



: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

A Regular Meeting of the Joint City Council and Town Board of Peoria, Illinois, was held on February 8, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Ali presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

ROLL CALL

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING NOTICE TO TOWNSHIP ELECTORS

Mayor Ali announced, pursuant to Public Act 095-0761, any citizen that desired to have an item considered on the agenda at the Annual Town Meeting to be held Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 6:00 P.M., they were required to bring a specific request signed by fifteen or more electors to the Clerk no later than Tuesday, March 1, 2022. She continued by saying 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.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

**Central Illinois Section of the Society of Women Engineers
for their Support of National Engineer's Week**

MINUTES

Council Member Oyler moved to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on January 25, 2022, and the Special City Council Meeting held on February 1, 2022, as printed; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

PUBLIC HEARING

(22-043) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the REDISTRICTING of COUNCIL DISTRICTS as Proposed by the Committee of the Whole.

Council Member Riggenbach moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the Redistricting of Council Districts as proposed by the Committee of the Whole; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Motion to open the Public Hearing was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali opened the Public Hearing at 6:08 P.M.

Conrad Stinnet, President of the West Bluff Council, said he believed neighborhoods should remain intact in a single Council District. He said splitting the Moss-Bradley neighborhood would interrupt the synergy of that neighborhood. He asked the Council to consider conducting a special census or drawing an alternative map versions.

Joanne Bannon, a concerned citizen of the Moss-Bradley neighborhood, asked the Council to keep the West Bluff intact in a single Council District. After recognizing Staff's work during the Redistricting process, she said the process seemed rushed. She asked the Council to consider alternatives before making a final decision.

James Hinchee, President of the Uplands Residential Association, asked the Council to keep the Moss-Bradley neighborhood intact in a single District. He discussed concerns with the shifting District boundaries and asked the Council to consider alternative options.

City Clerk Stefanie Tarr reading the following comments into the record:

Gib and Mary Russell, citizens of Peoria's Fourth District and a member of the Westwood Association, expressed a concern that they would be placed into Council District 2. They remarked on the convenience of the monthly meetings in District 4 and expressed a concern for the size of proposed District 2. They said it was better to keep each District in a central location, noting each part of the City had different issues.

Adam Lontaj, a representative of the Arbor District to the West Bluff Council, expressed a concern with the proposed map, stating the West Bluff Council should be kept in one geographic Council District.

H. Wayne Wilson, a citizen of Peoria, asked the Council to discard map version 2.3, stating it split up the Moss-Bradley neighborhood and removed the Uplands from the Second District. He said it was important to protect the strength of older neighborhoods and to consider neighborhood associations' efforts.

Kathy Robinson, on behalf of the University East Neighborhood Association, said the Second District should remain as it was, with the West Bluff intact in a single District. She remarked on the importance of representation be aligned with the common areas of each District.

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Following a third call for public comment, Mayor Ali determined no one else wished to speak, and she requested the Public Hearing be closed.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the Redistricting of Council Districts as proposed by the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Council Member Velpula.

Motion to close the Public Hearing was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali closed the Public Hearing at 6:22 P.M.

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

(22-044) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the JANUARY 2022 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the FEBRUARY 2022 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the January 2022 Actual Expenditures and to approve the February 2022 Anticipated Expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oylar, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali - 11

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA

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

(22-045) * Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.

(22-046) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ACCEPT the Low BID of J.C. DILLON, INC. and Award a CONTRACT, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,000,000.00, from the Base Bid of \$1,196,405.08, for the STORM DRAINAGE REPAIR ANNUAL CONTRACT for 2022. (All Council Districts)

(22-047) Communication from the City Manager and Community Development Director with a Request to APPROVE an AGREEMENT with the PEORIA CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (PCCEO), for \$150,000.00 in South Village TIF Funds for the Rehabilitation of Owner-Occupied Homes in the South Village TIF Area. (Council District 1)

