

: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held April 28, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. by electronic means through Microsoft Teams, with Mayor Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE

In accordance with Governor JB Pritzker's Executive Orders 2020-10, issued on March 20, 2020, prohibiting all public and private gatherings of 10 people or more in a single room or single space at the same time, and 2020-18, issued on April 1, 2020, extending Executive Order 2020-10 through April 30, 2020, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation of gatherings of no more than 10 people in a single room or space and social distancing of at least six feet between persons; I, Mayor Ardis, declared a local State of Emergency and closed City Hall to the public to contain the spread of COVID-19.

To fulfill the requirements and recommendations and to comply with the spirit of the Open Meetings Act by conducting the April 28, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting virtually through Microsoft Teams. Those City Council Members attending the meeting virtually shall be declared present. Citizens and media are invited to watch through the online live stream, local TV Channel 22, or WCBU radio. Submissions for Public Comment were received through the City Clerk's Office.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were electronically present: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Moore, Montelongo, Oyler, Rigggenbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 11.
Absent: None.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

**Child Abuse Prevention Month
50th Anniversary of CityLink
Motorcycle Awareness Month**

MINUTES

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on April 14, 2020, and the Special City Council Meeting held on April 21, 2020, as printed; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Rigggenbach,
Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIACONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE, with Recommendations as Outlined

- (20-094) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources with a Request APPROVE and Authorize the City Manager to Renew Existing Liability Coverages with ARGONAUT INSURANCE COMPANY through Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, at a One-Year Cost of \$241,926.00, and to add Cyber Liability Coverage with ACE INSURANCE, at a cost of \$15,408.00, and Crime Coverage with HANOVER INSURANCE, at a Cost of \$2,685.00.**
- (20-095) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources with a Request to APPROVE and Authorize the Execution of a CONTRACT with RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES (RMA), in the Amount of \$38,850.00, to Administer the Fire Captain Promotional Examination.**
- (20-096) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE RESOLUTIONS of PROPOSED MATCH FUNDING for Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds, State Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024, for the Following:**
- A. **APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 20-096-A of Proposed Match Funding for PIONEER PARKWAY AND UNIVERSITY STREET INTERSECTION; the Federal Fund Proposed is \$2,660,000.00, and Local Match Shall Be No Less Than \$1,140,000.00 (Council District 5)**
 - B. **APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 20-096-B of Proposed Match Funding for SW WASHINGTON STREET, From LIBERTY STREET TO EAST OF HAMILTON BOULEVARD; the Federal Fund Proposed is \$2,772,000.00, and Local Match Shall Be No Less Than \$1,188,000.00. (Council District 1)**
- (20-097) **Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request for the Following:**
- A. **ACCEPT the FY2020 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING GRANT from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the Department of Justice (DOJ), in the Amount of \$201,173.00; and**
 - B. **ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,767 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 FY2020 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING GRANT, in the Amount of \$201,173.00.**

- (20-078) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,768 Amending CHAPTER 31, Schedule A of the CODE of the City of Peoria Prohibiting the Use of Groundwater as a POTABLE WATER SUPPLY by the Installation or Use of Potable Water Supply Wells or by Any Other Method to Include Properties Bound by NORTHEAST ADAMS STREET, SPALDING AVENUE AND EATON STREET.**
- (20-079) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,769 Amending Appendix A, the Unified Development Code, Relating to WAREHOUSE, SELF SERVICE, INDOOR MULTI-STORY STORAGE.**
- (20-098) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,770 Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class C-2 (Large Scale Commercial) District, for an ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY for the Property Located at 7615 N HARKER DRIVE (Parcel Identification No. 14-07-227-005), Peoria IL. (Council District 5)**
- (20-099) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,771 Amending SPECIAL USE Ordinance No. 13,814, as amended, in a Class R-7 (Multi-Family Residential), for ELDERLY HOUSING for a Building Addition for the Property Located at 7023 NE SKYLINE DR (Parcel Identification No. 14-10-326-007), Peoria, IL (Council District 3)**
- (20-100) **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. 17,772 Approving a REZONING from a Class R-4 (Single Family Residential) District to a Class C-G (General Commercial) District for the Property Located at 1909 AND 1913 W HOWETT STREET (Parcel Identification Nos. 18-07-482-033 and 18-07-482-032), Peoria, Illinois (Council District 1).**
- (20-093) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 13 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Relating to the DEFINITION of WEEDS.**

