,000.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve moving funds, in the amount of \$10,000, from Account No. 201-1030-525.10-30 Agency Grant/Center for Abuse to Account No. 201-1030-525.10-20 Agency Grant/Other as a grant to Peoria Friendship House; seconded by Trustee Moore.

Council Member Moore recognized Township Supervisor Frank Abdnour for his diligent work in the selection of the Peoria Friendship House for the Grant. She moved to grant Priveledge of the Floor to the new President/CEO of the Peoria Friendship House, Marcellus Sommerville.

Motion to approve moving funds, in the amount of \$10,000, from Account No. 201-1030-525.10-30 Agency Grant/Center for Abuse to Account No. 201-1030-525.10-20 Agency Grant/Other as a grant to Peoria Friendship House was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the Resolution for the Town of the City of Peoria Authorizing a Grant to the Peoria Friendship House, in the Amount of \$10,000; seconded by Trustee Moore.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Upon hearing no objections, Mayor Ardis granted Priveledge of the Floor by introducing Marcellus Sommerville as a Peoria native, Bradley University alumni and professional international basketball player, who returned to Peoria to continue his community-oriented focus by taking on the role of President and CEO of the Peoria Friendship House.

Council Member Moore added that Mr. Sommerville had strong community ties and understood the needs of Peoria citizens, making him a perfect fit at the Peoria Friendship House. She said he was a role model and thanked him for returning to Peoria to serve the community.

Mr. Sommerville thanked Peoria Township for awarding the grant to the Peoria Friendship House and stated the need in the community it would help fulfill. He described the Peoria Friendship House as a hub and resource for the community, and through the Township's support and his leadership, he looked forward to helping Peoria families.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE, with Recommendations as Outlined

(20-204) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a**
* **Request for the Following:**

- A) APPROVE the LOW BID of J.C. DILLON, INC. and Award a Construction CONTRACT from the Total Bid of \$380,902.00 with an Additional Authorization in Contingency of \$38,090.20 (10%), for a Total Award Amount of \$418,992.20 for the GLEN AND SHERIDAN ROAD CULVERT PROJECT. [Council District 3]**
- B) ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2020 – 2021 BIENNIAL BUDGET Relating to the Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund to Provide Funding for the GLEN AND SHERIDAN ROAD CULVERT PROJECT in the Amount of \$434,546.20 and Recognize the Receipt of the Property Owners Share in the Amount of \$211,442.55.**

(20-205) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a**
** **Request for the Following [Council District 1] (Ref. Items 16-220, 17-230, 19-341, 20-019, 20-033, 20-047):**

- A. REINSTATE the CAPITAL BUDGET for Fiscal Year 2020 for the WESTERN AVENUE IMPROVEMENT - ADAMS STREET to HOWETT STREET, in the Amount of \$2,450,000.00.**

- B. APPROVE a Local Agency AGREEMENT for Federal Participation with the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) to Request 90% HSIP Federal Funding (not to exceed \$2,353,423.00) for the WESTERN AVENUE IMPROVEMENT - ADAMS STREET to HOWETT STREET; and**
- C. APPROVE a RESOLUTION Authorizing the City's Estimated Minimum Local Agency Funding Match (\$9,369,377.00), Subject to the Approval of IDOT, for the WESTERN AVENUE IMPROVEMENT - ADAMS STREET to HOWETT STREET; and**
- D. APPROVE an AGREEMENT for Reimbursement of Construction Costs to State Facilities with IDOT (not to exceed \$431,200.00) for the WESTERN AVENUE IMPROVEMENT - ADAMS STREET to HOWETT STREET; and**
- E. APPROVE an AGREEMENT for Reimbursement of Water Main Construction Costs with ILLINOIS AMERICAN WATER COMPANY (ILAWC) (not to exceed \$780,045.00) for the WESTERN AVENUE IMPROVEMENT - ADAMS STREET to HOWETT STREET.**

(20-206) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from Staff to Waive the Requirement for a SETBACK ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT for the Property located at 4709 N. STERLING AVENUE. (Parel Identification No. 14-19-328-002), Peoria, IL (Council District 4)

(20-207) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the Month Ended June 30, 2020 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.

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

Item No. 20-204 was removed from the Consent Agenda to discuss a handout received by Council.

