



: 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 August 9, 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, Jensen, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach (electronic attendance), Ruckriegel (electronic attendance), Mayor Ali – 10. Absent: Velpula.

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.

Retirement of Ronda Guyton

MINUTES

Council Member Oyler moved to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on July 26, 2022, as printed; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

(22-274) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the JULY 2022 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the AUGUST 2022 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the July 2022 actual expenditures and to approve the August 2022 anticipated expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Kelly.

Motion to approve the July 2022 actual expenditures and to approve the August 2022 anticipated expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS –CITY OF PEORIA

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

(22-275) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.

(22-276) Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE a Three (3) Year CONTRACT with GALLS, LLC for Commissioned and Civilian Uniforms

(22-277) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the MAYOR’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES with a Request to Concur:

Jayishnu Srinivas (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2025

(22-278) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the Month Ended JUNE 30, 2022, UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.

(22-279) APPROVE the COMMITTEE REPORT (POLICY SESSION) from the JULY 19, 2022, Special City Council Meeting, Regarding VIOLENCE REDUCTION FUNDING.

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

Council Member Cyr requested Item No. 22-278 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 Oyler.

Item Nos. 22-275 through 22-279 (except Item No. 22-278, which was removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

(22-278) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE the Month Ended JUNE 30, 2022, UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT.

Council Member Cyr asked Finance Director Kyle Cratty to discuss the Personal Property Replacement Tax graph and he asked what should happen with the extra \$9,000,000.00 indicated in the report.

Finance Director Cratty explained the City saw historic growth in Personal Property Replacement Tax receipts for 2022, noting the increase was probably a one-time source of revenue. He said he had conversations with City Manager Urich regarding the 2023 Budget and he would bring forward funding recommendations during upcoming budget discussions on ways to use the funds.

Council Member Cyr asked Council to support a new policy that would not allow for negative account balances. He said the City had a strong balance sheet and he requested City Manager Urich and Finance Director Cratty use the available funds to pay the amount due for the City's pension fund obligations and address remaining negative balances to create a clean balance sheet moving forward.

Mayor Ali said she concurred with Council Member Cyr's recommendation, and she asked City Manager Urich and Finance Director Cratty to respond to the policy request he presented.

Finance Director Cratty discussed the importance of looking at the trajectory of funds to form a plan to eliminate negative balances. He said while there had been progress, another important factor was opportunity costs, such as the unfunded liabilities with the pension fund that presented a six percent cost to the City each year. He said it could be beneficial to use excess funds to pay down negative fund balances, which would be part of 2023 Budget discussions. City Manager Urich said the negative balance in the garbage fund was projected to be rectified as fees would be reduced when Landfill No. 2 was closed. He said a policy not to allow for negative account balances was a Council decision.

Council Member Cyr moved to receive and file the month ended June 30, 2022, unaudited Financial Report; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

In response to Counsel Member Jensen regarding the fund increases, City Manager Urich confirmed the excess funds were not part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and therefore not subjected to the same limitations.

Council Member Jensen thanked Finance Director Cratty for monthly Financial Reports and said they helped to keep the Council informed.

Motion to receive and file the month ended June 30, 2022, unaudited Financial Report was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

PRESENTATIONS

(22-280) Request from Council Member Grayeb for a PRESENTATION from the PEORIA NEXT INNOVATION CENTER.

A handout with the presentation was provided to all Council members.

Council Member Grayeb discussed the 15-year celebration of Peoria Next Innovation Center (Peoria Next) that was recently held, noting his efforts and the efforts of other current and former City leaders to implement and support Peoria Next. He commended their foresight to recognize the need to diversify the City economy when manufacturing jobs were leaving the region. He said their efforts made Peoria a world class healing center and medical mecca,

including the cancer center opening in a few months. He discussed the impact of diversifying economic opportunities and the successes of collaborators on this venture.

Director of Peoria Next Innovation Center Mike Stubbs presented the history and goals of Peoria Next Innovation Center. During his presentation, he discussed the value of hearing from local entrepreneurs; he recognized many local collaborators, including Ag Land FS, Inc., UICOMP, and Bradley University; and he outlined the history, goals, and impact of Peoria Next. He said the collaborators worked to make Peoria a hub for bio and biomedical research, stating Peoria had the only wet lab in a 90-mile radius, which made Peoria Next a physical asset that compelled many companies to use the facilities. He discussed the positive economic and environmental impacts of the companies, which included Natural Fiber Welding, that had taken advantage of the resources provided by Peoria Next. In conclusion, he described his own history and education in the State of Illinois and expressed his surprise at the level of progress in the City of Peoria since he left 15 years ago.

Mayor Ali and Council Member Allen thanked Director Stubbs for the presentation and his leadership at Peoria Next. Council Member Allen said he agreed that manufacturing was important, but the City needed to continue to diversify.

