



**: 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 October 25, 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, Riggenschach, 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.

**MINUTES**

Council Member Oyler moved to approve the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting held on October 11, 2022, and the Joint City Council & Town Board Meeting held on October 11, 2022, as printed; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

**(22-352) Communication from the Town Supervisor and Town Clerk with a Request to APPROVE an INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT with the CITY OF PEORIA for the SHARING OF SERVICES AND STAFF.**

A revised Intergovernmental Agreement was distributed to all Trustees.

After a brief discussion, Trustee Grayeb moved to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peoria for the sharing of services and staff; seconded by Trustee Velpula.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**(22-353) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the 2023 REVISED BUDGET.**

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to defer the Public Hearing regarding the 2023 Revised Budget to the November 8, 2022, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Motion to defer the Public Hearing regarding the 2023 Revised Budget to the November 8, 2022, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

**(22-354) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

**(22-355) \* Communication from the City Manager and the Fire Chief to ACCEPT a GRANT from FEMA for the 2021 STAFFING AND ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT, in the Amount of \$4,091,208.00.**

**(22-356) \*\* Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources with a Request to Authorize the City Manager to EXECUTE the COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT Negotiated Between the City of Peoria and the UNITED ASSOCIATION OF STEAMFITTERS LOCAL UNION 353 from December 1, 2022, through November 30, 2025.**

**(22-357) \*\*\* Communication from the City Manager and City Clerk with a Request to APPROVE an INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT with the TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA for the SHARING OF SERVICES AND STAFF.**

**(22-358) \*\*\*\* Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for the Following:**

**A. APPROVE and Authorize the PURCHASE of Design and Specifications for the WELCOME TO PEORIA SIGN, in the Amount of \$3,000.00 from IDG ARCHITECTS for the SOUTHERN GATEWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT; and,**

**B. APPROVE a SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENT with ZENDAVOR SIGN AND GRAPHICS INC. for the Installation of the WELCOME TO PEORIA SIGN, in the Amount of \$24,109.14, for the SOUTHERN GATEWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

**(22-359) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to APPROVE Three-Year (3) CONTRACTS with HERR PETROLEUM OIL for Large Loads (Tanker) and AG-LAND FS for Small Loads (Transport).**

- (22-360) Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request for the Following:**
- A. ACCEPT the FY2022 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the Department of Justice (DOJ), in the Amount of \$84,855.00; and,**
  - B. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 18,009 Amending the City of Peoria 2022-2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET Relating to the General Fund, to Recognize the Receipt of Grant Funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Providing the FY2022 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG), in the Amount of \$84,855.00; and,**
  - C. APPROVE and AUTHORIZE City Manager to Execute an INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT between the City of Peoria and the COUNTY OF PEORIA under the FY2022 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG), in the Amount of \$35,639.00; and,**
  - D. APPROVE the Distribution of Funds to Pay a Portion of the LENCO BEARCAT, in the Amount of \$49,216.00 (Purchase Price of \$345,750.00), with FY2022 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) FUNDS.**

**(22-361) \*\*\*\*\***  
**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 an ORDINANCE Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R3 (Single-Family Residential) District, for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL for the Property Located at 2724 W NEWMAN PARKWAY (Parcel Identification No. 14-31-178-002), Peoria, IL. (Council District 1)**

**(22-362) 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 ORDINANCE NO. 18,010 Amending an Existing SPECIAL USE (Ordinance No. 15,475) in a Class R-3 (Single-Family Residential) District, for a Legal Nonconforming Recreational Facility to Add a Freestanding Sign, for the Property Located at 7000 N FLEMING LANE, Commonly Known as the GREATER PEORIA FAMILY YMCA (Parcel Identification Nos. 14-07-427-001 and 14-07-476-007), Peoria IL. (Council District 4)**

**(22-363) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the LIQUOR COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**

**Arius Hounwanou (Voting) – Term Expiration 6/30/2025**

**(22-364) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES with a Request to Concur:**

**Courtney Lee (Voting) – Term Expiration 6/30/2024**

**(22-365)** Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION for a Class B-1 (Restaurant, 25% Food) Liquor License, with On-Site Consumption and Retail Sale of Alcohol, for EMPIRE LOUNGE, LLC, 3033 N. STERLING, Contingent Upon the Issuance of all Appropriate Permits and a Certificate of Occupancy, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 1)  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*

**(22-366)** APPROVE the COMMITTEE REPORT (POLICY SESSION) from the OCTOBER 11, 2022, Special City Council Meeting, Regarding the CANNABIS REGULATION AND TAX ACT.

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

Council Member Oyler requested Item Nos. 22-356 and 22-357 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Grayeb requested Item No. 22-355 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Jackson requested Item Nos. 22-361 and 22-365 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Velpula requested Item No. 22-358 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Item Nos. 22-354 through 22-366 (except Item Nos. 22-355 through 22-358, 22-361, and 22-365, 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.