Council Member Jensen requested Item No. 20-205 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Montelongo requested Item No. 20-207 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Item No. 20-206 (excluding Item Nos. 20-204, 20-205 and 20-207) was approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

(20-204) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a
* Request for the Following:

- A) **APPROVE the LOW BID of J.C. DILLON, INC. and Award a Construction CONTRACT from the Total Bid of \$380,902.00 with an Additional Authorization in Contingency of \$38,090.20 (10%), for a Total Award Amount of \$418,992.20 for the GLEN AND SHERIDAN ROAD CULVERT PROJECT. [Council District 3]**
- B) **ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2020 – 2021 BIENNIAL BUDGET Relating to the Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund to Provide Funding for the GLEN AND SHERIDAN ROAD CULVERT PROJECT in the Amount of \$434,546.20 and Recognize the Receipt of the Property Owners Share in the Amount of \$211,442.55.**

A copy of the revised Council Communication was distributed to all Council Members with the amended paragraph indicated.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the low bid of J.C. Dillon, Inc. and award a construction contract from the total bid of \$380,902.00 with an additional authorization in contingency of \$38,090.20 (10%), for a total award amount of \$418,992.20 for the Glen and Sheridan Road Culvert Project; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria 2020 – 2021 Biennial Budget relating to the Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund to provide funding for the Glen and Sheridan Road Culvert Project in the amount of \$434,546.20 and recognize the receipt of the property owners share in the amount of \$211,442.55; seconded by Council Member Ali.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,785 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-205) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a
** Request for the Following [Council District 1] (Ref. Items 16-220, 17-230, 19-341, 20-019, 20-033, 20-047):

- A. **REINSTATE the CAPITAL BUDGET for Fiscal Year 2020 for the WESTERN AVENUE IMPROVEMENT - ADAMS STREET to HOWETT STREET, in the Amount of \$2,450,000.00.**
- B. **APPROVE a Local Agency AGREEMENT for Federal Participation with the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) to Request 90% HSIP Federal Funding (not to exceed \$2,353,423.00) for the WESTERN AVENUE IMPROVEMENT - ADAMS STREET to HOWETT STREET; and**

- C. APPROVE a RESOLUTION Authorizing the City's Estimated Minimum Local Agency Funding Match (\$9,369,377.00), Subject to the Approval of IDOT, for the WESTERN AVENUE IMPROVEMENT - ADAMS STREET to HOWETT STREET; and**
- D. APPROVE an AGREEMENT for Reimbursement of Construction Costs to State Facilities with IDOT (not to exceed \$431,200.00) for the WESTERN AVENUE IMPROVEMENT - ADAMS STREET to HOWETT STREET; and**
- E. APPROVE an AGREEMENT for Reimbursement of Water Main Construction Costs with ILLINOIS AMERICAN WATER COMPANY (ILAWC) (not to exceed \$780,045.00) for the WESTERN AVENUE IMPROVEMENT - ADAMS STREET to HOWETT STREET.**

Council Member Jensen said that while she had supported this project from the onset, she cited budget concerns and the deficit due to COVID-19 for why she believed it wasn't the correct time to approve this project. She asked Public Works Director Rick Powers about the funding amount that would be earmarked for this project if this item was approved as proposed.

Director Powers explained the funding breakdown for the remainder of 2020 through 2022 should this project be approved as outlined on the agenda. Further discussions were held with Council Member Jensen, Director Powers, and City Manager Patrick Urich regarding spending over the course of the project and how a delay would affect the timeline and City budget. City Manager Urich explained that the original timeline was moved up in order to attract more favorable bids.

After Director Powers answered Council Member Jensen's question regarding matching IDOT funds for the project, she said she would not be voting in favor of this item at this time due to budget concerns.

After Council Member Moore said that a further delay of this project would push out completion while the southside residents have been anticipating this project for a long time, she moved to approve the reinstatement of the Capital Budget for fiscal year 2020 for the Western Avenue Improvement – Adams Street to Howett Street, in the amount of \$2,450,000.00; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Council Member Oyler talked about the need for a solution to balance the 2020 budget and how the Council should address this issue before approving additional spending on projects such as the one currently being discussed.

Council Member Cyr and City Manager Urich discussed where the funding would be allocated from for this project if approved and the possibility of savings.

