



**: 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 May 23, 2023, 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, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10. Absent: Cyr – 1.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.**

National Safe Boating Week (May 20 – 27)  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peoria County Genealogical Society (June 8)  
Poppy Days (May 26 – 28)

**MINUTES**

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on May 9, 2023, as printed; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula,  
Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

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

**(23-174) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the Creation of the DECENNIAL COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY, as Required by New Illinois Law (Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act 50 ILCS 70/1).**

Trustee Grayeb said the approval of the appointments to the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency was deferred to allow Township Attorney John Redlingshafer to present details to the Board.

Attorney Redlingshafer said, pursuant to the Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act enacted in 2022, creating the committee was a mandatory requirement and included all Trustees and Township Officials as members, while also requiring the appointment

of at least two members of the community. He said the deadline for creating the Decennial Committee was June 10, 2023. He provided an overview of the responsibilities of the Committee, potential meeting times to consider, and the culmination of determinations presented to the County Board before dissolution of the Committee for ten years. He said the first step was the creation of the Committee followed by the appointment of public members (Item No. 23-172). He discussed the unique roles the Act did not consider of Chairwoman Ali and Township Supervisor Leary, noting that in Peoria Township they were separate positions.

In response to Chairwoman Ali regarding the Chair of the Committee and the frequency of the meetings, Attorney Redlingshafer said while the Committee would have to meet at least three times, there was no mandate on how often the meetings should occur within the 18-month timeframe. He recommended Chairwoman Ali to Chair the meetings of the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency collaboratively with Supervisor Leary.

In response to Trustee Kelly regarding what organizations were affected by this Act, Attorney Redlingshafer said the Act indicated the inclusion of all units of local government that levy any tax, except municipalities and counties. Because of this, he said Peoria Township was affected by the Act and the City of Peoria was not.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the creation of the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency, as required by new Illinois Law; seconded by Trustee Gordon-Young.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggensbach, Velpula, Vespa, Chairwoman Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

**(23-172) APPOINTMENT by Supervisor Leary to the DECENNIAL COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY with a Request to Concur:**

**Evonne Fleming  
Irene Lewis-Wimbley**

Trustee Grayeb moved to concur with the appointment of Evonne Fleming and Irene Lewis-Wimbley to the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency; seconded by Trustee Allen.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson Kelly, Oyler, Riggensbach, Velpula, Vespa, Chairwoman Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

**CLERK'S NOTE:** See Item No. 23-174 for additional information.

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**(23-175) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the ANNEXATION of 12610 N. ALLEN ROAD, Dunlap, Illinois.**

Council Member Oyler moved to open a Public Hearing regarding the Annexation of 12610 N. Allen Road, Dunlap, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Motion to open a Public Hearing regarding the Annexation of 12610 N. Allen Road, Dunlap, Illinois, was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali opened the Public Hearing at 6:22 P.M.

Following a third call for comments, Mayor Ali determined there were no citizens who wished to speak, and she requested the Public Hearing be closed.

Council Member Kelly moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the Annexation of 12610 N. Allen Road, Dunlap, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Gordon-Young.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ali closed the Public Hearing at 6:24 P.M.

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

**(23-176) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE a SETTLEMENT in Verniec Fluker, as Independent Administrator of the ESTATE OF DAVID SMITH V. CITY OF PEORIA, ET. AL.**

**(23-177) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to APPROVE \$50,000.00 in Matching Funds for the CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION.**

**(23-178) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE Vendors for 2023 STREET MAINTENANCE MATERIALS, to Secure Set Pricing for the Current Maintenance Season Rather than Market Pricing. (All Council Districts)**

**(23-179) \* 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 APPROVE a RESOLUTION Approving an ANNEXATION AGREEMENT for the Property Located at 12610 N. ALLEN ROAD, Dunlap, Illinois. (Parcel Identification No. 09-19-200-001) (Requires 2/3 Vote of Corporate Authorities - 8 Votes)**

