

**: 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 July 13, 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, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula (electronic attendance), Mayor Ali - 9. Absent: Jensen, Kelly - 2.

Mayor Ali welcomed Brady Johnson, a reporter for WCBU radio, who would be regularly covering City Council Meetings for the public radio station.

**ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Ali announced a notice was received by Council Member Velpula in accordance with rules established in Ordinance No. 16,142. He said Council Member Velpula would be deemed authorized to attend the meeting electronically unless a motion objecting to the member's electronic attendance was made, seconded, and approved by two-thirds of the members of the City Council physically present at the meeting. If no such motion was made and seconded, then the request by Council Member Velpula to attend electronically would be deemed approved by the City Council and Council Member Velpula would be declared present.

Hearing no objection to the request for an electronic attendance, Council Member Velpula was declared present by Mayor Ali.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**MINUTES**

Council Member Oyler moved to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on June 22, 2021, as printed; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ali - 8;

Nays: None.

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

(21-197)      **REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the JUNE 2021 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the JULY 2021 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.**

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the June 2021 Actual Expenditures and to approve the July 2021 Anticipated Expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Ruckriegel.

Council Member Grayeb discussed the new Peoria Township office location, 427 W. Main Street, and provided an overview of the staff and services they provided. He said an Open House would be scheduled to tour the new facility in the near future.

Motion to approve the June 2021 actual expenditures and approve July 2021 anticipated expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

Council Member Cyr asked Council Member Grayeb, the Peoria Township liaison, about recent expenditures in the report. Council Member Grayeb said the expenditures were related to the recent building remodel and relocation of Peoria Township Office. He said the former CEFCU building had been renovated to allow Peoria Township the space they needed to serve the community. He discussed the current state of the Township's General Fund and potential future funding from the American Rescue Plan.

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

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

- (21-198) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**
  
- (21-199) \* Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ACCEPT the LOW BID of MICROSURFACING CONTRACTORS, LLC and to Award a Construction CONTRACT, in the Amount of \$227,708.21, which Includes the Base Bid Plus 10% Contingency for the HIGH QUALITY AGGREGATE POLYMER MODIFIED SLURRY SEAL CONTRACT - 2021. (All Council Districts)**
  
- (21-200) \*\* Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ACCEPT the LOW BID of R.A. CULLINAN & SON, INC., a Division of UNITED CONTRACTORS MIDWEST, and Award a Construction CONTRACT, in the Amount of \$549,344.50, for the Base Bid Plus 10% Contingency for the SEAL-COATING CONTRACT - 2021. (All Council Districts)**
  
- (21-201) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the LOW BID of C&G CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION CO., INC., in the Amount of \$649,812.00, and Award a CONTRACT for the NORTHSIDE BUSINESS PARK TIF SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS, with an Additional Authorization of \$30,588.00 (4.7%) for Contingencies, for a Total Contract Award of \$680,400.00. (Council District 1)**

- (21-202) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the LOW BID of KNAPP CONCRETE CONTRACTORS, INC. in the Amount of \$424,583.99, and Award a CONTRACT for the NEBRASKA CORRIDOR UPGRADE, with an Additional Authorization of \$42,416.01 (10%) for Contingencies, for a Total Contract Award of \$467,000.00. (Council District 3)**

*CLERK'S NOTE: Refer to 'Regular Business' where this Item was Reconsidered and Deferred*

- (21-203) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request for the Following:**
- A. APPROVE an INCUMBENCY CERTIFICATE and RESOLUTION NO. 21-203-A Accepting a Grant from the ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (IHDA) for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund (APP), in the Amount of \$45,000.00; and**
  - B. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,863 Amending the CITY OF PEORIA 2021 REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET Relating to the Capital Fund to Recognize the Receipt of a Grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) for the ABANDONED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MUNICIPALITY RELIEF FUND (APP) and Corresponding Expenditures, in the Amount of \$45,000.00.**

- (21-195) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,864 Amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, Relating to FULFILLMENT CENTERS.**

