



**: 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 March 14, 2023, 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 (6:04 P.M.), 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.**

Women's History Month  
Parkinson's Awareness Month

**MINUTES**

Council Member Oyler moved to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on February 28, 2023, as printed; 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.

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

**(23-065) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the FEBRUARY 2023 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the MARCH 2023 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the February 2023 actual expenditures and the March 2023 anticipated expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(23-066) Communication from the Town Officials with a Request to APPROVE the AGENDA for the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

**(23-067) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Council with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

**(23-068) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the LOW BID and AWARD a CONTRACT to R.A. CULLINAN & SON for the GALE AVENUE (FROM UNIVERSITY TO SHERIDAN) MILL AND OVERLAY PROJECT, in the Amount of \$1,046,095.40, with an Additional Authorization of \$104,604.60 (10%) for Contingencies, for a Total Amount of \$1,150,700.00. (Council District 2)**

**(23-069) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE and AWARD CONTRACTS for the 2023 City of Peoria and Peoria County Trustee VACANT LOT MOWING PROGRAM (Bid #15-23), in an Amount Not to Exceed \$572,854.00. (All Council Districts)**

**(23-070) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE and AWARD CONTRACTS for the 2023 FACILITIES, BOULEVARDS & RIGHTS-OF-WAY MOWING PROGRAM (Bid #16-23), in an Amount Not to Exceed \$122,364.00. (All Council Districts)**

**(23-071) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a CONTRACT for the LANDSCAPE STEWARDSHIP AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT with JIMAX LANDSCAPE, LLC., in an Amount Not to Exceed \$150,000.00, Including up to \$120,000.00 for Labor and Equipment and up to \$30,000.00 for Materials. (All Council Districts)**

**(23-072) \* Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE from TRAFFIC CONTROL CORPORATION for ECONOLITE TRAFFIC CABINETS, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$100,000.00. (Requires 2/3 Vote of Council Members Voting - No Less Than 6 Votes) (All Council Districts)**

- (23-073)  
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Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for the Following: (Council District 2)
- A. APPROVE the LOW BID from OTTO BAUM COMPANY, INC. in the Amount of \$1,323,000.00 and APPROVE a CONTRACT for the NATIVE PLANTS AND ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE PROJECT at the Public Works Facility, with an Additional Authorization of \$132,000.00 (10%) for Contingencies, for a Total Contract Award of \$1,455,000.00; and,
- B. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2023 REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET to Allocate \$640,000.00 from the Stormwater Utility Fund Balance for the NATIVE PLANTS AND ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE PROJECT at the Public Works Facility. (Requires 2/3 Vote of Corporate Authorities - 8 Votes)
- (23-074)  
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Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE a SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENT with FLOCK SAFETY, INC., for an Additional Forty-Three (43) License Plate Recognition Cameras. (Requires 2/3 Vote of Council Members Voting - No Less Than 6 Votes)
- (23-075)  
Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE a PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT to Study the Establishment of the Proposed GALENA ROAD INDUSTRIAL PARK TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) District with JACOB AND KLEIN, LTD, and the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LTD, in the Amount of \$36,570.00 Plus Reimbursable Costs. (Council District 5)
- (23-076)  
Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE a PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT with JACOB AND KLEIN, LTD, and the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LTD, to Study the Establishment of the SW WASHINGTON STREET INDUSTRIAL TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) DISTRICT in the Amount of \$37,800.00 Plus Reimbursable Costs. (Council District 1)
- (23-077)  
APPOINTMENTS by Mayor Ali to the ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS with a Request to Concur:
- Kelly Petersen (Voting) – Term Expires 06/30/2023  
Alexandra Fosburgh (Voting) – Term Expires 06/30/2025  
Brock DeGood (Voting) – Term Expires 06/30/2023
- (23-078)  
APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the CDBG PUBLIC SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:
- Pamela A. Schubach (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2023
- (23-079)  
APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the HOUSING COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:
- Bree Muehlbauer (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2023

**(23-080) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**

**Mae Gilliland Wright (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2023**

**(23-081) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**

**Reagan Leslie Hill (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2024**

**(23-082) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**

**Patricia Morrison Dennis (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2024**

**(23-083) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the Month-Ended JANUARY 31, 2023, UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.**

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

Mayor Ali requested Item Nos. 23-072, 23-073, and 23-074 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Item Nos. 23-067 through 23-083 (excluding Item Nos. 23-072, 23-073, and 23-074, 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.

