

: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

A Joint Regular Meeting of the City Council and Town Board of Trustees of Peoria, Illinois, was held July 9, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, Council Chambers (Room 400), 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council Members were physically present: Ali, Cyr, Grayeb, Montelongo, Moore, Oyler, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis – 9. Absent: Kelly, Jensen – 2.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ardis requested a moment of silent prayer or reflection and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

Great Neighbor Appreciation Week

MINUTES

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on June 25, 2019, as printed; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

(19-219) REQUEST from the Town Officials to APPROVE the JUNE 2019 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES and to APPROVE the JULY 2019 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES for the Town of the City of Peoria.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve the June 2019 actual expenditures and the July 2019 anticipated expenditures for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(19-220) ANNUAL TOWN FINANCIAL REPORT (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019) for the Town of the City of Peoria, with Recommendation to RECEIVE and FILE.

Trustee Grayeb requested an explanation from Township Collector Nichting as to why this item needed to be deferred.

Township Collector Nichting said the request to defer was due to financial notes from the preliminary budget presented months ago. He said there had been significant changes and there was still one outstanding issue regarding those footnotes. He said discussions were still being held amongst Trustees to clear up the information.

In response to Trustee Grayeb, Township Collector Nichting said footnotes were necessary to provide explanation, clarity and transparency to the audit.

Trustee Grayeb moved to defer this item to the August 13, 2019, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Trustee Moore.

Motion to defer this item to the August 13, 2019, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE, with Recommendations as Outlined

- (19-221) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from Staff to Waive the Requirement for a SETBACK ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT for the Property Located at 710 W. DETWEILLER DRIVE (Parcel Identification No. 14-05-476-010), Peoria IL. (Council District 5)**

- (19-222) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from Staff to Waive the Requirement for a SETBACK ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT for the Property Located at 1106 W. MAIN STREET (Parcel Identification No. 18-05-451-020), Peoria IL. (Council District 2)**

- (19-223) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE the Submission of an Application for a “BUILD 2019” DISCRETIONARY GRANT, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$25,000,000.00, from the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION for Improvements to MAIN STREET (From the Illinois River to Farmington Road). (Council Districts 1 and 2)**

- (19-224) Communication from the City Manager and the Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Settlement of TIMOTHY KELLEY’s Claim, in the Amount of \$67,500.00.**

- (19-225) REAPPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:**

George Ghareeb (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022

- (19-226) REAPPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:

Jane E. Ohaver (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
- (19-227) APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the RIVERFRONT PROGRAM AND POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE with a Request to Concur:

Patrick Wilmington (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2021
Sean Crombie (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2021
Susie Stockman (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2021
- (19-228) APPOINTMENTS by Mayor Ardis to the ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POLICE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS with a Request to Concur:

Andre Allen (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
Karen Wilson (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2021
- (19-229) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the CONSTITUTION GARDEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE with a Request to Concur:

Darren Graves (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
- (19-230) APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS by Mayor Ardis to the TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:

Colin Coad (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
Jason Snyder (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2021
Bernard Goitein (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
Shawn Allen (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
Joe Hudson (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
- (19-231) APPOINTMENTS and REAPPOINTMENT by Mayor Ardis to the DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMISSION with a Request to Concur:

Kimberly McGhee (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
Peter Kobak (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
Kevin Evans (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
- (19-232) APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENTS by Mayor Ardis to the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS with a Request to Concur:

Laith Al-Khafaji (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
Richard Russo (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
Ryan Cannon (Voting) – Term Expires 6/30/2022
- (19-233) APPROVE the COMMITTEE REPORT (POLICY SESSION) Regarding AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

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

Hearing no request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda, Council Member Ali moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as outlined in the Council Communications; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Item Nos. 19-221 through 19-233 were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

PRESENTATION

(19-234) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a PRESENTATION on the PRELIMINARY PROJECTED 2019 FISCAL YEAR END BUDGET and PROJECTED 2020-2021 BIENNIAL BUDGET.

A presentation handout was distributed to all Council Members.