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

Council Member Cyr requested Item No. 20-095 and 20-093 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Oyler also requested Item No. 20-095 be removed and then he moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as outlined in the Council Communications; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Item Nos. 20-078 through 20-079, and 20-094 through 20-100 (excluding Item Nos. 20-093 and 20-095) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

(20-095) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources with a Request to APPROVE and Authorize the Execution of a CONTRACT with RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES (RMA), in the Amount of \$38,850.00, to Administer the Fire Captain Promotional Examination.**
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Council Member Cyr moved to defer this matter until the June 23, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Council Member Moore asked for clarification on the motion. City Manager Patrick Urich confirmed that the item would be deferred for 60 days and brought back before the Council at the June 23, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting for approval.

Discussions were held regarding labor contracts and legal implications of postponing the item.

Motion to defer this item to the June 23, 2020, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: Grayeb - 1.

(20-093) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 13 of the CODE of the City of Peoria Relating to the DEFINITION OF WEEDS.**
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Discussions were held regarding the proposed Ordinance and the City Manager explained the relief would only be temporary if it was not adopted, but adoption of the Ordinance would provide some financial relief until the end of the year. It was also discussed how the City Manager's emergency powers could be utilized to suspend the current Ordinance, and the detrimental precedent this Ordinance could potentially set.

Council Member Oyler moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to the definition of weeds; seconded by Council Member Montelongo.

Further discussions were held regarding the City's financial situation and progression towards successfully exiting the crisis.

Motion to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to the definition of weeds was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Oyler, Riggerbach, Mayor Ardis - 3;

Nays: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Ruckriegel - 8.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:**(20-101) 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 Cyr.

Motion to approve the Declaration of Local State of Emergency was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

(20-102) Communication from the City Manager and the Community Development Director with a Request to APPROVE the Outline of Various COVID-19 RECOVERY PROGRAMS for City of Peoria Businesses and Individuals.

Community Development Director Ross Black described the COVID-19 Recovery Programs and asked for Council's direction to bring specific programs back for final approval at a subsequent meeting.

Council Member Moore and Director Black discussed the funding proposed to be facilitated by the CDBG Commission.

Before thanking Director Black and City Staff for their hard work compiling the information provided, Council Member Jensen moved to approve the outline of various COVID-19 recovery programs for City of Peoria businesses and individuals; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Discussions were held concerning the application process and the importance of providing assistance at the City-level alongside any State or Federal funding that might become available.

Council Member Kelly and Director Black discussed the homeless population and the funding allocated, which was associated with COVID-19.

Council Member Ali asked about expiration dates for the funding programs proposed. Director Black said, while there would be a short timeline in which to use the funding, Staff would work to ensure it was used within the parameters.

Further discussions were held detailing the application process, the equal availability of funding for businesses, individuals, community services and non-profit organizations, and the reallocation of funding leftover from other programs for the use of COVID-19 recovery.

Motion to approve the outline of various COVID-19 recovery programs for City of Peoria businesses and individuals was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

(20-103) Communication from the City Manager to RECEIVE and FILE a PRESENTATION from the PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY on the Local Library Response to the State's Stay-at-Home Order and COVID-19.

Council Member Ruckriegel talked about integrating existing Peoria Public Library Members into digital services while also recruiting new members with existing and new services offered. He asked Randall Yelverton, Executive Director of the Peoria Public Library, to provide an overview of activities at the library during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to receive and file the presentation from the Peoria Public Library on the local library response to the State's Stay-at-Home order and COVID-19; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Director Yelverton described the Library's initiative to digitize media prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued progress in making those resources more robust and widely available to citizens. He detailed changes implemented due to the Library's physical locations being closed due to the pandemic, including virtual meetings, helping families with E-Learning as well as online library card applications. He also described the preparations for physical locations reopening in order to provide citizens computer access for job applications and social engagement.

Mayor Ardis thanked Director Yelverton and Library Staff for their hard work and for engaging the community in the Library's services.

Motion to receive and file the presentation from the Peoria Public Library on the local library response to the State's Stay-at-Home order and COVID-19 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

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

(20-081) Communication from the City Manager With a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a PRESENTATION on the IMPACT OF COVID-19 RELATING TO THE CITY'S BUDGET.

