



: 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 November 9, 2021, 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.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

[The Community Festival of Nativities](#)
[Richwoods High School](#) International Baccalaureate Program
[The Peoria Symphony Orchestra](#) – 11/20 Musical Tribute to Betty Friedon
[Community Foundation Week 11/12-11/18](#)

MINUTES

Council Member Oyler moved to approve the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting held on October 19, 2021, and the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on October 26, 2021, as printed; 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.

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

(21-338) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the OCTOBER 2021 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the NOVEMBER 2021 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the October 2021 Actual Expenditures and to approve the November 2021 Anticipated Expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Motion to approve the October 2021 Actual Expenditures and to approve the November 2021 Anticipated Expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria was 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:

- (21-339) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**
- (21-340) * Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to APPROVE the Funding Recommendations from the CDBG Public Services Advisory Commission for the 2022 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICES FUNDING, in the Amount of \$278,100.00.**
- (21-341) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to APPROVE the Funding Recommendations from the Home for All Continuum of Care for the 2022-2023 EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG).**
- (21-342) ** Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a RESOLUTION to Accept a GRANT from the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) for the HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HSIP), through the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, for Guardrail Replacement, in the Amount of \$129,992.13, with the City's Estimated Minimum Local Agency Funding Match in the Amount of \$12,999.21. (Council Districts 1, 2, 4 & 5)**
- (21-343) Communication from the City Manager, Finance Director, and Economic Development Department with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,902 Amending the City of Peoria 2021 REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET in the Amount of \$100,000.00, to Provide Required Maintenance, Remediation, Repairs, and Renovations at 418 SW WATER STREET.**
- (21-344) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,903 Levying a SPECIAL SERVICE AREA REAL ESTATE TAX, in the Amount of \$148,060.00, Against Specified Parcels (Exhibit A), for Tax Year 2021, for the KNOXVILLE JUNCTION SPECIAL SERVICE AREA.**
- (21-345) Communication from the Peoria Firemen's Pension Fund Board of Trustees Recommending a 2022 TAX LEVY, in the Amount of \$14,234,520.00 with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE.**
- (21-346) Communication from the Peoria Firemen's Pension Fund Board of Trustees Regarding the MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE REPORT, with Request to RECEIVE and FILE.**

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

Council Member Riggerbach requested Item No. 21-342 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Jensen requested Item No. 21-340 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Item Nos. 21-339 through 21-346 (except Item Nos. 21-340 and 21-342, 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.

**(21-340) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community
* Development with a Request to APPROVE the Funding Recommendations
 from the CDBG Public Services Advisory Commission for the 2022
 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICES
 FUNDING, in the Amount of \$278,100.00.**

After outlining recommended funding priorities she had endorsed, Council Member Jensen asked if additional funding could be diverted to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services Funding if resources became available. City Manager Patrick Ulrich said additional funding would first be considered by the CDBG Public Services Advisory Commission to determine allocation recommendations, and Community Development Director Joe Dulin said those recommendations and a budget amendment would then be brought before the City Council for approval. Council Member Jensen related the benefits to the community and citizens of the CDBG Public Services Program.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve the funding recommendations from the CDBG Public Services Advisory Commission for the 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services Funding, in the amount of \$278,100.00; 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.

**(21-342) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a
** Request to APPROVE a RESOLUTION to Accept a GRANT from the
 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) for the HIGHWAY
 SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HSIP), through the Tri-County
 Regional Planning Commission, for Guardrail Replacement, in the Amount
 of \$129,992.13, with the City's Estimated Minimum Local Agency Funding
 Match in the Amount of \$12,999.21. (Council Districts 1, 2, 4 & 5)**

In response to Council Member Riggerbach, Public Works Director Rick Powers described the assessment and conditions for guardrails to meet requirements of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), noting none of the qualified guardrails were in the Third District.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve a Resolution to accept a Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), through the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, for guardrail replacement, in the amount of \$129,992.21; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-342 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

FIRST READINGS:

(21-347) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a FIRST READING of an ORDINANCE Amending the RESTAURANT LICENSE REQUIREMENTS in CHAPTER 27 of the CODE of the City of Peoria.