City Manager Urich presented the Preliminary Projected 2019 Fiscal Year End Budget and Projected 2020-2021 Biennial Budget. He said this was a year to prepare a two-year spending plan. He outlined the current budget and explained where dollars were spent and detailed where the City received its income. He spoke of the negative factors the City was facing, including a 4.3% decline in population over the last five years. He said the property tax assessed value had decreased and showed a potential \$1 million loss over the next year. He outlined how the property tax collected was distributed, with the City receiving 12% and 58% or more going to education. He spoke of the property tax levy and pension costs. He explained that the City was currently operating at the lowest employee level in twenty-five years. He suggested increased garbage fees would replenish what was borrowed from the general fund on behalf of the garbage fund.

Finance Director/Comptroller Scroggins spoke on the projections of the 2019 year end, based on second quarter information. He said the current projection had home rule sales tax and State sales tax coming in 2% lower than budget, but local use taxes and State income taxes projected to be higher than budgeted. He said the City was currently projected to be a half a million short of the planned 2019 budget.

City Manager Urich said he was generally positive, overall. He spoke of the new revenues, including changes Illinois had made to sales tax. He said the State was trying to level the playing field between brick and mortar retailers and remote retailers. He said beginning January 1, 2020, remote retailers would have to charge the Illinois State use tax and by July 1, 2020, those retailers would have to charge the State and City sales taxes. He said the City should see an increase of \$2 million in 2020 and potentially more than \$2 million in 2021 from the additional taxes collected from remote retailers.

Finance Director/Comptroller Scroggins explained the three-month lag in collecting taxes and said that taxes collected by the State for July wouldn't be seen by the City until three months later.

City Manager Urich spoke of the increase in motor fuel tax passed by the State and said the City should see a 50% increase in motor fuel taxes collected, which would potentially result in an additional \$1.4 million for the City to invest in roads. In conclusion, he said the City needed

to reduce expenses by \$2 million in 2020 and \$1.2 million in 2021 to balance the budget for the next two years.

Mayor Ardis stated the City had done considerable amounts of reductions already and suggested the City had more reductions to do. He said the City needed to focus on reducing expenses and send a strong message to citizens that the City would not be raising property taxes. He said he looked forward to the budget discussions.

In response to a question from Council Member Cyr, City Manager Urich explained the reasons behind population loss in the City and the State. Regarding the pension funds' portfolio numbers from this year in comparison to the 4th quarter of last year, questioned by Council Member Cyr, City Treasurer Nichting said numbers were up around 11%.

In response to Council Member Ruckriegel, City Manager Urich said the money owed from the garbage fund to the general fund would take about seven years to pay back. He said the brick and mortar stores and remote retailers would pay the same tax amount after July 1, 2020, and that the State was trying to level the playing field so that communities would see less closure of the bricks and mortar stores, who were competing with online retailers.

Council Member Ruckriegel requested a list of any expenses that would be increasing. City Manager Urich said he would continue to analyze expenses, including legal expenses and wage growth expenses, and bring those back.

In response to Council Member Ruckriegel, City Manager Urich clarified that the \$600,000 projected deficit was not from an unbalanced budget but was \$600,000 less than originally budgeted to replenish the general fund. He said the \$1.5 million projected to replenish the fund would bring the general fund up to a 9% unrestricted fund balance. He said the policy was a 25% fund balance and that the City was on its way to the ten-year goal of replenishing that fund.

Council Member Riggerbach thanked City Manager Urich and Finance Director/Comptroller Scroggins for the details on the budget and said the presentation really gave the City Council a great foundation to begin dialogue with the community. He reiterated Council Member Ruckriegel's suggestion that shopping local doesn't just provide sales tax to the City, but provided job stability and property tax income to the City.

Discussion was held on the garbage fund balance and fee.

Council Member Riggerbach spoke of pension reform in Springfield and requested an update on what was being done and he suggested contacting local representatives to let them know it was still a priority.

Council Member Ali spoke of the living wage requirement for the Peoria area and spoke of her concern that there were not enough companies in Peoria or being attracted to Peoria that paid a living wage to employees. She suggested formulating a plan to attract more businesses to Peoria that provided a family sustaining wage. She also suggested a plan to train more people to work at these businesses and so they would be more employable.

