

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

A Rescheduled Regular Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held on February 22, 2021, 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.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Ardis announced a notice was received by Council Member Moore in accordance with rules established in Ordinance No. 16,142. He said Council Member Moore would be deemed authorized to attend the meeting electronically unless a motion objecting to the member's electronic attendance was made, seconded, and approved by two-thirds of the members of the City Council physically present at the meeting. If no such motion was made and seconded, then the request by Council Member Moore to attend electronically would be deemed approved by the City Council and Council Member Moore would be declared present.

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

**COVID-19 PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance with Governor JB Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-07, as amended and extended, limiting meetings to the lesser of 25 persons or 25% of the overall room capacity and requiring the provision of video, audio or telephonic access to meetings; as well as the CDC recommending social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons; City Hall implemented changes and restrictions for the City Council Meeting on February 22, 2021, while complying with the spirit of the Open Meetings Act. The Council Meeting was held in person in City Council Chambers. There was a room capacity restriction of 25 persons at one time, which would result in a wait to enter if met. Temperature screenings and face coverings were required for access inside City Hall. Members of the public and media were invited to watch through the live stream on the City of Peoria's website, YouTube, Local Television Channel 22, or listen through WCBU Radio. While Public Comment was available in-person, the option to submit comments through the City Clerk's Office due to room capacity restrictions was available as well. Any submissions would be read into the record. The agenda, minutes and video podcast of the meeting were available online through the City's website.

**NOTICE OF TOWNSHIP ELECTORS**

Mayor Ardis announced, pursuant to Public Act 095-0761, any citizen who wished to have an item considered on the Agenda at the Annual Town Meeting to be held Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 6:00 P.M., was required to bring a specific request signed by 15 or more electors to the Township Clerk no later than Monday, March 1, 2021. He said any group of registered voters may request an advisory question of public policy for consideration by the electors at the annual

meeting by giving written notice of the specific advisory question to the Township Clerk in the same manner as required for an agenda item under subsection (b) of Section 30-10 of the Township Code.

### **INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **PROCLAMATIONS**

National Engineers Week

### **MINUTES**

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on February 9, 2021, as printed; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

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

- (21-055) **Communication from the City Manager and Assistant City Manager with a Request to APPROVE an EASEMENT AGREEMENT for Access to Public Street from the Property 330 SW WATER ST., Peoria, IL 61602 (PIN:18-09- 411-003).**
- (21-050) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Economic Development/Assistant City Manager with a Request to AUTHORIZE the City Manager to Sign a REAL ESTATE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT to Trade Parcel at 225 STATE (PIN: 18-09-331-006 owned by the City of Peoria) for the Parcel at 807 SW WASHINGTON (PIN: 18-09-330-038 owned by the Downtown Development Corporation).**
- (21-051) **Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a STATE MOTOR FUEL TAX RESOLUTION, in the Amount of \$365,000.00, for Preliminary Engineering Services with CRAWFORD MURPHY AND TILLY, Under Master Services Agreement #18-369-D for the W GLEN AVENUE PROJECT (N SHERIDAN ROAD to N KNOXVILLE AVENUE). [Council District 3]**
- (21-052) **REAPPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION with a Request to Concur:**

**Representative Ryan Spain (Voting) - Term Expiration 4/30/2024**

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

Council Member Jensen requested Item No. 21-051 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. 21-050 through 21-052 and 21-055 (excluding Item No. 21-051, which was removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

**(21-051)**      **Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a STATE MOTOR FUEL TAX RESOLUTION, in the Amount of \$365,000.00, for Preliminary Engineering Services with CRAWFORD MURPHY AND TILLY, Under Master Services Agreement #18-369-D for the W GLEN AVENUE PROJECT (N SHERIDAN ROAD to N KNOXVILLE AVENUE). [Council District 3]**  
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After Council Member Jensen said she supported this item, she inquired why that portion of Glen Avenue was selected for improvements, citing the poor condition of other portions of the same street. City Manager Patrick Urich explained the section of Glen Avenue identified was the only portion owned by Peoria County, who were able to secure Federal funding for a percentage of the proposed improvements. In accordance to an agreement between the City of Peoria and Peoria County, he said the City was responsible for half of the remaining costs associated with the improvements after Federal funding was expended.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve the State Motor Fuel Tax Resolution, in the amount of \$365,000.00, for Preliminary Engineering Services with Crawford Murphy and Tilly, under Master Services Agreement #18-369-D for the Glen Avenue Project (N Sheridan Road to N Knoxville Avenue); seconded by Council Member Riggenbach.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-051 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

**(21-053)**      **Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

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

Motion to approve the Declaration of Local State of Emergency Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Jensen, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: Montelongo - 1.