**(23-072) \* Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE from TRAFFIC CONTROL CORPORATION for ECONOLITE TRAFFIC CABINETS, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$100,000.00. (Requires 2/3 Vote of Council Members Voting - No Less Than 6 Votes) (All Council Districts)**

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve the sole source purchase from Traffic Control Corporation for Econolite traffic cabinets, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00; 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.

**(23-073)**      **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for the Following: (Council District 2)**  
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- A. APPROVE the LOW BID from OTTO BAUM COMPANY, INC. in the Amount of \$1,323,000.00 and APPROVE a CONTRACT for the NATIVE PLANTS AND ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE PROJECT at the Public Works Facility, with an Additional Authorization of \$132,000.00 (10%) for Contingencies, for a Total Contract Award of \$1,455,000.00; and,**
- B. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2023 REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET to Allocate \$640,000.00 from the Stormwater Utility Fund Balance for the NATIVE PLANTS AND ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCE PROJECT at the Public Works Facility. (Requires 2/3 Vote of Corporate Authorities - 8 Votes)**

Council Member Grayeb moved to approve the low bid from Otto Baum Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,323,000.00, and approve a Contract for the Native Plants and Accessible Entrance Project at the Public Works facility, with an additional authorization of \$132,000.00 (10%) for contingencies, for a total Contract award of \$1,455,000.00; 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 Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria 2023 Revised Annual Budget to allocate \$640,000.00 from the Stormwater Utility Fund balance for the Native Plants and Accessible Entrance Project at the Public Works facility; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,056 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(23-074)**      **Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE a SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENT with FLOCK SAFETY, INC., for an Additional Forty-Three (43) License Plate Recognition Cameras. (Requires 2/3 Vote of Council Members Voting - No Less Than 6 Votes)**  
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Council Member Jensen moved to approve a sole source Agreement with Flock Safety, Inc. for an additional forty-three license plate recognition cameras; 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.

**PRESENTATIONS:****(23-084) Communication from Mayor Ali with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a PRESENTATION Regarding the BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY INITIATIVE from the Illinois Office of Broadband.**

Mayor Ali introduced Alicia Ross and Greg Craus to present information regarding the Broadband and Digital Equity Initiative to the Council.

Greg Craus, Federal Program Officer from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), began the presentation with details on \$65 million of Federal funding allocated to support high speed internet access across the country, including infrastructure through the Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Program, and digital inclusion initiatives through the Digital Equity Act. He said the amount earmarked for Illinois as a result of the BEAD formula would be determined on June 30, 2023, and he described the 5-year action plan for eligible entities to close the digital gap for unserved and underserved citizens.

Alicia Ross, a representative of the Illinois Broadband Lab, continued the presentation with an explanation of the Broadband and Digital Equity Initiative efforts of the State of Illinois to communicate with communities and local agencies identifying high speed internet needs through specific outreach and engagement strategies. She reviewed the estimated timeline visiting regions across Illinois, deadlines regarding the application for Federal funding, and collaboration efforts with partner organizations and local entities to coordinate efforts.

Discussions were held regarding scheduling two sessions to address the Peoria community to identify high speed internet access needs, benefits of improving internet infrastructure and access in the community, and allowable uses for the Federal funding. Equity and education initiatives, partner organizations participating in the programs, and digital literacy were also discussed.

In response to Council Member Velpula regarding prioritization, Mr. Craus said the program addressed the unserved in the community first, followed by the underserved and the institutions, such as schools.

Discussions were held regarding internet service providers eligible to receive funding through the program and the competitive application process.

