

**MINUTES OF AN OPEN MEETING**  
**OF THE PEORIA CITY COUNCIL, PEORIA COUNTY BOARD,**  
**PEORIA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AND STATE LEGISLATORS**

A majority of a Quorum of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, attended a legislative breakfast with members of the Peoria County Board, Peoria County Board of Health and members of the State Legislature that was held at the Gateway Building, 200 NE Water Street, Peoria, Illinois, on Friday, February 9, 2018, beginning at 8:20 A.M.

Council Members Present: Denis Cyr, Beth Jensen (Arrived at 8:54 A.M.), Jim Montelongo, Denise Moore, Zach Oyler, Tim Riggensbach, Sid Ruckriegel, Mayor Jim Ardis – 8; Absent: Beth Akeson, Chuck Grayeb, Eric Turner – 3.

County Board Members Present: Chairperson Andrew Rand (District 4), Sharon Williams (District 1), Rachael Parker (District 5), Jimmy Dillon (District 7), Phil Salzer (District 8), Kate Pastucha (District 9), Robert Baietto (District 12), Steven Rieker (District 15), Brad Harding (District 16) – 9. Absent: William (Junior) Watkins (District 2), Barry John Robinson (District 3), Allen Mayer (District 6), Stephen Morris (District 10), Dr. Greg Adamson (District 11), James Fennell (District 13), Brian Elsasser (District 14), Thomas O'Neill (District 17), Paul Rosenbohm (District 18) – 9.

Countywide Elected Officials: Regional Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Crider Derry, Peoria County Treasurer Nicole Demetreas, and Peoria County Clerk Steve Sonnemaker.

Peoria County Board of Health: Jennifer Groves-Allison, Joyce Harant, Dr. Rahmat Na'Allah, Sharon Williams – 4. Absent: Scott Anderson, Francesca Armmer, Todd Baker, Samuel Duren, Stephen Hippler, Kathy Simpson, David Trachtenberg – 7.

Legislators Present: Senator Dave Koehler, Jennifer Simmons on behalf of Senator Chuck Weaver's Office, Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, Representative Michael Unes, and Representative Ryan Spain.

City Staff Members Present: City Manager Patrick Urich, Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins, City Clerk Beth Ball, City Treasurer Patrick Nichting, Community Development Director Ross Black, Communications Specialist Stacy Peterson, Chief Deputy City Clerk Stefanie Tarr.

County Staff Members Present: Peoria County Administrator Scott Sorrell, Assistant County Administrator Shauna Musselman, Assistant County Engineer Jeff Gilles, Director of Planning & Zoning Kathi Urban, Finance Director of the Peoria County Sheriff's Department Randy Brunner, Assistant Court Administrator Jennifer Shadid, Director of Probation and Court Services Dan Hunt, Court Administrator Rena Parker, County Highway Engineer Amy McLaren, Peoria County Election Commission Thomas Bride.

Peoria County Health Department Staff Present: Assistant Administrator Melissa Adamson, Director of Environmental Health Wil Hayes, Director of Dental Health Sue Bishop, Director of Infectious Diseases Jean Bellisario, Communications Manager Diana Scott.

Others Present: Attorney Allison Richards of Brown, Hay and Stephens; Letitia Dewith-Anderson of Anderson Legislative Consulting, Ltd; Chris Kaergard of the Peoria Journal Star, interested citizens and members of the media.



Copies of the 2018 Legislative Workshop handbook was distributed on behalf of the City of Peoria, County of Peoria and Peoria City/County Health Department.

Peoria County Administrator Scott Sorrell opened the meeting at 8:20 A.M. He welcomed and thanked all who were present and those who made this meeting possible. He introduced City Manager Patrick Urich and Public Health Administrator Monica Hendrickson who were assisting in the presentation of initiatives.

### **DIRECT SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS**

#### **SALES & USE TAX REFORM**

County Administrator Sorrell opened with the Sales and Use Tax Reform, noting the benefit it would provide both the County and the City. He commented that online sales had depleted local government sales tax and he remarked on the benefits of shopping local.

#### **STATE HISTORIC TAX CREDIT**

City Manager Urich reviewed the State Historic Tax Credit asking for legislative support that would reinstate the five-year carry forward of the tax credit. He commented that this credit would provide for the improvement to historic buildings such as those located within the Warehouse District.