Council Member Grayeb expressed concern about continued progress for the Peoria area and he expressed his concerns about the census count.

Council Member Montelongo expressed his thoughts on monitoring consumption of energy and fuel and looking for better ways to save in those areas.

Council Member Cyr moved to receive and file the Presentation on the Preliminary Projected 2019 Fiscal Year End Budget and Projected 2020-2021 Biennial Budget; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(19-235) Communication from the City Manager and Community Development Director with a Recommendation to AWARD a CONTRACT for ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES Related to Neighborhood Planning, Surveys, Community Engagement, and Other Services to Either FARNSWORTH GROUP and/or IDG ARCHITECTS, INC.

Council Member Riggerbach moved to award a contract for architectural services related to neighborhood planning, surveys, community engagement, and other services to IDG Architects, Inc.; seconded by Council Member Ali.

Council Member Moore said she would abstain from voting on this matter due to her relationship with both companies.

Council Member Cyr expressed concerns with IDG Architects, Inc. not hiring local employees and interns. He said he would support IDG Architects, Inc. if the contract was re-written to include hiring local employees and interns for the project.

Council Member Oyler suggested hearing from both agencies regarding the workforce used for the project and where that workforce would be coming from.

City Manager Urich encouraged a representative from both companies to speak on the proposal.

Hearing no objection, Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the floor to DeQuales Thompson of IDG Architects, Inc.

DeQuales Thompson, Director of Research Development for IDG Architects, Inc., spoke regarding community input and said IDG Architects, Inc. would be working with the local agency Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc. (PCCEO) who planned to hand out surveys and hold local town hall meetings to get input from local citizens.

In response to Council Member Oyler, DeQuales Thompson said there was an attempt made to find local people for the project, but he said there was not a pool of architects that could be used as quickly as needed. He said they would be willing to take a second look.

Aaron Gunn, Peoria Area Business Manager for IDG Architects, Inc., spoke of the key component to include a diverse pool of architectural students and said the issue was not the level of education or capabilities of the students locally, but the lack of diverse students who studied architecture locally. He said the mission at IDG Architects, Inc. was to attract a diverse pool of architects and, specifically with the Peoria office, educate a more diverse pool of people locally about the field of architecture, to expose them to architecture and broaden their goals.

Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the Floor to Don Forrest of Farnsworth Group.

Don Forrest, Business Development Manager at Farnsworth Group, spoke of the staff at Farnsworth Group living in central Illinois and being educated in central Illinois. He agreed that minorities were hard to find in the architectural field. He said 30% of Farnsworth Group's staff was either minority or female. He said the staff selected to work on the project were selected due to their knowledge of the community. He said they would know many of the non-for-profits and citizens in the community due to their previous work.

Council Member Grayeb spoke of his appreciation of IDG Architects, Inc.'s goal to excite young kids in the community with their backgrounds and interests in architecture.

Council Member Ali expressed her appreciation for both local firms. She applauded IDG Architects, Inc. for opening an office in Peoria. She said the City often doesn't have the uniqueness of an African American owned architecture firm and acknowledged the rareness of African Americans in the field. She said the decision to select IDG Architects, Inc. was easy for her and she encouraged fellow Council Members to select IDG Architects, Inc. also.

In response to Council Member Cyr, Aaron Gunn explained that he had been in Peoria for over fifteen years and that he was sought out by IDG Architects, Inc. to get the Peoria office off the ground. He said the owner of IDG Architects, Inc., based out of Houston, Texas, decided to invest in the City of Peoria. He said the office had been open since June, 2018. He said that he believed exposing African American children to professional services would have a significant impact on their outlook on life.

Motion to award a contract for architectural services related to neighborhood planning, surveys, community engagement, and other services to IDG Architects, Inc. was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ali, Grayeb, Montelongo, Riggerbach, Ruckriegel, Mayor Ardis - 6;

Nays: Cyr, Oyler - 2.

Abstention: Moore - 1.