- (21-204) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the TECHNICAL COMMITTEE of the TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, with Request to Concur:**
- GIS Asset Management Coordinator, Alyssa McClain (Voting)**
  - Superintendent of Operations/Deputy Director, Sie Maroon (Voting)**
  - Vice President, Hanson Professional Services, Inc., Cindy Loos (Alternate)**

- (21-205) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION with Request to Concur:**

**Edward J. Barry Jr. (Voting) – Term Expires 06/30/2024**

- (21-206) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the TOURISM RESERVE FUND with a Request to Concur:**

\*\*\*

**Council Member Sid Paul Ruckriegel (Voting) – Term Expires 06/30/2022**

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

Council Member Jackson requested Item No. 21-200 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Grayeb requested Item No. 21-199 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Ruckriegel requested Item No. 21-206 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 Jackson.

Item Nos. 21-195 and 21-198 through 21-206 (excluding Item Nos. 21-199, 21-200, and 21-206, which were removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,  
Mayor Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

**(21-199)**      **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a**  
**\***                **Request to ACCEPT the LOW BID of MICROSURFACING CONTRACTORS,**  
**LLC and to Award a Construction CONTRACT, in the Amount of**  
**\$227,708.21, which Includes the Base Bid Plus 10% Contingency for the**  
**HIGH QUALITY AGGREGATE POLYMER MODIFIED SLURRY SEAL**  
**CONTRACT - 2021. (All Council Districts)**

Council Member Grayeb discussed the need for repairs to City streets. He asked City Manager Patrick Urich about the contingency percentages proposed with recent contracts. City Manager Urich explained the contingency was to cover any additional costs, such as material price inflation. Council Member Grayeb and City Manager Urich discussed the measures taken to ensure the contingency funds were protected and the time remaining in the season for repairs.

Council Member Grayeb moved to accept the low bid of Microsurfacing Contractors, LLC and to award a Construction Contract, in the amount of \$227,708.21, which includes the base bid plus 10% contingency for the High Quality Aggregate Polymer Modified Slurry Seal Contract – 2021; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,  
Mayor Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

**(21-200)**      **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a**  
**\*\***                **Request to ACCEPT the LOW BID of R.A. CULLINAN & SON, INC., a**  
**Division of UNITED CONTRACTORS MIDWEST, and Award a Construction**  
**CONTRACT, in the Amount of \$549,344.50, for the Base Bid Plus 10%**  
**Contingency for the SEAL-COATING CONTRACT - 2021. (All Council**  
**Districts)**

Council Member Jackson said she appreciated the information provided by Public Works Director Rick Powers regarding diversity and inclusion efforts for contracted companies.

Council Member Jackson moved to accept the low bid of R.A. Cullinan & Son, Inc., a division of United Contractors Midwest, and award a Construction Contract, in the amount of \$549,344.50, for the base Bid plus 10% contingency for the Seal-Coating Contract – 2021; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,  
Mayor Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

**(21-206) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the TOURISM RESERVE FUND with a  
\*\*\* Request to Concur:**

**Council Member Sid Paul Ruckriegel (Voting) – Term Expires  
06/30/2022**

Council Member Ruckriegel said he would abstain from voting on this item due to a conflict of interest.

Council Member Oyler moved to concur with the appointment of Council Member Sid Paul Ruckriegel to the Tourism Reserve Fund; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Mayor Ali - 8;

Nays: None;

Abstention: Ruckriegel – 1.

### **FIRST READINGS**

**(21-196) 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 RECEIVE and FILE a FIRST READING of an ORDINANCE Amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, Relating to Amendments to the Permitted Use Table Related to PERMITTED AND SPECIAL USES.**

Community Development Director Ross Black said the proposed Ordinance amended text in the Unified Development Code. He described some of the changes to include permitted and special uses for car washes and beekeeping. He said a proposed change considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding apartment buildings in commercial districts had been removed from the Ordinance at this time.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to receive and file a First Reading of an Ordinance amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, relating to amendments to the Permitted Use Table related to Permitted and Special Uses; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,  
Mayor Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

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

- (21-202) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the LOW BID of KNAPP CONCRETE CONTRACTORS, INC. in the Amount of \$424,583.99, and Award a CONTRACT for the NEBRASKA CORRIDOR UPGRADE, with an Additional Authorization of \$42,416.01 (10%) for Contingencies, for a Total Contract Award of \$467,000.00. (Council District 3)**

Council Member Jackson moved to reconsider Agenda Item No. 21-202 that was approved on the Consent Agenda; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,  
Mayor Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

Council Member Jackson said she still had questions regarding this item and requested a chance for further discussion.