#### **BROADEN SALES TAX BASE**

City Manager Urich remarked that the State's sales tax has not changed since 1965, which had placed Illinois at a disadvantage with other states. He asked that a bill be sponsored that would expand the sales tax to consumer services, which could allow the State to lower the 5% rate and collect more revenue. He remarked that Illinois had a very narrow base at a high rate, which continued to keep Illinois in the bottom 20% throughout the nation.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY PENSION REFORM**

City Manager Urich requested that portfolio restrictions be eliminated, noting that the current asset restrictions were affecting portfolio returns. He said eliminating the restrictions would allow pension funds to investment in more strategies and would provide for higher rates of return. He also asked for support of a longer term amortization period.

#### **JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM**

County Administrator Sorrell said the State's requirement to have a detention hearing within 24 hours of an arrest was difficult, noting that the Federal standard was 40 hours. He said using video conferencing would help increase efficiency. He asked the Legislators to oppose any legislation that decreased the hearing requirement to less than 40 hours from time of arrest and to support legislation that strengthened the use of secure video conferencing for detention hearings.

#### **BAIL REFORM ACT**

County Administrator Sorrell said the Bail Reform Act was adopted last year, and he asked Legislators to support funds to be budgeted to the Supreme Court for pre-trial supervision staffing.



**HANNA CITY WORK CAMP**

County Administrator Sorrell reviewed the Hanna City Work Camp initiative with a request to give the County flexibility to use that property for either public or private purposes. He expressed his appreciation to Representative Unes for introducing House Bill 4319, which would provide for that flexibility.

**PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING FORMULA UPDATE**

Public Health Administrator Monica Hendrickson said public health funding had decreased over the years with the use of the old funding formula. She said the current funding formula fell short of the necessary standards, and she requested the legislators to support funding on a per capita basis.

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT FUNDING**

Public Health Administrator Hendrickson remarked that behavioral health treatment, as it related to the Opioid crisis, was a key health priority. She asked for support of legislation that would provide and support funding and reimbursement for behavioral health treatment, not only for Opioids, but across the board.

**POSITION SUPPORT REQUESTS**

**ILLINOIS FISCAL CONCERNS**

City Manager Urich reviewed the City's local tax base and what the City relied on for support services. He commented that the State cut the City's funding in 2017 by \$2.7 million. He asked for support of local control and authority to raise local revenues and for opposition of any diverted efforts from local governments. He commented that 40% of the City's budget was controlled by the General Assembly.

**AUTOMATIC APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY**

City Manager Urich requested that the Motor Fuel Tax, casino gaming, video gaming, Use Tax and 9-1-1 continue to receive appropriation in order for funds to be automatically distributed.

**WALKABLE URBAN AREAS**

City Manager Urich said IDOT's standards conflicted with the City's standards as it related to walkable urban areas. He requested a bill be sponsored that would provide the City more control of the local share of the State Motor Fuel Taxes and/or force IDOT to abide by local guidelines when improving infrastructure.

**PRESERVE HOME RULE POWERS**

City Manager Urich reviewed the preservation of Home Rule Power noting that the Illinois General Assembly wanted to limit these authorities. He asked to preserve the right to make local decisions by protecting home rule powers in Statewide bills.

**RED LIGHT CAMERAS**

City Manager Urich said red light cameras were not allowed in downstate Illinois, but were allowed in Cook and collar counties. He asked that legislation be introduced to allow red light cameras downstate.



**JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM**

County Administrator Sorrell said the Illinois Juvenile Justice Reform Commission wanted to change the age of a juvenile from 17 to 21 based on brain development studies. He said a majority of the detainees were between the ages of 16 and 21. He said allowing the change in age would reverse the population of the detention center and the jail, and he asked for opposition of any legislation that called for the change.

**MEDICAID PENDING FOR SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES**

County Administrator Sorrell said the Macon County office was not acting in a timely manner to address Medicaid petitions, noting a requirement to act on the petition in 45 days. He said the Macon office was not acting in less than 6 months, noting that Medicaid was capped at 6 months. He said whether it was staffing or procedure, CMS needed to resolve the backlog and comply with the Federal Rule.

**OPIOID OVERDOSE REPORTING**

Public Health Administrator Hendrickson asked Legislators to support House Bill 4331, which would standardize the reporting for opioid overdose related deaths to 48 hours, noting that there was currently a 6-month lag time in reporting.

**TOBACCO 21**

Public Health Administrator Hendrickson said the State of Illinois was celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a smoke-free state. She asked Legislators to support legislation that would increase the minimum age of purchasing cigarettes from 18 to 21. She said central Illinois had a higher percentage of smokers compared to the rest of the State of Illinois.

**GRANT TRANSPARENCY**

Public Health Administrator Hendrickson asked legislators to support amending the Grant Accountability and Transparency to compile an annual budget implementation report.