**(21-054) PRESENTATION from the Fire and Police Commission with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the ANNUAL PERFORMANCE GOALS REPORT Covering the PERIOD of JANUARY 2018 through FEBRUARY 2021.**

City Manager Patrick Urich explained the report and presentation was an annual progress update for the City Council provided by Staff in partnership with the NAACP.

Assistant Fire Chief James Bachman began the presentation explaining the City's involvement with Peoria Public Schools as well as local colleges to create interest and attract applicants to the Peoria Fire Department. He explained how the Fire Cadet and Fire Explorer Programs introduced interested parties to the possibilities of a firefighting career. He discussed the demographics and diversity within the different divisions of the Fire Department. He explained recent separations as well as onboarding efforts and how those efforts had been influenced by COVID-19, budget cuts and the Voluntary Separation Incentive. After describing the hiring and testing process, he said additional efforts were needed to improve the results of the report and to address the increase in resignations.

Discussions were held regarding the motivation behind resignations, and Council Member Jensen requested a Report Back regarding the same.

Council Member Ali thanked Assistant Chief Bachman for his presentation and discussion. She talked about the possible reasons for recruits resigning and the disproportionate demographics of those leaving.

Mayor Ardis thanked Assistant Chief Bachman for his presentation, and he introduced Interim Police Chief Douglas Theobald who provided an Annual Performance Goal Report on behalf of the Police Department.

Interim Chief Theobald reviewed the current enlisted Police Officer status, the Department's recruiting process and efforts, and the lack of applicants. He reviewed the decreased number of Police Officers on staff, explained the reasons for Officers leaving the Department, and the lack of applicants progressing through the hiring process. He reviewed the progress of current cadets and how they would impact the diversity demographics.

Council Member Grayeb commented on the impact of COVID-19 on the City's budget and how it affected public safety services. He said he expected Federal funding would help rebound the City's budget. He concluded by stating the economy would continue to recover, and he said he hoped it would stop the reduction of City services in the community.

City Manager Urich said the Council would continue to be updated annually with this report and he thanked Staff for their diligent work.

Council Member Oyler moved to receive and file the Annual Performance Goals Report covering the period of January 2018 through February 2021; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, 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 and Director of Community Development with a Request to DEFER until MAY 11, 2021, an ORDINANCE Amending APPENDIX A (the Unified Development Code) of the CODE of the City of Peoria Pertaining to SHORT TERM RENTAL USES.**

Council Member Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Appendix A (the Unified Development Code) of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to Short Term Rental Uses; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Council Member Grayeb said the motion was to stop the delay on this Ordinance and he explained the importance it had for the community to adopt it. He described different examples of short-term rentals existing in the City and how the Ordinance would improve the experience for the City.

In response to Council Member Grayeb's request for an explanation of the item, Community Development Director Ross Black explained adoption of the item would allow short term rentals as a permitted use if the owner resided on the property, but would require a special use for owners who did not reside on the property.

Council Member Jensen said she supported the motion on the floor, and she commented on the importance of protecting older neighborhoods and communities without neighborhood associations.

Mayor Ardis and Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Peterson discussed the appropriateness of the motion on the floor. Interim Corporation Counsel Peterson explained a motion to defer to an earlier City Council Meeting was preferred over a motion to adopt the Ordinance at the current meeting in order to give those affected by the item an opportunity to prepare.

Council Member Oyler said he would not support the motion on the floor, stating Staff who had been working on the Ordinance and conferring with outside sources, such as Airbnb, requested the deferral to continue working on it.

Council Member Montelongo agreed the item had been delayed too long, but he concurred with Interim Corporation Counsel Peterson's recommendation to defer to an earlier meeting.

Council Member Montelongo moved for a substitute motion to defer until March 9, 2021, an Ordinance amending Appendix A (the Unified Development Code) of the Code of the City of Peoria pertaining to Short Term Rental Uses; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Council Member Riggerbach inquired whether a deferral to March 9, 2021, would be enough time for Staff to prepare the Ordinance for adoption, and Director Black agreed a deferral to March 9 was appropriate.

Council Member Grayeb said he would not support the substitute motion to defer stating he believed the citizens in his District would not want this delayed any longer, citing the calls and complaints he received regarding this issue.

Motion to defer to the March 9, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: Grayeb, Jensen - 2.