- (22-033) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for the Following:**
- A. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,939 Amending CHAPTER 1 of the CODE of the City of Peoria, Related to the Amendment of Various SIDEWALK REGULATIONS; and,**
 - B. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,940 Amending CHAPTER 26 of the CODE of the City of Peoria, Related to the Amendment of Various SIDEWALK REGULATIONS.**
- (22-048) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,941 Partially Abating the Tax Hereto Levied to Pay Special Service Area (SSA) Property Taxes on the PEORIA SPORTS CENTER SPECIAL SERVICE AREA, in the Amount of \$223,210.00.**
- (22-049) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,942 Partially Abating the Tax Hereto Levied to Pay Special Service Area (SSA) Property Taxes on the HOLIDAY INN PROPERTY TAX SPECIAL SERVICE AREA, in the Amount of \$16,200.00.**
- (22-050) ** Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Providing for the Issuance of GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, Not to Exceed \$17,000,000.00, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, for the Purpose of Financing Certain Capital Improvements within the City, and Refunding Certain Outstanding Bonds of the City, Providing for the Levy and Collection of a Direct Annual Tax for the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on said Bonds, and Authorizing the Sale of Said Bonds to the Purchaser Thereof.**
- (22-051) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,943 Appointing a New BOND REGISTRAR and Paying Agent, for Certain Outstanding Obligations of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois.**
- (22-052) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,944 Abating the Tax Heretofore Levied to Pay Principal of and Interest on GENERAL OBLIGATION CORPORATE PURPOSE BONDS, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, 2009 Series A, and the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2016 Series A General Obligation Bonds, in the Amount \$199,872.00.**
- (22-053) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the TRI-COUNTY RIVER VALLEY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY with a Request to Concur:**

Patrick Urich (Voting) – Term Expires 01/20/2025

(22-054) APPROVE the COMMITTEE REPORT (POLICY SESSION) from the JANUARY 18, 2022, Special City Council Meeting, Regarding REDISTRICTING COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

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

Council Member Kelly requested Item No. 22-045 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Velpula requested Item No. 22-050 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Item Nos. 22-033, and 22-045 through 22-054 (except Item Nos. 22-045 and 22-050, which were removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

(22-045) * Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.

Council Member Kelly asked what powers provided by the Declaration of Local State of Emergency had been exercised since the beginning of the pandemic. Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka said permitting Boards and Commissions to meet remotely and staffing adjustments in response to COVID-19 protocols were powers that had been utilized.

At the conclusions of the discussion, Council Member Kelly moved to approve the Declaration of Local State of Emergency; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(22-050) ** Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Providing for the Issuance of GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, Not to Exceed \$17,000,000.00, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, for the Purpose of Financing Certain Capital Improvements within the City, and Refunding Certain Outstanding Bonds of the City, Providing for the Levy and Collection of a Direct Annual Tax for the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on said Bonds, and Authorizing the Sale of Said Bonds to the Purchaser Thereof.

Council Member Velpula inquired about the roles of the two financial institutions contracted by the City related to this item. Finance Director Kyle Cratty described the services Speer Financial, Inc. and Mesirow Financial provided to the City.

Discussions were held regarding current and future interest rates, and the strategy in pursuing the proposed issuance of General Obligation Bonds and refunding certain outstanding Bonds at the same time.

Council Member Velpula moved to adopt an Ordinance providing for the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, not to exceed \$17,000,000.00, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, for the purpose of financing certain capital improvements within the City, and refunding certain outstanding Bonds of the City, providing for the levy and collection of a direct Annual Tax for the payment of the principal of and interest on said Bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Council Member Cyr asked why the issuance and refunding of Bonds were combined in the same item for Council approval. Director Cratty said combining the efforts saved the City money by entering the market one time instead of multiple occasions.

Discussions were held regarding alternative options to borrowing funds and the reason the issuance of Bonds was proposed. How much the City spends on debt service and efforts on reducing it to benefit constituents were also discussed. Council Member Cyr said he voted against approving the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget because he did not agree with borrowing funds to balance the budget.

Discussions were held concerning increased State revenue shares versus projections received by the City in 2021 and how those funds were used. Council Member Kelly asked if the surplus funds could offset the proposed borrowed funds. City Manager Urich said he did not recommend using the surplus funds for that purpose, noting the General Fund was used for funding operations.

Council Member Kelly moved to amend the motion to reduce the amount to borrow through the issuance of Bonds by \$5 million.

Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said amending the motion would not be sufficient because it would require a new Bond Ordinance be drafted with amended figures.

Council Member Kelly withdrew his motion to amend the motion to reduce the amount to borrow in the Ordinance by \$5 million.

Council Member Kelly moved for a substitute motion to defer the item to the February 22, 2022, City Council Meeting, and to direct Staff to present a second Ordinance to consider with a reduction of \$5 million to the issuance of Bonds.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,945 providing for the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, not to exceed \$17,000,000.00, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, for the purpose of financing certain capital improvements within the City, and refunding certain outstanding Bonds of the City, providing for the levy and collection of a direct Annual Tax for the payment of the principal of and interest on said Bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Oyler, Riggenbach, Velpula, Mayor Ali - 8;

Nays: Cyr, Kelly, Ruckriegel – 3.

FIRST READINGS:

(22-055) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a FIRST READING of an ORDINANCE Approving the WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS POLICY.

Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said the Ordinance would bring the City into compliance with the SAFE-T Act approved in 2021 by the State of Illinois Legislature. She said part of the SAFE-T Act required municipalities to have a policy in place to protect employees from retaliation when reporting erroneous actions of a public official.

Council Member Grayeb moved to receive and file a First Reading of an Ordinance approving the Whistleblower Protections Policy; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

CLERK'S NOTE: Item No. 22-055 will be placed on the February 22, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting agenda.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(22-056) Communication from the City Manager and Economic Development Department with a Request for the Following:

- A. ADOPT an ORDINANCE to Designate the UNIVERSITY/WAR PLAN AREA; and,**
- B. ADOPT an ORDINANCE to Approve the UNIVERSITY/WAR REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PROJECT; and,**
- C. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Authorizing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the UNIVERSITY/WAR REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA.**

City Manager Patrick Urich provided an overview of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) process and implementation benefits. He discussed the planned area for the proposed University/War TIF and the hurdles the land had provided over many years that contributed to turning away potential businesses from locating to a prime location. He said the proposal was presented to all local taxing bodies with no objections and some abstentions. He said a Public Hearing was held at the January 25, 2022, City Council Meeting, where it was determined there were no citizens who wished to speak regarding the proposed TIF. He reviewed the boundaries of the University/War TIF and the redevelopment plan.

Council Member Oyler moved to adopt an Ordinance to designate the University/War Plan area; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Council Member Ruckriegel said he supported the proposed University/War TIF because it would address land that had been available for development for a long time, which required remediation to prepare it for development. He said it was an opportune time to utilize an instrument like a TIF, and he discussed the benefits it would bring to the City.

Council Member Jensen said she had concerns regarding the proposed TIF, noting it was the first one to be proposed since she was appointed to the Council over 9 years ago. She asked whether some of the funds could be directed to the Peoria Public School. She also inquired about the opportunity to obtain public input regarding the proposed University/War TIF. City Manager Urich said, in addition to the Public Hearing that was held on January 25, 2022, the presentation to local taxing bodies was given at an Open Meeting where public comment was available. He said Peoria Public Schools abstained from voting on the item but were aware of the plan for the University/War TIF and Redevelopment Plan.

Council Member Jensen discussed financial concerns Peoria Public Schools had in previous years and how she was hesitant to support the item when it did not include directing funds to the school district. She said she agreed the area covered by the TIF needed development, and she asked if the boundaries would be contiguous to any other existing TIF project areas. City Manager Urich said it was not contiguous to any existing TIF areas.

Council Member Kelly said he was not in favor of implementing a TIF to encourage development, noting he believed a tax abatement was a more beneficial tool. He commented tax abatements lasted for 10 years whereas TIFs lasted for approximately 25 years. At the end of his comments and he said he would not support this item.

In response to Mayor Ali regarding the length of a TIF, City Manager Urich said it would expire in 23 years, with an option to extend for another 12 years with legislature approval.

Council Member Riggenbach described the success of the East Village Growth Cell (EVGC) TIF and how it had benefitted the community. He said there were plans to sponsor job training in Peoria Public Schools with the funds once a specified milestone was reached, noting the School District could benefit from a TIF without specifying an allocation when it was implemented. He said for many years citizens had expressed concern about the location regarding new development, noting the TIF was needed to redevelop the prime location. He acknowledged there would be questions to answer as the project progressed, and he said he would be voting to support the item.

Council Member Grayeb remarked on the difficulties faced to redevelop the properties in the proposed University/War TIF area. He discussed other development projects in progress in the City, and how the area surrounding the University/War TIF was thriving. He discussed the history of the area and the need to adopt the TIF to encourage continued prospering. He concluded by asking the Council to adopt the University/War TIF as presented.

Council Member Ruckriegel asked the City Manager to elaborate on the effects the TIF could have on sales tax revenues. City Manager Urich said through the redevelopment of the properties in the TIF, sales tax revenues would be increased because it would bring business to an area that had been vacant for over 8 years, as well as foster additional improvements and traffic in the area. Council Member Ruckriegel said there had been many opportunities for the community to provide input, and he thanked the City Manager, Mayor, and Staff for their efforts.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,946 designating the University/War Plan Area was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Kelly – 1.

Council Member Oyler moved to adopt an Ordinance to approve the University/War Redevelopment Plan and Project; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,947 approving the University/War Redevelopment Plan and Project was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Oyler moved to adopt an Ordinance authorizing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the University/War Redevelopment Project Area; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,948 authorizing Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the University/War Redevelopment Project Area was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Kelly – 1.

