

**: 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 April 14, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. by electronic means through Microsoft Teams with Mayor Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were electronically present: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Moore, Montelongo, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 11.  
Absent: None.

**ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE**

In accordance to Governor JB Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-10 prohibiting all public and private gatherings of ten people or more in a single room or single space at the same time; and Executive Order 2020-18 extending Executive Order 2020-10 through April 30, 2020; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommending gatherings of no more than 10 people in a single room or single space and social distancing of at least 6 feet between persons; Mayor Ardis declared a local State of Emergency on March 18, 2020, and closed City Hall to the public to help contain the spread of COVID-19.

To comply with these recommendations and requirements, the City is complying with the spirit of the Open Meetings Act by conducting the April 14, 2020, 6:00 P.M. City Council Meeting virtually through Microsoft Teams. The public and media were invited to watch through the online live stream, local channel 22 television broadcast, or WCBU radio. Submissions for Public Comment were received and will be read during the City Council Meeting.

Those City Council Members attending the meeting virtually shall be declared present.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**MINUTES**

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on March 24, 2020, as printed; seconded by Council Member Riggenbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

- (20-070) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the MARCH 2020 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the APRIL 2020 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the March 2020 actual expenditures and to approve the April 2020 anticipated expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Ali.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA****CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE, with Recommendations as Outlined**

- (20-071)** Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ACCEPT a DEDICATION DEED from 2301 INVESTMENTS, LLC to Add 1117 Square Feet to W GLEN AVENUE Along 2301 W GLEN AVENUE and N RENWOOD AVENUE and 12 Square Feet to the Corner of N RENWOOD AVENUE AND W NORTHLAND AVENUE for the Construction of Sidewalks Associated with Development at 2301 W GLEN AVENUE. (Refer to Ord. No. 17,734) (Council District 4)
- (20-072)** Communication from the City Manager and Manager of the Emergency Communications Center with a Request to APPROVE a SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE of a GPS-Based Emergency Vehicle Traffic Signal Preemption System for 24 Intersections, 4 Fire Apparatus, Installation Equipment, and Computer Laptop for Operation of the System, from TRAFFIC CONTROL CORPORATION, WESCO, and CDW in the Amount of \$146,383.07.
- (20-073)** Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE the Annual Subscription CONTRACT with SHOTSPOTTER, INC. (SST INC), for ShotSpotter Flex, a Gunfire Location, Alert, and Analysis Service.
- (20-074)** Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a RESOLUTION for SIGNATORY AUTHORITY with the Illinois Department of Transportation, for Authorizing the City Manager to Sign Federal-Funding Forms on behalf of the Mayor.
- (20-062)** Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Advisory Commission on Human Resources and Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 2 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Relating to the Advisory Commission on Human Resources.

- (20-063)** Communication from the City Manager and the Fire Chief with a Request to **ADOPT** an **ORDINANCE** Creating **ARTICLE IV (Lift Assistance)** of **CHAPTER 11** of the Fire Prevention and Protection Code of the City of Peoria Allowing for a **LIFT ASSIST COST RECOVERY FEE** to be Charged to Assisted Living Facilities, Life Care Facilities, and Nursing Care Facilities.  
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- (20-075)** Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to **ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,763 REZONING** Certain Property from Former Right-of-Way to Class **R-3 (Single Family Residential)** District for the Property Located in the **SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF WILHELM ROAD AND THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL**, and Identified as Part of Outlot B in Hunter's Trail Subdivision, in the Northeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 10 North, Range 8 East. Peoria, IL
- (20-076)** Communication from the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager with a Request to **ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,764** Reserving **2020 PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND VOLUME CAP**, in the Amount of \$11,695,740.00.
- (20-077)** **APPOINTMENT** by Mayor Ardis to the **MAYOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE DISABLED** with a Request to Concur:  
  
**Sunny Olsen (Voting) - Term Expires 06/30/2020**

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

Council Member Riggerbach requested Item Nos. 20-074 and 20-063 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Jensen requested Item No. 20-062 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Montelongo requested Item Nos. 20-071 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Item Nos. 20-062, 20-63, 20-071 through 20-077, (excluding Item Nos. 20-062, 20-063, 20-071 and 20-074, which were removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

- (20-071)**      **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ACCEPT a DEDICATION DEED from 2301 INVESTMENTS, LLC to Add 1117 Square Feet to W GLEN AVENUE Along 2301 W GLEN AVENUE and N RENWOOD AVENUE and 12 Square Feet to the Corner of N RENWOOD AVENUE AND W NORTHLAND AVENUE for the Construction of Sidewalks Associated with Development at 2301 W GLEN AVENUE. (Refer to Ord. No. 17,734) (Council District 4)**  
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After a brief discussion regarding the development and how it would improve that portion of the City, Council Member Montelongo moved to accept a dedication deed from 2301 Investments, LLC to add 1117 square feet to W. Glen Avenue along 2301 W. Gen Avenue and N. Renwood Avenue and 12 square feet to the corner of N. Renwood Avenue and W. Northland Avenue for the construction of sidewalks associated with the development at 2301 W. Glen Avenue; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

- (20-074)**      **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a RESOLUTION for SIGNATORY AUTHORITY with the Illinois Department of Transportation, for Authorizing the City Manager to Sign Federal-Funding Forms on behalf of the Mayor.**  
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Council Member Riggerbach moved to withdraw this item from consideration; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