Community Development Director Joe Dulin credited Council Member Cyr's efforts to update and ease processes related to Business Licenses in the Code of the City of Peoria, and he outlined the First Reading of the Ordinance. He said restaurant licenses were a duplication of efforts between the City and the County Health Department, and he noted the Ordinance would eliminate the fee for business owners while the City would continue to receive updated information vital for business. He said payment of the fee had not been enforced or collected in recent years, stating it was originally implemented to ensure taxes were remitted correctly. He further noted the penalty fees for late payment of Restaurant/Amusement Taxes were increased in the proposed Ordinance to promote equality for all businesses. Council Member Cyr thanked Director Dulin and Staff for their work updating the Code regarding licensing, and said it was a progress toward making Peoria more business friendly.

Council Member Cyr moved to receive and file an Ordinance amending the Restaurant License requirements in Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Peoria; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Discussions were held regarding the penalty fee increase and how it compared to other penalties imposed by the City. City Manager Patrick Urich said he would provide a Report Back with comparisons to the Council. Council Member Jensen asked why language regarding the payment of Restaurant/Amusement Taxes was not included in the Ordinance and Interim Corporation Council Chrissie Kapustka said it was in a different section of the Code, but the language could be included when the Ordinance comes back to the Council for adoption. Discussions were held regarding the oversight of safety regulations and the responsibilities of the Peoria County Health Department regarding restaurants, and it was reported the Health Department would continue to regulate the restaurant industry.

Motion to receive and file an Ordinance amending the Restaurant License requirements in Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Peoria was 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. 21-347 will be placed on the November 23, 2021, Regular City Council Agenda

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(21-348) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 13 of the CODE of the City of Peoria, Pertaining to STORMWATER UTILITY.

City Manager Patrick Urich explained the recommendation from Staff to freeze the Stormwater Utility Fee rate through 2022 due to revenues providing sufficient funds for current operations. He said the fee would increase in 2023 with the rate of inflation growth.

Council Member Kelly moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Code of the City of Peoria, pertaining to Stormwater Utility; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,904 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(21-349) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Extending ARTICLE XVIII, of ARTICLE 18 (Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations) of the CODE of the City of Peoria, Pertaining to the PUBLIC SAFETY PENSION FEE.

City Manager Patrick Urich said Staff recommended continuing the Public Safety Pension Fee to contribute revenue to the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget. He said Police and Fire Pension Funds continued to impose fiscal pressure in making additional contributions, and if the Ordinance was adopted it would eliminate the sunset clause, freezing the fee rate and structure until the Council took further action. He said adoption required a 2/3 majority vote, or 8 Yea votes.

Council Member Ruckriegel discussed the origins of the Public Safety Pension Fee and how citizens wanted the elimination of added fees, with a focus on addressing all City obligations in the traditional budget process.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Ruckriegel moved to DENY an Ordinance extending Article XVIII, of Article 18 (Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations) of the Code of the City of Peoria, pertaining to the Public Safety Pension Fee; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Council Member Jensen said she was opposed to the implementation of the Public Safety Pension Fee in 2018 in favor of alternative solutions, and she said she would support the motion to the deny the Ordinance to allow the fee to sunset at the end of 2021.

Council Member Riggerbach said in 2018 he had proposed forming an ad hoc committee to discuss the City's pension obligations and how to best address them, suggesting the Council reconsider that option now. He said working with Legislators in Springfield to alleviate overwhelming pension burdens on municipalities was prudent. He said he appreciated Council Member Ruckriegel's motion to deny the Ordinance extending the Public Safety Pension Fee.

Discussions were held regarding potential effects of denying the Ordinance, the City's funding deadline and obligations to the pension funds, and alternative funding possibilities. Council Member Grayeb asked the Council to consider the consequences of denying the extension of the fee, such as impacts to staffing or budget cuts to City public safety services. City Manager Urich provided an option for a temporary solution that would be provided to the Council for consideration during the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget discussions, if the fee extension was denied. Council Member Grayeb said he would not support the motion to deny the Ordinance, and he asked the Council to consider what was best for the City.

Council Member Oyler said he also opposed the creation of the Public Safety Pension Fee in 2018 and he said he continued to support reducing fees for citizens. He said he supported the motion to deny the extension of the fee and said a long-term solution to the City's obligations to the pension funds was what was needed.