Mayor Ali thanked Mr. Craus and Ms. Ross for the presentation on the Broadband and Digital Equity Initiative.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to receive and file a presentation regarding the Broadband and Digital Equity Initiative from the Illinois Office of Broadband, 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:**

- (23-085) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission to DENY an ORDINANCE, or the Recommendation from Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE, Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R-3 (Single-Family Residential) District for a SOLAR UTILITY FACILITY for the Property Located at 3901 W RESERVOIR BLVD (Parcel Identification No. 13-25-177-002), Peoria, IL. (Council District 4)**

A letter from the League of Women Voters was distributed to all Council Members. Paul Kluber distributed a report regarding solar panel glare to all Council Members.

After he said deliberations on the proposed solar development resulted in a split decision between Staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission, Council Member Allen moved to grant privilege of the floor to individuals representing both sides of this complex matter.

Reverend Jonathan Thomas, from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Peoria, described the solar panels installed at the church and the resulting reduction in monthly energy bills. He said an effort was initiated to provide the same opportunity in an equitable manner through a community partner, Hawk Energy Solutions, to bring a community solar project to Peoria residents. He said community meetings would be scheduled upon approval of the Special Use Ordinance to explain solar energy and the proposed program. He explained why many residents could not entertain solar energy production at their residence and the goals of the community solar project. He said it was important to invest in Peoria and asked the Council for support.

Joyce Rosenberger, a member of the Sierra Club – Heart of Illinois Group, said she worked on many local and state environmental issues and clean energy campaigns. She presented a comment from the Sierra Club – Heart of Illinois Group in support of the solar project and asked the Council for their support to approve the Special Use application. She described the benefits of solar energy production, plans for the project on Reservoir Boulevard, and the concerns resolved by the developer of the project that would result in a productive use of the property.

Connie Romanus, Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria, said a Climate Change Committee was established to address climate challenges and sustainability in the community. She read a letter that was distributed to the Council requesting the approval of the solar facility proposed at 3901 W. Reservoir Boulevard, described climate change concerns, and noted the proposed project was an opportunity for Peoria to address that challenge.

Jason Hawksworth, President of Hawk Energy Solutions, said he partnered with St. Paul's Episcopal Church in the proposed solar facility, noting it was a unique opportunity for inclusive community engagement. He explained efforts in collaboration with City Staff to address neighbors' concerns, and he described the results of the third-party glare study and the role of Ameren to determine the impact on local infrastructure. He described the benefits of workforce training focused on solar, support from local unions and companies, benefits of equity and inclusion, and the impact of clean energy on environmental change and reduced energy costs. He said the project would keep funds local and would generate additional tax revenues.

Paul Kluber, a citizen of Peoria, provided a report regarding solar panel glare to the Council Members, noting the same information was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission

that recommended the Council deny the application. He said solar energy was beneficial and equity efforts were fine, but he said glare from the solar facility would be reflected into nearby condominiums. He compared the report to the glare study provided by the developer in the application, and he discussed the impact of the facility on the local energy infrastructure. He said Ameren Illinois would complete a feasibility study after a project was approved, and he said it was important to ensure the developer was responsible for mandated infrastructure upgrades. He asked if any existing solar farms were within 500 feet of residences in Peoria.

Donna Moore, a member of the Valley View Condo Association, said she was a proponent of alternative energy solutions because climate change needed to be addressed, but she was not in favor of a solar facility located 80 feet from the condominiums. She said the Planning and Zoning Commission voted to recommend the denial of the application, and she discussed the concerns raised and research conducted for the project, noting there was no precedence for a solar facility 80 feet from residences. She discussed other solar facilities in the area and she asked the Council to vote to deny the application.

Marcus Hamilton, said he was a supporter of solar, renewable services and conservation, and he said he was willing to support the solar project in a different location. He discussed the impact on property values, health concerns, and existing energy infrastructure. He asked for the project to be moved to a different location, noting community-shared energy solutions could operate from anywhere in the City.