**(21-038) Communication from Council Member Kelly with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE to REMOVE CERTAIN PROPERTIES from the EAST VILLAGE GROWTH CELL TAX INCREMENT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA.**

Council Member Kelly moved to table this item; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Council Member Grayeb said he would abstain from voting on this item due to owning property in the area outlined.

Motion to TABLE was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Kelly, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None;

Abstentions: Grayeb - 1.

**(21-024) Communication from Council Member Kelly with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE DESIGNATING AN AREA OF URBAN DECAY and ADOPTING A TAX ABATEMENT for Said Area.**

Council Member Kelly moved to defer this item to the March 23, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Council Member Grayeb said he would abstain from voting on this item due to owning property in the area outlined.

Motion to defer this item to the March 23, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Kelly, Jensen, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None;

Abstentions: Grayeb - 1.

**(21-033) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to DEFER until MARCH 23, 2021, the Recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class C-1 (General Commercial) District, for a Vehicle Wash for the Property Located at 1217 W GLEN AVENUE and 4926 N UNIVERSITY STREET (Parcel Identification Numbers 14-20-251-024 and 14-20-251-010), Peoria, IL. (Council District 3).**

Council Member Riggenbach moved to defer this item to the March 23, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Motion to defer to the March 23, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

*CLERK'S NOTE: See additional information under New Business.*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Public Meeting regarding Car Wash on University and Glen (Item No. 21-033)**

Council Member Riggenbach invited citizens to a public meeting regarding the proposed car wash (See Item No. 21-033) on Tuesday March 2, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Gateway Building. He said the developer and traffic engineer for the project would be available to answer questions. He said the meeting would be held in accordance to COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions. He said more details would follow from Strategic Communications Manager Stacy Peterson.

#### **Glen Avenue Improvement Project**

Council Member Riggenbach thanked the Council for their support of the Glen Avenue Improvement Project (Item No. 21-051), stating it had been needed for a long time, and he encouraged citizens to provide input while the project was ongoing for the next couple of years.

#### **Sheridan Road Project Update**

Council Member Grayeb asked for an update on the Sheridan Road Project, and Public Works Director Rick Powers said Staff was waiting for some light posts to arrive, and once those posts were installed, the project would be complete.

#### **Snow Removal**

Council Member Grayeb commented on the delays of the City's snow-removal efforts. He said the decision the City Council made to reduce snow routes impacted those efforts, stating it was a safety concern. He said Public Works Staff continued to work diligently under the circumstances. He said he looked forward to restoring the City Departments affected by budget cuts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Rocky's Market Liquor License Application**

Council Member Moore said Rocky's Market, located at 1500 NE Jefferson, recently applied for a Liquor License. She said any resident wishing to voice their opinion on the matter should submit their remarks to Trina Bonds at the City Clerk's Office by mail to 419 Fulton Street Suite 401, Peoria, IL 61602; or email at [tbonds@peoriagov.org](mailto:tbonds@peoriagov.org) by Friday February 26, 2021. She said the Liquor Commission would meet virtually on Monday March 1, 2021, at 3:30 P.M..

#### **Coffee and Conversation with Council Member Montelongo**

Council Member Montelongo said the Coffee and Conversation citizen meeting would be held on Thursday March 4, 2021. He said the location was tentatively Panera Bread at Westlake, but he said more details would follow on the City of Peoria website and provided to the neighborhood associations. He concluded saying CDC guidelines would be followed.

**City of Peoria Billing Issues**

Council Member Grayeb asked City Manager Patrick Ulrich to explain recent City billing issues. City Manager Ulrich reviewed the recent issues with the Stormwater Utility and the Public Safety Pension Fee bills, stating it was an issue with the current billing company. He said the contract was coming to an end and the City would issue a Request for Proposal for those services. City Manager Ulrich said he would provide a Report Back regarding the current cost for those services.

**Finance Department Calls**

Council Member Grayeb inquired about the volume of phone calls to the Finance Department. City Manager Ulrich said citizens should leave a message and City Staff would respond to their calls in the order in which they were received.

**Comcast Issues Update**

Council Member Grayeb asked for an update regarding the billing and payment issues citizens reported with Comcast. City Manager Ulrich said Comcast reported problems and delays with the mail. He said Comcast was working to resolve the situation with the postal service. He explained Comcast had a franchise agreement with the City, which he believed did not have an expiration date. After Council Member Grayeb inquired how the City could initiate a change in provider, City Manager Ulrich said he would confer with the Legal Department and report back to the Council on the matter. Council Member Grayeb asked him to include possible options to address the issue.

**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 at this time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 P.M.



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