- (23-180) 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. 18,075 REZONING Property from Class R-4 (Single Family Residential) District to a Class CN (Neighborhood Commercial) District, for the Property Located at 3006 W. GARDEN STREET, 3008 W. GARDEN STREET, and 3012 W. GARDEN STREET (Parcel Identification Nos. 18-18-153-010; 18-18-153-011; 18-18-153-023; 18-18-153-024) Peoria, IL. (Council District 1)
- (23-181) **\*\*** 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 an ORDINANCE Amending Existing SPECIAL USE Ordinance No. 17,543 in a Class R-4 (Single-Family Residential) District for Townhomes, to Include a SHORT-TERM RENTAL for the Property Located at 824 W. MOSS AVENUE (Parcel Identification No. 18-08-236-001) Peoria, IL. (Council District 2)
- (23-182) 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. 18,076 Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R-3 (Single-Family Residential) District for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL, for the Property Located at 4733 N. EDGEBROOK DRIVE (Parcel Identification No.14-21-301-025), Peoria, IL. (Council District 3)
- (23-183) 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. 18,077 Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R-4 (Single-Family Residential) District for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL, for the Property Located at 4016 N. ASHTON AVE (Parcel Identification No. 14-27-209-002), Peoria, IL. (Council District 3)
- (23-184) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION for a Class B (Restaurant, 50% Food) Liquor License, with On-Site Consumption and Retail Sale of Alcohol for KNOXVILLE WINE & SPIRITS, D/B/A RIVER CITY GRILL, 3504-B N. PROSPECT ROAD, Contingent Upon the Issuance of all Appropriate Permits and a Certificate of Occupancy, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 3)
- (23-185) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION for a Class B (Restaurant, 50% Food) Liquor License, with On-Site Consumption and Retail Sale of Alcohol for CHAMPS OF PEORIA, INC., D/B/A BLOODY MARY BRUNCH CO., at 708 W. GLEN AVENUE, Contingent Upon the Issuance of all Appropriate Permits, a Certificate of Occupancy, and with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 3)

- (23-186) **Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION for a Class B (Restaurant, 50% Food) Liquor License, with On-Site Consumption and Retail Sale of Alcohol, with a Subclass 1 (4:00 A.M. CLOSING HOURS) for RICHARDS UNDER MAIN, INC., D/B/A RICHARDS UNDER MAIN, at 311 MAIN STREET (LOWER), Contingent Upon the Issuance of all Appropriate Permits, a Certificate of Occupancy, and with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 2)**
- (23-187) **Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION for a Class B (Restaurant, 50% Food) Liquor License, with On-Site Consumption and Retail Sale of Alcohol for INDIAN TADKA OF CHICAGO, LLC., D/B/A INDIAN TADKA, at 7815 N. KNOXVILLE AVENUE, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 5)**
- (23-188) **APPOINTMENTS by Mayor Ali to the CDBG PUBLIC SERVICE ADVISORY COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**
- Quentin Campbell (Voting) - Term Expires 06/30/2023**  
**Al Cuizon (Voting) - Term Expires 06/30/2023**
- (23-189) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**
- Ryan Scherer (Voting) - Term Expires 6/30/2024**
- (23-190) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY with a Request to Concur:**
- Sid Ruckriegel (Voting) - Term Expiration 6/30/2025**

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

Council Member Grayeb requested Item No. 23-181 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Kelly requested Item No. 23-179 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Velpula moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as outlined in the Council Communications; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Item Nos. 23-176 through 23-190 (excluding Item Nos. 23-179 and 23-181, which were removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

- (23-179)**      **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 APPROVE a RESOLUTION Approving an ANNEXATION AGREEMENT for the Property Located at 12610 N. ALLEN ROAD, Dunlap, Illinois. (Parcel Identification No. 09-19-200-001) (Requires 2/3 Vote of Corporate Authorities - 8 Votes)**
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In response to Council Member Kelly regarding the location of the parcel, City Manager Ulrich said Banner School was in an unincorporated area, and the school had applied for annexation in order to immediately connect to public sewer lines after their septic system failed. He said if the property became contiguous within the twenty years the agreement was in effect, the property would immediately be annexed into the City, noting one parcel currently separated it from the City of Peoria. Council Member Kelly said he wanted to make it clear that the City of Peoria was not annexing a parcel in the Village of Dunlap.