Council Member Jackson asked how the public safety new hires would be affected if the fee extension was denied. City Manager Urich said he would provide a Report Back to show how the denial would affect the proposed Budget. He reviewed three options outlined in the 2022-2023 Budget Discussions to temporarily address the City's pension fund obligations. Council Member Cyr said he believed there were other options to consider, and he discussed controlling the City's expenses.

Discussions were held regarding bonds, pension fee obligations, and investments. Continued discussions were held concerning public safety staffing levels, other options to address the City's pension fund obligations, and the pursuit of options with Springfield legislators.

Council Member Ruckriegel remarked on the need to face the public safety pension issue, stating Springfield had made a lot of those decisions. He said it was disingenuous to say if the Council did not support the proposal, then the Council did not support public safety. He said the citizens of Peoria did not want extra fines, fees and taxes, noting the item presented was not the only alternative. He remarked on the drafting of the proposed budget, stating what was agreed to at previous strategic planning sessions.

Mayor Ali commented on the need to be more entrepreneurial, creative, and to push the amortization out for another 20 years. She commented that the name of the fee was flawed from the beginning.

Council Member Kelly expressed a concern for the public safety pensions, stating the Council needed to start doing things differently. He said the Council continued to do address the matter in ways that did not work.

Motion to DENY an Ordinance extending Article XVIII, of Article 18 (Licenses and Miscellaneous Business Regulations) of the Code of the City of Peoria, pertaining to the Public Safety Pension Fee was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali - 9;
Nays: Grayeb, Jackson - 2.

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

(21-317) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the 2022 2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET.

The following handouts were distributed to all Council Members:

- 2022-2023 Budget Report Back 4
- 2022-2023 Budget Report Back 5
- 2022-2023 Budget Motions with Total
- S&P Rating Report – Peoria, Illinois
- S&P - Local Governments General Obligation Ratings: Methodology and Assumptions

City Manager Ulrich reviewed the handouts, including Report Back responses, proposed budget motions, and the S&P credit rating history with the contributing factors to the results.

In response to Council Member Kelly, Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said the motion to receive and file the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget could occur prior to or after a budget discussion, citing historical records that showed both cases during previous budget discussions. She noted the motion was not a final action on the item.

Council Member Kelly moved to receive and file the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Discussions were held regarding the General Fund, including growth in 2021 and potential uses, revenue sources for proposed capital projects, and potential ways to balance the budget after the denial of the Public Safety Pension Fee extension.

Council Member Riggerbach requested a Report Back for detailed information on proposed staff increases, including the associated duties and costs. He stressed the importance of a balanced budget while addressing the needs of the community. He remarked on the options provided by the City Manager stating the option of cutting expenses by a certain dollar amount over two years were of interest. He also requested a Report Back detailing overtime budgets and details, along with year-to-date expense reports for all departments, especially the Fire Department. He asked for expense reports to be provided to the Council on a monthly basis.

Council Member Jensen summarized the American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Funds the City received and improved revenue streams through State allocations. She said she supported the option suggesting the lowering the pension contributions and set aside \$1.93 million of 2021 excess revenues to cover pension obligations in 2022 and 2023.

Council Member Jensen moved to amend the Proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget to reduce Police and Fire Pension contributions and set aside \$1,930,309.00 of the 2021 fund balance to fund Pension obligations in 2022 and 2023; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Council Member Kelly said Council should wait until the requested Report Backs were provided before voting on this matter. He said he would not support the motion presented.

Council Member Riggerbach remarked on the Council needing to be wise financial stewards. He commented on the City's current bond rating and the rating it needed to have. He remarked how these decisions impacted interest rates. He said he was not prepared to vote on current motion without additional information.

Council Member Allen asked if the motion would affect public safety staffing levels. In response, City Manager Ulrich said would not adjust any positions in public safety.

Council Member Ruckriegel said he would not support the motion without additional information.

He remarked on the need to be committed to the City's bond rating and the pension liability and to address those issues. He said the City's bond ratings in the out years would be affected by the decisions made by the Council. He said without more information on how it would affect the budget, he said he could not support the motion on the floor.

Council Member Grayeb said the safety of the community was a priority and previously the Council had voted to cut public safety budgets to the detriment of the City. He discussed federal relief opportunities and how to use it in betterment of the community. He said he supported the motion, and he said he believed the Council could not rely on Springfield to resolve issues with Pension Fund obligations. He urged the Council to resolve a payment strategy.