- (20-062)**      **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Advisory Commission on Human Resources and Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 2 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Relating to the Advisory Commission on Human Resources.**  
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After a brief discussion regarding the types of funding the Commission allocated, noting it only related to CDBG Public Service Funding, Council Member Jensen moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to the Advisory Commission on Human Resources; seconded by Council Member Moore.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,765 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(20-063) Communication from the City Manager and the Fire Chief with a Request to  
\*\*\*\* ADOPT an ORDINANCE Creating ARTICLE IV (Lift Assistance) of CHAPTER  
11 of the Fire Prevention and Protection Code of the City of Peoria Allowing  
for a LIFT ASSIST COST RECOVERY FEE to be Charged to Assisted Living  
Facilities, Life Care Facilities, and Nursing Care Facilities.**

Mayor Ardis stated the last time this item was before the City Council, several inquired as to the actual cost of a lift assist. He noted that the Council Communication indicated the approximate cost of a lift assist was approximately \$1,250.00. He recommended amending the Ordinance to reflect the approximate cost of \$1,250.00, or to amend the cost to \$800.00 with a review period of six months to determine whether it should be increased to \$1,250.00.

Fire Chief Tony Ardis said the purpose of the Ordinance was to deter lift assist calls and to recuperate some of the Fire Department's costs for attending to these types of calls. He commented that since discussions had begun regarding assessing a recovery fee, there have been no calls for a lift assist. He said he would defer to the City Council regarding the dollar amount.

Mayor Ardis commented on the impact the pandemic has had on these types of calls, noting there had been a lot less activity over the last month. However, he remarked on the importance of compensating the Fire Department for its actual cost.

Council Member Ali said she agreed with facilities paying the real cost for these types of calls; however, she said she was concerned that these costs would be passed on to the residents of the facilities, who were also citizens of Peoria. She said she would prefer starting at \$800.00 per call and assess the situation at a later date.

Council Member Riggerbach concurred with Council Member Ali's comments, noting that an incremental approach would be appropriate beginning with an \$800.00 assessment and reviewing the matter in six months to determine if it needed to be increased to \$1,250.00.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to adopt an Ordinance creating Article IV (Lift Assistance) of Chapter 11 of the Fire Prevention and Protection Code of the City of Peoria allowing for a Lift Assist Cost Recovery Fee to be charged to assisted living facilities, life care facilities, and nursing care facilities, amending the lift assist cost recovery fee from \$400.00 to \$800.00 with a six month assessment to be conducted to determine whether the fee should increase to \$1,250.00; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,766 was adopted, as amended, by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**FIRST READING**

**(20-078) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a  
Request for a FIRST READING Review of an ORDINANCE Amending  
CHAPTER 31, Schedule A of the CODE of the City of Peoria Prohibiting the  
Use of Groundwater as a POTABLE WATER SUPPLY by the Installation or  
Use of Potable Water Supply Wells or by Any Other Method to Include  
Properties Bound by NORTHEAST ADAMS STREET, SPALDING AVENUE  
AND EATON STREET.**

Public Works Director Rick Powers provided an overview of the item reporting that as a result of a study it would be more cost effective not to remediate the site or to use the site for drinking water in the future.

Mayor Ardis commented that these situations were typical at locations where gas stations had been abandoned.

Council Member Riggenbach moved to receive and file the first reading review of an Ordinance amending Chapter 31, Schedule A of the Code of the City of Peoria prohibiting the use of groundwater as a potable water supply by the installation or use of potable water supply wells or by any other method to include properties bound by Northeast Adams Street, Spalding Avenue and Easton Street; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

*CLERK'S NOTE: Item No. 20-078 will be placed on the April 28, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting agenda.*

**(20-079) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to RECEIVE and FILE a FIRST READING of an ORDINANCE Amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, Relating to WAREHOUSE, SELF SERVICE, INDOOR MULTI-STORY STORAGE.**

Community Development Director Ross Black provided an overview of proposed Ordinance stating it would amend the Unified Development Code by eliminating the requirement of indoor self-service storage in buildings having a minimum of two stories to include self-service storage at single-story buildings.

Council Member Jensen moved to receive and file a first reading of an Ordinance amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, relating to warehouse, self-service, indoor multi-story storage; seconded by Council Member Riggenbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

*CLERK'S NOTE: Item No. 20-079 will be placed on the April 28, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting agenda.*

**REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:****(20-080) A Request to RECEIVE and FILE a PRESENTATION from the Department of Economic Development, Greater Peoria Economic Development Corporation (GPEDC) and City Manager on the FEDERAL, STATE and CITY BUSINESS SUPPORT Emerging in Response to COVID-19.**

A presentation was provided by the Assistant City Manager Deborah Roethler, Senior Development Specialist Kevin Evans, Senior Development Specialist Cesar Suarez, and CEO of the Greater Peoria Economic Development Corporation Chris Setti.

Senior Development Specialist Suarez commented that the public health crisis had turned into an economic challenge. He reviewed various different ways the business community could obtain help, noting it was available on the Grow Peoria webpage at <http://growpeoria.com/combating-covid-19/>. He reviewed the notices that had been sent to the business who signed up to receive updates.

Senior Development Specialist Evans reviewed the determination and enforcement of essential and non-essential businesses, the business advisory and technical assistance along with future activities.

Assistant City Manager Deborah Roethler reviewed the partnership the City had with the GPEDC, noting its regional efforts as it sought information across Federal, State and other resources not just intended for the City of Peoria, but for the entire region. She said the GPEDC was sending daily bulletins, which was posted on their webpage at [gpcovid.com](http://gpcovid.com). She said they were focused on the long-term economic recovery.