The following handouts were distributed to all Council Members:

- 2020 COVID-19 Budget Adjustments
- Peoria – 2020 Restructuring Analysis

City Manager Patrick Urich presented the 2020 COVID-19 Budget Adjustments and Restructuring Analysis explaining scenarios of both anticipated revenue gaps and potential action plans with levers of response. He described the current job market and revenue shortfall projections both locally and across the State. He said Federal Aid was not built into the scenarios, but any funding received would be added to the models for an updated outlook. He detailed the four scenarios for Council to consider ranging from no operational cuts to \$15 million operational cuts. He encouraged the Council to take early action to allow the City to recover as soon as possible and he commented on the need for flexibility as events unfolded.

After thanking the City Manager and Staff for their efforts in compiling the information and presenting the scenarios, Mayor Ardis explained the importance of the City Council providing a timely response and direction for the City Manager. He discussed the potential Federal funding, the need for flexibility and timeline goals. At Mayor Ardis' direction, City Manager Urich provided an overview of the City employee workforce and the implications of reductions as outlined in certain scenarios.

Discussions were held regarding bond restructuring, repayment methods, and lines of credit that were being pursued.

Council Member Cyr suggested that the interest only be paid on a bond for the first few years if a bond was used for financing.

Council Member Cyr moved to direct the City Manager to discuss potential cost-saving amendment to the PDC agreement regarding landfill fees, trash, yard waste and recycling; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

After a clarification of the motion was discussed, City Manager Urich stated he could have that conversation and he would report back to Council. He further explained the Garbage Fund was in debt to the General Fund, which would reduce cash flow but would not reduce the Operating Budget.

Motion to direct the City Manager to discuss a potential cost-saving amendment to the PDC agreement regarding landfill fees, trash, yard waste and recycling was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel,
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: Grayeb, Jensen – 2.

After Council Member Cyr's inquiry about cost-savings associated with the Peoria Public Library, City Manager Urich explained where the Library received its funding and said the Library could be directed to provide a financial report at the next Regular City Council Meeting. He said any changes proposed would have to be discussed with the Library Board.

Discussions were held regarding available Grants and additional Federal Funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other sources.

Council Member Cyr suggested an action plan to discuss three phases of staffing reductions after all other options were exhausted.

At Council Member Cyr's request, Chief of Police Loren Marion and Fire Chief Tony Ardis provided overviews of how different operational cuts would affect the Police and Fire Departments, services provided to the community by those Departments, and how it could affect the City's insurance rating which could affect citizen's premiums. Both Chief Marion and Chief Ardis offered recommendations for cost-saving alternatives within their respective Departments for Council to consider.

Council Member Grayeb encouraged Council to wait for more information before making decisions based on the ongoing pandemic and other stimulus packages that could be forthcoming.

Discussions were held regarding the different Collective Bargaining Units and the requirements for conducting negotiations regarding cost-savings such as early retirement incentives, attrition, not filling vacancies, furloughs, shortening work hours, reductions to management and exempt salaries, and other reductions. City Manager Urich and Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins were asked to report back on the details of the early retirement incentive program and furloughs that occurred for City employees eight years ago. Discussions were held regarding the four different types of operational cuts presented, and it was recommended to focus on the \$5 million to \$10 million in operational cuts, or a combination of the two. Some Council Members expressed an unwillingness to raise taxes for citizens and discussions were held on the implications. City Manager Urich explained that collaboration efforts with other Governmental entities, including Peoria County, were outlined in the Report Back handouts provided to Council.

Discussions regarding the City's Obligations were held, to include Bond and Retirement/Pension payments followed by Operational costs. City Manager Urich explained the revenue streams that were used to make those payments and how reductions in City departments could not be fully detailed until a cost-reduction plan was approved. Borrowing options and potential grants were also discussed to determine how those might affect future decisions.

Mayor Ardis stated there needed to be a revenue stream if the City was going to borrow.

Following discussion regarding the four scenarios that were presented, Council Member Riggenbach moved to direct the City Manager to present an option combining scenarios 2 and 3, \$5-\$10 million in Operating cuts and to include early retirement incentives, furloughs, and other cost saving measures as discussed; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Further discussions were held on the consequences of the different operational scenarios presented, including tax increases, public safety concerns and capital project reductions as well as how the option from the current motion on the floor could offer a solution. Some Council Members expressed the need for more information and reports before giving further direction. At Council Member Moore's request, City Manager Urich confirmed that the Collective Bargaining Units would not respond to cost reduction inquiries without a decision from Council. After some Council Members explained why they would not be supporting the motion on the floor, Mayor Ardis encouraged alternative pathways or substitute motions to give direction to the City Manager.