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

- (22-039) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R-2 (Single-Family Residential) District, for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL for the Property Located at 5918 NORTH ELM LANE (Parcel Identification No. 14-16-426-007 and 14-16-426-012), Peoria, IL. (Council District 3)**

After explaining the requestor asked for this item to be withdrawn in that he no longer owned the property, Council Member Riggenbach moved to withdraw the item; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

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

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

Nays: None.

Landlord Registration Program Report Back

Council Member Kelly asked for the status on the Report Back regarding the Landlord Registration Program and Rental Housing update. City Manager Urich said it would be presented to the Council at the February 22, 2022, City Council Meeting.

Redistricting Council Districts

Discussions were held regarding the effective date of Redistricting Maps once approved. Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said she would provide a Report Back to the Council regarding effective dates as it related to representation and the District Council elections.

Council Member Jensen said the Council should consider citizen comments made during the Public Hearing that evening. She asked the Council to consider keeping the West Bluff and the Moss-Bradley neighborhood intact in a single District, stating she did not believe Version 2.3

was a good option. She said because the Districts were shifting north, it was a possibility future Council Members could all live north of War Memorial Drive, noting the older neighborhoods in the southern part of the City should have representation. She asked the Council to ensure some Council Members would reside in the older parts of the City, and she requested Staff to come back with an additional proposal for the Council to consider.

Mayor Ali asked City Manager Ulrich to confirm the First District's proposed northern boundary was south of War Memorial Drive in Version 2.3. City Manager Ulrich confirmed said boundary was south of War Memorial Drive and south of I-74 on the proposed map.

In light of the additional comments and concerns from the citizens, Council Member Jackson asked if additional Redistricting discussions could be held to consider alternative options to Version 2.3.

Mayor Ali said the Council decided to proceed with the consideration of Version 2.3, held a Public Hearing, and would continue to add an item to the City Council Meeting on February 22, 2022, to consider adopting Redistricting Map Version 2.3.

Council Member Jackson asked for the opportunity for Council to consider alternative options, including keeping landmark buildings in the First District. At the end of her comments, she moved to hold a Special City Council Meeting on February 15, 2022, for a Policy Session on Redistricting Council Districts; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Council Member Jensen said the Council owed it to citizens to reconsider the proposal because Version 2.3 was distributed only a few hours before the meeting on February 1, 2022, which did not allow time for proper review or critique. She said she had expressed concern regarding Version 2.3 at the February 1, 2022, Policy Session, and said the Council should meet at least one more time to discuss the options.

Mayor Ali asked if another Public Hearing would need to be scheduled if changes were made to Version 2.3 or if the Council decided to proceed with an alternative. City Manager Ulrich said a Public Hearing was not required, and he said the Council could vote to hold another Policy Session for continued discussions.

Council Member Rigganbach said the motion on the floor would undermine the Council's unanimously approved process. He said there was an item on the February 22, 2022, City Council Agenda where objections or amendment suggestions could be made, saying it would be inappropriate to schedule a meeting before then. He said he would not support the motion to hold a Policy Session on February 15, 2022.

Council Member Oyler said he would not support the motion on the floor. He reviewed the deliberations and Staff efforts regarding Redistricting, as well as how the Council unanimously voted to proceed in consideration of Version 2.3. He said if approval of Version 2.3 failed at the February 22, 2022, City Council Meeting, then the Council could consider alternative options.

Council Member Allen said he preferred taking the time to consider all the options and citizen input, stating he would vote in favor of the motion on the floor.

Continued discussions were held regarding the vote at the Policy Session on February 1, 2022, to proceed with the consideration of Version 2.3, as well as communication and public input regarding the Redistricting process and maps.

Council Member Ruckriegel said Staff worked to achieve all goals the Council presented at the Policy Sessions to the best of their abilities, while staying within the standards and population deviation requirements. He asked the Council to proceed with the approved process and to take public input into consideration when Version 2.3 was presented at the February 22, 2022, City Council Meeting.

Continued discussions were held regarding the Redistricting process, transparency, and public input. Council Member Kelly said he would vote against the motion on the floor, noting the changes to the District boundaries were necessary due to the population shifts in the City, and he said it was disingenuous to alter the process the Council unanimously approved.

Council Member Jackson said she was not opposed to Version 2.3, but said she believed additional time should be taken to consider recent citizen comments. She said the original Redistricting Meeting schedule proposed Special Meetings through March 2022, and she noted how Version 2.3 was delivered to the Council hours before the February 1, 2022, Special City Council Meeting, which did not provide much time for review.

Council Member Grayeb concurred with other Council Members that the process the Council approved to consider and possibly approve the Version 2.3 Redistricting Map at the February 22, 2022, City Council Meeting should be adhered to.