Council Member Kelly moved to approve a Resolution approving an Annexation Agreement for the property located at 12610 N. Allen Road, Dunlap, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-179 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

- (23-181)**      **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 an ORDINANCE Amending Existing SPECIAL USE Ordinance No. 17,543 in a Class R-4 (Single-Family Residential) District for Townhomes, to Include a SHORT-TERM RENTAL for the Property Located at 824 W. MOSS AVENUE (Parcel Identification No. 18-08-236-001) Peoria, IL. (Council District 2)**
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In order to allow more time for the neighbors to discuss the proposed Special Use with the petitioner, Council Member Grayeb moved to defer the item to the June 13, 2023, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Motion to DEFER the item to the June 13, 2023, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

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

- (23-191)**      **Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE the SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE of One (1) Speed Trailer - Smart 18 HP+, and Four (4) Portable Pole Mount Radar Displays - PMD 12+ Tablet for Console, from KUSTOM SIGNALS, INC., in the Amount of \$27,681.00. (Requires 2/3 Vote of Council Members Voting - No Less Than 6 Votes)**

Police Chief Echevarria said the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) grant would fund the purchase of the speed trailer and four portable pole mount radar displays. He said traffic safety was a high priority in the Peoria, and he said the items would support the traffic division.

Council Member Riggensbach moved to approve a sole source purchase of one speed trailer – Smart 18 HP+, and four portable pole mount radar displays – PMD 12+ Tablet for Console, from Kustom Signals, Inc., in the amount of \$27,681.00; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Council Member Allen said speeding was a top concern voiced by citizens to the Council, and he said he was excited to support traffic mitigation efforts through this purchase. He asked if additional resources would be necessary, and Chief Echevarria said this equipment would successfully supplement current inventory. He said the needs would be reassessed after the impact of the increased technology was evaluated.

Motion to approve a sole source purchase of one speed trailer – Smart 18 HP+, and four portable pole mount radar displays – PMD 12+ Tablet for Console, from Kustom Signals, Inc., in the amount of \$27,681.00 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggensbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

**(23-192) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to APPROVE the SOLE SOURCE Annual Subscription CONTRACT with BENEVATE, INC. d/b/a NEIGHBORLY SOFTWARE. (Requires 2/3 Vote of Council Members Voting - No Less Than 6 Votes)**

Community Development Director Dulin said this was a renewal of an existing contract that was increased based on demand for the grants management software. He described the capabilities of the software, noting the migration of additional grant programs to the software.

Discussions were held on the pricing levels of the software, the number of licenses the Community Development Department was projected to utilize, and the costs of implementation associated with new grants added into the system.

Council Member Oyler moved to approve a sole source annual subscription Contract with Benevate, Inc., d/b/a Neighborly Software; seconded by Council Member Gordon-Young.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggensbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

(23-193) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request for the Following: (Council District 3)**

**A. APPROVE an AGREEMENT with the ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT) for the City's Participation in TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAST ARM REPLACEMENTS in Peoria and Canton, Illinois; and,**

**B. APPROVE a FUNDING RESOLUTION for the City's Cost Participation in the TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAST ARM REPLACEMENTS, in the Amount of \$18,814.00, Plus Contingencies.**

Public Works Director Powers said this was a standard participation Agreement with IDOT that included a Funding Resolution as an attachment to the Agreement. He said the project was located on Spring Street and Adams Street, and he noted Canton was included in the title because it was part of the IDOT project name.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve an Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the City's participation in Traffic Signal Mast Arm Replacements in Peoria and Canton, Illinois; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to approve a Funding Resolution for the City's cost participation in the Traffic Signal Mast Arm Replacements, in the Amount of \$18,814.00; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

(23-194) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2023 REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET, to Allocate \$75,000.00 from the Downtown TIF Fund for PAVEMENT SLURRY SEAL PROJECTS, for the Conversion of Reverse Diagonal Parking Spaces to Forward-Facing Diagonal Parking on FULTON STREET, from MONROE STREET to JEFFERSON AVENUE, and on MONROE STREET and MADISON AVENUE, from MAIN STREET to FULTON STREET. (Requires 2/3 Vote of Corporate Members Voting - No Less Than 6 Votes)**