Council Member Ali asked about potential savings by moving up the project, to which Director Powers answered that while the bids would determine that, the climate would seem to benefit bid letting sooner rather than later. Council Member Ali said she would be supporting this item.

Council Member Ruckriegel agreed with Council Member Cyr's suggestion regarding the solution for the 2020 Budget restructuring, but confirmed this project was a proposed jump-start on something that had been previously approved for 2021 spending. He said while approving spending was difficult in the current climate, delaying the project further could be detrimental and that road projects were a top priority. He concluded by saying he would support this item.

Council Member Kelly said he would also be supporting this item, while concurring with Council Member Cyr about the Council's responsibility to restructure the 2020 budget. He said he had not been in favor of decreasing the Public Works budget in months prior.

Motion to reinstate the Capital Budget for fiscal year 2020 for the Western Avenue Improvement – Adams Street to Howett Street, in the amount of \$2,450,000.00 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Moore, Montelongo, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis – 9;

Nays: Jensen, Oyler – 2.

Council Member Moore moved to approve a Local Agency Agreement for Federal participation with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to request 90% HSIP Federal Funding (not to exceed \$2,353,423.00) for the Western Avenue Improvement – Adams Street to Howett Street; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Moore, Montelongo, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis – 9;

Nays: Jensen, Oyler – 2.

Council Member Moore moved to approve a Resolution authorizing the City's estimated minimum Local Agency Funding Match (\$9,369,377.00), subject to the approval of IDOT, for the Western Avenue Improvement – Adams Street to Howett Street; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-205-C was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Moore, Montelongo, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis – 9;

Nays: Jensen, Oyler – 2.

Council Member Moore moved to approve an Agreement for reimbursement of construction costs to State Facilities with IDOT (not to exceed \$431,200.00) for the Western Avenue Improvement – Adams Street to Howett Street; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Moore, Montelongo, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis – 9;

Nays: Jensen, Oyler – 2.

Council Member Moore moved to approve an Agreement for reimbursement of water main construction costs with Illinois American Water Company (ILAWC) (not to exceed \$780,045.00) for the Western Avenue Improvement – Adams Street to Howett Street; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Moore, Montelongo, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis – 9;

Nays: Jensen, Oyler – 2.

**(20-207) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller
*** with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the Month Ended June 30, 2020,
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.**

Council Member Montelongo asked Finance Director Jim Scroggins for an overview of the City's revenues, expenses and fund balances.

Director Scroggins summarized fund balances through June 2020 as well as spending compared to 2019, and he explained that due to the improved recovery trends in sales tax revenues, the City was now looking to borrow a \$15 million dollar cash bond instead of the earlier proposed \$20 million dollar cash bond.

Council Member Montelongo moved to receive and file the month ended June 20, 2020, Unaudited Financial Report; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Council Member Jensen and Director Scroggins discussed real estate transfer taxes and property tax trends. Director Scroggins said more data would be available after the second installment of property taxes deadline passed in September. City Manager Patrick Urich referred Council Member Jensen to page 5 of the report for data through June 2020.

Motion to receive and file the month ended June 20, 2020 Unaudited Financial Report was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(20-208) Communication from the City Manager and Community Development Director with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a REPORT BACK on CDBG COVID PROGRAMS

Community Development Director Ross Black provided an update for the Business and Household Assistance Programs, describing the large number of applications received for Housing Assistance and the fund balances. He said he was looking to the Council for direction on the remaining funds.

Council Member Moore started by explaining the motivation for requesting this report back and talked about how funding had been taken from Southside District Projects in response to the COVID-19 Budget crisis. She recommended recommitting some of the funds remaining to improvement projects in that area, describing benefits already achieved previously such as adding cameras to catch illegal dumping.

Council Member Ali said she was not ready to choose any options at this time. Mayor Ardis clarified the motion should be to receive and file, not to approve any options at this meeting.

Council Member Ali moved to receive and file a Report Back on CDBG COVID Programs; seconded by Council Member Moore.

After Council Member Jensen inquired about a specific project, Director Black explained the projects listed on the report back were cancelled in response to COVID-19 and it was provided to the Council to potentially help direct remaining funds.

Discussions were held regarding permitted uses of funds under the purview of CDBG COVID Programs. Council Member Jensen commented on the depletion of the Housing Assistance Program and inquired whether remaining funds could be allocated there.

