

: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :**: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :**

A Joint City Council & Town Board Meeting of Peoria, Illinois, was held January 24, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Jim Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were physically present: Akesson, Grayeb, Jensen (Arrived at 6:03 P.M.), Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 10. Absent: None.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

New Big Read: Peoria Reads! Month – February 2017

Peoria District Dental Society Give Kids a Smile – February 3, 2017

MINUTES

Council Member Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on January 10, 2017, as printed; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA

(17-016) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Jim Ardis of Replacement of AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBER to Fill the Vacancy in that Position.

Council Member Jensen moved to concur with the recommendation that the City Council appoint Timothy J. Newlin of Peoria, Illinois, to serve as an At-Large Council Member for the balance of the unexpired At-Large term pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/5-2-18.7 and 65 ILCS 5/5-2-12(g); seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: None.

(17-017) ADMINISTERING OATH OF OFFICE of AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBER ELECT.

City Clerk Beth Ball administered the Oath of Office to the Incoming At-Large City Council Member Timothy J. Newlin.

REMARKS BY THE NEWLY APPOINTED AT-LARGE COUNCIL MEMBER-ELECT – TIMOTHY J. NEWLIN

Council Member Timothy J. Newlin expressed his appreciation for those who supported his application and appointment to the City Council. He said he had taken time to get to know the City Council. He said the first thing that struck him was Council Member Denise Moore's swear-in and her words, "Let each of you regard the other as more important." He said it would be a blessing and an opportunity to have that attitude towards one another on the Council, towards the Mayor, all the Department Heads, Staff and towards the community. In conclusion he expressed his gratitude for the support of his wife and family for this endeavor.

PUBLIC HEARINGS**(17-018) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the Proposed ANNEXATION of 5403 N. CHARTER OAK LANE, PEORIA, ILLINOIS, to be held at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois.**

Council Member Johnson moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the proposed annexation of 5403 N. Charter Oak Lane, Peoria, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Moore.

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

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Newlin, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 P.M.

Following a third call for comments from the public, Mayor Ardis determined no one wished to speak, and he requested the Public Hearing be closed.

Council Member Grayeb moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the proposed annexation of 5403 N. Charter Oak Lane, Peoria, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

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

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Newlin, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis closed the Public Hearing at 6:16 P.M.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA

(17-019) Communication from the City Manager and the Community Development Director with a Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to:

A. APPROVE a RESOLUTION Approving an ANNEXATION AGREEMENT for the Property Located at 5403 NORTH CHARTER OAK LANE (Parcel Identification No. 13-23-200-003); and

B. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Annexing Territory Located at 5403 NORTH CHARTER OAK LANE (Parcel Identification No. 13-23-200-003).

(Council District 5)

Council Member Johnson moved to approve a Resolution approving an Annexation Agreement for the property located at 5403 North Charter Oak Lane (Parcel Identification No. 13-23-200-003); seconded by Council Member Turner.

In response to Council Member Jensen’s request for clarification of the size of property, Community Development Director Ross Black said the land being annexed was an individual parcel totaling 4.99 acres of land.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-019-A was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Newlin, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Council Member Johnson moved to adopt an Ordinance annexing territory located at 5403 North Charter Oak Lane; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,435 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Newlin, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

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

(17-020) * Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE the Addition of a PROJECT MANAGER Position (1.0 Full Time Employee).

(17-021) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ACCEPT the LOW BID of HOERR CONSTRUCTION, INC. and Award a Construction CONTRACT in an Amount Not to Exceed \$550,000.00 from the Base Bid of \$165,217.40 for the ANNUAL DRAINAGE REPAIR CONTRACT - 2017. (All Council Districts)

(17-022) Communication from the City Manager and Community Development Director with a Request to APPROVE a CONTRACT with JIMAX LANDSCAPING for Grass Cutting and Debris/Litter Removal on Private Property for 2017 and 2018.