**(22-355)** Communication from the City Manager and the Fire Chief to ACCEPT a GRANT from FEMA for the 2021 STAFFING AND ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT, in the Amount of \$4,091,208.00.  
\*

Council Member Grayeb said this Grant application emerged from efforts to properly fund fire rescue services, noting it was one of the largest grants awarded since 2015 to any municipality. Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger said an effort to identify creative funding solutions resulted in the application to Homeland Security Grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He said increased staffing levels would benefit South Peoria by providing access to a much needed water supply. He said the Grant would provide three years of funding to continue serving the community.

After expressing his appreciation for Staff's efforts on the Grant award, Council Member Grayeb moved to accept a Grant from FEMA for the 2021 Staffing and Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant, in the amount of \$4,091,208.00; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

City Manager Urich said the Grant fully funded the salaries and pension contribution costs for the eleven Firefighters for three years.

Motion to accept a Grant from FEMA for the 2021 Staffing and Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant, in the amount of \$4,091,208.00, was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(22-356) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources with a Request to Authorize the City Manager to EXECUTE the COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT Negotiated Between the City of Peoria and the UNITED ASSOCIATION OF STEAMFITTERS LOCAL UNION 353 from December 1, 2022, through November 30, 2025.**  
\*\*

Council Member Oyler said he would not vote in support of the item, citing his objection to the lack of residency requirements in the Bargaining Agreements.

Council Member Allen moved to authorize the City Manager to execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiated between the City of Peoria and the United Association of Steamfitters Local Union 353 from December 1, 2022, through November 30, 2025; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Oyler – 1.

**(22-357) Communication from the City Manager and City Clerk with a Request to APPROVE an INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT with the TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA for the SHARING OF SERVICES AND STAFF.**  
\*\*\*

A revised Intergovernmental Agreement was distributed to all Council Members.

Council Member Allen moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of the City of Peoria for the sharing of services and staff; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(22-358)** **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for the Following:**  
\*\*\*\*

- A. APPROVE and Authorize the PURCHASE of Design and Specifications for the WELCOME TO PEORA SIGN, in the Amount of \$3,000.00 from IDG ARCHITECTS for the SOUTHERN GATEWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT; and,**
- B. APPROVE a SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENT with ZENDAVOR SIGN AND GRAPHICS INC. for the Installation of the WELCOME TO PEORIA SIGN, in the Amount of \$24,109.14, for the SOUTHERN GATEWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

In response to Council Member Velpula inquiry about the timeline for the project, Public Works Director Rick Powers said it was scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022.

Council Member Velpula moved to approve and authorize the purchase of design and specifications for the Welcome to Peoria sign, in the amount of \$3,000.00 from IDG Architects for the Southern Gateway Improvement Project; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Velpula moved to approve a Sole Source Agreement with Zendavor Sign and Graphics Inc. for the installation of the Welcome to Peoria sign, in the amount of \$24,109.14, for the Southern Gateway Improvement Project, 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.

**(22-361)** **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 an ORDINANCE Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R3 (Single-Family Residential) District, for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL for the Property Located at 2724 W NEWMAN PARKWAY (Parcel Identification No. 14-31-178-002), Peoria, IL. (Council District 1)**  
\*\*\*\*\*

After requesting additional time to garner input and finish conversations with local residents, Council Member Jackson moved to defer this item to the November 8, 2022, City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Motion to defer this item to the November 8, 2022, City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(22-365) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION for a Class B-1 (Restaurant, 25% Food) Liquor License, with On-Site Consumption and Retail Sale of Alcohol, for EMPIRE LOUNGE, LLC, 3033 N. STERLING, Contingent Upon the Issuance of all Appropriate Permits and a Certificate of Occupancy, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 1)**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*

Council Member Jackson said she would not support this Liquor License application, expressing concerns raised from citizens and nearby neighborhood associations and noting there were existing locations in the area that sold liquor.

At the conclusion of her comments, Council Member Jackson moved to deny the Site Application for a Class B-1 Liquor License, with on-site consumption and retail sale of alcohol, for Empire Lounge, LLC, 3033 N. Sterling; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Motion to deny the Site Application was DEFEATED by roll call vote.  
Yeas: Allen, Grayeb, Jensen, Oyler, Riggerbach – 5;  
Nays: Cyr, Jackson, Kelly, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 6.

Council Member Jackson moved to reconsider the Site Application for a Class B-1 Liquor License, with on-site consumption and retail sale of alcohol, for Empire Lounge, LLC, 3033 N. Sterling; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Motion to reconsider the Site Application for a Class B-1 Liquor License, with on-site consumption and retail sale of alcohol, for Empire Lounge, LLC, 3033 N. Sterling was approved by roll call vote.  
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;  
Nays: None.

Council Member Jackson moved to deny the Site Application for a Class B-1 Liquor License, with on-site consumption and retail sale of alcohol, for Empire Lounge, LLC, 3033 N. Sterling; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Approved by roll call vote.  
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel – 8;  
Nays: Kelly, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 3.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**(22-367) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a PRESENTATION from UNITY PLACE.**

The slideshow presentation from Unity Place was distributed to all Council Members.

City Manager Patrick Urich introduced Dr. Keith Knepp, President and CEO of Unity Point Health – Central Illinois, and Mary Thompson, President of Unity Point Health – Unity Place.