Council Member Riggenbach moved for a substitute motion by directing the City Manager not to pursue Scenarios 1 and 4 and to direct the City Manager to present an option combining scenarios 2 and 3, \$5-\$10 million in Operating cuts and to include early retirement incentives, furloughs, and other cost saving measures as discussed; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Additional discussions were held regarding the need for more information before making any decisions. A suggestion was also made to hold another meeting next Tuesday.

In response to the Mayor's inquiry, City Manager Urich explained that a meeting on Tuesday May 5th would result in little new information to present and requested waiting until the next Regular Meeting scheduled on Tuesday May 12, 2020, for updated information to be presented.

Discussions were held on how Operational cuts would affect the budget and where those cuts could be made with the least repercussions.

City Manager Urich described the revenue projections in the handouts and how the different scenarios were crafted to account for the changes as related to COVID-19.

Mayor Ardis thanked Council Member Grayeb for contacting State Officials regarding assistance and guidance related to Public Pension Debt. He encouraged Council Members to give the City Manager direction based on the information currently available and to adjust the plan as new information was obtained.

Substitute motion to direct the City Manager not to pursue Scenarios 1 and 4 and to direct the City Manager to present an option combining scenarios 2 and 3, \$5-\$10 million in Operating cuts and to include early retirement incentives, furloughs, and other cost saving measures as discussed was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Cyr, Moore, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 5;

Nays: Ali, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Oyler - 6.

Council Member Jensen moved to direct the City Manager to explore reducing \$5 million in Operating costs without cutting any City employees and to negotiate with Union Bargaining Units; seconded by Council Member Montelongo.

Motion to direct the City Manager to explore reducing \$5 million in Operating costs without cutting any City employees and negotiate with Union Bargaining Units was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Jensen, Montelongo - 2;

Nays: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Kelly, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 9.

Council Member Grayeb moved to receive and file a presentation on the impact of COVID-19 relating to the City's budget; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

(20-091) Communication from the City Manager and the Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE a LAND PURCHASE AGREEMENT between EXPOSITION GARDENS and the City of Peoria.

After explaining that due to the budget situation this was not the opportune time to discuss and approve the proposed agreement, Council Member Montelongo moved to withdraw the request to approve a Land Purchase Agreement between Exposition Gardens and the City of Peoria; seconded by Council Member Jensen.

Motion to WITHDRAW the request to approve a Land Purchase Agreement between Exposition Gardens and the City of Peoria was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS**Salary of City Elected Officials**

Citing citizen inquiries he had received, Council Member Cyr asked Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Peterson to explain the setting of salaries for City Elected Officials. Interim Corporation Counsel Peterson said salaries and benefits were required to be set by Ordinance 180 days prior to the election of officials and could not be altered for the duration of their terms.

Essential Business Equality

Council Member Kelly explained he felt there was inequality in essential business functions as it related to local businesses versus bigger retailers, and cited Bushwhacker as an example. He requested adding an item to the May 12, 2020, Regular City Council Agenda to discuss a remedy to the situation.

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Peterson detailed the Bushwacker example for the Council before explaining how the State determined Essential Business guidelines and decided to approve functions on a case-by-case basis, noting it was not always in a consistent or complete manner. She said more options were becoming available regarding curbside allowances and further instructions for businesses.

Council Member Kelly asked for an item to be added to the May 12, 2020, City Council Agenda that would include a Resolution to the State of Illinois that recommended the State remedy these inconsistencies. No objections were heard.

National League of Cities

Council Member Moore explained that the National League of Cities, of which the City of Peoria was a member, was providing updated information several times a week concerning what was transpiring around the Country in response to the pandemic, and she recommended utilizing this membership for information.

COVID-19 City Response

Council Member Grayeb thanked the Mayor, local health officials, medical professionals and all of those who have worked hard to meet the needs of the community during the pandemic. He agreed with Council Member Riegenbach when, in an earlier discussion, he described the City's financial situation earlier this year as stable and with a balanced budget, and how he believed the City could depend on a full and robust recovery from the effects of COVID-19. He also said he appreciated the updated reports from City Staff and the discussions held at all levels of government.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

City Clerk Beth Ball explained that no comments were received for Citizen's Opportunity to Address the City Council/Town Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Jensen, Kelly, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach,
Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

The Regular City Council was adjourned at 10:15 P.M.



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

cc