(19-236) Communication from Councilman Montelongo with a Request to APPROVE the Following:

- A) ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending the CITY OF PEORIA 2019 REVISED ANNUAL BUDGET Relating to the Use of the General Fund Balance to Provide Funding to Subsidize the Discount on the Purchase of RING SECURITY EQUIPMENT in the Amount of \$50,000.00;**
- B) A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT with RING to Subsidize the Discount on the Purchase of RING Security Equipment, with a 50/50 Contribution from RING and the City of Peoria in an Amount Up to \$50,000.00 Each.**

Council Member Montelongo moved to defer this item to the July 23, 2019, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Moore.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

It was determined that there was no Unfinished Business to come before the City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Work Plan

Council Member Ruckriegel spoke on commission annual work plans. He said he was on a commission a few years ago and the annual work plan helped to organize the commission. He asked the City Manager to follow up with commissions and set a time frame to update commission work plans.

Fireworks

Council Member Riggenbach expressed his appreciation to Police Chief Marion and his officers for their work on the 4th of July. He also expressed appreciation to the neighborhoods for being respectful of each other when shooting off their own personal fireworks.

Special Service Area in East Bluff

Council Member Riggenbach said an Ordinance would be brought forth at the next Council Meeting on July 23, 2019, defining a proposed special service area (SSA) in the East Bluff. He said this would be the first step to get the East Bluff SSA established. He said the current SSA in the East Bluff expired at the end of the year and no more extensions were allowed. He said within 60 days there would be a public hearing in the East Bluff neighborhood to gauge citizen interest in this SSA.

Illinois Housing Development Authority

Council Member Riggenbach said Community Development had been working with the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) on revitalization plans for the Southside as well as the East Bluff. He said the East Bluff meeting would be held on July 17, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. at the East Bluff Community Center. He invited everyone to come out and share input on what the revitalization plan should look like.

Police and Fire Diversity

Council Member Ali inquired about the annual update on diversity in Police and Fire. City Manager Urich said the update would be provided at the next Council Meeting.

Illinois Housing Development Authority

Council Member Moore said the IHDA was coming down from Chicago to hold meetings in the community. She said the near Southside meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, 2019, from 6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. at the Frank Campbell Center and near Northside meeting would be Wednesday, July 17, 2019, from 3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. at Reachway Church, 1203 N.E. Perry Ave. She said everyone was welcome to attend any of the meetings, as the general information would be the same at each location.

Impact of Professionals on Kids

Council Member Moore expressed her support for the impact professionals have on kids and the confidence it gave kids to take on similar careers. She spoke of the program Career Spark held at the Peoria Civic Center where kids could interact and hear professionals talk about careers. She said it helped kids learn and aspire to be in different kinds of professions. She suggested embracing diversity and finding ways to break through institutional racism. She recognized the Farnsworth Group for their work and support in the community. She also

recognized IDG Architects, Inc. for opening an office in Peoria and commended Larry Ivory, CEO of the Black Chamber of Commerce, for recruiting them to the area.

Crime Mapping Report

Council Member Montelongo requested a report from Police Chief Marion regarding vehicle break-ins and residential burglaries over the last 5 months and requested the information to be broken down by council district.

Stormwater Repair Relief

Council Member Grayeb requested Interim Public Works Director Lewis speak on the Stormwater Utility relief offered to the citizens. Interim Public Works Director Lewis spoke on the grant opportunities available to the community to relieve the Stormwater Utility and he suggested those interested to check the City's website or contact the Public Works Department for more information. Council Member Grayeb noted the deadline of August 31, 2019, for application to some of those grants.

Grocery Store Survey

Council Member Moore wanted to bring attention to the Grocery Store Survey being revealed July 10, 2019, from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. at the Minority Business Development Center, 2139 S.W. Adams St. She said this was to specifically address the grocery stores that closed in the East Bluff and south of Peoria on Harmon Highway.

Census

Mayor Ardis spoke of the Census initiative and he said Council Member Ruckriegel agreed to take on that initiative. He requested the City Manager place an item on the agenda to help the public understand what they can do and what the City was doing to make sure there was a strong census count.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

It was determined that there were no citizens who wished to speak before the City Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of a Motion to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity and 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

Council Member Cyr moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity and 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Moore moved to adjourn the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting;
seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 P.M.



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

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