Council Member Jackson moved to defer the item to the July 27, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Discussions were held on the point of order to reconsider an item during a meeting. Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Peterson said a motion to reconsider should occur during Unfinished Business, but since discussions had already taken place and a motion was on the floor, it could continue at this time.

Council Member Ruckriegel and Riggerbach said they supported the deferral to allow for more information to be obtained. Council Member Riggerbach explained how important the project was to the East Bluff and that he looked forward to supporting the item at the July 27, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting.

Motion to defer to the July 27, 2021, City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,  
Mayor Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

- (21-207) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to RECEIVE & FILE a REPORT Regarding Licensing Requirements for Gas Stations and Potential Amendments to the RETAIL GASOLINE DEALER LICENSE and the TOBACCO LICENSE.**

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Peterson said additional measures and consequences regarding Tobacco, Liquor and Retail Gasoline Dealer Licenses were being presented to the Council due to a rise in violence at some gas stations in the City. She explained the suggestions were generalized to apply to the wide array of licenses and could be refined at the Council's direction. Interim Counsel Peterson explained the authority the City had to fine, suspend or revoke Licenses and offered suggestions to amend existing requirements, restrictions and consequences regarding those Licenses.

Council Member Grayeb explained that initially City Staff would work with business owners to resolve issues, but other options should be available for the City to take action when necessary for the safety of the community.

Discussions were held regarding potential changes to existing licenses. City Manager Patrick Urich asked the Council for direction on options to bring back for consideration at the July 27, 2021, City Council Meeting. Discussions were held regarding consequences for license holders with unpaid fines and the effect of proposed changes on the majority of licensees that were not a cause of community safety concerns.

Council Member Grayeb asked Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Peterson to bring back Licensing amendments regarding strengthening the City's authority to suspend or revoke tobacco and liquor licenses based on disobeying laws or Ordinances to the July 27, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting for Council consideration.

Council Member Grayeb moved to receive and file a Report regarding licensing requirements for gas stations and potential amendments to the Retail Gasoline Dealer License and the Tobacco License; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,  
Mayor Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

**(21-208) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to RECEIVE & FILE a REPORT Regarding the Status of the LAW for PANHANDLING and SOLICITATION.**

Council Member Grayeb thanked the Legal Department Staff for their work and research on Federal Laws regarding panhandling and solicitation. He said there were existing laws to prevent pedestrians from standing in the street, and he asked City Manager Patrick Urich to collaborate with the Police Department to enforce those laws.

Discussions were held regarding potential motivations behind the increase in panhandlers and whether local agency and nonprofit collaboration could be a beneficial resource. Discussions were held regarding First Amendment rights and how enforcing the existing laws would affect nonprofits fundraising efforts. Safety issues regarding pedestrians in the streets was also discussed. Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Peterson clarified that, according to the Supreme Court, panhandling and public safety were separate legal issues and should not be considered together. She described recent Ordinances adopted by other municipalities relating to the prohibition of all pedestrian traffic at specified intersections or street segments based on traffic studies and pedestrian/vehicle collision reports and statistics.

Further discussions were held regarding the enforcement of existing 'obstruction of traffic' laws and the effect on nonprofits' and charities' fundraising efforts. Addressing mental health concerns in the community was also discussed, as well as the availability of services to aid those in need.

Mayor Ali said Peoria citizens were generous and wanted to help neighbors in need, but there were safety concerns to be considered. She asked Interim Corporation Counsel Peterson for clarification regarding Ordinances restricting pedestrians in streets based on traffic studies and collision statistics. Interim Corporation Counsel Peterson said the Ordinance would prohibit all

pedestrian traffic at the specified intersections or sections of road and would have to be enforced equally. She said 'obstruction of traffic' laws could be enforced as long as it was applied equally to all citizens.