CEO of the GPEDC and the interim CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Chris Setti expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to present to the City Council. He stated that long-term efforts were about recovery, noting the current situation was not only a public health crisis, but an economic crisis. He stated it was a much different type of economic disaster than was typical for the area. He said the GPEDC was a guide for the entire region towards that economic recovery. He remarked on their staffing efforts and noted their focus on short-term and long-term recoveries. He commented on their relationship with the U.S. EDA, the funding status and the allotment for economic strategies.

Council Member Montelongo expressed his appreciation to the City's Economic Development Department at the Greater Peoria Economic Development Corporation and their efforts during these unprecedented times. He said he was a business owner and utilized those services that were outlined. He said their job was very important to the community. He said the City's Economic Development Department was on target and he thanked them for their efforts in helping the businesses in the community.

Council Member Ali expressed her appreciation to the City's Economic Development Department and the GPEDC. She remarked on the importance to leverage resources and to connect and partner with other organizations who have a mission to support economic development. She said the GPEDC was instrumental to bringing resources to the community and a relationship with the U.S. EDA would help the community. She encouraged leveraging relationships with the minority businesses to ensure the City was inclusive in the process.

Council Member Moore commented that, from a national perspective, the information coming from the City of Peoria and the GPEDC was unmatched. She said other cities did not have the depth of information compared to the City of Peoria. She said there would be Grow Peoria teleconferences coming up the next three Thursdays beginning April 16, 2020, at 1:00 P.M. She remarked on the minority connections with various chambers to the City's Economic Development Department, noting that the City was being very responsive to the minority community. She expressed her appreciation to Mayor Ardis for bringing the community together and she thanked the Economic Development Department for their efforts, noting their responsiveness.

Council Member Ruckriegel expressed his appreciation to Mr. Setti for his efforts. He remarked on the importance of the GPEDC not only to small businesses, but to larger businesses as well. He said the success of these businesses would be extremely important, noting that recovery may take longer than anticipated.

Mr. Setti commented on the number of resources currently available for businesses but noted the uncertainty about long-term resources. He remarked on the importance of business owners contacting their lenders to explore various options available to them.

In response to Council Member Ali regarding opportunities available to the City, Mr. Setti said he would be attending a conference call on April 30 to determine what was available through the U.S. EDA. He said they were looking at funding projects that had an economic development connection.

Senior Development Specialist Evans announced beginning this Thursday, April 16, 2020, at 1:00 P.M. the first of three teleconference sessions would be held that would focus on being document ready to ensure local businesses understood the documentation needed to submit a grant.

Discussions were held regarding the need to include West Main Street for the EDA review, noting it encompassed two of the City's largest employers.

Council Member Riggerbach expressed his appreciation for the support of the business community, and he inquired whether there was assistance for non-profit organizations. Mr. Setti said the Federal Paycheck Protection Program was available for 501(c)(3) organizations and the Economic Disaster Zone could be utilized for faith-based organizations. He said additional information could be found at [www.gpcovid.com](http://www.gpcovid.com).

Mayor Ardis expressed his appreciation to Mr. Setti stating the City was focused on the local small businesses in Peoria to ensure they survived the pandemic. He encouraged business owners to visit the websites provided for more information or to call the City's Economic Development Department for further assistance at (309) 494-8640.

Council Member Cyr moved to receive and file a presentation from the Department of Economic Development, Great Peoria Economic Development Corporation (GPDEC) and City Manager on the Federal, State and City business support emerging in response to COVID-19; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.



**(20-081) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a PRESENTATION on the IMPACT OF COVID-19 RELATING TO THE CITY'S BUDGET.**

Mayor Ardis commented that the COVID-19 situation had forced the City into a serious situation. He said the City Manager was going to provide an overview of the impact COVID-19 had on the City over the last couple of weeks. He said it was important to realize that the revenues that were being lost and he remarked on possible assistance from Federal Legislators. He said the presentation was from the standpoint of no Federal assistance. He asked the Council to provide the City Manager with direction on how to bring back a revised budget that would help the City work through the crisis. He said the presentation was available on the City's website under "Council Meeting Information."

City Manager Urich provided a presentation relating to the impact of the coronavirus disease entitled "COVID-19 Emergency Budget Restructuring." He reviewed response priorities noting a balance for short-term and long-term needs, the need to redeploy funds to recovery and new programs available. He reviewed the 2020 Budget reporting that was balanced until the disruption of COVID-19. He reviewed the projected 2020 revenue shortfalls noting the original revenue projection and the updated revenue projection for a shutdown until May 1 and a shutdown until July 1. He compared the loss of revenues to the continued cost of expenses. He reviewed the Capital Improvement Programs and potential reductions in those programs. He explained how it was determined which capital programs would be delayed based on certain criteria. However, he said capital cuts would not be enough to cover the shortfall in revenues to achieve a balanced budget. He reviewed the General Fund and the possibility of cutting support to various entities within the City. He reported on the continuous increase in public pensions and how those affected the City's budget in the outyears. He reviewed the impact the shortage could have on personnel and benefit costs and he explained how short-term borrowing would impact the City. He remarked on the importance of making a decision as soon as possible in order to mitigate the impact on the budget, more specifically to the 2021 budget. He said no one knew what the recovery would look like or where it would start. He said the Council needed to prepare to rebalance the 2020 budget, establish a new financial norm, and prepare for the economic and health recovery of the community. He reviewed the steps to rebalance the 2020 budget and to recover. He reviewed the financial levers and challenges. He said there needed to be a plan of action with capital reductions, the definition and selection of financial levers, preparation for service reductions and reorganizations and operational reductions and balance protecting recovery and maximizing public safety. He reviewed the key decisions and actions the City Council needed to make immediately and for the future.