Public Works Director Powers said preparation work had begun to prepare the road surface the conversion of reverse diagonal parking spaces to forward-facing diagonal parking spaces. He noted Slurry Seal was included in the project to create a clean surface and highlight the painted lines, so the changes were clearly visible. Additionally, he mentioned the project would be completed by the end of 2023. Council Member Grayeb said he was glad to hear reverse



diagonal parking spaces were being removed, and he said he supported this project that would help make it easier and safer for drivers.

Council Member Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria 2023 Revised Annual Budget to allocate \$75,000.00 from the Downtown TIF Fund for Pavement Slurry Seal projects, for the conversion of reverse diagonal parking spaces to forward-facing diagonal parking on Fulton Street, from Monroe Street to Jefferson Avenue, and on Monroe Street and Madison Avenue, from Main Street to Fulton Street; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Council Member Kelly and Mayor Ali expressed their satisfaction with the transition to forward-facing diagonal parking spaces.

In response to Council Member Oyler regarding plans to communicate the changes to citizens, Director Powers described the strategy with signage, social media posting, media involvement, and other ways the changes to communicate to the citizens of Peoria.

After Mayor Ali inquired about consequences for backing into spaces after the transition and Director Powers said it would be a parking violation. He said it was prohibited as a safety concern and Parking Enforcement would address it accordingly.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,078 amending the City of Peoria 2023 Revised Annual Budget to allocate \$75,000.00 from the Downtown TIF Fund for Pavement Slurry Seal projects, for the conversion of reverse diagonal parking spaces to forward-facing diagonal parking on Fulton Street, from Monroe Street to Jefferson Avenue, and on Monroe Street and Madison Avenue, from Main Street to Fulton Street was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

**(23-195) Communication from the City Manager and Assistant City Manager with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Approving the REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT with OCULUS DEVELOPMENT, LLC., for 801 SW WASHINGTON STREET and 800 SW WASHINGTON STREET, to Develop 176 Residential Units in the Warehouse District. (Council District 1)**

City Manager Urlich discussed the history and experience of Oculus Development, stating this was a welcomed project for Peoria. He said it would transform the final two warehouses in the Warehouse District into residential units with commercial and amenity spaces as well. He said the nearly \$40 million project would have a historic impact on the area. He described the planned Tax Increment Financing (TIF) reimbursement schedule for eligible expenses, the parking clause, and demolitions the City would facilitate. Corporation Counsel Hayes said the completion date was amended on the Redevelopment Agreement draft provided to the Council from March 2026 to December 2025 at the request of Oculus Development in order to permit TIF reimbursements for the entire year of 2026.

Council Member Jackson moved to adopt an Ordinance approving the Redevelopment Agreement with Oculus Development, LLC., for 801 SW Washington Street and 800 SW Washington Street, to develop 176 residential units in the Warehouse District; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,079 approving the Redevelopment Agreement with Oculus Development, LLC., for 801 SW Washington Street and 800 SW Washington Street, to develop 176 residential units in the Warehouse District was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggensbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

**(23-196) Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request for the Following:**

- A. ACCEPT the GREATER PEORIA AUTO CRIMES TASKFORCE (GPACT) GRANT from the ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE, in the Amount of \$2,150,700.00; and,**
- B. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2023 REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET Relating to the General Fund, to Recognize the Receipt of Funding from the Illinois Secretary of State Providing the GREATER PEORIA AUTO CRIMES TASKFORCE (GPACT) GRANT, in the Amount of \$2,150,700.00 (Requires 2/3 Vote of Corporate Members Voting - No Less Than 6 Votes); 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 Greater Peoria Auto Crimes Taskforce (GPACT), in the Amount of \$356,000.00 for Two Sheriff's Deputies and Two Vehicles; and,**
- D. APPROVE and AUTHORIZE City Manager to Execute an INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT between the City of Peoria and the COUNTY OF PEORIA under the Greater Peoria Auto Crimes Taskforce (GPACT), in the Amount of \$147,000.00 for the State's Attorney Salary.**

Police Chief Echevarria recognized Peoria County State's Attorney Jodi Hoos and Illinois Secretary of State (ILSOS) Police Investigator Chris Fulcher who were both present representing their organizations working in collaboration with the Peoria Police Department and the Peoria County Sheriff's Office on the Greater Peoria Auto Crimes Taskforce (GPACT) to address car and parts thefts in the region.