Dr. Keith Knepp said he was proud to be in a position to help with the mental health of the community, and he discussed the history of mental health treatment facilities in the Peoria area. He began the presentation by stating UnityPlace was formed in 2019 with a goal to bring together services for a comprehensive approach to mental health, including services targeting

addiction, prevention, and education. He said youth were in crisis, and the existing in-patient resources were not enough to accommodate demand. He said improvements were needed at UnityPlace to increase effectiveness and serviceability of the location.

Mary Thompson discussed the need for greater capacity and an improved environment to provide in-patient and out-patient mental health services to the community, adding it was important to treat children in their local community. She said the facility would attract a workforce of professionals and would act as a national model for mental health. She reviewed the UnityPlace project status noting a projected opening by the end of 2023.

Dr. Knepp described the investment by UnityPoint and the support received for the UnityPlace project. He said UnityPlace would not encompass the entire facility and the additional space would be available for collaborators, social service agencies, or other providers. He requested the Council consider supporting the project with a \$1,000,000.00 contribution in 2023.

Mayor Ali thanked Ms. Thompson and Dr. Knepp for the presentation, noting mental health services in the community have been lacking for many years.

After Council Member Velpula said the project was a great initiative, he asked how the Peoria-area youth treated with mental health services compared to the national average. Dr. Knepp said Peoria was comparable to other urban communities of similar size and density. He discussed factors that contributed to mental health disorder diagnosis in youth. Ms. Thompson discussed how stress and economic factors impacted mental health. In response to Council Member Velpula's inquiry regarding referrals, Ms. Thompson said referrals originated from the families, schools, clinics, crisis lines, hospitals, or the children themselves. She said in-patient youth stayed for 7 to 10 days, based on capacity and need. Council Member Velpula asked how the community could be proactive and know when to reach out for help regarding mental health. Ms. Thompson said communication and education were the key to success, including having a presence in schools, diminishing stigma with regular discussions, and providing services and programs to address mental health needs.

Council Member Ruckriegel discussed the history of Heddington Oaks before it was closed, noting the transition to a youth mental health facility would be a strong community asset. He emphasized the importance of providing services locally and reducing the fear and stigma surrounding mental health. He applauded UnityPoint Health for enhancing mental health services in Peoria, and he asked how the upcoming hospital system transition would impact the project. Dr. Knepp discussed the transition from UnityPoint Health to Carle Health System, noting the local board that governed existing facilities remained intact. He said Carle Health System was committed to supporting investments in healthcare in the community. Council Member Ruckriegel said vast improvements and investments were part of the UnityPlace project and he was looking forward to the impact on the community.

In response to Council Member Cyr's question on whether American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds could be used to support the project, City Manager Urich said funding behavioral health services was an allowable use. Council Member Cyr said there was a large unmet need for mental health services in the community and he thanked them for the UnityPlace project to help address those needs. He discussed the level of need in the community as well as the existing and future capacity for patient admittance. Ms. Thompson said UnityPlace would double capacity with a goal of at least one hundred admissions per month, noting she believed there was demand for that level of capacity in the community. She said any child requiring admission beyond capacity are referred to other facilities across the State, but she explained admittance was a more extreme measure and the goal was to provide out-patient care and other services to



patients sooner in their journey to health in order to potentially abolish the need for hospitalization. Council Member Cyr said he supported the UnityPlace endeavor to address the vital need in the community.

Council Member Allen recognized the leadership of Ms. Thompson and Dr. Knepp for the proactive approach to mental health of the youth in the community. He said it was important to address their needs as early as possible to promote the best outcome. He discussed the importance of having services available locally and of education for families and individuals who provide a support system. He said he supported appropriating funds to the UnityPlace endeavor, and he looked forward to the City Manager presenting proposals for funding at a subsequent meeting.

Council Member Jensen said the Council was nearing the end of 2023 Budget discussions, and she asked if the funding requested for UnityPlace would be equally impactful in multi-year installments. Dr. Knepp provided an overview of the multi-phase process planned to remodel and reconfigure the Heddington Oaks facility into UnityPlace and spaces for additional services, noting the funding would be needed during the entire development process. He said the campaign to raise up to \$15,000,000.00 in funds had begun, with almost \$10,000,000.00 already raised, noting the other half of funding was provided by UnityPoint Health. Council Member Jensen said she supported the UnityPlace initiative and options for the Council to appropriate funding to the endeavor.

Council Member Grayeb said there were City leaders asking for enhanced mental health services in the community for many years, and he asked about the timing of the UnityPlace endeavor. Dr. Knepp said medical professionals had witnessed the need for mental health services grow in the community over the last 30 years, and plans from his predecessors finally resulted in the UnityPlace project. He said mental health services had not been adequately funded which prompted asking for support from multiple entities to complete the project and address the increasing need in the community after the pandemic. Council Member Grayeb said since Zeller Mental Health Center closed, Peoria had been without the mental health services it needed. He said providing services to adolescents was fantastic, and he asked what steps they've taken to coordinate with OSF Saint Francis plans to build an adult Psychiatric Hospital on Route 91 to encompass the entire community in care. Dr. Knepp discussed efforts of the healthcare collaborative to address health equity concerns, including behavioral health, that resulted in many innovative ideas including UnityPlace. He said the goal for UnityPlace after multiple phases of development was to transform it into a hub for not only mental health services, but other social service agencies as well to provide encompassing care for the community. He explained collaborative limitations for services with other healthcare providers according to the Federal Trade Commission. Council Member Grayeb said it was important to have a cohesive mental health care delivery system in Peoria and he reiterated the need for collaborative discussions in the healthcare community to ensure the best care for citizens. He said he was glad UnityPlace was planning to provide enhanced mental health care services for youth in Peoria, noting he wished it had happened sooner.