Council Member Grayeb commented that the City Manager provided a number of approaches that could be used. He recapped the Great Recession of 2008 and the impact it had on the City of Peoria. He said the City had 13 years of uninterrupted expansion until the pandemic, which forced the City into an economic coma. He said he believed the economy would bounce back strong and that any reductions made to the budget be kept as low as possible. He recommended the City seek a line of credit to minimize the impact on the citizens, noting that any cuts made would impact public safety. He expressed a concern about overreacting to the current situation.

Council Member Jensen said she supported the proposed reductions. She inquired as to the Tax Increment Financing Funds, and City Manager Urich said those dollars had to be used for TIF reasons only; however, he said in the current environment, the City was trying to hold onto liquidity. She inquired as to the stormwater utility fee and how those dollars would be spent, and City Manager Urich said that money would stay with the stormwater accounts. He said the

City anticipated a 25% in collection of stormwater and sewer fees. She discussed the combined sewer overflow project, noting it would have to be postponed, and City Manager Urich said the City would not move forward on the CSO issue at this time. He said it was intended to move forward after the City was in recovery and resources were available. He said this would be done in an effort to not overburden the citizens of Peoria.

Council Member Riggenbach commented on the importance of Council's discussion and noted that the City had a balanced budget prior to the pandemic. He said it was not long ago that the City anticipated revenues from the IHSA basketball tournaments and the new Four Points Hotel opening downtown. He remarked on the need to judiciously move forward and the importance of contacting the State Legislators and implore with them the 2040 date to have the public safety pensions funded by 90% was not realistic. He said as the City Manager prepared the final version of the CIP cuts, he asked to review closely the economic significance some of the projects would have, noting that some were economic drivers. He said once the cuts were finalized and the City was in recovery the projects that were postponed could be revisited.

Discussions were held regarding borrowing a line of credit, and Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins said he had contacted the local banking community regarding an extension of a line of credit or private placement bond. He said the line of credit was not an option because repayment would be less than a year. He said he would be meeting with financial advisors to discuss the City's options. Regarding the \$30 million gap, Director Scroggins said it was a reasonable number as the City approached the year-end to ensure the City's debt service payments were covered in December.

Mayor Ardis said the City had daily conversations with State elected officials and he said they were aware of the public safety pension situation, noting it was an issue faced by many communities.

Council Member Moore inquired about partnering with Peoria County to leverage City funds, and City Manager Urich said there would be a conversation with the County, noting there were opportunities where the two entities could work together.

Council Member Moore remarked on the need to focus CDBG funding on workforce recovery programs to train people for livable wage jobs once the City went into recovery from the pandemic.

Council Member Kelly said there should not be an emphasis on Public Works projects, especially road projects, in order to cut current expenses. He said that lost revenue was gone and could not be recuperated. He said the City would not be saving money by postponing the capital projects. He said if the City was short on money today it would need to cut today's expenses. He said the City had gotten into serious situations before and cut the capital projects from Public Works, which created a backlog of projects so large the City was still trying to catch up. He said the City had increased taxes in the past to address budget situations, which had not solved the issue. He said cutting the Public Works budget would not help and would not save the City money. He said the City needed to use today's money for today's spending. He said the City was in a serious situation; however, he said it was short-term and short-term solutions were needed to solve it. He said he was not in favor of making cuts in the Police Department, noting the crime issue in the City. He said the City needed to review its payroll and the need for short-term layoffs. He commented on the duplicative services of the Fire Department and AMT. He said the City needed to concentrate on today's expenses rather than long-term investments.

Council Member Ruckriegel expressed a concern that the City had not built up its fund balance reserves from the Great Recession of 2008. He remarked on the need to set long-term goals, commenting that no one knew how long the recovery would take. He said the City was well represented in Springfield and should reach out to its Federal legislators as well, noting the funding missed cities the size of Peoria. He said while the City had a balanced budget for 2020/2021, it was presented that there would be struggles in the out-years due to pension costs. He asked the City Manager, when he brought a revised budget back to the Council, to provide a 3 to 5 year recovery plan as well. He said cuts could not come from just one part of the budget, but needed to be a plan that was balanced for the entire community. He expressed a concern that the plan would leave behind the same people that were left behind in past struggles because those cuts were easier. He said the long-term solution and recovery had to encompass the entire City and include businesses of all types and sizes along with a capital piece. He said he looked forward to collaborating to come up with a balanced approach to address the situation.

Council Member Ali said, based upon what was presented, there was no way to close the gap without looking at reducing and prioritizing capital projects and Staff reductions. She said incremental steps should be taken. She stated the City needed to protect its Staff and take every precaution to support them, and avoid any long-term or permanent Staff cuts. She said right now through July 1st anyone impacted by COVID-19, who would also temporarily lose their job, would not only qualify for unemployment benefits, but would also qualify for the additional supplementary unemployment. She said it could possibly provide an opportunity to address the budget while looking after the City's employees until they were able to come back to work. She said the City would be better off addressing the situation now as opposed to waiting until later when the situation could be worse. She expressed an appreciation for the conversation on equity and inclusivity, noting there were vulnerable populations within the City.

City Manager Urich said any furloughs or layoffs would need a 30-days' notice to City employees. He said notices had not gone out as of yet, but they were in the process.