- (17-023) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the Partial Release of a PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT on Parts of Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, Block 89, all in AIKEN, MONSON AND SANFORD'S ADDITION to the Town of Peoria and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Necessary Documents. (Council District 1)**
- (17-024) **Communication from the City Manager and the Community Development Director with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,436 Approving a SPECIAL USE with Waivers for the Property located at 2203 SW JEFFERSON STREET (Parcel Identification No. 18-17-180-001), Peoria, Illinois. (Council District 1)**
- (17-025) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the MAYOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE DISABLED with a Request to Concur:**
- Ashonta Huddleston (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2019**
- (17-026) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS with a Request to Concur:**
- Janice Zagardo (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2019**
- (17-027) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the MUNICIPAL BAND COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**
- Phillip Reardon (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2019**
- (17-028) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**
- Art Remsik (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2017**
- (17-029) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS with a Request to Concur:**
- Scott Kelsey (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2018**
- (17-030) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE, with a Request to Concur:**
- Mr. Stephen Morris, Chairman (Voting) - Term Expiration (January 31, 2019)**
- (17-031) **APPOINTMENTS by Mayor Ardis to the SISTER CITY COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**
- Winsley Durand (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2019**
Don Welch (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2019
Henry Vicary (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2017
Lori Birkland (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2017

(17-032) REPORT from the CITY TREASURER PATRICK A. NICHTING for the MONTH of DECEMBER 2016, with Request to Receive and File.

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

Council Member Grayeb requested Item No. 17-020 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 Moore.

Item Nos. 17-020 through 17-032 (excluding Item No. 17-020, which was removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Akesson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Newlin, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

(17-020) * Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE the Addition of a PROJECT MANAGER Position (1.0 Full Time Employee).

Council Member Grayeb said the Council was being asked to approve the addition of a Project Manager position in the Police Department to perform important new functions and he asked Police Chief Mitchell to outline the duties of that position.

Chief Mitchell said the purpose of the new position was to improve community relationships and increase transparency in the Police Department's operations. He said the Department was unable to start an initiative with their current structure and that a full-time position was needed, which would be funded by restructuring holiday staffing. He commented that this would be one of the biggest processes the Department had undertaken. He provided an overview of the responsibilities of the position, which included but was not limited to overseeing body-worn cameras, assisting the Department with the CALEA accreditation, and monitoring nuisance properties. In response to Council Member Grayeb, Chief Mitchell said this position would continue beyond the Department's current needs as new projects developed and newly implemented processes were monitored.

Council Member Grayeb expressed his appreciation for the Chief's efforts in this matter, and he moved to approve the addition of a Project Manager position (1.0 Full-Time Employee) within the Police Department; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Newlin, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:**(16-401) Communication from the City Manager and the Community Development Director with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending Appendix A, the UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE, of the CODE of the City of Peoria, with Respect to WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES.**

Council Member Grayeb stated that with citizen input a better policy was drafted as it related to the structure and location of cell towers in order to maintain the integrity of and to ensure the historic nature of some neighborhoods. He said it provided a good balance for the needs of better cellular reception for the citizens. He thanked the efforts of the leaders of the West Bluff Council in this matter.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, of the Code of the City of Peoria, with respect to wireless communication facilities; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Council Member Ruckriegel thanked Staff for their efforts and Council Member Grayeb for his leadership in this matter, noting the amount of time spent on this item.

Mayor Ardis echoed the comments of Council Member Ruckriegel, stating that this item was important to a number of neighborhood organizations. He said the Council understood the need for appropriate opportunities for communication companies without being detrimental to the neighborhoods. He said the City had received calls from providers who were concerned that the City would not allow any of the proposed antennas and he asked Community Development Director Ross Black for clarification.

Director Black stated that wireless antennas would be permitted. He said the request would have to come before the City Council for a Special Use and approval of the same. He said there was no blanket prohibition for wireless antennas in residential neighborhoods.

Council Member Jensen commended Staff for their efforts on this item. She said she had attended several neighborhood meetings with Council Member Grayeb and would support the item as presented. She said there were discussions regarding antennas in public right-of-ways on street lights and lamp posts, and she asked if this was an option that was presented to the Council.

Director Black said it was an option to place antennas within public right-of-ways. He commented that what was presented to the Council mainly dealt with private property and he stated that the Code was silent as it related to antennas or attachments in any other way. He said the company would need to ask for a right-of-way or a special use, which would come before the City Council for approval.

Council Member Jensen asked for Staff to follow-up with cell providers when they wanted to erect an antennae to look at public right-of-ways.

Motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 17,437 amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, of the Code of the City of Peoria, with respect to wireless communication facilities was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akesson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Newlin, Riggensbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

- (17-033) **Communication from the City Manager and the Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION to Change from a Class A (tavern) to a Class B (Restaurant, 50% Food) Liquor License with the Retail Sale of Alcohol at WEST TOWN TAP (formerly CHAMPS WEST), 515 N. WESTERN, with a Subclass 1A (2:00 A.M. CLOSING HOURS), Contingent Upon the Compliance with the Community Development Department's Requirements for the Freestanding Sign, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 2)**

Council Member Grayeb commended Mr. Chris Herold, owner of West Town Tap formerly known as Chaps West. He said Mr. Herold had been in business at this location for several decades and he commented on what an outstanding business he had in the 2nd District. He said there was a request to approve before the City Council, which would allow the sale of alcohol and would allow for a sidewalk café to occur at this location. He said several years ago the City suggested any change would require the change in the sign that advertised the business. He said requesting such a change would put the business at a disadvantage. He asked the Council not to require the change so as not to place the business owner was not at a disadvantage to the other nearby businesses.

Council Member Grayeb moved to approve the Site Application to change from a Class A (Tavern) to a Class B (Restaurant, 50% Food) liquor license with the retail sale of alcohol at West Town Tap (formerly Champs West), 515 N. Western, with a subclass 1A (2:00 A.M. Closing Hours), waiving the Community Development Department's requirements for signs; seconded by Council Member Turner.

In response to Council Member Moore, Council Member Grayeb said the change was only for a sidewalk café, not for a beer garden.

Motion to approve the Site Application with the waiver was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Newlin, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

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

- (16-389) **Communication from the City Manager and the Community Development Director with a Request to Concur with a Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending Special Use Ordinance No. 14,967 in a Class O-2 (Exclusive Office Park) District for a Financial Institution with a Drive-up Facility to Add a 70 Square Foot Freestanding Sign for the Property Identified as N. KNOXVILLE AVE. (Parcel Identification Nos. 14-08-277-011 and 012), 7555 N. KNOXVILLE AVE. (Parcel Identification No. 14-08-277-013), and 7535 N. KNOXVILLE AVE. (Parcel Identification No. 14-08-277-014), Peoria, Illinois. (Council District 5)**

Council Member Ruckriegel said this item came back to Council for clean-up purposes. He said the freestanding sign was approved and the Petitioner wanted clarification as it related to the use of gravel and/or mulch.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Special Use Ordinance No. 14,967 in a Class O-2 (Exclusive Office Park) District for a financial institution with a drive-up facility to add a 70 square foot freestanding sign for the property identified as N. Knoxville Ave. (Parcel Identification Nos. 14-08-277-011 and 012), 7555 N. Knoxville Ave. (Parcel Identification No. 14-08-277-013), and 7535 N. Knoxville Ave. (Parcel Identification No. 14-08-277-014), Peoria, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Johnson.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,438 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Newlin, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Advisory Committee on Police and Community Relations

Council Member Moore announced that a meeting was scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2017, from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Carver Center. She said this was for individuals who had filed a complaint with the Police Department and had not received satisfaction, the Committee would assist them through the complaint process.

24/7 Wallstreet

Council Member Moore said a community conversation regarding the 24/7 Wallstreet report was scheduled for Tuesday, January 31, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. at the Peoria Civic Center. She said this was an opportunity for individuals' opinions to be heard and she encouraged representation from other communities to attend as well in order to comment on how their community should grow.

Lawn Mowing Schedule for 2017

Council Member Moore directed City Staff to provide a lawn mowing schedule for properties that were maintained by the City. She said the efforts of Staff in 2016 had much improved from 2015. She said she would appreciate a schedule for 2017 in order to answer constituent questions regarding the mowing of City-owned properties.

Tenant Rights

Council Member Moore said Staff was preparing for landlord training; however, she said she recently learned that tenants were unaware of their rights as a tenant. She asked Staff to develop a type of training for tenants in order to make them aware of their rights and for the City to post this information to the City's website as well as distribute to various organizations. She said landlords had recourse for help, but she said tenants did not have that kind of knowledge.

In response to Council Member Moore's request for tenant assistance, Council Member Jensen stated that Prairie Legal Services had a handbook that addressed tenant rights that was available for distribution. She said these handbooks could be made available at City Hall and at all neighborhood meetings.

Council Member Akeson remarked that the City of Chicago ran public service billboard announcements that reiterated what tenants should expect from landlords. She said the Code Enforcement Director Joe Dulin had spoken to the City's Communication Specialist Stacy Peterson regarding these public announcements, and she asked for an update to be provided to the Council.

Jessie McGowan Recognition

Council Member Riggerbach acknowledged East Bluff Resident Jessie McGowan for his efforts in the East Bluff. He announced that Mr. McGowan received the Martin Luther King, Jr. award on January 16, 2017, for his work on Restorative Justice.