Council Member Grayeb asked for privilege of the floor to be granted to two former City Council Members, Marcella Teplitz and Gale Thetford. Hearing no objection, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to Marcella Teplitz and Gale Thetford.

Former Council Member Marcella Teplitz said she was a Council Member in 2001 when the conversations about Peoria Next began. She said she collaborated with other Council Members and the owner of Midas Muffler to acquire the building and draft an Ordinance to implement the plan, which was approved by the Council unanimously. She asked the Council to continue to support business startups in Peoria.

Former Council Member Gale Thetford discussed her history with the establishment of Peoria Next and those she collaborated with. She said the project was controversial at first, as innovation often was. She said Peoria Next was an outgrowth of innovation that had changed the City, and she asked the Council to help startups obtain grants that would help them stay in the City of Peoria. She said they could not say goodbye to manufacturing but needed to support medical technologies.

Council Member Grayeb moved to receive and file a presentation from the Peoria Next Innovation Center; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:**(22-281) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE the Program Guidelines and Application for VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAMS Funded through the AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN.**

City Manager Urich said a plan for the Request for Proposals (RFPs) was prepared for Council approval in response to the Policy Session on Violence Reduction Funding held on July 19, 2022. He asked Community Development Director Joe Dulin to discuss what was in the program documentation and he said he hoped Council would support this item.

Director Dulin explained the RFP process and said once the proposals were selected and agreements were made, they would transfer to the Police Department to be administered going forward. He said the Guidelines and Application was modeled after a similar application process in Indianapolis, but it was modified based on feedback from the Council and the Public Service Application developed with Community Development Block Grant funds. He said if this item was approved, the application would be released on Monday, August 15th and steps would be taken to ensure it was seen by as many organizations as possible, with a goal to find programs that would have a significant impact on violence reduction in the City of Peoria. He said RFP responses were due on September 9, 2022, and scores would be provided to the Council at the September 26, 2022, City Council Meeting for review. He said the grant would be a 14-month award going through 2023. He said he would continue to work closely with other departments to identify options leading to long-term reduction in violence with evidence-based programs that could demonstrate results. He said, based on feedback from Council, language was included in the guidelines allowing for legal expungement programs to be eligible fund uses.

City Manager Urich clarified the minimum award would be \$50,000.00 and the maximum award would be \$250,000.00.

Discussions were held about character and word limits on the form, eligible geographic locations, and legal assistance programs, as well as the decision to develop the form with open-ended questions.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve program guidelines and application for Violence Reduction Programs funded through the American Rescue Plan; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(22-282) Communication from the City Manager and Assistant City Manager with a Request to APPROVE Expanding the SMALL BUSINESS R.I.S.E. PROGRAM Grant Allocation, for an Amount not to Exceed \$1.5 Million of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding.

Assistant City Manager Kimberly Richardson said the Small Business R.I.S.E. Program had received far more applications than previous similar programs. She explained more funding was needed to fund additional qualified applicants looking to expand existing businesses and to support several startups. She said many applicants were unsure of best practices for spending grant money, and the Bradley University Small Business Development Center agreed to provide

support for R.I.S.E applicants. She said this would allow startups to understand the requirements as well as the resources available to them. She asked Council to support the requested increase to continue to support small business programs. She thanked and acknowledged community partners and Staff that assisted applicants with the process.

Discussions were held about the need and value of providing technical support and resources for small businesses that apply and qualify for the program.

Council Member Allen stated he supported the program and appreciated the economic impact it would have for women and minority-owned businesses.

Council Member Jackson said she would vote in favor of this item. She said she was happy about the number of program applicants, and she said she hoped it encouraged women and minority citizens to start businesses. Assistant City Manager Richardson confirmed 70 percent of the grant awardees were women and minority-owned businesses.

Discussions were held about the amount and source of additional funding for the program and the potential impact the requested increase would have on funding for other Economic Development programs.

Council Member Jackson moved to approve expanding the Small Business R.I.S.E. Program Grant Allocation, for an Amount not to Exceed \$1.5 Million of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding, seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(22-283) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the SPECIAL SERVICE AREA AGREEMENT between the City of Peoria and WESTLAKE SHOPPING CENTER, LLC.

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka provided a history of the Special Service Area (SSA) at Westlake Shopping Center, LLC. She stated the proposed amendment would give an additional \$500,000.00 of funding through Morton Community Bank to fund the cost of overruns. She confirmed the changes would not impact the obligation of the City, increase liability for the City, alter SSA boundaries, or increase the term of the SSA.

Council Member Allen said he supported this item and said he was fortunate to have Westlake Shopping Center in his District. He also confirmed the amendment would not increase liability for the City.