**MANAGED CARE REIMBURSEMENT**

Public Health Administrator Hendrickson said the rates and payment timelines needed improvement in order to enable providers to increase client services. She said more women were finding limited options for prenatal care, which contributed to an increase in premature births in the community. She commented that the long-term effects spilled into the school systems to care for children who had issues at birth. She asked the Legislators to support amending Managed Care reimbursement to resolve health inequity.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Public Health Administrator Hendrickson said best practices needed to be in place. She noted that the State of Illinois was currently a leader in best practices. She said assessments had to be done on a routine basis. She asked Legislators to oppose language that eliminated routine practices.

Discussions were held regarding this item, and Public Health Administrator Hendrickson indicated to Senator Koehler that this item could be done without legislative approval.



### CAPITAL PROJECTS

#### PIONEER PARKWAY EXTENSION

City Manager Urich reported that all the engineering had been completed and the City had all the necessary approvals to proceed with construction, and he asked the Legislators for approval for funding to finish the project.

#### PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE ON STATE ROUTES

City Manager Urich said there were many State roads in Peoria, specifically Knoxville Avenue and War Memorial Drive. He also commented that Route 8 and Western needed significant pedestrian improvements and he asked Legislators to advocate for capital funding for such improvements.

#### GLEN AVENUE REPAIR

City Manager Urich said Glen Avenue between University Street and War Memorial needed significant repairs, noting it was a thoroughfare that connected several commercial areas.

#### WEST MAIN STREET REPAIR

City Manager Urich reported that West Main Street needed significant improvement noting a cost of \$12 million in order to put in pedestrian improvements and to increase safety. He remarked on the importance of West Main noting its connection of Peoria's West Bluff to downtown as well as to Bradley Avenue, central Peoria and the hospitals.

#### WESTERN AVENUE REPAIR- FARMINGTON TO LINCOLN

City Manager Urich said funding was needed to improve Western Avenue, noting it was a major artery for the City along with West Main Street.

#### PEDESTRIAN ACCESS OVER WAR MEMORIAL DRIVE

City Manager Urich said there were no pedestrian accommodations along War Memorial Drive. He said the housing developments and access to public transportation made crossing the highway dangerous, noting there had previously been a fatality on War Memorial. He asked Legislators to support funding to improve pedestrian access and safety at War Memorial and Charter Oak by constructing a pedestrian overpass.

#### STERLING AND WAR MEMORIAL INTERSECTION RECONSTRUCTION

City Manager Urich requested funding to reconstruct the intersection to aid in the safe movement of vehicles.

#### AMEREN SUBSTATION RELOCATION AT STERLING

City Manager Urich said the City would like to relocate the substation at Sterling, noting that development opportunities had fallen through due to the substation's location. He asked to support funding to relocate the substation out of this commercial corridor.

#### PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

City Manager Urich said the pedestrian infrastructure throughout the City needed to be addressed, specifically identifying District 4 and the South Side. He asked for support for funding in order to address these issues.



**GLEN AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION**

County Administrator Sorrel requested money to be dedicated to reconstructing Glen Avenue between Sheridan Road and Knoxville Avenue and he asked for assistance in securing \$3.5 million for this project.

**LAKE STREET RECONSTRUCTION**

County Administrator Sorrel reviewed the Lake Street Reconstruction Project noting it had the same issues as Glen Avenue and he requested assistance, in the amount of \$3.5 million for this project.

**MAXWELL / MIDDLE ROADS RECONSTRUCTION**

County Administrator Sorrel reviewed the Maxwell-Middle Road Corridor noting it was a main route to the Peoria International Airport. He noted it was in an advanced state of deterioration and requested capital funding in the amount of \$8 million to address this project.

**OLD GALENA ROAD RECONSTRUCTION – PHASE 4**

County Administrator Sorrel reviewed the Old Galena Road Reconstruction project highlighting past phases. He asked for \$8 million to assist in the reconstruction of Phase 4 on Old Galena Road.

**ROOF REPLACEMENT**

County Administrator Sorrel commented that there needed to be a partial roof replacement on the jail, full replacement at the Detention Center, partial replacement at the Courthouse, and a full replacement at the Gift Avenue Complex, and he requested \$3.6 million in State funding to tear-off and re-roof the facilities outlined.

**FLEET GARAGE & SALT DOME REPLACEMENT**

County Administrator Sorrel requested funding to replace the fleet garage and salt dome, noting that construction of these facilities occurred in the 1970s.

**SUPPORT FUNDING USING HiAP APPROACH**

Public Health Administrator Hendrickson requested funding to support the HiAP initiatives around Complete Streets to increase neighborhood safety, walkability and social networks. She said all of these have shown to improve health.