PNC Winterfest Cleanup

Council Member Jensen stated that she was a big supporter of the PNC Winterfest ice rink. She asked for a plan to be developed for a faster cleanup time. She commented on how the downtown area looked when the ice rink was being torn down and she asked for a plan to be developed in order for the clean up to go faster to prevent the area from being an eye sore.

City Manager Ulrich said he would convey the message to the Peoria Civic Center Authority as they oversee the property.

Street Lighting on Jefferson Street

Council Member Akeson expressed a concern for the lack of lighting on Jefferson Street North of Spring Street. She asked City Staff for a Report Back on the lighting situation on Jefferson Street and whether the City could address the issue.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS - TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA**(17-034) TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA FINANCIAL REPORT for PERIOD ENDING 12/31/2016, with Request to Receive and File.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to receive and file the Town of the City of Peoria Financial Report for period ending 12/31/2016; seconded by Trustee Jensen.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Newlin, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Chairman Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the Floor to those citizens wishing to address the City Council/Town Board.

Mr. Charles Williams, a citizen of Peoria, expressed a concern for the process in reporting to the City damage to his vehicle when he hit a hole in the road. He said the City needed to have some responsibility regarding the conditions of the roads and the impact it they had on the citizens.

Mr. Jessie McGowan, Jr., a citizen of Peoria, expressed his appreciation to Council Member Riggerbach for the recognition and for his efforts in the community. He asked the City to review the conditions of Wisconsin Avenue and Nebraska Avenue, noting they were in bad condition. He said Nebraska should be addressed first for it was the worse of the two streets. He said he attended a meeting last Saturday night that was intended to create dialogue. He urged the Council, City Manager and other local officials to attend these meetings in order to help develop a solutions to address the issues.

Ms. April Eckhardt, a citizen of Peoria, commented on a retweet made by Council Member Akeson on Twitter that she felt was an anti-Muslim statement. She expressed a concern for the lack of response from other Council Members and she asked for the resignation of Council Member Akeson.

Ms. Louise Cloutier, a citizen of Peoria, expressed a concern regarding a retweet made by Council Member Akeson on Twitter and the danger of singling out a certain faith. She said the majority of the Muslim women did not recognize they were oppressed. She said they were a very diverse group. She invited Council Member Akeson to learn more about the Muslim faith and to discuss any concerns she had about the faith.

Ms. Rahmat Na'Allah, a citizen of Peoria, voiced a concern for Council Member Akeson's lack of understanding of the Muslim faith and a recent retweet made on Twitter. She said the Muslim community promoted love and respect. She said it was disrespectful to the Muslim women to say they were enslaved and oppressed. She asked Council Member Akeson to join her in learning more about the Muslim faith.

Ms. Kim McLean, a resident of Peoria, expressed her concern regarding a Twitter retweet made by Council Member Akeson, stating it was an uninformed comment. She said there was no room for hate in the community and that there needed to be more respect and tolerance. She encouraged other Council Members to address these situations when they occurred.

Ms. Chama St. Louis, a resident of Peoria, expressed her concern for a recent retweet made by Council Member Akeson on the Twitter feed. She commented on the lack of respect and insensitivity to the Muslim women. She said she had helped Council Member Akeson address previous issues and she remarked on her disappointment on the most recent issue. She said as a public servant it was Council Member Akeson's duty to be a voice of the people she represented. She urged all Council Members to hold her responsible for her actions.

Ms. Kerri Hayes, a concerned citizen, expressed a concern for a racial divide within the City Council and a recent retweet made by Council Member Akeson on Twitter. She commented on the type of coverage the City had received in the media.

Mr. General Parker, a resident of Peoria, remarked on 24/7 Wallstreet stating that the City needed to accept more responsibility. Regarding the upcoming local elections, he said it was his hope that the election would be held with respect. He asked that the black community attend the meeting on January 31, 2017, and have their voice be heard on various issues within the City. He recommended that Council Members attend a diversity training session upon taking a Council seat, noting that the Council represented the entire City of different races and religions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was determined that an Executive Session was not needed at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

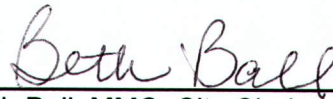
Council Member Grayeb moved to adjourn the Joint City Council & Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Newlin, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Turner, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.



Beth Ball, MMC, City Clerk
City of Peoria, Illinois

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