Council Member Rigenbach said it was important to raise awareness of this project in the community. He said the Council had discussed violence mitigation measures and providing enhanced mental and behavioral health services was in line with those goals. He said he was excited to witness the impact of the project on the community, and he asked about efforts in schools. Ms. Thompson said they had a presence in eight local schools with staff providing group and individual support and services to youth based on identified needs and educating them on available resources. She said in-class instruction was a vital component that normalized mental health discussions. She said as the needs grew, they would continue to

innovate and expand resources as much as possible to impact the greatest number of children. Council Member Riggerbach said normalizing the conversation on mental health was a strong goal, and he asked about the ages for adolescent services at UnityPlace. Ms. Thompson said they treated children from ages 4 through 18, but they were able to be flexible based on need. Council Member Riggerbach said UnityPlace was a worthy project for the Council to support.

After Council Member Jackson asked about the region UnityPlace would provide services to, and Ms. Thompson said they would be in a position to provide services to much of downstate Illinois. Because of the specialized care offered, she said she expected the extension of services would reach beyond the Tri-County area. Dr. Knepp said the goal was to meet the local need then provide excess capacity to those children in need in the region. Council Member Jackson said she was grateful for the continued expansion of mental health services in the community to help the children and families in crisis, noting the Council would provide support in order to localize care for youth in Peoria.

Council Member Kelly said UnityPlace was a step in the right direction, and he asked about the suicide rate in Peoria. Ms. Thompson said she could provide comparison and statistical information to the Council, noting the contemplation and attempts of suicide were increasing in youth in the nation. Council Member Kelly discussed how suicide affected his family, and he said he was encouraged mental health services were expanding in the community.

Mayor Ali asked if the name UnityPlace would change after the transition to Carle Health Systems was completed. Dr. Knepp said that was an ongoing discussion, but the consensus was to keep Place in the name to communicate the integrated structure of services. Mayor Ali asked City Manager Urich to bring back options for the Council to consider for funding the UnityPlace project.

Council Member Grayeb asked City Manager Urich to Report Back regarding financial clarity on the Carle Health Systems transition and how it would affect funding for the project.

Council Member Oyler moved to receive and file a presentation from Unity Place; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

**(22-368) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE the THIRD AMENDMENT to the LEASE AGREEMENT for the ROCK ISLAND DEPOT Located at 212 SW WATER STREET.**

City Manager Urich said the Central Business District TIF was expiring at the end of 2022, and participation of improvements for the City-owned River Station property was an allowable and proficient use of those funds to attract a tenant into the space. He said Staff recommended a \$75,000.00 contribution to the project that would permit a tenant to move into the space by the beginning of 2023, noting the property was in the Second District.

Council Member Grayeb moved to approve the third amendment to the Lease Agreement for the Rock Island Depot located at 212 SW Water Street; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Motion to approve the third amendment to the Lease Agreement for the Rock Island Depot located at 212 SW Water Street was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

- (22-369) Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE a (5) Five-Year AGREEMENT with AXON ENTERPRISES INC. for the Purchase of the OFFICER SAFETY PLAN 7+ (OSP 7+) and FLEET 3 ADVANCED BUNDLE to Include Purchase of 210 Body-Worn Cameras, 210 Tasers, 86 In-Car Cameras, Hardware, Installation, Training, Software and Associated Subscription Costs, in the Amount of \$3,398,734.00.**

The slideshow presentation was distributed to all Council Members.

Police Chief Eric Echevarria said he was excited at having top-of-the-line technology that would put the Peoria Police Department at the forefront of Public Safety technology. He discussed benefits of the equipment and software, including improved productivity, safety, and transparency. He said Technology Administrator Jack Nieu Kirk would present information to the Council and Jeff Matthews from Axon Enterprises would be available to answer questions.

Technology Administrator Nieu Kirk began the presentation with a summary of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the replacement of an interview room, in-car surveillance equipment, and body-worn cameras. He said Axon Enterprises was chosen with a trial of the Axon Cloud Digital Evidence Management System commencing in February 2022. He described the outdated equipment the Police Department currently used and the expiring warranty for the equipment. He discussed local digital storage capacity concerns and costs of alternative solutions compared to the cloud storage solutions. He said with the use of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Grant funding and the 2022 Capital Improvements Program Budget, they were requesting the purchase of the Axon hardware and software system for the Police Department. Technology Administrator Nieu Kirk concluded the presentation by providing details on the agreement, including the participation of Peoria County, and the advantages the new technology would bring to the City.

Discussions were held regarding the cloud storage capacity included in the agreement, the funds utilized from the Police Department Budget for the agreement, and the expiration date of the quote from Axon Enterprises, Inc. The migration of data from existing storage solutions, including data from other entities, and the retirement of the local server were also discussed. Discussions were held concerning training on the new systems and collaboration afforded by the new cloud-based software.