At the end of his comments, Council Member Allen moved adopt an Ordinance amending the Special Service Area Agreement between the City of Peoria and Westlake Shopping Center, LLC.; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Ordinance No. 17,992 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

- (22-273) **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 Existing Use with Approvals as a SPECIAL USE with Waivers in a Class R-6 (Multi-Family Residential) District and a Class R-8 (Multi-Family Residential) District for an Existing NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, to Allow Parking Lot Improvements, a New Accessory Storage Structure and to Add Property to the Boundary of the Special Use for the Property Located at 800 NE MADISON AVE and 816 NE MADISON AVE, 803 and 809 NE JEFFERSON AVE (Parcel Identification Nos. 18-03-353-007, 18-03-354-001, 18-03-354-003, 18-03-354-012, 18-03-354-013) with the Property to be Added Located at 724 and 814 NE MADISON AVE, 801 and 815 NE JEFFERSON AVE, and 406 WAYNE ST (Parcel Identification Nos. 18-03-353-006, 18-03-354-002, 18-03-354-011, 18-03-354-014, and 18-03-354-009), Peoria IL. (Council District 3)**

Council Member Riggerbach said he met with Marcellus Sommerville, CEO of the Friendship House after this item was deferred at the July 26, 2022, City Council Meeting to resolve concerns with the proposed waivers. He said if the front parking lot was expanded or replaced, the perimeter landscaping requirements would be revisited. He further stated the transition buffer yard was adjacent to a city-owned lot so it would not require a buffer until it was developed. He confirmed a stipulation was added so when the lot was developed, the buffer would be revisited. He said the property was now located in the Third District and he was happy to meet Mr. Sommerville from the Friendship House and others involved.

Council Member Riggerbach moved adopt an Ordinance amending existing use with approvals as a Special Use with waivers in a Class R-6 District and a Class R-8 District for an existing neighborhood center, to allow parking lot improvements, a new accessory storage structure and to add property to the boundary of the Special Use for the property located at 800 NE Madison Avenue and 816 NE Madison Avenue, 803 and 809 NE Jefferson Avenue, with the property to be added located at 724 and 814 NE Madison Avenue, 801 and 815 NE Jefferson Avenue, and 406 Wayne Street, Peoria, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Ordinance No. 17,993 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Redlight Cameras

Council Member Grayeb referenced an email sent to Council Members by Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka outlining the laws regarding red light cameras.

Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka discussed the laws and permissibility of redlight cameras. She said the current legislation included language that any entity expressing an interest in allowing red light cameras in their jurisdiction were included, which may allow the City of Peoria being added.

Council Member Grayeb said the cameras would only be placed in high impact areas where they were needed to moderate issues with speeding. He said concerns had been raised in Chicago about yellow lights being shorter than reasonable which resulted in unnecessary tickets, but he believed the issue had been resolved. He said tickets with associated fines would be generated to those who violated traffic rules, but it would not be a moving violation unless a police officer stopped them. He said the Council needed to decide if red light cameras would be advantageous and Council would need to enlist the help of state lawmakers to craft the legislation. He said Police Chief Eric Echevarria was also working on this issue.

Council Member Allen requested community feedback regarding the red light cameras.

Council Member Kelly requested a Resolution to memorialize the request to legislators regarding red light cameras. Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said the Resolution item would be added to the August 23, 2022, City Council Agenda.

Ignite Peoria

Council Member Jensen said Ignite Peoria, sponsored by ArtsPartners, was being held Saturday, August 13th at the Peoria Civic Center from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. She said admission was free and encouraged the public to attend.

Soul Fest

Council Member Allen said the Peoria Park District did a great job with Soul Fest and Gospel Fest over the weekend. He said it was important to support events so the City continues to have quality events.

Community Outreach

Council Member Riggerbach commended the Community Development Department for community outreach efforts which included leaving placards for community members to show appreciation for well-maintained yards.

Ameren Cards

Council Member Riggerbach said the informational mailers sent to citizens informing them of the Ameren increase were proactive and well-written.

Peoria Friendship House

Council Member Riggerbach asked to grant privilege of the floor to the CEO of Friendship House, Mr. Sommerville, to discuss Item No. 22-273 under Unfinished Business.

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ali granted privilege of the floor to Mr. Sommerville.

Mr. Sommerville thanked Mayor Ali and the Council for approving Ordinance No. 17,993. He said the Friendship House served more than 10,000 meals in July 2022, and they would be able to offer more when the kitchen expansion was completed.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

It was determined there were no citizens that wished to address the City Council or Town Board at that time.

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 or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; and 2(c)(21), discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes, or semi-annual review of the minutes.

Council Member Cyr moved to adjourn the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting to 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 or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; and 2(c)(21), discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes, or semi-annual review of the minutes; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

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

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

Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion to adjourn was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 P.M.



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