Council Member Oyler suggested investigating City assets to determine how repairs and replacement of equipment could reduce costs as an alternative to decreasing staffing levels. He agreed that a permanent solution should be a priority; however, he said he would not support the motion.

Council Member Jensen urged the Council to support the motion, noting it was a temporary solution that allowed more time to achieve a long-term strategy.

Council Member Allen remarked on the difficult issues facing the City Council, but said the current motion was the best decision at this time. He said the public safety pension fee was eliminated, noting that most of community did not want to pay said fee anymore.

Continued discussions were held on Pension Fund contribution concerns, prospective State and Federal Funding assistance, and obtaining Report Back responses before voting on the motion.

Council Member Riggenbach asked the Council to consider repercussions of two years of decreased pension fund contributions to the City's long-term liabilities, and he asked the Council to deny the motion to allow information requested in Report Backs to contribute to deliberations.

Council Member Jensen moved to call the question.

Mayor Ali said the Illinois Pension system was flawed throughout the State. She said under the current structure, the City would not be able to keep up with pension costs. She stated the need for Springfield Legislators to address concerns and noted the suggestion to reduce the proposed contributions in 2022 and 2023 would allow for more time to negotiate.

Motion to amend the Proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget to reduce Police and Fire Pension contributions and set aside \$1,930,309.00 of the 2021 fund balance to fund Pension obligations in 2022 and 2023 FAILED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Mayor Ali – 5;

Nays: Cyr, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel – 5;

Abstention: Velpula – 1.

Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka asked Council Member Velpula to explain his abstention vote for the record. Council Member Velpula said he did not have enough information to make an informed decision regarding the motion, and said he believed more research was needed to facilitate a constructive discussion and resolution. He remarked that he just received the additional information moments prior to the meeting.

Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said because the motion was not a final action the abstention could stand, despite the untraditional reason, but noted it would be counted as a

negative vote. Continued discussions were held regarding Council Rules on abstention votes and if a deferral motion or a motion to reconsider the item was appropriate.

After an inquiry regarding a motion to reconsider, Council Member Allen moved to reconsider the motion to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget to reduce Police and Fire Pension contributions and set aside \$1,930,309.00 of the 2021 fund balance to fund Pension obligations in 2022 and 2023; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

After Council Member Oyler asked for clarification on the motion, Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said because it was not a final decision, and recommendations leading into a proposed budget had been allowed in the past, a request to bring back the motion was appropriate.

Further discussions were held on abstention vote rules and whether the motion could be presented at the next Council Meeting without a motion to reconsider. Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka explained the motion was only intended to direct Staff and could be brought back to a subsequent meeting without a vote to reconsider.

Hearing no objection, Council Member Allen's motion to reconsider the motion to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial budget to reduce Police and Fire Pension contributions and set aside \$1,930,309.00 of the 2021 fund balance to fund Pension obligations in 2022 and 2023 was withdrawn.

Council Member Oyler moved to amend the Proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget for an additional \$345,750.00 for a police multipurpose response and rescue vehicle, paid with an increase in Bond proceeds of \$195,750.00, asset forfeiture revenues of \$110,000.00, and a reduction of the Police Technology Project by \$40,000.00; 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.

Council Member Kelly moved to amend the Proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget for an additional \$15,000.00 donation from PMP Fermentation and the corresponding expense for the purchase of hazmat equipment and gear; 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.

Council Member Jackson moved to amend the Proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget to remove the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant from the General Fund and budget the \$250,000.00 grant in the Capital Fund, reduce \$50,000.00 of staffing expenses for the Mayor's Youth Group from the General Fund, and increase the Smart Street Light Pilot project by \$250,000.00; 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.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to amend the Proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget for an additional \$238,000.00 for completion of the Rock Island Trail from Park to Harvard; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

In response to Council Member Ruckriegel, City Manager Ulrich said local Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds would be used to complete the project.

Motion to amend the Proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget for an additional \$238,000.00 for completion of the Rock Island Trail from Park to Harvard was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Oyler moved to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget to set aside \$250,000.00 per year, in 2022 and 2023 respectively, into restricted funds to be available should the Council decide to pursue due diligence of the waterworks; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Council Member Oyler said the intention was to set aside funds, making them available to the Council should they decide to pursue due diligence regarding evaluating the waterworks, which would require additional action by the Council.