In response to Council Member Jackson regarding transparency, Technology Administrator Nieu Kirk explained how the new technology would permit supervisors to randomly review critical surveillance footage, as well as how it would provide quick and accurate responses to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and improved video redaction capabilities.

Jeff Matthews explained the scheduled cycle of technology that would ensure the Peoria Police Department was able to maintain the latest technology solutions, and he described attributes of the latest equipment like video stabilization and point of view perspective of body-worn cameras, as well as infrared cameras in patrol vehicles for constant monitoring.

Discussions were held regarding the replacement rate of current equipment compared to the 3% return rate of Axon Enterprises equipment and how this agreement would affect the City's

Budget long-term. The cost-savings the agreement would provide by establishing a cloud-based storage solution to replace the on-premises solution as well as warranty coverage and scheduled replacement of equipment was also discussed. City Manager Urich confirmed future Budget projections accounted for the \$500,000.00 cost associated with the agreement.

Continued discussions were held regarding the on-site data storage system capacity limitations, warranty details, and scheduled equipment replacement with the Apex Enterprises agreement. Actual costs of ownership of the hardware without an agreement in place, the man hours required for operations under the current system, and details of what was included in the agreement were also discussed.

Council Member Kelly asked for a Report Back with details on the cost analysis comparing the current hardware, software, and personnel costs to the Apex Enterprises system.

After a brief comment, Council Member Cyr moved to approve a (5) five-year Agreement with Axon Enterprises Inc. for the purchase of the Officer Safety Plan 7+ (OSP 7+) and Fleet 3 Advanced Bundle to include purchase of 210 body-worn cameras, 210 tasers, 86 in-car cameras, hardware, installation, training, software and associated subscription costs, in the amount of \$3,398,734.00; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(22-370)    Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to APPROVE a RESOLUTION Accepting a GRANT from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the FY2022 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE, COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING GRANT (CPF), in the Amount of \$1,000,000.00.**

City Manager Patrick Urich said the Grant funding arrived for the demolition of Harrison School. Community Development Director Joe Dulin thanked Congresswoman Bustos' office and staff for their efforts regarding the Grant funds. He said the funding was specifically for the Harrison School demolition, but the City was also in the process of demolishing McKinley School, noting both properties would be demolished within seven months. He said a Request for Proposal (RFP) would be presented to the Council for consideration at a subsequent meeting for the environmental abatement and demolition of both properties. He thanked all City Staff members for their efforts on the projects, especially considering large commercial buildings were not the standard mission.

After commending the Community Development Department efforts, Council Member Jackson moved to approve a Resolution accepting a Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the FY2022 Economic Development initiative, Community Project Funding Grant (CPF), in the amount of \$1,000,000.00; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Mayor Ali clarified that the \$1,000,000.00 awarded was for the Harrison School demolition, and City Manager Urich said both McKinley and Harrison School demolitions would utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-370 accepting a Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the FY2022 Economic Development initiative, Community Project Funding Grant, in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 was approved by roll call vote.  
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;  
Nays: None.

**(22-371) 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 Amending an Existing SPECIAL USE (Ordinance Nos. 15,584 and 17,271) in a Class C-2 (Large Scale Commercial) District, to Allow an ADULT USE CANNABIS DISPENSARY, for the Property Located at 7628 N ROUTE 91, Which Includes Properties Located at 7618 N ROUTE 91, 7708 N ROUTE 91, 7716 N ROUTE 91, 7806 N ROUTE 91, and 7810 N ROUTE 91, Commonly Known as the PRAIRIE CROSSING SHOPPING CENTER, (Parcel Identification Nos. 13-11-200-013, 13-11-201-002, 13-11-201-003, 13-11-201-005, 13-11-201-006, 13-11-202-001, 13-11-203-002, and 13-11-203-003), Peoria IL. (Council District 4)**

Corporation Counsel Patrick Hayes said when this Special Use was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission, a neighboring business owner initially opposed the application, but the applicant was able to provide a suitable arrangement with the installation of a fence between the properties to alleviate the concerns of the neighboring business owner. He said the owner of another adjacent property had raised concerns that had since been withdrawn with the agreement to install a fence between those properties as well. He described the reputation of the applicant in three communities with facilities identical to what was proposed in the application, noting the landlords of those locations provided affidavits regarding the conduct and history of those establishments. He said Staff recommended approval of the Special Use.

Council Member Allen identified the representatives for the applicant who were presented, and he asked why Special Use applications for Cannabis Businesses were becoming more frequent. Corporation Counsel Hayes said because the State Cannabis License applications were stalled due to pending litigation for over a year, once it was resolved it resulted in a release of a multitude of applications saturating the market at the same time. He said, in addition, Social Equity Legislation was introduced in an attempt to inflect economic opportunities for populations that the criminalization of cannabis had disadvantaged, noting some of the qualifications and limitations varied from traditional licenses. He discussed the existing recreational cannabis facilities in Peoria, and the four Site Approvals approved by the Council or pending the approval process.

Council Member Allen moved to grant privilege of the floor to Chris Oswald of Miller, Hall and Triggs.

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to Chris Oswald.