Council Member Montelongo expressed his appreciation for the information, noting the complexity and challenge of the situation. He said it was his opinion that the City would recover sooner than anticipated. He said prior to the pandemic the City's economy was doing well. He said the current situation was a mandate from the Federal and State Governments to stay-at-home. He said once the stay-at-home was lifted, the economy would recovery quickly. He said the proposed revisions did a good job prioritizing projects. He said some road projects needed to be addressed sooner rather than later, which would cost the City more in the long run. He said if all governmental entities cut projects, it would be hurtful to the recovery phase. He remarked on the need to be careful on the selection process of projects, noting the impact it would have on individuals and their incomes, which would also impact the recovery of the economy. He said the revised budget should not only include CIP projects, but also staffing reductions. He requested a Report Back on the number of staff in each department, the number of managers and supervisors in each department, and the money allotted for staffing in each department.

Council Member Cyr remarked on the importance of having cash on hand in order to provide the City with flexibility. He said it was his recommendation to restructure the City's current debt, obtain a line of credit, revenue bonds that would not affect the City's S&P rating, and possibly sell any type of assets. He said he would like to see the City raise money first before laying off Staff. For the short-term, he said he would like to see some effort to generate as much cash as possible.

Council Member Oyler commented on the City's public safety pensions, noting the impact the marketplace had on those investments. He commented on how the current situation would impact the deadline of being 90% funded by 2040 and how much the pension payments would increase over the next couple of years.

In response to Council Member Oyler, City Manager Ulrich said the impact of the markets would be smoothed over a 5-year period. He said current payments required a significant amount of resources, stating \$4 million needed to go towards pensions. He reviewed the amount the City needed to pay over the next three years towards pensions coupled with the current economic situation and how that would impact the economy long-term.

Council Member Oyler requested there be discussion in Springfield regarding public safety pensions and getting the 2040 date to be 90% funded extended. He asked for information on the items impacted in the budget and how it would impact the City's efficiency. He remarked on reducing Staff sooner rather than later in light of the current unemployment benefits that were being offered. He suggested asking for community input on how the City should structurally address the current issues, stating now would be the time to discuss additional ideas that were available. He recommended reviewing the restructuring of City Departments. He said there was not one solution that would solve the situation. He said whatever borrowing had to be done should be done at a minimum. He said the City was already aware of the difficulties of future budgets.

At the request of Mayor Ardis, City Treasurer Patrick Nichting said he sat on the Pension Fund Consolidation Feasibility Task Force noting they had seven months to complete their portion before a formal Board was elected. He said they continued to meet every week. He commented that the City Council had no authority to change benefit levels. He said the benefit levels were solely determined by the State Legislature. He reported from February 19 to March 23, the Fire and Police Pensions lost \$50 million; however, he reported a significant recovery which was still down 10%. He said President Troglia of Fire Pension and President Curry of Police Pension met with consultants to ensure there was liquidity to pay pensions. As a result, he said there were four months' worth of liquidity in both funds to pay pensions. He said they were well positioned to meet the obligations of their retirees. He commented that Illinois was the only pension system in the United States with an open amortization system.

Mayor Ardis said he had asked the City Treasurer to sit on the Task Force when it was formed, noting he had been a valuable resource on that committee. He said he appreciated the constructive feedback the Council had provided the City Manager. He remarked that Staff reductions were inevitable. He inquired as to the number of positions that would be affected, and City Manager Ulrich stated it would be a 10% reduction, which would cut approximately 75-80 positions. Mayor Ardis remarked on the importance of restructuring the City's debt in addition to any motions made by the Council.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve a reduction in the Capital Improvement Budget, as presented, in the amount of \$26.7 million.

Mayor Ardis said the motions and Report Backs would not be final at this time, but provided direction and concurrence from the Council to bring a plan back to review and eventually approve.

Discussions were held regarding the motion on the floor to reduce the CIP budget. It was noted that if Council did not support CIP cuts, then there needed to be alternatives.

Mayor Ardis said he agreed with the motion, stating that prioritization made by the City Manager was appropriate and he commented that there would still be time to discuss particular projects and how those projects would be managed.

Council Member Moore seconded the motion to approve a reduction in the Capital Improvement Budget, as presented, in the amount of \$26.7 million.

Mayor Ardis commented that these motions were not final but moved the Council forward towards an amended budget.

In response to Council Member Riggerbach, City Manager Ulrich said the motion provided direction to come back to the City Council with a formal adoption to reduce the capital projects. He said this would be a deferral of projects to 2021, but those projects should stay at the top of the list. He clarified that the motion only provided general direction. He said Council Members with specific concerns about projects could discuss the matter with him.

At the conclusion of the discussion regarding the motion, Council Member Jensen restated her motion and moved to approve, generally, the list of reductions provided by the City Manager to reduce the Capital Improvement Budget by \$26.7 million; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Council Member Cyr remarked on the importance of working together, stating these were fluid and emergent times. He remarked on the importance of the City holding onto cash as much as possible, as well as the importance of the Council working together.

Council Member Grayeb said he would not support the motion, stating it would be more appropriate for the City to obtain a short-term loan. He said the cuts to the budget would be premature. He said Council's reaction to COVID-19 could cause a permanent problem. He asked his fellow Council Members to vote against the motion and to move to have the City obtain a loan.

Council Member Kelly said he would not support the motion as presented. He commented that the Council did not have time to review the information appropriately, stating the motion was premature.

Council Member Ali said she was not prepared to vote at this meeting, stating it was her understanding that the Council was going to receive and file the information and make decisions in the next two weeks. She said she was prepared to vote on proposed reductions, but was not prepared to vote on specific projects. She remarked on the importance of meeting weekly during these unprecedented times rather than waiting two weeks until the next Council meeting. She said she was not prepared to vote in favor of the motion.

Mayor Ardis said the intent was not to make a final decision but to give the City Manager guidance and parameters on recommendations to bring back to the Council for review. He said the capital projects outlined were not finalized, but rather the Council needed to provide the City Manager with direction on what to bring back to the Council.

