



: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

A Regular Meeting of City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held on November 23, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Ali presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were present: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel (electronic attendance), 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.

ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

Mayor Ali announced a notice was received by Council Member Ruckriegel in accordance with rules established in Ordinance No. 16,142. She said Council Member Ruckriegel 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 Ruckriegel to attend electronically would be deemed approved by the City Council and Council Member Ruckriegel would be declared present.

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

MINUTES

Council Member Oyler moved to approve the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting held on November 2, 2021, and the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on November 9, 2021, as printed; 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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS**(21-357) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the ORDINANCE Levying a SPECIAL SERVICE AREA REAL ESTATE TAX, in the Amount of \$145,000.00, for the Tax Year 2021, for the WESTLAKE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA.**

Council Member Cyr moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the Ordinance levying a Special Service Area Real Estate Tax, in the amount of \$145,000.00, for the tax year 2021, for the Westlake Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 P.M.

Chris Oswald, an Attorney with Miller, Hall & Triggs representing the owner of the Westlake Shopping Center, said the public hearing was scheduled due to the recent proposed Special Service Area Agreement amendment approved by the Council to increase funds for proposed improvements to the Shopping Center.

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

Council Member Cyr moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the Ordinance levying a Special Service Area Real Estate Tax, in the amount of \$145,000.00, for the tax year 2021, for the Westlake Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali closed the Public Hearing at 6:07 P.M.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA**REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:****(21-358) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve the Declaration of Local State of Emergency; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(21-359) **Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request for the Following:**

- A. ACCEPT the FY2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG), from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the Department of Justice (DOJ), in the Amount of \$76,319.00; and**
- B. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2020-2021 BIENNIAL BUDGET, Relating to the General Fund, to Recognize the Receipt of Grant Funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Providing the FY2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG), in the Amount of \$76,319.00; and**
- C. APPROVE and Authorize the City Manager to Execute an INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT Between the City of Peoria and the County of Peoria, under the FY2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG), in the Amount of \$76,319.00; and**
- D. APPROVE a Two-Year AGREEMENT with FLOCK SAFETY, for the Purchase and Installation of 16 Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Cameras, in the Amount of \$109,000.00; and**
- E. APPROVE a SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE of the First Year's Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Camera Subscription Costs and Installation Fees, from FLOCK SAFETY, in the Amount of \$44,000.00, with FY2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) Funds; and**
- F. APPROVE a SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE of the Second Year's Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Camera Subscription Costs, from FLOCK SAFETY, in the Amount of \$40,000.00, from the Police Camera Fund.**

Mayor Ali stated items B, E, & F would require a 2/3 super-majority vote for approval due to those items amending the 2021 Budget.

Police Technology Administrator Jack Nieu Kirk described Flock Safety's products and services. In response to Council Member Grayeb's inquiry related to ShotSpotter, Mr. Nieu Kirk compared the gunshot recognition programs, noting the City would receive a one-year trial of the Raven Gunshot Detection System from Flock Safety to operate parallel to ShotSpotter, the program currently employed by the City, to determine if it was a viable alternative. He said if the Council decided to proceed with the Raven System after the trial, it would provide 50% savings per square mile compared to ShotSpotter. He said the Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) cameras were solar-powered, post-mounted cameras that would be installed in critical locations in the City. He said existing cameras could be updated with ALPR software and integrated into the system. He said the cameras did not capture recordings, but they took multiple high-resolution snapshots to aid in the identification of people and vehicles.

In response to Council Member Kelly's inquiry regarding funding, Mr. Nieukirk said the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) would fund the purchase and installation of the 16 ALPR cameras and the first year of subscription costs for the software program. He said the second year of subscription costs would be funded using the Police Camera Fund. He said should the Council decided to proceed with the Raven Gunshot Detection System, it would require a Budget amendment.

Council Member Jensen moved to accept the FY2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the Department of Justice (DOJ), in the amount of \$76,319.00; 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 Jensen moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria 2020-2021 Biennial Budget, relating to the General Fund, to recognize the receipt of grant funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, providing the FY2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), in the amount of \$76,319.00; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,905 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve and authorize the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Peoria and the County of Peoria, under the FY2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), in the amount of \$76,319.00; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve a two-year Agreement with Flock Safety, for the purchase and installation of 16 automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) cameras, in the amount of \$109,000.00; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

CLERK'S NOTE: Phone connection with Council Member Ruckriegel was lost at 6:22 P.M.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve a sole source purchase of the first year's automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) camera subscription costs and installation fees, from Flock Safety, in the amount of \$44,000.00, with FY2021 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) funds; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Jensen moved to approve a sole source purchase of the second year's automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) camera subscription costs, from Flock Safety, in the amount of \$40,000.00, from the Police Camera Fund; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(21-360) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE LEVYING a SPECIAL SERVICE AREA (SSA) REAL ESTATE TAX, in the Amount of \$145,000.00, for the Tax Year 2021, for the WESTLAKE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA.