**COMMENTS FROM LEGISLATORS**

Illinois State Senator David Koehler remarked on the need for a Capital Bill noting that 2009 was the last time one had been approved. He commented on the lack of funds to dedicate toward capital improvements. He said he was in favor of raising the gas tax and imposing a tax on electric vehicles in order to address the lack of funding. He remarked that Indiana had imposed similar taxes with positive outcomes. He said January 2019 would most likely be the first chance to get a capital bill, noting the importance of adopting a budget first before a capital bill was introduced. He said these legislative events were important to provide local legislators a list of what was needed in the community. He said everyone worked well together to devise a plan to address the issues. He requested Peoria County to add Route 24 and 116 to their list of road improvements. He said the



red light camera would not happen downstate, noting Chicago's influence. He remarked on the importance on getting the Illinois Municipal League involved in the discussions of Police and Fire Pensions. He said he was recently appointed by President Cullerton to leadership wherein he was now able to sit at the table when issues were first discussed. He said he was proud of the fact that the people in Springfield noticed how well the Peoria delegation worked together.

Illinois State Representative Mike Unes expressed his appreciation for the legislative event, noting its usefulness in making legislators aware of the issues the community faced. He commented that 2017 was the second year without a budget wherein the unpaid bills had tripled to over \$16.5 billion. He said these problems began with years of gross out-of-control spending. He said the current budget was \$36.4 billion, down from \$39 billion, and unpaid bills were down from over \$16 billion to \$8 billion. He remarked on the need for meaningful reforms, noting the passing of the Education Reform. He said the next issues that needed to be addressed were worker's compensation reform and pension reform.

Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain expressed his appreciation to all the local officials. He noted that 2018 was a difficult budget year for the State of Illinois. He remarked on the importance of capital requests, but stated the importance of adopting a budget first and foremost. He said the backlog of old bills continued to be a problem. He encouraged local officials to reach out to any of the local legislators with any issues facing the community. He said it was their job to intervene to cut through some clutter in Springfield. He said the list of capital improvements was very important. He remarked on the importance of the community being heavily engaged on pension reform and the issue of local sales tax. He said Senator Castro was working on a bill to treat out-of-state businesses that conducted a number of transactions in Illinois. He commented on the affect online sales have in connection with brick and mortar establishments. He remarked on the need to become more creative when it came to online sales and sales taxes. He commented on the need to consolidate Police and Fire pensions in order to address some of the pension issues.

Illinois State Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth recognized the lobbyists that were in attendance at the legislative event. She remarked on the need to reform Medicaid and how it was utilized. She said Medicaid impacted many of the local hospitals in the community. She commented on the need to address some of the criminal justice issues noting that the first Expungement Summit was sponsored last year. She remarked on the positive impact the summit had on a number of people in the community. She said there were a few arbitrary issues at the County level that needed to be addressed in order for some expungements to proceed. She said these summits provided individuals with a second chance in life to be successful and to provide for their families. She said additional summits would be held.

In response to County Board Chairperson Andrew Rand, Representative Gordon-Booth said Senator Hutchison was addressing the Tax Code, which was turning into a complete rewrite. She said when one issue was addressed, then more would follow.

District 9 County Board Member Kate Pastucha asked whether increasing the Use Tax was something to explore.



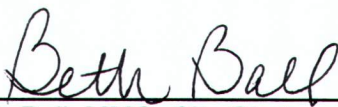
Illinois State Representative Ryan Spain said treating online purchases as a use tax was something to investigate. He provided a breakdown of the taxes received from online sales noting that 5% would go to the State of Illinois with the remainder to local governments. He commented that 20% of online sales would go to the City of Chicago and 10% would go toward the Regional Transportation Authority. He said online sales had an impact on local infrastructure. He said this was an issue all over the United States.

District 12 County Board Member Robert Baietto commented on the ingenuity of the local and state legislators that were present. He said collaboration and corroboration was the formula to accomplishing anything in Springfield. He said they had set the bar high to accomplish their goals and he congratulated the local and State officials for making central Illinois a great place to live.

Illinois State Senator David Koehler expressed his appreciation to Mayor Jim Ardis for including him on the calls regarding the Kroger closures and the impact those closures would have on the community. He said a meeting would be held on February 23, 2018, at 1:00 P.M. at the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding the need for more grocery stores. He also spoke on managed care and the issue with Medicaid in Illinois. He said it was costing more money than it should and that the legislators were working on managed care for this year, noting the need for change. He said it would hit Headington Oaks the hardest.

City Manager Urich thanked everyone for their attendance. He said it was important for the City and the County to demonstrate that they were working together, and they could come to agreement on a number of issues.

The workshop adjourned at 9:30 A.M.

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

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