Attorney Chris Oswald said he represented the petitioner, and he remarked that it was a new time in history with the legalization of cannabis. He said the application before the Council was a Special Use permit. He discussed the alleviation of concerns of neighboring business owners, the surrounding landscape, and the appropriateness of the site for a cannabis dispensary.

Council Member Allen moved to grant privilege of the floor to Jennifer Dewey, VP of Security.

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to Jennifer Dewey.

Jennifer Dewey said while a cannabis dispensary was required to adhere to the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation (IDFPR) rules for security, all locations managed by Northern Cardinal Ventures, LLC, operated surpassing requirements. She discussed security measures implemented at the cannabis dispensaries, the close relationship with local law enforcement, and her history in law enforcement and the cannabis industry.

Council Member Allen said he believed any concerns for the location had been addressed and if the application was approved, he said he looked forward to collaborating with the business owners. He said one of the reasons he was supportive of this Special Use application was his continued view that applications in the queue before the Policy Session held on October 11, 2022, on the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, should be allowed to follow the rules in place at the time they applied. He said it was important for the Council to identify a strategy regarding the future of recreational cannabis in Peoria, but he asked Council Members to consider the current application was submitted under the existing process.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Allen moved to adopt an Ordinance amending an existing Special Use (Ordinance Nos. 15,584 and 17,271) in a Class C-2 (Large Scale Commercial) District, to allow an Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary, for the property located at 7628 N Route 91, which includes properties located at 7618 N Route 91, 7708 N Route 91, 7716 N Route 91, 7806 N Route 91, and 7810 N Route 91, commonly known as Prairie Crossing Shopping Center; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Council Member Velpula said earlier that evening the Council heard from local medical professionals working to address mental health concerns in the community. He asked how many recreational cannabis sites existed, and how many were in the application process. City Manager Urich said there were two existing recreational cannabis dispensaries in Peoria operated by the same company, there were three Special Use applications approved by the Council that had not applied for a business license, and this Special Use application would be the fourth, if approved. Council Member Velpula discussed funding opportunities the Council considered in betterment of the community, as well as scientific considerations of the exposure of cannabis to vulnerable youth. He said he was strongly against any situation that created crime in the community, and he could not support this Site Approval application.

Council Member Jensen expressed concern for considering the Site Approval application when the Council was considering amendments to the City Cannabis regulations, noting two public meetings were scheduled the following week to obtain citizen input. She said when the regulations were adopted the situation was very different and she did not want to oversaturate the City with cannabis dispensaries. She said she was not opposed to the location, but she could not support the Site Application that evening. She said she would support a deferral or a moratorium because the Council had not reached a decision on further limitations.

Council Member Cyr said he supported medical, not recreational, cannabis, and he said he believed a cap should be considered on the number of dispensaries in Peoria. He said another Policy Session was forthcoming and he preferred to address this item afterwards.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Cyr moved to defer the item to the November 22, 2022, City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Council Member Oyler said he did not want to change the rules for applicants already in the process, but he was disinclined to approve any new applications until after the Policy Session.

Council Member Grayeb said he believed the City was already oversaturated with cannabis dispensaries. He discussed the difficulties with obtaining Special Use approval for other industries such as alcohol. He said he would support the deferral on this item, and he suggested the Council establish a moratorium on cannabis dispensaries.

Council Member Riggerbach said he was looking forward to the upcoming Policy Session regarding Cannabis Businesses in Peoria, but he said it was unfair to hold an applicant currently going through the process to a standard that was yet to be determined. He said he would not support the deferral because the Council had not approved any shifts in Policy yet.

Council Member Kelly said he was not in favor of permitting recreational cannabis dispensaries in Peoria. However, he said it was important to follow the rules that were established for cannabis dispensaries. He said he did not know how he could oppose an application that followed the rules the Council set, and he hoped a favorable determination could be made at a Policy Session. He said he supported the deferral of the item.

Council Member Ruckriegel said he would traditionally support a deferral on an item in order to obtain additional information. He said he did not like changing the rules after applications were received, but he said there were times when that was necessary. He said the Council had discussed considering the applications already submitted when regulation amendments were proposed. Because of this, he said he would not support the motion to defer the item.

Council Member Allen said he stated months ago the Council needed a strategy regarding Special Use Licenses for Recreational Cannabis in order to avoid this situation and delay a business following the application process as currently written. He said the Council should be proactive instead of reactive and he said it was important to be consistent. He said he would not support the motion to defer because he believed the Council should approve this Special Use before continuing discussions on the future of recreational cannabis in Peoria.

Council Member Grayeb said after the last Special Use for a cannabis dispensary was approved, he said he would not approve any more. He said the Policy Session was a necessary step before considering any additional approvals. He said he supported the deferral of the item.

Council Member Cyr moved to call the question on the motion to defer the item for 30 days.

Motion to defer the item to the November 22, 2022, City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Velpula – 6;

Nays: Allen, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali – 5.