Discussions were held regarding the time to consider the option of purchasing the waterworks. City Manager Ulrich said he would provide a Report Back to the Council, noting due diligence occurred every five years. He explained conditions when a 2/3 majority vote would be required to appropriate those funds that were set aside in the future. He said the motion on the floor would reserve the funds, but they could not be spent until they were appropriated by the Council's approval.

Council Member Ruckriegel stated the importance of clarity on funding sources for citizens regarding the waterworks. Continued discussions were held on the conditions of the motion and the timeframe for the Council to consider purchasing the waterworks. Council Members Ruckriegel and Riggerbach said they supported the motion.

In response to Council Member Allen's inquiry regarding the cost of due diligence of the waterworks, City Manager Ulrich estimated \$500,000.00 or more dependent on the scope, process, and other factors involved.

Council Member Oyler said the motion was not advocating the decision to pursue due diligence of the waterworks, but it would reserve funds to avoid reliance on an outside subsidy.

Council Members Allen and Jensen and Mayor Ali expressed concern about the perception of the motion and the short time to consider it.

Motion to amend the proposed City of Peoria 2022-2023 Biennial Budget to set aside \$250,000.00 per year, in 2022 and 2023 respectively, into restricted funds to be available should the Council decide to pursue due diligence of the waterworks was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Cyr, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula – 6;

Nays: Allen, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Mayor Ali – 5.

Discussions were held regarding a proposed Federal Infrastructure Plan and how funding could be applied for or received by the City. City Manager Urich said they were communicating with the Legislative Delegation who would provide information regarding the roll-out of funding to municipalities. He said there would be a focus first on scheduled capital projects which would free up funds for reappropriation. He said the next projects to consider were ones waiting on funding to become available and said more information would be distributed to the Council.

Council Member Cyr moved to call the question to receive and file the 2022-2023 proposed Biennial Budget.

Motion to receive and file 2022-2023 Biennial Budget was approved by roll call vote:

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

Nays: Riggerbach – 1.

(21-327) 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 APPROVE a RESOLUTION Approving an ANNEXATION AGREEMENT, for Property Identified as Parcel Identification Number 09-19-100-00, with a temporary Address of 12426 N CLINE ROAD, Located West of ALLEN ROAD, East of CLINE ROAD, South of CEDAR HILLS ROAD, and North of Property Identified as Parcel Identification Number 09-19-100-002, Dunlap, IL.

City Manager Patrick Urich described the location of the property, how the requestor wanted to divide the property into three lots, and the conditions of the proposed Agreement. He said it was in the City's purview because it was within a mile and a half of the City limits.

Council Member Cyr moved to approve a Resolution approving an Annexation Agreement, for property identified as Parcel Identification Number 09-19-100-00, with a temporary address of 12426 N. Cline Road, located west of Allen Road, east of Cline Road, south of Cedar Hills Road, and north of property identified as Parcel Identification Number 09-19-100-002, Dunlap, IL; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Discussions were held regarding cost responsibility of sewer and water hook-ups on parcels within the City limits, and how growth cell strategies related to the recommended approval of annexation agreements.

Council Member Kelly said he did not support the item and said he wanted to avoid an increase in streets for which the City of Peoria was responsible. Council Member Grayeb said there was a history of annexed properties being financially beneficial and he believed it was good for District 5 to continue to grow. He said he supported the approval of the Annexation Agreement.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-327 approving an Annexation Agreement, for property identified as Parcel Identification Number 09-19-100-00, with a temporary address of 12426 N Cline Road, located west of Allen Road, east of Cline Road, south of Cedar Hills Road, and north of property identified as Parcel Identification Number 09-19-100-002, Dunlap, IL was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,
Mayor Ali - 10;

Nays: Kelly – 1.

NEW BUSINESS

Citylink

Council Member Jensen said on Veteran's Day, Thursday, November 11, 2021, Citylink would offer free rides to all veterans. She invited citizens to respond to a survey hosted by Citylink regarding Federal Funding project priorities.

Corporation Counsel - Vacant Position

Council Member Oyler asked for an update at the next Council Meeting regarding the vacant position of Corporation Counsel, noting it had been vacant for almost two years.