ILSOS Investigator Fulcher said GPACT was modeled after a similar initiative in the Chicago area. He said the decision was made after statistics reported Peoria County had one of the highest crime rates for stolen vehicles and parts. He said the aim of GPACT was to reduce those occurrences.

State's Attorney Hoos said she was excited to have the initiative address a big problem in the State of Illinois, especially in the Peoria area. She explained the taskforce addressed all types of vehicle-related crimes that affected both residents and car dealerships. She said the purpose was to bring together multiple entities to achieve the greatest impact.

Mayor Ali thanked all those involved in the taskforce in support of the greater Peoria area.

Council Member Grayeb asked for a Report Back regarding how many vehicles were stolen by juveniles compared to adults. He said consequences were needed for juveniles committing serious crimes only to be released to their parents. State's Attorney Hoos noted the court system was responsible for determining the consequences and remand of arrested juveniles.

Discussions were held regarding available space at the juvenile detention center and how it affected incarceration and the responsibilities of the court system.

Council Member Grayeb said it was important to express the significance of addressing recurring serious crimes of juveniles and he suggested forming a group to travel to Springfield to discuss the concerns with State of Illinois representatives to motivate needed changes.

In response to Council Member Allen regarding the scope and the proactive and reactive efforts of the taskforce, Investigator Fulcher explained the taskforce brought additional resources through investigations, research efforts, education opportunities, and outreach to citizens and business owners in the community. Council Member Allen said he was excited for the taskforce to address the auto theft issues in the greater Peoria area.

Council Member Vespa said the City Council could adopt an Ordinance that would provide for additional consequences; however, State's Attorney Hoos said enforcement of those violations would be done by the City Legal Department, not the State's Attorney's Office.

Council Member Kelly said he favored this initiative and asked what happened after a crime occurred and how often property was recovered. Chief Echevarria explained that many vehicles were recovered; however, the crimes were not always prosecuted, stating manpower was needed for the entire investigation to facilitate that. He discussed the technology available to the task force and provided an overview of the investigation process. He said a Report Back would be provided to the Council with statistics regarding auto theft crimes and results of the investigations. Council Member Kelly said he would vote to approve this item; however, he expressed concern about whether the program would work.

Discussions were held regarding the involvement and support of insurance companies in auto theft initiatives and efforts, the work dedicated historically and currently increasing to addressing property crimes such as auto thefts, and the stress on local law enforcement agencies to investigate property crimes eased through the distribution of regional and statewide resources such as the GPACT initiative.

In response to Council Member Kelly regarding staffing the task force, Chief Echevarria, Investigator Fulcher, and State's Attorney Hoos described the composition of GPACT and resources dedicated to the mission.

Corporation Counsel Hayes requested a deferral of Item Nos. 23-196-C and 23-196-D.

Council Member Grayeb requested a Report Back on the home-rule authority of the Peoria City Council to impose additional consequences on offenders. He said he appreciated the additional resources to address the auto theft problems in the greater Peoria area.

Council Member Jackson said she appreciated the allocated funding to address the root cause of the problem, noting she preferred focusing on prevention as well as interrupting the cycle of crime by providing needed services and resources to juveniles and adults in need.

Mayor Ali asked for a motion to defer the two Intergovernmental Agreements before addressing the other items.