**(22-372) Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request for the Following:**

- A. APPROVE and ACCEPT the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY PROVISION OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC FROM NAMED LINE GRF-SOURCE from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO), to be Submitted by October 28, 2022, in the Amount of \$3,000,000.00; and,**
- B. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2022-2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET Relating to the General Fund to Recognize the Receipt of a GRANT from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Providing the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Provision of Services to the Public from Named Line GRF-Source, from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO), in the Amount of \$3,000,000.00; and,**
- C. APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the City Manager to Execute an INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT, between the City of Peoria and PEORIA COUNTY, under the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Provision of Services to the Public from Named Line GRF-Source, in the Amount of \$434,877.54.**

City Manager Patrick Urich said the Grant would fund additional license plate reader camera technology, body-worn cameras, in-car video cameras, workforce development and job training initiatives, raising community awareness of public safety efforts, and additional community violence prevention grants.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve and accept the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity provision of services to the public from named line GRF-Source from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO), to be submitted by October 28, 2022, in the amount of \$3,000,000.00; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Jensen moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget relating to the General Fund to recognize the receipt of a Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance providing the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity provision of services to the public from named line GRF-source, from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO), in the amount of \$3,000,000.00; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,011 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.



Council Member Jensen moved to approve and authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement, between the City of Peoria and PEORIA COUNTY, under the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity provision of services to the public from named line GRF-source, in the amount of \$434,877.54; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

**(22-293) Communication from the City Manager and the Corporation Counsel with a Request to DEFER Until NOVEMBER 22, 2022, an ORDINANCE Amending ARTICLE 19 (Operation of a Cannabis Business) of CHAPTER 18 (Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations) of the CODE of the City of Peoria.**

After City Manager Urich said Staff was requesting a deferral of the item until after the Public Meetings and Policy Session regarding cannabis businesses, Council Member Oyler moved to defer until November 22, 2022, an Ordinance amending Article 19 (Operation of a Cannabis Business) of Chapter 18 (Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations) of the Code of the City of Peoria; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

In response to Council Member Jensen regarding the timeframe, City Manager Urich said Staff would have enough time to bring recommendations back to the Council including input from the Policy Session and Public Meetings.

Motion to defer this item to the November 22, 2022, City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(22-331) Communication from the City Manager and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer with a Request to WITHDRAW an ORDINANCE Regarding the RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (REIA).**

City Manager Urich said Staff requested the item be withdrawn, and he noted additional information was included in the communication packet with examples from other municipalities. He said Staff needed time to identify a strategy to present to the Council at a later date that would include training for Staff and other resources. He said the co-chairs of the Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity agreed more time was needed to strategize and provide a greater understanding of the proposal.

Council Member Jensen moved to withdraw an Ordinance regarding the Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA); seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Council Member Allen said he would abstain from voting on the item due to a conflict of interest with his employment at Peoria County.

Motion to withdraw the ORDINANCE Regarding the RACIAL EQUITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (REIA) was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Abstention: Allen – 1.

**(22-348)      Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to Hold a DISCUSSION on the 2023 REVISED BUDGET.**

City Manager Urich, Finance Director Cratty, and Public Works Directors Powers reviewed the thirteen responses to Council inquiries at the October 18, 2022, Special City Council Meeting, in “2023 Budget Report Back 1” that was included in the communication packet.

Referencing the first Report Back, Council Member Jensen said she did not recall the Council approving the creation of the Equal Opportunity Office (EOO). She said a position was created for the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer but she did not know the extent of the duties assigned to that role. City Manager Urich said when the EOO was established in 2011, there was a Director and two Management Analyst positions in the department. He explained the progress and changes to the department and the role of the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer as a Department Head level position, noting the Budget identified the EOO department as well. Council Member Jensen said she did not realize the scope of EOO and changes of the department were not communicated to the Council. City Manager Urich described the tasks assigned to the EOO and the obligational requirements they satisfied for the City. He said some of the duties regarding compliance could be reassigned to the Legal Department, focusing the Chief Diversity Inclusion Officer’s tasks on the needs of the organization for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts throughout the community. Council Member Jensen asked why the Peoria Corps Budget, overseen by the EOO, was zero. City Manager Urich said it was listed as zero in the Budget because the program was funded through the Stormwater Utility Fund.

Council Member Jensen said she wanted funding allocated to repair sidewalks in the older neighborhoods in addition to the grant funding application for sidewalk repairs in 61605. She said Infrastructure funding was available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and she requested a specific plan to address the sidewalks in greatest disrepair. Director Powers said the Public Works Department was taking a city-wide approach to sidewalk repairs to condense the geography and maximize results. City Manager Urich said if the grant for sidewalk repairs in 61605 was awarded, funding would be allocated to address sidewalks elsewhere in the City. Council Member Jensen said sidewalks in the older neighborhoods, like in the Second District, were in disrepair for a long time and she did not want it delayed further.

Council Member Grayeb said he was surprised the City Sidewalk Participation program policy had changed. City Manager Urich and Director Powers described the challenges with the program that resulted in identifying alternative solutions. Council Member Grayeb said it was important to communicate changes to programs offered by the City to the Council and citizens. He discussed the ornamental lighting program neighborhood association participation details, and he reiterated the importance of communication regarding City programs and services.

Continued discussions were held regarding sidewalk repairs and improvement projects, as well as the value infrastructure improvements brought to neighborhoods. The Federal Infrastructure Bill was also discussed.