Council Member Allen said extensive consideration and discussions occurred regarding the proposed project, and he said it was best to support denial of the solar facility at 3901 W. Reservoir Boulevard. He discussed the importance of renewable energy and green solutions, concerns raised by local residents, education strategies, as well as the ability to identify a new location for the solar facility project.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Allen moved to DENY an Ordinance approving a Special Use in a Class R-3 District for a Solar Utility Facility for the property located at 3901 W. Reservoir Boulevard; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

In response to Mayor Ali regarding the recommendation from Staff for approval of the Special Use application, Assistant Community Development Director Leah Allison provided a summary of the proposal, noting Community Development Staff determined the standards for the Special Use were met. She described other conditions and considerations related to that determination.

Council Member Kelly said he would vote in support of the motion to deny the Special Use because solar energy and alternative energy solutions did not make economic sense. He discussed improvements regarding fossil fuels, recent increases to energy bills due to power plants that were shut down, and climate change, noting alternative energy solutions were cost prohibitive and harmed taxpayers.

In response to Council Member Jensen regarding alternative locations for the proposed solar facility, Assistant Director Allison said no alternative sites had been identified. Council Member Jensen said she supported the proposal as presented, noting it was the first opportunity for innovation and investment for clean renewable energy in Peoria. She said she understood concerns raised by local residents, but she said evidence did not support interference as a result of the solar facility. She said it was important for the Council to support renewable energy solutions, local businesses, and efforts to reduce energy bills. She asked the Council to approve the item and she thanked the petitioners for bringing the project forward.



Council Member Velpula said he believed in investing in renewable energy to bring Peoria to a sustainable future, noting the impact on job production, local employment, and education opportunities. After he said he visited the proposed site, he said it was important to look at the big picture and he said he supported the approval of the item.

Mayor Ali said she was an advocate for solar energy solutions and legislation making Illinois a leader in green and solar energy. She discussed her experience with solar energy at Illinois Central College, noting it was the fastest growing industry in the nation. She described the unique opportunity for Peoria that would progress to launching similar projects in the community to make a safe and healthy environment. She said she supported approval of the Special Use.

Council Member Cyr said he believed in solar energy solutions, and he discussed existing solar facilities in Peoria. He said he believed it was difficult to ask residents to have a solar facility 80 feet from their back door, noting the project was great but the location was wrong. He said he would vote to deny the Special Use application.

Council Member Ruckriegel said he believed in solar energy solutions, noting an organized plan was lacking in the proposed solar facility. He discussed potential benefits of community solar facilities, the inclusion of a solar perspective on construction projects, and the possibility of relocating the solar panels further away from the residences. He said it was important to make consistent decisions regarding solar in the community, and he said changes were needed for the proposed solar facility plan before he could support the project. He said a Policy Session or continued discussions were needed to determine the future of solar in Peoria.

Council Member Grayeb commended Council Member Allen for considering all aspects of the proposed project, including the input of local residents, in order to make an informed decision. He said other locations could be identified in Peoria for the project, noting he looked forward to a project proposal with unanimous community support in the future.

Motion to DENY the Ordinance was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, – 7;

Nays: Jensen, Oyler, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 4.

**(23-086) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Providing for the ISSUANCE of GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, in an Aggregate Amount not to Exceed \$20,500,000.00, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, to Provide for the Purpose of Financing Certain Capital Improvements within the City, and Providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax Sufficient to Pay the Principal and Interest on Said Bonds, Authorizing the Sale of Said Bonds to the Purchaser Thereof.**

Finance Director Kyle Cratty said this Ordinance was presented to the Council as a result of direction given at the February 28, 2023, City Council Meeting to issue a debt service funding capital projects at the Peoria Civic Center. He discussed the timeline of issuing the bonds, and he said \$20 million would be allocated to the Civic Center while the additional \$500,000 was included to cover costs of issuance and other factors.

Discussions were held regarding the qualified uses of the funds, the impact on annual debt service obligations of the City, and the Hotel, Restaurant, and Amusement (HRA) tax structure.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to adopt an Ordinance providing for the issuance of General Obligations Bonds, in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$20,500,000.00, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, to provide for the purpose of financing certain capital improvements within the City, and providing for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Discussions were held regarding the impact of issuing bonds and other factors on the City of Peoria credit rating, and the status of lease negotiations between the Peoria Rivermen and the Civic Center.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,057 was adopted 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 Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT 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.**

City Manager Ulrich described the history of this item.