Finance Department Audit & Staffing

Council Member Cyr asked the City Manager about the audit process in relation to the loss of experienced Staff in the Finance Department in the past year. City Manager Ulrich described the hiring and training process of newly hired Staff and said Finance Director Kyle Cratty could provide more information to the Council regarding internal controls to address audit concerns.

Support for Council Member Cyr

Council Member Cyr expressed his appreciation of the support citizens, colleagues, and leaders in the community provided him during his time of need and thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

Increase in Gun Violence

Council Member Allen said he perceived Peoria to be in turmoil, citing increased homicides and gun violence involving youth and adults. He said community-supported solutions were needed to address the increase in violence and he said he supported efforts of the Police Department to confront issues. He asked citizens to recommend solutions to the Council.

Council Member Ruckriegel thanked Council Member Allen for addressing the issues, and he asked Police Chief Eric Echevarria to provide his perspective on the increased violence in the City and what the next steps should be. Chief Echevarria discussed the recent violence and homicides, noting the importance of safety programs like ShotSpotter the City employed to aid in the response. He reviewed the progress of 2021 homicide cases and the deployment of officers in areas with the greatest crime concentration. He said he was thankful for the Council's support in Police's endeavors and described strategies officers used to address victim's needs. He said a new app, Tip411, would be launched the following week and would allow officers to communicate with citizens directly and anonymously. Council Member Ruckriegel thanked Chief Echevarria for presenting the information to the Council and he said he was impressed with his efforts in communication and building relationships with citizens as well as addressing crime.

CLERK'S NOTE: Council Member Cyr left the meeting at 9:17 P.M.

Tremont Park Project

Council Member Riggerbach requested a Report Back concerning the City's contributions to a Peoria Park District project in Tremont Park. He asked if a possible condition of that funding agreement could be a long-term lease to the City of Peoria and the Peoria Park District property located at the corner of Northmoor Road and Knoxville Avenue for a possible new Fire Station location.

Department Heads in Council Chambers

Council Member Riggerbach said he appreciated the Department Heads addressed the Council's questions in Council Chambers and he said he hoped it could continue.

East Bluff Affordable Housing Projects

Council Member Riggerbach discussed ongoing efforts to address unsheltered citizens in Peoria's East Bluff and asked for discussions to be scheduled for the first quarter of 2022 to address those concerns.

Open Meetings Act Training for Council Members

Council Member Kelly said there were members who needed a refresher of the Open Meetings Act (OMA). He asked about scheduling training for Council Members to assist in procedural questions and concerns. Mayor Ali noted the Attorney General's Office had offered OMA training through their website, but it had been down for months. Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka confirmed there was not an estimate as to when the website would be back online, and she said Staff would provide information on other training sources available.

Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Cross Country Meet

Mayor Ali congratulated the participants of the IHSA Cross Country Meet last Saturday at Detweiler Park, noting it brought thousands of people to the Peoria area and was hosted by Peoria High School.

Federal Infrastructure Package

Mayor Ali discussed how the recently approved Federal Infrastructure Package could benefit Peoria and said Staff would provide updates regarding strategies and efforts related to the funding. She overviewed the application processes and how increased funding could pressure capacity, add staffing and engineering challenges while creating more jobs and increase the City's assets.

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:

Eric Larson, Senior Manager of Operations of Illinois American Water, referenced the Council discussion regarding setting aside funds for due diligence of the waterworks (21-317) when he discussed reasons the Council should consider declining the pursuit of purchasing the waterworks. He also discussed lead concerns regarding recent legislation and pension obligations of additional employees. Mayor Ali asked Mr. Larson to send more information to the Council.

Victor Murrie, a postal carrier and concerned citizen of Peoria, discussed the City's Pension Fund obligations and strategies, and described how the Police and Fire Departments took action for the benefit of the community.

Teresa Johanson, a concerned citizen, described health concerns regarding Smart City and 5G cellular service upgrades, noting scientific studies conducted and how it could affect citizens.

Jodi Altman, a concerned citizen, provided handouts to all Council Members regarding Smart City and 5G cellular service cybersecurity and health concerns. She asked Council Members to consider health complications and citizens rights when approving projects in the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was determined there was no need for an Executive session as this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,
Mayor Ali - 10;

Nays: None.

The Regular Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 P.M.



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

cc