Council Member Riggerbach said the motion was premature. He said he appreciated the parameters and he requested a list of recommendations once the Council had the opportunity to review and provide input.

In response to Council Member Moore regarding the process, City Manager Urich said Staff reviewed the capital budget and based on the five criteria outlined in the presentation, they made recommendations on capital reductions in order for the City to live within its means. He said these were recommendations only and the Council would have to review all of them in the next couple of weeks.

Council Member Moore said the City had no money and it was her intent to support the motion.

Council Member Oyler said he would support the motion noting the Council had to provide direction on how to proceed and address the situation as quickly as possible. He said the Council could meet with the City Manager individually to discuss specific projects, but he remarked on the importance of moving forward with the motion. He agreed that the Council should meet weekly in order to handle the fiscal health of the community.

Council Member Montelongo said he was in favor of more frequent meetings, but he said he was not ready to make a decision at this time.

Council Member Ruckriegel said he would support the motion and he remarked on the need for a plan for future and more frequent meetings.

Council Member Jensen remarked on the importance of providing the City Manager with direction, noting that \$26.7 million in capital reductions was an appropriate place to start.

Mayor Ardis said this was not a final vote on the revised budget, but would provide direction to the City Manager to draft a revised budget. He said he would support the motion, and he said the capital list presented would be modified to reflect the concerns of other Council Members.

Motion to approve, generally, the list of reductions provided by the City Manager to reduce the Capital Improvement Budget by \$26.7 million was approved by roll call vote.  
Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Jensen, Moore, Oyler, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 7;  
Nays: Grayeb, Kelly, Montelongo, Riggerbach - 4.

Council Member Cyr remarked on the need to raise capital, selling assets and restructuring current debts, and on the importance of having cash on hand.

Council Member Grayeb asked the City Manager to review whether a loan to cover the current crisis would be feasible.

Council Member Kelly moved to receive and file the presentation on the impact of COVID-19 relating to the City's budget; seconded by Council Member Montelongo.

Approved by roll call vote.  
Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,  
Mayor Ardis - 11;  
Nays: None.

**(20-082) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(20-083) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with Requests for the Following:**

**A. APPROVE a Renewal of a CONTRACT with JIMAX for One (1) Year for Tree/Stump Removal by Size and Tree and Brush Trimming by Hourly Rates, to December 31, 2020, in an Amount not to Exceed \$70,000.00. (Bid #08-19) (All Council Districts)**

**B. APPROVE a Renewal of a CONTRACT with JIMAX for One (1) Year for Emergency Tree and Brush Trimming by Hourly Rates, to December 31, 2020, in an Amount not to Exceed \$30,000.00. (Bid #08-19) (All Council Districts)**

City Manager Ulrich said the next few items were all landscaping contracts that were part of the current budget. He recommended service level reductions of \$400,000.00 out of the overall line expenses for the next four items.

For the current item, Public Works Director Rick Powers said the reduction would put the City into a reactive mode versus its prior proactive mode. He said the reduction amount on this item was \$100,000.00.

Council Member Kelly moved to approve the renewal of a contract with JIMAX for one (1) year for tree/stump removal by size and tree and brush trimming by hourly rates, to December 31, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.00; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Grayeb - 1.

Council Member Kelly moved to approve a renewal of a contract with JIMAX for one (1) year for emergency tree and brush trimming by hourly rates, to December 31, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Grayeb - 1.

- (20-084) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a Renewal of the CONTRACT for LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT with JIMAX LANDSCAPE, LLC., (Bid#15-19) for One (1) Year to December 31, 2020, in the Total Amount not to Exceed \$75,000.00, which Includes Up to \$60,000.00 for Labor/Equipment and up to \$15,000.00 for Materials. (All Council Districts)**

Public Works Director Powers commented that this item reflected a reduction, in the amount of \$75,000.00, and would provide baseline and reactive services.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve a renewal of the contract for landscape stewardship and maintenance project with JIMAX Landscape, LLC for one (1) year to December 31, 2020, in the total amount not to exceed \$75,000.00, which includes up to \$60,000.00 for labor/equipment and up to \$15,000.00 for materials; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Grayeb - 1.

- (20-085) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the CONTRACTS for the 2020 FACILITIES, BOULEVARDS & RIGHTS-OF-WAY MOWING PROGRAM (Bid #09-20) and Award the Contracts, in the Total Amount not to Exceed \$36,640.00 as follows: (All Council Districts)**

**A. Common Ground, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$7,128.00;**

**B. JIMAX, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$5,069.00;**

**C. Classy Grass, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$11,048.50;**

**D. Walton Services, Inc., in an Amount Not to Exceed \$13,394.50.**

Public Works Director Powers said this item reflected a reduction in the amount of \$36,640.00 which would maintain rights-of-ways and boulevards at a height of 15 inches.

Council Member Kelly moved to approve the contracts for the 2020 facilities, boulevards and rights-of-way mowing program and award the contracts in the total amount not to exceed \$36,640.00 as follows: Common Ground, in an amount not to exceed \$7,128.00; JIMAX, in an amount not to exceed \$5,069.00; Classy Grass, in an amount not to exceed \$11,048.50; and Walton Services, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$13,394.50; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Discussions were held regarding the allowable height for grass to grow on rights-of-ways and in vacant lots. Council Member Moore and Council Member Grayeb expressed a concern that the City was moving backwards in progress. Council Member Moore requested that prior to increasing the frequency of mowing of rights-of-ways, she asked to revisit the frequency of mowing vacant lots.