Council Member Allen moved to adopt an Ordinance levying a Special Service Area (SSA) Real Estate Tax, in the amount of \$145,000.00, for the tax year 2021, for the Westlake Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,906 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

RECESS

The City Council recessed at 6:26 P.M. to reestablish a phone connection with Council Member Ruckriegel.

RECONVENING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council reconvened at 6:29 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were physically present: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali - 1. Absent: None.

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

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

City Manager Patrick Urich summarized compiled results of Budget revisions as directed by Council during previous discussions. He said the final item to reconcile was the \$4 million deficit related to the City's Police and Fire Pension Fund obligations. He reviewed options previously presented to the Council, and he said an option was offered at the November 16, 2021, City Council Meeting, that proposed utilizing excess 2021 revenues to make the Pension Fund contributions in 2022 and 2023. He summarized the inflated 2021 revenues against 2020 projections, and he cited the recovering economy, state-shared revenues, and local-based revenue increases as causes. He explained how projected revenues were updated intermittently from the Illinois Municipal League (IML) when actual revenues were calculated, and trends reviewed. He said IML sent updated November projections with additional revenue growth in 2021, greater than the September projections in the initial Budget proposal. He said the Council could set aside \$4 million of those additional funds for Pension Fund obligations in 2022 and 2023. He said it would not amend the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget since it would not change the proposed spending plan or Pension Fund contributions.

Mayor Ali asked how using funds from the General Fund for Pension Fund contributions in 2022 and 2023 would affect the General Fund balance policy. City Manager Urich said with the 2021 revenue increases over projections, setting aside \$4 million to cover Pension Fund obligations would reduce the General Fund balance from 27.4% to 23.1%, which was within 2% of the Council's General Fund balance policy.

Further discussions were held concerning the 2021 increased revenue over projections, how revenues were tracked and estimated, and factors contributing to inflation. City Manager Urich outlined the State-shared funds distribution schedule and updated November projections.

Council Member Riggerbach said the City Manager's proposal was not a long-term solution, but it addressed the immediate concern of covering Pension Fund contributions with excess 2021 revenue instead of alternatives such as cutting expenses. He said collaborating with State Legislators to achieve a long-term solution was the next step for the Council to address.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to set aside \$4,038,664.00 of the 2021 General Fund balance to fund pension obligations in 2022 and 2023; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

In response to Council Member Kelly's question if a motion to receive and file the Budget presentation should have occurred, Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka said in the past the Council made the motion to receive and file at the beginning and at the end of the Budget discussions, so how to proceed was the Council's decision. Mayor Ali said they would proceed with Council Member Riggerbach's motion on the floor.

Council Member Cyr asked for details regarding Cannabis Taxes in the IML Report. City Manager Urich said the report contained data related to the Cannabis Use Tax but not the Cannabis Sales Tax. He said the last projection for the Cannabis Use Tax was \$1.40 per capita, or \$160,000.00 projected for 2021.

Council Member Cyr summarized the job market in the Peoria-area and how it affected local retailer's business hours. City Manager Urich said he was optimistic about 2021 revenues, but he said unfilled jobs at local small businesses could be detrimental to revenues in the future.

He said filling job vacancies was a priority, noting it was a regional and national concern as well. He stated infrastructure improvements and other incentives would stimulate growth in other areas of the City, including the job market.

Continued discussions were held on the short-term nature of the motion on the floor regarding Pension Fund obligations, as well as processes of the Budget proposal, discussion, approval, and amendments. Mayor Ali said the Budget would be amended once additional external funding was received by the City.

Council Member Allen reviewed previous Budget discussions and obstacles the Council overcame. He said the motion provided the best solution given the circumstances, noting he would prefer to save the additional revenue from 2021; however, he said spending those funds instead of making cuts to Public Safety was the better choice. He said the City was facing long-term challenges, but the motion would resolve immediate concerns.