Council Member Grayeb moved to receive and file a Report regarding the status of the law for panhandling and solicitation; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,  
Mayor Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

**(21-209) Communication from the City Manager, Public Works Director and Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 31, ARTICLE VI of the CODE of the City of Peoria Relating to APPEALS OF THE STORMWATER UTILITY FEE.**

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Peterson explained the proposed amendment revised the appeal process for Stormwater Utility Fees due to conflicts of interest with the Construction Commissioners. She said the amendment provided for appeals to be heard by a Hearing Officer instead of the Construction Commission to avoid any conflicts.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 31, Article VI of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to appeals of the Stormwater Utility Fee; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,865 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,  
Mayor Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

**(21-210) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director with a Request to RECEIVE & FILE a REPORT on the CORONAVIRUS STATE and LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS.**

City Manager Patrick Urich said the report was at the request of the City Council from the June 1, 2021, Special City Council Meeting – Policy Session. He outlined each question and response in the packet and said a public survey would be made available for citizens to offer suggestions. He said three public meetings would be scheduled, two in-person meetings and one virtual meeting, to allow citizens to offer input. He said an item would be presented at the August 24, 2021, City Council Meeting with the compiled citizen input and refined Staff recommendation report. He concluded with an overview of the Staff recommendations list and the timeline for upcoming Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund discussions.

Mayor Ali asked City Manager Urich if the Staff recommendations list was prioritized. City Manager Urich said it was not prioritized; however, he said it was grouped into the following categories: Business Support, Infrastructure, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Operation Improvement. He said he would refine the list by working with Staff and consulting public input before the August 24, 2021, City Council Meeting.

Discussions were held regarding the timeline for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and 2022-2023 Biannual Budget discussions. Mayor Ali said a Special Policy Session

would be scheduled to further discuss the funding recommendations and community input.

Council Member Oyler requested additional data and figures regarding demolitions. City Manager Ulrich said he would provide them at the August 24, 2021, City Council Meeting.

At Council Member Cyr's request, City Manager Ulrich explained the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds had to be committed to specified projects by the end of 2024 and had to be spent by the end of 2026. Discussions were held regarding the spending policy for these funds, the interest earned, and how the already committed \$10 million in funding was spent.

Discussions were held on the City's Combined Sewer Overflow funding commitment and the potential use of Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds on existing road construction projects.

Council Member Riggerbach asked for the public survey to be sent to neighborhood organizations. Mayor Ali requested the draft survey be sent to Council Members prior to being sent to the community.

At Council Member Jackson's request, City Manager Ulrich clarified that 'Demolitions,' as listed in the seventh response of the report, referred to both residential and commercial properties; but he said residential demolitions were a higher priority.

Mayor Ali thanked the City Manager and Staff for their hard work regarding the report.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to receive and file a Report on the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,  
Mayor Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

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

It was determined there was no Unfinished Business at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**City Staff Retirements**

Council Member Cyr discussed vacancies due to recently retired City Staff and asked for an update on filling those vacancies. City Manager Patrick Ulrich described recent hires and the search for candidates for the Department Head positions. He said there were many other positions still available as well and Staff was working to fill those vacancies. Council Member Jackson thanked City Manager Ulrich and Staff for their efforts during the transitions.

**Recent Violence**

Council Member Jackson discussed the increased violence in the City and described a recent incident regarding one of her students. She moved to grant Privilege of the Floor to Terry Burnside, a member of the Advisory Committee on Police-Community Relations and asked for his insight on potential solutions to the violence.

Upon hearing no objections, Mayor Ali granted Privilege of the Floor to Terry Burnside.