Council Member Riggerbach commented on the benefit of this discussion and that he appreciated knowing how the funding had been spent thus far. He said it might be premature to discuss where to allocate remaining funds and determining where the need was the greatest.

Council Member Ruckriegel said while the options presented were helpful, the solution would most likely be a hybrid of many projects. He described the need for patience as the COVID-19 crisis was not over; factors would most likely change as time progressed.

Council Member Montelongo referenced Finance Director Jim Scroggin's discussion on Item No. 20-207 when he described the importance of funding local small businesses to aid in the recovery effort and support the community as a whole. He suggested using the remaining funds to continue support to local businesses.

Council Member Grayeb said he agreed with Council Member Montelongo's statement as he discussed the news of businesses closing and what that meant for the community. He also suggested using the remaining funds to aid small businesses. He said he thought the upcoming elections would motivate action by the Federal government. He concluded by saying the Council should not act precipitately as changes would be coming soon.

Council Member Moore explained in Item 1 of the Report Back that CDBG was requesting to retain \$100,000.00 for future allocations.

Mayor Ardis thanked Director Ross Black and City Staff for the work compiling information provided for consideration by the Council.

Motion to receive and file a Report Back on CDBG COVID Programs was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-209) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel Requesting Approval of the Declaration of Local State of Emergency.

Council Member Grayeb described an article published by the Peoria Historical Society in a newsletter regarding the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic, the response actions at that time, as well as how it correlated to the COVID-19 Pandemic. He said that it was time to pull together as a community, listen to health official's recommendations and remember that Peoria would persevere.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve the Declaration of Local State of Emergency; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: Montelongo – 1.

(20-210) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request for the following:

- A. APPROVE a RESOLUTION Pertaining to the Hiring of City Employees by City Contractors; and**
- B. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 2 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Pertaining to OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' ETHICS.**

Mayor Ardis asked City Manager Patrick Urich for an overview of the proposed Item, noting the City had taken this action in the past. City Manager Urich explained that waivers had been approved previously for City Employees hired by City contractors/vendors for those who may be leaving the City earlier than anticipated, to aid them in finding new jobs within the community.

Discussions were held regarding the necessity for the Ordinance under normal circumstances and the waiver process. Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Peterson said the Ordinance was an effective ethics tool.

Council Member Oyler agreed that approving this item was the best way to remove obstacles for Staff leaving City employment during the COVID-19 Budget restructuring process.

Council Member Oyler moved to approve a Resolution pertaining to the hiring of City employees by City Contractors; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-210-A was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Oyler moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to Officers' and Employees' Ethics; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,786 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to defer this item to the August 25, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Motion to defer this item was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-211) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel Requesting Approval of a Settlement with Hope Fair Housing Center.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to defer this item to the August 25, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Motion to defer this item was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

(20-182) Communication from the City Manager, Community Development Director, and Finance Director with Recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Construction Commission, and Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, Related to SHORT-TERM RENTAL options.

Community Development Director Ross Black summarized the changes and aspects of the proposed Ordinance for the Council. He discussed the license requirements, tax rates and information, non-owner occupied property revisions and the proposed registration process. Director Black explained the first version of the Ordinance would approve requests administratively when all requirements were met, while the second version treats all as a Special Use, requiring a public hearing process and final approval by the City Council.

Discussions were held regarding communication with Home Owners Associations or the equivalent, the rules those bodies could have disallowing Short-Term Rentals, and the process for neighborhoods that did not have such a body in place. Council Member Montelongo asked Director Black if a list could be created to track the neighborhoods and their regulations. Director Black said they could obtain that information, however, contact would still be required at the time to ensure the provided information was still accurate.

Director Black recommended a deferral of this Ordinance to make proposed changes and he asked the Council whether to include the Special Use requirement.

Director Black and the Council discussed how the proposed Ordinance compared to those in other cities, and the administrative approval versus special use process and requirements. The difference between Home Owners Associations and other types of Associations, such as Residential Associations, was also discussed.

Council Member Kelly asked for a third option that would combine aspects of the two proposed versions of the Ordinance.

Council Member Grayeb said Short-Term Rental properties have been operating in the City despite not being allowed under the current City Code. He said not all neighborhoods in Peoria were the same and there were a lot of factors to consider with this Ordinance. He also expressed the importance of registering the Short-Term Rental properties to ensure compliance and respect for the communities.

