

ITEM NO. 14-082

**CITY COUNCIL OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, IN COUNCIL,
ASSEMBLED YOUR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE to Whom
was Referred a POLICY SESSION Regarding LIQUOR
REGULATIONS Including Discussion on the Plan of
Operation for Site Approval and Enforcement Proceedings
and a Proposed Moratorium of Class A and B-1 Site
Approvals in the Downtown Area.**

A Policy Session was held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, in the Council Chambers, Room 400, City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois at 7:40 P.M., with Mayor Jim Ardis presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were physically present: Akeson, Grayeb, Jensen, Johnson, Montelongo, Moore, Spain, Riggenbach, Turner, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11; Absent – None.

Others present were: City Manager Patrick Urich, Interim Corporation Counsel Sonni Williams, City Clerk Beth Ball, Chief Deputy City Clerk Stefanie Rice, Police Chief Steve Settingsgaard, interested citizens and members of the media.

**LIQUOR REGULATIONS INCLUDING DISCUSSION ON THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR
SITE APPROVAL AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS AND A PROPOSED
MORATORIUM OF CLASS A AND B-1 SITE APPROVALS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA**

Council Member Akeson distributed copies of the City of Chicago's Liquor License Plan of Operation and Chicago's Quick Guide to Liquor Licensing.

Mayor Ardis said the purpose of a Policy Session was to review and discuss the information received. He acknowledged the research Council Member Akeson conducted on the City of Chicago's liquor licensing procedures, and he recommended, during the course of the discussions, for Interim Corporation Counsel to recap the moratorium issues.

Interim Corporation Counsel Williams provided background information on the site approval process for the City of Peoria, and she noted that the City Council ultimately determined whether a location was appropriate for a liquor license. She said the Liquor Commissioner and the Deputy Liquor Commissioner determined whether an operator of an establishment was appropriate. He remarked that there had been situations where a site application was denied due to the risk of a future operator owning or renting the establishment without reasonable limits.

Interim Corporation Counsel Williams reviewed the City of Chicago's process and reported they had a Plan of Operation for each establishment that addressed quality of life issues.

In response to Mayor Ardis, Interim Corporation Counsel Williams said on November 27, 2012, the City Council put into effect a moratorium on the approval of site applications for Class A and Class B-1 liquor establishments in the 4:00 A.M. District in order for Staff to research how downtown establishments could complement the Marriott Pere Marquette and Courtyard Marriot.

Police Chief Settingsgaard provided an analysis of the 500 and 600 blocks of Main Street. He said, since the implementation of the moratorium, there had been a 25% drop in calls for

services and a 22% drop in criminal reports written. He remarked that the closure and moving of a number of establishments from the Main Street area impacted on those percentages. He said the establishments on Main Street had become quieter over time, especially during the second half of 2013.

Mayor Ardis remarked that a moratorium was put in place because of the potential negative impact the Class A and B-1 licenses would have on the Pere Marquette. He recapped the Police Chief's report noting the significant reduction in calls due to closures of the 4:00 A.M. bars. He said there was no recommendation from the Police Chief to change the moratorium.

Police Chief Settingsgaard said the 4:00 A.M. zone worked well when located within a relatively small geographic area for the patrols to access them easily. He said the Department would be able to cover those small areas more efficiently versus one large area.

Mayor Ardis noted there was no recommendation to expand the 4:00 A.M. licensing zone.

Council Member Spain said it was time to amend the moratorium. He said the City still had areas in the midst of transition, specifically noting the Marriott Courtyard still under construction and opportunities that related to the Madison Theatre. He said the narrowing of the 4:00 A.M. zone was no longer necessary. He expressed frustration for business owners with great business plans that would not coincide with the City's regulations. He said it was time to review and update the City's liquor regulations.

Interim Corporation Counsel Williams remarked that after the plan of operations was drafted, it would be utilized in the site approval process. She said the City's Ordinance would need to be drafted to require a location to have a Plan of Operation. She remarked that if a new business owner assumed the property, then they would need to agree to that plan; however, if there were problems, then the business owner would need a new Plan of Operation. She noted that a Plan of Operation would only be necessary for those establishments located within or near neighborhoods. She said if an establishment was located in a place that had no quality of life issues, then a Plan of Operation would not be necessary.

Mayor Ardis commented that the intent of these discussions and the purpose of implementing a Plan of Operation were to address problem establishments. He said the main focus was currently in the Central Business District.

Council Member Spain said the proposed area for a continued moratorium on Class A liquor establishments was appropriate. He noted the lack of opposition on the matter.

Council Member Akeson provided a presentation on Plans of Operations that the City of Chicago implemented for its licensing procedure. She said a Plan of Operation was a legal contract and was entered into voluntarily on behalf of the business owners. She said it would give a license holder specific conditions to meet in order to obtain a liquor license. She said these plans would eliminate neighborhood concerns impacted by the establishment. She said the business owner, neighborhood and Liquor Commissioner would meet to draft a plan. She said this would provide the City with an option to place conditions that would address quality of life issues. She said a list of plans were available for review on the City of Chicago's website at www.cityofchicago.org.

Discussions were held regarding the Plan of Operation required for business owners, and it was suggested that businesses located within the proposed area for a continued moratorium be required to agree to a Plan of Operation.

At the close of discussion, Mayor Ardis expressed his appreciation to Council Member Akeson for her efforts in this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Jensen moved to adjourn the Policy Session regarding a Liquor Regulations including discussion on the plan of operation for site approval and enforcement proceedings and a proposed moratorium of Class A and B-1 Site Approval in the Downtown Area; seconded by Council Member Johnson.

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

Nays: None.

The Policy Session closed at 8:45 P.M.



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

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