Additional discussions were held regarding the Redistricting Policy Session Meetings schedule and public input received concerning Version 2.3. Council Member Jensen asked the Council to support the motion on the floor to allow for additional time to consider options.

Continued discussions were held regarding the Council's unanimous decision at the February 1, 2022, Redistricting Policy Session, to proceed with Version 2.3 by holding a Public Hearing on February 8, 2022, and to place an item on the February 22, 2022, City Council Agenda for consideration and possible approval.

Mayor Ali noted the Redistricting Policy Sessions were scheduled through March 2022 to use if needed until there was a consensus. She said the Council was not obligated to use all the special meeting dates provided. She said she would not support the motion on the floor because she did not believe another meeting would alter the current course of action. She said it was appropriate to address the item at the February 22, 2022, City Council Meeting.

Motion to hold a Special City Council Meeting on February 15, 2022, for a Policy Session regarding Redistricting FAILED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Jackson, Jensen, Velpula – 3;

Nays: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali – 8.

NEW BUSINESS

Winter Storm Response

Council Member Ruckriegel discussed concerns with snow-covered sidewalks, bus stops, and other pedestrian areas after the winter storm the week before. He asked how the plan and policies were communicated to citizens and business-owners. Public Works Director Rick Powers reviewed efforts to prepare the streets prior to the storm's arrival, and he reported the snowfall totals. He said sidewalk clearing policies were communicated to business owners and he described difficulties in multi-agency collaboration regarding snow removal.

Council Member Allen said he had received mostly positive feedback from citizens regarding the efforts of the Public Works Staff during the Snow Event. He said the main concern referred to him was vehicles continuing to park on City Streets during the parking ban, blocking the snowplows from clearing the entire street. He requested additional measures be implemented to ensure vehicles would be removed from streets during future parking bans.

Council Member Grayeb noted difficulties in removing vehicles from streets in some neighborhoods, but he said overall there was excellent compliance to the parking ban. He discussed the 17 snow routes approved in the budget versus 21 snow routes in previous years, as well as the private contractors that were hired to assist Public Works Staff during the Winter Storm. Director Powers noted private contractors would have been hired regardless of the number of routes due to the rate of snow accumulation during the storm. Council Member Grayeb described the effect of the Public Works Department efforts on public safety and thanked Staff for their hard work.

Gaming Machine Annual Fee

Council Member Cyr asked if the State of Illinois annual fee for gaming machines was set to increase from \$250.00 to \$500.00. City Manager Urich said the State did enact legislation last fall, but he would review it and provide the Council with an update.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

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

Brian Fox Ellis, a citizen of Peoria, explained what the Spirit of Peoria meant to him and to the City, and he said someone could buy the boat if the City did not exercise the first right of refusal so it could stay in Peoria. He discussed different options for the Council to consider and he reviewed Peoria's history regarding the river. He said there was an online petition regarding whether the Spirit of Peoria should remain in the City. He said a handout of comments that were received prior to the meeting that evening had been emailed to all Council Members. He asked if it was possible for citizens to purchase shares of ownership of the boat, and he asked the Council to keep the Spirit in Peoria in the City.

Kim Thrush, a citizen of Peoria, said the Spirit of Peoria was different because it travelled during the day instead of overnight, which allowed for patrons to witness the beauty of the river. She described tourism revenue the Spirit of Peoria provided to the City and surrounding areas, stating she did not want to see the boat leave.

Barry Cloyd, a citizen of Peoria, said the Spirit of Peoria celebrated the deep connection between the City and the river. He said he was a musician on the boat for many years, stating it brought visitors to the area from around the world. He referenced the online petition regarding keeping the Spirit of Peoria in Peoria and noted it had over 2,500 signatures in just five days.

James Lemen, a citizen of Peoria, said he played the piano on the Spirit of Peoria for many years. He said if the Council did not stop the sale of the boat, it would leave the City, stating jobs and revenue would be lost if that were to happen. He said many citizens supported the petition to keep the Spirit of Peoria in Peoria through the online petition.

Schuyler Newell, a citizen of Peoria, said the Spirit of Peoria had been there his entire life, and it made a lot of money for the City. He said people came into the area to visit it, and he asked the Council to vote to keep the boat in Peoria.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of a Motion to adjourn to EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; 2(c)(6), the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; and 2(c)(21), discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes.


Council Member Ruckriegel moved to adjourn the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting to Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; 2(c)(6), the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; and 2(c)(21), discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Regular Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 P.M.



Stefanie Tari, RMC, CMC, City Clerk
City of Peoria, Illinois

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