Council Member Oyler said he supported the first version with administrative approval with the changes that Council Member Montelongo suggested. He said he promoted property-owners rights to make decisions on how they manage their property.

In response to Council Member Ali's question, Director Black confirmed that all Special Use applications were presented to the City Council for consideration after a Public Hearing and going before the Planning and Zoning Commission. Council Member Ali asked if this Ordinance could be modified to require public review before administration approval. Director Black said it would not be a Special Use, but it could be written into the Ordinance as a use with approval.

Further discussions were held regarding HOA covenants and how they would potentially effect decisions made by City Staff.

Council Member Riggerbach said originally he aligned with the first version with administrative approval, however, after the discussions he agreed that a third version should be drafted with the proposed changes. He also said clarification was needed on some aspects of the Ordinance and patience was needed to get it right instead of revisiting it later due to issues.

Council Member Jensen explained that the Special Use process was not cumbersome to Staff or the Council, that it was used to protected the community when oversight was needed. At Council Member Jensen's request, Director Black provided examples of existing Special Uses.

Council Member Kelly said he believed that giving the Short-Term Rental Ordinance a chance to thrive or fail was the best course of action, that the issue could be revisited if necessary.

Council Member Oyler moved to defer this item to the August 25, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Motion to defer this item was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-141) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE a VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE (VSI) for Sworn, Full-Time Fire Employees.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to defer this item to the August 25, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Motion to defer this item was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(20-125) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE the Recommended 2020 - 2021 BUDGET RESTRUCTURING as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

City Manager Patrick Urich provided updates on the City Budget for the Council. He said he anticipated bringing back a more expansive package with options that could be acted upon at the August 25, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting.

Mayor Ardis explained the attachments provided were the same as the last few meetings, that Staff had waited to see what funding might be provided from State or Federal sources and the Council needed to be prepared to make decisions and move forward at subsequent meetings.

Council Member Ali moved to receive and file the recommended 2020 – 2021 Budget Restructuring Information as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Discussions were held regarding the desire for updated figures and reports to determine trends and to aid in making decisions. Council Member Ruckriegel also requested an update on City Staffing levels and changes since the onset of COVID-19.

Council Member Grayeb said that the COVID-19 Pandemic had effected everyone across the country and he believed the upcoming elections would drive change. He said while action would be necessary, waiting to include more information before making a decision was prudent.

Motion to receive and file the recommended 2020 – 2021 Budget Restructuring Information as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Local Volunteer Census Event

Council Member Moore said the Census deadline had been moved to the end of September. She described the importance of counting every citizen to ensure the City of Peoria receives the funds needed to fund necessary services. She said that nationwide only an estimated 40% of minorities have been counted so far. She said an event was being organized to utilize volunteers to walk neighborhoods, in a CDC-compliant manner, to count Peoria citizens who had yet to submit their Census. She said more information on how to volunteer and the scheduled dates will be provided at the August 25, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting. Council Member Moore concluded by encouraging citizens to reach out to Norris Watson of the PCCEO at nwatson@pcceo.org if interested.

2020 Census

Council Member Ruckriegel said that on September 30, 2020, the Census would close. He explained that Peoria is at a 65.4% response rate as of 5pm on August 11, 2020, and expressed the importance of getting Peoria to 100% participation to ensure the community received the funding and aid it required. He said the process was very easy with a few simple questions and the home address needed. He said to call or going online to www.census.gov.

Mayor Ardis thanked Council Member Ruckriegel for his work in the last year preparing for the 2020 Census.

Peoria Public Schools

Council Member Riggerbach explained the City Council did not have authority over the Peoria Public School system, however, in response to citizen questions he had received regarding the Public School Administration's decision to abruptly change the 2020-2021 school year to all remote-learning, he said it was imperative the Council learn and understand their decision and asked the City Manager to facilitate the discussion. He said he wanted clarification for citizens who are in turmoil over the sudden change.

Tax Abatement

Council Member Kelly said the August 25, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting Agenda would include a Tax Abatement item that he had been working on with City Manager Patrick Urich. He said if anyone had any questions or concerns to reach out to him. He closed with the benefits it would include for the budget and to expect more information soon.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 P.M.



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