Motion to approve the contracts for the 2020 facilities, boulevards and rights-of-way mowing program and ward the contracts in the total amount not to exceed \$36,640.00 as follows: Common Ground, in an amount not to exceed \$7,128.00; JIMAX, in an amount not to exceed \$5,069.00; Classy Grass, in an amount not to exceed \$11,048.50; and Walton Services, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$13,394.50, was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Grayeb, Riggerbach - 2.

**(20-086) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE CONTRACTS for the 2020 City of Peoria and Peoria County Trustee VACANT LOT MOWING PROGRAM (Bid #10-25) (All Council Districts) and Award the Contracts, in the Total Amount not to Exceed \$171,661.50, as Follows:**

**A. D&D Homecare Solutions, in the Amount not to Exceed \$12,741.50;**

**B. JIMAX, in the Amount not to Exceed \$13,721.00;**

**C. P-Town Car Club, in the Amount not to Exceed \$24,651.00;**

**D. Walton Service, Inc., in the Amount not to Exceed \$20,909.00;**

**E. Carmody Lawn Services, in the Amount not to Exceed \$33,076.00;**

**F. Hulse Lawn Care, in the Amount not to Exceed \$12,122.50;**

**G. Law'n Order, in the Amount not to Exceed \$45,292.50; and**

**H. Hearn's Landscaping, in the Amount not to Exceed \$9,088.00.**

Public Works Director said this item reduced the number of mowing cycles from 18 to 9 and would turn into a reactionary mode.

Council Member Moore said she would not support this item.

Council Member Oyler expressed a concern stating no one wanted to reduce services; however, the budget called for such action.

At the close of his comments, Council Member Oyler moved to approve contracts for the 2020 City of Peoria and Peoria County Trustee Vacant Lot Mowing Program and award the contracts, in the total amount not to exceed \$171,661.50, as follows: D&D Homecare Solutions, in the Amount not to Exceed \$12,741.50; JIMAX, in the Amount not to Exceed \$13,721.00; P-Town Car Club, in the Amount not to Exceed \$24,651.00; Walton Service, Inc., in the Amount not to Exceed \$20,909.00; Carmody Lawn Services, in the Amount not to Exceed \$33,076.00; Hulse Lawn Care, in the Amount not to Exceed \$12,122.50; Law'n Order, in the Amount not to Exceed \$45,292.50; and Hearn's Landscaping, in the Amount not to Exceed \$9,088.00; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Council Member Moore expressed a concern for allowing grass height to reach 15 inches before the City mowed, stating she would accept something lower than that height. She said she was concerned about the impact it would have on the Southside and the North Valley, noting she did not want to lose the momentum the Code Enforcement Department made in those areas. She recommended deferring the matter to discuss further and to have the Public Works Department revisit the allowable height.

Council Member Moore moved for a substitute motion to defer this matter until the April 21, 2020, Special City Council meeting; seconded by Council Member Riggenbach.

Substitute motion deferring this matter until the April 21, 2020, Special City Council meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(20-087) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ACCEPT the LOW BID and AWARD a CONTRACT to KREILING ROOFING for the Roof Restoration at Fire Station 20, in the Amount of \$85,560.00.**

City Manager Urich said this was a vital roof repair that needed to be done as soon as possible.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to accept the low bid and award a contract to Kreiling Roofing for the roof restoration at Fire Station 20, in the amount of \$85,560.00; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(20-088) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the Following for All Council Districts:**

- A. A RESOLUTION Amending Resolution No. 19-379-A Setting Fees for the Peoria Combined and Sanitary Sewer District to Delay the Effective Date for Increasing the CITY'S SANITARY SEWER LATERAL FEE, for Property Owners who are Directly Served by City Sewers, from May 1, 2020 until August 1, 2020; and**
- B. A RESOLUTION Amending Resolution No. 19-379-B Setting Fees for the Peoria Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation District to Delay the Effective Date for Increasing the CITY SEWER REHABILITATION RATE, for All City Property Owners who are Directly Served by Greater Peoria Sanitary District (GPSD) or City Sewers, from May 1, 2020 until August 1, 2020.**

City Manager Urich said this item would defer the sewer rate increases until August 1, 2020. He said with the current numbers of people unemployed, a rate increase at this time would not be prudent.

Council Member Kelly moved to approve a Resolution amending Resolution No. 19-379-A setting fees for the Peoria Combined and Sanitary Sewer District to delay the effective date for increasing the City's sanitary sewer lateral fee, for property owners who are directly served by City sewers, from May 1, 2020, until August 1, 2020; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-088-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 Kelly moved to approve a Resolution amending Resolution No. 19-379-B setting fees for the Peoria Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation District to delay the effective date for increasing the City sewer rehabilitation rate, for all City property owners who are directly served by Greater Peoria Sanitary District (GPSD) or City sewers, from May 1, 2020, until August 1, 2020; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-088-B was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(20-089) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE an Update on CDBG FUNDING Related to COVID-19.**

Community Development Director Ross Black said as part of the CARES Act, the City of Peoria would be receiving approximately \$1.1 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds. He reviewed the changes to the process for the public comment period and public hearing, in light of COVID-19. He recommended Staff continue to work on the development of small business recovery programs, which would provide some level of financial reporting on behalf of the business. In exchange, he said the business would have to retain current employees and those positions. On the public service side, he said there could be additional services provided, such as job training. He said \$690,000.00 was prior year funds and those public service funds had already been allotted. However, he said there may be a waiver on the public service cap. He said he could bring back a series of recommendations for the City Council to review as it related to the public service funds.

Council Member Moore said nearly \$1.1 million would be made available to the City that could be used for small business programming. Out of the \$690,000.00, she said it was her hope that a good portion of those funds could be used for additional public service programming. She said she was expecting some workforce recovery programs.