Council Member Grayeb moved to DEFER Item No. 23-196-C to the June 13, 2023, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting, the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Peoria and the County of Peoria, under the Greater Peoria Auto Crimes Taskforce (GPACT), in the amount of \$356,000.00 for two Sheriff's Deputies and two vehicles; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Motion to DEFER the item to the June 13, 2023, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

Council Member Grayeb moved to DEFER Item No. 23-196-D to the June 13, 2023, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting, the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Peoria and the County of Peoria under the Greater Peoria Auto Crimes Taskforce, in the amount of \$147,000.00 for the State's Attorney salary; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

Council Member Velpula moved to accept the Greater Peoria Auto Crimes Taskforce (GPACT) Grant from the Illinois Secretary of State, in the amount of \$2,150,700.00; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

Council Member Velpula moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria 2023 Revised Annual Budget relating to the General Fund, to recognize the receipt of funding from the Illinois Secretary of State providing the Greater Peoria Auto Crimes Taskforce (GPACT) Grant, in the amount of \$2,150,700.00; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,080 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

**(23-197) Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request for the Following:**

- A. ACCEPT the CO-RESPONDER UNIT GRANT from the ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY (ICJIA), in the Amount of \$3,068,000.00; and,**
- B. ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the City of Peoria 2023 REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET Relating to the General Fund, to Recognize the Receipt of Grant Funding from the ILLINOIS CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION AUTHORITY (ICJIA) for the Co-Responder Unit, in the Amount of \$3,068,000.00 (Requires 2/3 Vote of Corporate Members Voting - No Less Than 6 Votes); and,**
- C. APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the City Manager to Execute a MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between the City of Peoria and CARLE HEALTH SERVICES under the Co-Responder Unit, for a Six-Month Period, in the Amount of \$486,802.00.**

City Manager Ulrich requested a deferral of Item No. 23-197-C.

Police Chief Echevarria said he approached Illinois State Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth in December 2021 with this concept and was excited to see it come to fruition in May 2023. He said an incredible amount of effort was involved in the implementation of the Co-Responder Program after Governor J.B. Pritzker signed the legislation in May 2022, he discussed the collaboration with Unity Point, now Carle Health, the Department of Public Health, local agencies, and City Staff, and he recognized Representative Gordon-Booth, who was present in Council Chambers that evening, for her efforts and support. He said the Wisconsin Resource Center at 2301 N. Wisconsin Avenue, would become the Social Services Unit for the Peoria Police Department, and he discussed the Staff that would work there to provide services immediately impacting families at a critical time.

Mayor Ali congratulated Chief Echevarria for working with Representative Gordon-Booth, advocating for funding to make Peoria one of three pilot communities in Illinois for this program. She said it was a great opportunity to help reduce crime in Peoria.

Council Member Riggensbach commended those involved for their efforts to provide assistance and services for mental health in the community in a revolutionary manner. He said he spoke to constituents daily dealing with these issues, he said he was proud Peoria was a pilot city for the program, and he said it was another win for the community to reuse the Wisconsin Center.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Riggensbach moved to accept the Co-Responder Unit Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA), in the amount of \$3,068,000.00; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

Council Member Gordon-Young said, as a medical professional, she witnessed individuals arrested and jailed when they needed treatment, noting the program would help the morale of the community. She congratulated those involved on their achievement with the program.

In response to Council Member Grayeb regarding the credentials and jurisdiction of the social workers on staff, Chief Echevarria said they were licenses clinical social workers under Police

supervision through an agreement with Carle Health for their services, and a director would oversee the whole process.

Mayor Ali thanked Representative Gordon-Booth for being there that evening, and for her efforts helping youth and families in the State of Illinois.

After Council Member Vespa thanked all those involved in the process, he said this program would save lives through the deployment of a licensed social worker alongside or in the place of police officers for calls concerning mental health and freeing up resources to address other concerns in the community.