Council Member Jackson discussed the frustration with the lack of adequate and operational lighting in the First District as well as deteriorating infrastructure. She discussed the requisition of funds for sidewalks in the 61605 zip code and she said City funds should not be diverted to other parts of the City when South Peoria was in need of improvements.

Discussions were held regarding bond rating agencies, how often ratings occurred, and the current bond rating for Peoria. Council Member Cyr said he would like the City to address the negative balance in the Garbage Fund to ensure the City obtained the highest rating possible in order to secure the lowest interest rate.

Council Member Allen discussed how the role of the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer evolved since 2018 and how the additional responsibilities required an allocation of additional resources to demonstrate the City's commitment to the work. He said he believed adding a position to the department was necessary to provide stability for the office and their mission.

Council Member Oyler said for many years Council Members have had to tell citizens there was no funding for sidewalk repairs in their neighborhoods, and he said while he understood the needs were great in the First District, they also received a large amount of funding every year due to the significant need. He said he did not support the expansion of the EOO as proposed in the 2023 Budget because the Council never discussed the development of the department or the growing needs and responsibilities that would require additional staff.

Council Member Kelly asked for parking decks to be included in the parking analysis in addition to street parking. Council Member Riggerbach said free on-street parking in downtown Peoria was an intriguing idea, and he said it was important to explore technology to monitor and regulate time limits for parking.

Council Member Riggerbach said Fulton Plaza was a gateway from the riverfront to destinations like the Civic Center, City Hall, and other downtown attractions, but it was in need of repair. He asked for a funding allocation to address the deterioration and encourage foot traffic.

Council Member Velpula asked for a status update on the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (GPEDC) report that he requested at the October 18, 2022, Special City Council Meeting. City Manager Urich said he would Report Back with more information.

Council Member Jensen said she wanted to clarify she did not request removing funding from the First District, but she said she did ask for funding allocations for sidewalk repairs in the older neighborhoods. She said she was also interested in exploring free on-street parking options with exclusion of parking decks in the downtown area.

Council Member Grayeb said it was important to consider the entire City of Peoria in Budget discussions. He said the responsibility to address street and alley lighting outages in the City were largely the responsibility of Ameren, and he explained how the outages could be reported to the Public Works Department. He said he continued to advocate that having Staff committed to diversity was sufficient and a separate department was unnecessary to achieve those goals.

Mayor Ali said it was important to have a champion with the expertise and extensive training to help the Departments understand how to grow in diversity. She said it was an area of need and as leaders the Council should strive to expand understanding of this sensitive issue.

After Council Member Oyler asked about the two-way conversion of Adams and Jefferson Street that included remediations to Fulton Plaza, City Manager Ulrich said the project was listed in the Budget on page 66 as future expenses because the full funding amount had not been raised to begin the project. He said he would explore options, including TIF District funds and grant opportunities to accelerate the project timeline.

Council Member Jensen asked for a Report Back detailing the Transportation Commission recommendations regarding infrastructure funding projects.

Council Member Allen moved to receive and file a discussion on the 2023 Revised Budget; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Public Hearings on Cannabis**

Strategic Communications Manager Stacy Peterson said at the October 11, 2022, Policy Session, the Council requested Public Meetings be scheduled to solicit input from citizens regarding the City of Peoria cannabis business regulations. She said the first meeting was on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 6:00 P.M., at City Hall, Council Chambers, with the recording posted on the City of Peoria YouTube channel. She said the second meeting was to be held virtually on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 12:00 P.M. via Zoom, noting the link was available on the City of Peoria website or citizens should email [speterson@peoriagov.org](mailto:speterson@peoriagov.org). She said a short survey would be available to obtain citizen input as well.

#### **Cannabis Business Moratorium**

Council Member Riggerbach asked the City Manager to bring back a Cannabis Business moratorium to the next regular City Council Meeting, with the exception of the one pending Special Use application that was deferred earlier that evening.

#### **City Hall-o-ween**

Council Member Ruckriegel invited the public to attend the City Hall-o-ween event from 3:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 28, 2022, to trick-or-treat throughout City Hall. He said the Police Department trick-or-treat event was from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. the same night.

#### **YANI Collective Art Affair**

Council Member Allen congratulated the YANI Collective for another successful Too Sophisticated Too Ratchet Art Affair event. He said it was a great celebration of art fashion complete with local vendors and visitors traveling in from around the region. He said Peoria was becoming a hub for art and culture, opening the door to economic opportunities.

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

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

John Sims, owner of Empire Lounge, said he had attempted to contact Council Member Jackson regarding the pending Site Approval as a part of the liquor license application process,

but when there was no response, he believed everything was fine. He said the application might not reflect the correct food sales percentage into the restaurant and lounge setting he planned. He said he wanted to understand what the concerns were with his application. Mayor Ali said Mr. Sims could follow up with Council Member Jackson after the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

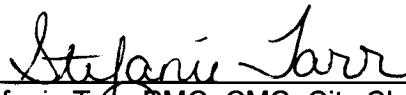
Council Member Oyler moved to adjourn the October 25, 2022, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Regular Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 P.M.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stefanie Tarr, BMC, CMC, City Clerk  
City of Peoria, Illinois

cc