Council Member Moore moved to receive and file an update on CDBG Funding related to COVID-19; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(20-090) Communication from the City Manager and the Director of Community Development with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a Discussion Regarding Additional Funding through the EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) Related to COVID-19.**

Community Development Director Black said, as part of the CARES Act, the City would receive approximately \$535,000.00 through the Emergency Solutions Grant Program. He said those funds needed to be used for services to help the homeless and near homeless. He said the City was required by HUD to work with the local Continuum of Care. He said Staff was working on preparing recommendations on how to allocate the funds, which would be brought back to the Council for review.

Council Member Moore moved to receive and file a discussion regarding additional funding through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) related to COVID-19; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(20-091) Communication from the City Manager and the Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE a LAND PURCHASE AGREEMENT between EXPOSITION GARDENS and the City of Peoria.**

City Manager provided an overview of the land purchase agreement noting it was for the replacement for Fire Station 16, which was adopted as part of the 2020 budget. He said the City anticipated closing on the matter within the next 30 days.

Discussions were held regarding the possibility of extending the closing until after the pandemic situation. City Manager Ulrich said he would check to see if there would be a price change should the closing be pushed to a later date.

Council Member Montelongo moved to approve a land purchase agreement between Exposition Gardens and the City of Peoria; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Discussions were held regarding the appraisal of the property and City Manager Ulrich said Staff reviewed the recent sales in the area and the price provided was an approximate price.

Council Member Ruckriegel said the purchase of the property and construction of the firehouse was an appropriate project to pursue, however, he said the timing of the project was of importance. He expressed a concern on the message it would send to those in the community who were financially struggling. He said he would vote no on the item, not on the merit of the project but because he said it was not appropriate to spend that money at this time.

Council Member Jensen said she was concerned with the current budget situation. She asked whether the City could defer the purchase to a later date after the pandemic situation.

City Manager Ulrich said he did discuss deferring the purchase of the property with Expo Gardens, but he said he did recommend deferring the construction of the new firehouse until 2021.

Council Member Jensen said, given the current situation, it would be appropriate to defer the purchase and the construction to a later date.

At the request of Council Member Grayeb, Fire Chief Tony Ardis said the construction of the new firehouse not only addressed the concerns of a dilapidated Fire Station 16, but would help with faster response times to the east and northern corridor. However, he said in light of discussions regarding layoffs, he said he would rather see the project delayed in order to avoid any layoffs.

Council Member Riggerbach said this expenditure was clearly explainable, noting that response times in critical areas would be enhanced. He recommended extra time to close on the property.

Council Member Cyr moved for a substitute motion to delay the purchase of the property from Exposition Gardens for 90 days; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Discussions were held regarding delaying the purchase from Expo Gardens and whether it would have an impact on the purchase price.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Council Member Riggerbach moved for a second substitute motion to defer this item to the April 21, 2020, Special City Council meeting; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Second substitute motion to defer to the April 21, 2020, Special City Council meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Jensen, Kelly, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Mayor Ardis - 8;

Nays: Grayeb, Montelongo, Ruckriegel - 3.

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

It was determined that there was no unfinished business to come before the City Council at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Scheduling of a Special City Council Meeting**

Council Member Ali moved to schedule a Special City Council meeting for Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 6:00 P.M.; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Council Member Grayeb said he would support the motion for a special meeting in hopes of having additional information at that time.

Council Member Ali said a final decision did not need to be made next Tuesday and she remarked on the importance of ongoing discussions during the pandemic.

Motion to schedule a Special City Council meeting for Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**Gratitude to Peoria-based ATS**

Council Member Cyr announced there was an article in the Peoria Journal Star and a report on WMBD-TV regarding Peoria-based ATS contributing 20,000 face shields to help with the healthcare workers during this pandemic.

**Task Force to Reopen the City**

Council Member Cyr inquired whether a task force would be formed to oversee and address of the City reopening. Mayor Ardis said Mr. Chris Setti, CEO of the GPEDC was working on how to formulate such a committee.

**2020 Census**

Council Member Ruckriegel remarked on the importance of the citizens of Peoria participating in the 2020 Census, which would affect funding for various programs within the community.

**CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD**

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ardis asked City Clerk Beth Ball to read the citizen comments into the record as follows:

Andres Diaz, a citizen of Peoria, asked the City Council to reduce its spending for the next couple of weeks. He asked them to act with diligence on expenditures and to consider the impact each dollar would have on the City's budget. He remarked on the need to maintain City services and that the health and safety of the community be in the forefront. He said the City needed to be prepared for when businesses began to reopen and citizens returned to work.

Sandra Crow, a citizen of Peoria, said she fully understood the effects of the pandemic on the City, and she asked that the City make cuts to non-essential services. She remarked on the need to ensure citizens could maintain a standard of living and she said laying off employees would put the City in a serious financial situation.

Kristen Meierkord, a citizen of Peoria, said she understood the deficits the City faced due to COVID-19. She asked the priority of the Council be on the small local businesses to help them survive the current situation. She expressed her appreciation to Peoria Public Schools for their free meals to children and to the food pantry that had helped during this time of need.

Susan O'Neal, a citizen of Peoria, recommended reviewing City contracts that contained "Net 30" terms to renegotiate better payment terms such as "Net 90" or "Net 120." She asked the City Council to encourage Peoria County residents to collaborate in an effort for a community garden or Farmer's Market. She asked that the Farmers' Market on the Riverfront not be canceled stating that social distancing could still be managed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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 10:55 P.M.



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

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