Motion to accept the Co-Responder Unit Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, in the amount of \$3,068,000.00 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria 2023 Revised Annual Budget relating to the General Fund, to recognize the receipt of grant funding from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) for the Co-Responder Unit, in the amount of \$3,068,000.00; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

ORDINANCE NO. 18,081 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to DEFER the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Peoria and Carle Health Services under the Co-Responder Unit, for a six-month period, in the amount of \$486,802.00, to the June 13, 2023, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Motion to DEFER the item to the June 13, 2023, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

**(23-198) Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE the PURCHASE of a Quick Response Vehicle, in the Amount of \$138,651.00, through a Cooperative Purchase from MACQUEEN EMERGENCY, for Peoria Police Department SWAT Responses and Co-Medical Responses.**

Police Chief Echevarria said the City of Peoria was fortunate that the Peoria Fire Department employed tactical medics, and the requested vehicle purchase was to support that Staff.

Fire Chief Sollberger said former Chief Ardis initiated the program to qualify paramedics to the SWAT Tactical Medics status, allowing them to enter high-risk situations alongside Police Officers to provide service in critical situations. He said the vehicle would transport the medics to scenes properly compared to the vehicle they currently utilized.

In response to Mayor Ali regarding the grant, Chief Echevarria said grant funding was from the Co-Responder Unity Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

Council Member Allen moved to approve the purchase of a quick response vehicle, in the amount of \$138,651.00, through a cooperative purchase from MacQueen Emergency, for Peoria Police Department SWAT responses and co-medical responses; seconded by Council Member Gordon-Young.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

**(23-199) Communication from the City Manager and Chief of Police with a Request to APPROVE the PURCHASE of Two (2) Crisis Intervention Vehicles (Ford Transit Long EL 350) from MACQUEEN EMERGENCY, in the Amount of \$564,934.00.**

Police Chief Echevarria said crisis intervention vehicles were like mobile offices, and he discussed the difficulties and concerns regarding the current RV utilized for this purpose. He said the vehicles permitted Police Department Staff to safely and privately speak to witnesses and victims at a scene, and he discussed the benefits the vehicles would provide for their efforts.

Council Member Velpula moved to approve the purchase of two crisis intervention vehicles (Ford Transit Long EL 350) from MacQueen Emergency, in the amount of \$564,934; seconded by Council Member Jackson.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

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 to address.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony**

Council Member Grayeb invited citizens to attend the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony on Monday, May 29, 2023, at the Gateway Building in Downtown Peoria, 200 NE Water Street. He said the ceremony was an annual observance that included music from the Peoria Municipal Band, placing wreathes to honor those who sacrificed for our country, and many speakers, including Peoria City Council Members. Mayor Ali thanked Council Member Grayeb for his leadership role in the annual event.

**Curfew Policy**

In response to Council Member Jackson about the City of Peoria curfew policy, Corporation Counsel Hayes explained how enforcement of curfew had fallen dramatically the last few years, and he said discussions were held with Police Department Staff on the improvement of those

activities and tools that could be utilized to address rising concerns. He said a Report Back would be provided to the Council once a plan was identified, and he said at the June 13, 2023, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting proposed changes to existing abilities and enforcement activities would be presented to the Council.

### **Pop-Up Memorials**

Council Member Jackson said an abundance of pop-up memorials for accident and crime victims were located in the City of Peoria, noting it was appropriate for people to take time to remember loved ones, but City policies set limitations on the amount of time those memorials could exist at a location. She asked for details regarding the policy and how they were enforced and executed, noting several had existed for many months and even years, presenting a safety concern and litter. Public Works Director Powers said the Code of the City of Peoria outlined the policy followed by City Staff permitting removal after 10 days of noticing the owner of the memorial, noting it was often difficult to locate the owner to provide notice. He said the items were removed and kept at the Public Works Department in case a citizen called requesting the items be returned to them, noting this was not a frequent request. He said the policy would continue until the Council was directed to change it, and he noted any memorials designated as a danger to the public were removed immediately upon notification or discovery. Council Member Jackson requested Public Works Staff address the existing deteriorated memorials in Peoria, and she along with Mayor Ali noted there were permanent memorial options, such as signs through the Illinois Department of Transportation, that could be pursued.

### **Accelerate61605 Event**

Council Member Jackson invited citizens to an event hosted by the Peoria City/County Health Department at the George Washington Carver Center on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M., to discuss a variety of community concerns and needs, including housing, sidewalks, green spaces, and transportation.