Mayor Ali said it was appropriate to defer the item to allow for adequate time for discussion.

Council Member Cyr moved to defer the item to March 28, 2023; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Council Member Allen said he supported the deferral to allow for continued discussions.

After Deputy Corporation Counsel Kapustka noted she was unable to attend the March 28, 2023, City Council Meeting, Mayor Ali expressed concern for holding a discussion on this topic without her present, and she suggested deferring the item to a date to be determined.

Council Member Cyr amended his motion to defer the item to a date to be determined, seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Council Member Grayeb expressed concern dragging out the conversation, noting the importance of the Council being prepared for future applications.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Kapustka summarized the history of Special Use applications for cannabis businesses in the City of Peoria, the history of state-issued cannabis business licenses, and the status of Special Use permit applications authorized in the City of Peoria.

After Mayor Ali confirmed the availability of Deputy Corporation Counsel Kapustka to attend a meeting on March 21, 2023, to continue discussions regarding the operation of cannabis businesses, Council Member Cyr moved to amend his motion to defer the item to a Special City Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Motion to defer the item to a Special City Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Coffee with Code**

Council Member Grayeb announced a Coffee with Code on Wednesday March 22, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at the Peoria Public Library, at 107 NE. Monroe Street. He said it was a great opportunity to meet Code Enforcement Inspectors, discuss concerns with Staff, and learn more about Grant Programs.

#### **Neighborhood Mini-Grant Program Applications**

Council Member Grayeb said the Community Development Department was accepting applications for the Neighborhood Mini-Grant Program until Friday, April 7, 2023. He explained what the funding could be used for and how to apply for the program, noting more information was available on the City of Peoria website [www.peoriagov.org](http://www.peoriagov.org) or by calling 309-494-8600.

#### **George Manias 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday**

Council Member Riggerbach said Peoria was proud of the success of local businesses, and he recognized George Manias on his 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, and for 76 years of his successful business in Peoria, George's Shoeshine & Hatters.

#### **Bradley Basketball**

Council Member Ruckriegel acknowledged the national attention on the Bradley Braves Basketball game against Wisconsin that evening, to be aired on ESPN.

#### **Local Basketball**

Council Member Allen recognized the Bradley Braves Basketball regular-season title earned at the Missouri Valley Conference, as well as the success of local high school basketball teams, including the Richwoods Knights, Peoria High Lions, and Metamora Red Birds.

#### **St. Patrick's Day Parade**

Mayor Ali said the St. Patrick's Day Parade was on Friday, March 17, 2023, starting at 11:00 A.M. in front of the Civic Center.

### **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:

Mary Kerr, a citizen of Morton, thanked the Council for efforts regarding the capital improvements to the ice plant at the Civic Center. She discussed witnessing the history of the Rivermen and the Civic Center, ownership of the team, the value the Rivermen brought to Peoria, and how ASM Global should value community priorities. She said a solution was needed to ensure the continuation of the Rivermen legacy.

Molly Cadigan, a citizen of Peoria, said she was a member of the Columbia Terrace neighborhood association, and she discussed continuing issues regarding litter in her

neighborhood and elsewhere in the City. She said it was a dangerous concern and said education and accountability was needed for citizens contributing to the problem.

Mike Olson, a citizen of Peoria, described recent events at the Peoria Civic Center that utilized the ice plant, including synchronized skating, skating events with local youth, and hockey. He discussed attendance at Rivermen games and the need for ice plant improvements, noting he appreciated the Council voting to approve the issuance of bonds to fund capital improvements at the Civic Center earlier that evening.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Consideration of a Motion for the City Council to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity; 2(c)(11), litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court of administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that such an action is probable or imminent; and 2(c)(21), discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.**

Council Member Allen moved for the City Council to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity; 2(c)(11), litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court of administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that such an action is probable or imminent; and 2(c)(21), discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06; 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.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Allen moved to adjourn the March 14, 2023, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; 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.

The Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

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



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Trina D. Bonds, Chief Deputy City Clerk  
City of Peoria, Illinois

cc