Council Member Oyler said he disagreed with using 2021 revenue to fund obligations in 2022 and 2023. He said the General Fund was intended to be used for unforeseen costs, and he said he could not support the motion because it did not prepare for future needs. He said the extension of the Public Safety Pension Fee should not have been included in the proposed 2022-2023 Biennial Budget, and he said only existing revenue sources and expenses should be considered. He said using one-time funds to cover the City's Pension Fund obligations was irresponsible.

Council Member Grayeb thanked Council Members and Staff for their hard work during the Budget process. He said not every issue the City faced was solved in the proposed Budget, but he said one major item to note was the unprecedented public safety budget and the resources it afforded. He said it sent a strong message to a community afflicted with increased violence, stating it proved citizens' safety was a priority. He said the proposed Budget was the best the Council could put forward to address those concerns with the available resources.

Council Member Jensen said she believed the motion delivered a responsible solution. She said the General Fund reserve balance would be at 23.1% and City's Pension Fund contributions for the next two years would be fulfilled. She summarized public safety resources including a reinstated Fire Engine and personnel hires in Police, Fire and Code Enforcement in response to recovering revenues.

Further discussions were held regarding recovering revenues at a higher rate than projected and the effect on the General Fund reserve balance.

Council Member Jackson said the motion on the floor was not the best solution because it did not address long-term concerns; however, she said it was the best short-term solution available. She said she would support the motion, stating it was important to address crime and increased violence in the community.

Motion to set aside \$4,038,664.00 of the 2021 General Fund balance to fund pension obligations in 2022 and 2023 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Riggerbach, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 8;

Nays: Cyr, Oyler, Ruckriegel – 3.

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

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

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

Nays: Oyler – 1.

(21-354) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE LEVYING the TAXES for FISCAL YEAR 2022 for MUNICIPAL PURPOSES for the City of Peoria, Illinois.

Council Member Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance levying the taxes for fiscal year 2022 for municipal purposes for the City of Peoria, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,907 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(21-355) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE ABATING the TAX Heretofore Levied to Pay Principal of an Interest on GENERAL OBLIGATION CORPORATE PURPOSE BONDS, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, 2015 Series B, C & D, 2016 Series C, 2018 Series A, 2020 Series A & B, and 2021 A and B, and the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2016 Series A General Obligation Bonds in the Amount of \$222,062.00; the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2018 Series B General Obligation Bonds in the Amount of \$584,114.00; the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2019 General Obligation Bonds in the Amount of \$2,395,705.00; and the Partial Abatement of Taxes Levied to Pay Principal and Interest on 2021 Series C General Obligation Bonds in the Amount of \$547,661.00.

Council Member Riggenbach moved to adopt an Ordinance abating the tax heretofore levied to pay principal of an interest on General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, 2015 Series B, C, & D, 2016 Series C, 2018 Series A, 2020 Series A & B, and 2021 A and B, and the partial abatement of taxes levied to pay principal and interest on 2016 Series A General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$222,062.00; the partial abatement of taxes levied to pay principal and interest on 2018 Series B General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$584,114.00; the partial abatement of taxes levied to pay principal and interest on 2019 General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$2,395,705.00; and the partial abatement of taxes levied to pay principal and interest on 2021 Series C General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$547,661.00; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,908 was adopted roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(21-356) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to ADOPT a RESOLUTION Adopting the 2022-2023 BIENNIAL BUDGET for the City of Peoria.

Council Member Grayeb moved to approve a Resolution adopting the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget for the City of Peoria; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

RESOLUTION NO. 21-356 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Riggerbach, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 8;

Nays: Cyr, Oyler, Ruckriegel – 3.

NEW BUSINESS

2022-2023 Biennial Budget Process

Mayor Ali thanked City Manager Patrick Urich, Finance Director Kyle Cratty, and City Staff for their hard work, long hours, and great efforts compiling the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget.

Santa Claus Parade

Council Member Grayeb invited citizens to enjoy the 134th Santa Claus Parade on Friday November 26, 2021. He said it was the longest ongoing parade in American History.

Thanksgiving Blessings

Council Member Kelly offered his best wishes to everyone for a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

Gary Hall, a citizen of Peoria, said he appreciated the 2021 Veteran's Day parade, and he said he was looking forward to future celebrations of United States veterans. He discussed the increase of panhandlers in the City over recent years and he asked about legal implications.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT


Council Member Cyr moved to adjourn the City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Regular City Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 P.M.



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