### **IDOT Lighting in Peoria**

Council Member Grayeb asked about the responsibility for maintaining lighting on overpasses in the City of Peoria, noting many bulbs were extinguished on the Jefferson Downtown overpass. Public Works Director Powers said the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) was responsible for the maintenance and he said they had responded to a request for repair saying the maintenance would be scheduled as funding became available to add it to the contract. Council Member Grayeb expressed his disappointment at the response from IDOT, and he said he would address the situation with State Lawmakers as needed. Mayor Ali asked City Manager Urich to have a follow-up discussion with IDOT, and Council Member Oyler identified additional overpasses and tunnels with lights requiring maintenance. Mayor Ali said IDOT had made great progress with projects in the City of Peoria, and she said Staff would work with them to try and address these issues in a positive way.

### **Yard Maintenance**

Mayor Ali said City Staff sent a reminder for property owners to maintain their yards this season and that tall grass and weeds would be ticketed. She said warning notices were going out to occupied homes and businesses giving them six days to address cited violations, while vacant properties were not noticed. She encouraged citizens to plan on mowing their yards once a week, to sign up online to receive texts and email notices from the City of Peoria, and to contact Peoria Cares to report tall grass and weeds.



Public Works Director Powers discussed the safety hazards and detrimental impact of grass clippings and debris on Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) improvement efforts, noting it was a violation to push yard debris into the street.

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Hazardous Waste Collection Event**

Council Member Allen said the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (ILEPA) was hosting a Hazardous Waste Collection event at the Peoria Exposition Gardens, 1601 W. Northmoor Road, Peoria, IL, on Saturday, June 10, 2023, from 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., by appointment only. He said for more information, go to [www.peoriacounty.gov/201/Recycling-Services](http://www.peoriacounty.gov/201/Recycling-Services), including what items were prohibited and how to sign up for an appointment.

**Strategic Planning Process**

Mayor Ali said the City of Peoria Kick Off event for the Strategic Planning Process was on June 1 and June 2, 2023. She said many community stakeholders were already signed up for the event, which was the beginning of a four-to-five-month process to establish the new Strategic Plan, and she said there was still time to sign up online with the deadline on Friday, May 26, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. In response to Council Member Kelly regarding Council Member involvement in the Kick Off event, Mayor Ali said she hoped Council Members could attend to listen and help with group discussions as well as provide resources. She said consultants from Berry Dunn McNeil & Parker, LLC., would be present at the event and additionally would meet exclusively with the Council. In response to Council Member Grayeb regarding the schedule for the Kick Off event, Mayor Ali said there was a morning session and an afternoon session on Thursday and Friday, and the sessions topics and agenda on each day would be repeated with a new set of community stakeholders and citizens for each session. She said it was important to make sure there was representation at each session to assist with discussions.

**CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD**

It was determined there were no citizens who wished to address the City Council/Town Board at that time.

City Clerk Tarr said letters were received by citizens on Monday, May 15, 2023, addressed to the City Council, which were sent to the Council Members electronically the same day, and paper copies were distributed to them on Friday, May 19, 2023, with their Council packets. She said the following letters were received:

- S. Rich – Compensation for the Peoria Public Library Employees
- S. Legaspi – Fair Contract for the Peoria Public Library Employees
- Jonathan Vota – Fair Compensation for the Peoria Public Library Employees
- Matthew Sims – Compensation for the Peoria Public Library Employees
- Concerned Citizen – Fair Contract with Better Living Wages for the Peoria Public Library Employees
- Noah Palm – Fair Contract and Compensation for the Peoria Public Library Employees

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was determined that there was no need to enter into Executive Session at that time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

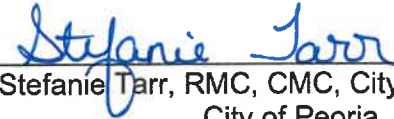
Council Member Oyler moved to adjourn the May 23, 2023, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Motion to adjourn the May 23, 2023, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Gordon-Young, Grayeb, Jackson, Kelly, Oyler, Riggerbach, Velpula, Vespa, Mayor Ali – 10;

Nays: None.

The Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.



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

cc