Terry Burnside discussed the recent violence statistics for Peoria and how they compared to Chicago. He discussed personal experiences with gun violence in Peoria and his work in the community to find solutions. He said the key was to be proactive, noting by the time the Police were called it had become a reactive response. He asked for a commitment of funding to address gun violence in the City of Peoria. He said he believed the violence was a product of interpersonal conflicts and that building relationships was important. At Council Member Jackson's request, Mr. Burnside discussed funding opportunities available for antiviolence efforts, including the Fund Peace campaign, Live Free Illinois, and other organizations working to stop the violence in communities like Peoria.

Mayor Ali thanked Mr. Burnside for his work and contributions to the community and for updating the Council on this issue.

### **Community Memorial Event – June 11, 2021**

Council Member Allen acknowledged the work of organizers for the Community Memorial event held at 6:00 P.M. on Sunday, June 11, 2021, at Morton Square Park. He said the event was a step in the right direction and talked about the need of putting ideas into action.

### **Stormwater Utility Fees**

Council Member Allen asked City Manager Ulrich for a report back on how Stormwater Utility Fee Funds had already been used in response to citizen inquiries.

### **Heart of Illinois Fair**

Council Member Allen said he attended a ribbon-cutting and "Unsung Hero" event with Mayor Ali on Monday, June 12, 2021, at the Heart of Illinois Fair at Expo Gardens in Peoria. He said it was the longest-running fair in the State, and despite the difficult past few years, the HOI Fair was using a new carnival company and he hoped citizens would attend the event.

### **Community Safety**

Council Member Grayeb asked Interim Police Chief Douglas Theobald to answer questions and update the Council regarding recent violence in the community. He thanked Interim Chief Theobald for his many years of service at the Peoria Police Department and for the service of all Police and front-line personnel on the streets doing their best to keep the community safe. He clarified the discussion was not about gun-control, it was about guns being illegally obtained, possessed, and used in criminal activities.

Interim Chief Theobald thanked Council Member Grayeb for his statements. He said it was his privilege to serve on the Peoria Police Department for 28 years and said he was looking forward to welcoming the new Police Chief, Eric Echevarria, on August 2, 2021.

Interim Chief Theobald said there was a rise in burglaries to gun stores in recent years. He discussed how illegal guns were frequently recovered by Peoria Police Officers on suspects or at crime scenes. He explained the requirements of gun store owners regarding security measures to include video surveillance and alarm systems, and how the burglaries took place regardless of those installed measures. He said increasing building fortifications and using technological advances could be used to reinforce and strengthen building security. He said it was not the fault of the business owner nor citizens when guns were stolen, but he asked the community to do everything it could to help try and prevent those crimes. He said the Police work individually with gun store owners to help advise them on building security and best practices. He discussed a recent robbery in downtown Peoria and how the Police quickly

apprehended the suspect and recovered many of the stolen weapons successfully. At Council Member Jackson's request, Interim Chief Theobald explained the recent burglary in downtown Peoria was still under investigation and he planned to follow-up with the store owner regarding building security.

Council Member Allen asked about funding available for gun store owners to enhance security and whether audits of businesses were conducted to ascertain compliance in security requirements. Interim Chief Theobald said building security enhancement was the responsibility of the store owner and security audits were the responsibility of the Illinois State Police and the Federal ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms) Departments. He said security consultations and discussions were conducted at a local level.

Mayor Ali inquired about a grant application made by the Police Department, and Interim Chief Theobald said the grant process had just begun and would potentially provide technology for the Police Department to address violent crime. Mayor Ali thanked Interim Chief Theobald for addressing the Council and for his 28 years of service on the Peoria Police Department.

### **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.

Pete Schmidt, a citizen of Peoria's Fourth District, said as a landlord he worked closely with City Staff and Council Members in order to address a variety of issues. He talked about the positive experiences he had working with Code Enforcement and Community Development and encouraged other landlords in the City to get to know the City Council and City Staff as it would help their business. Mayor Ali thanked Pete for his work and collaboration with City Staff.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was determined that there was no need for an Executive Session at this time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

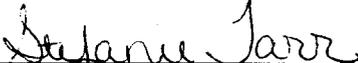
Council Member Allen moved to adjourn the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula,  
Mayor Ali - 9;

Nays: None.

The Regular Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

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