CITY OF
PEORIA

: 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 April 26, 2022, 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, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11. Absent: None.

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.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Arbor Day – April 29, 2022

MINUTES

Council Member Oyler moved to approve the minutes of the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting held on April 12, 2022, as printed; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

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

(22-122) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the 2022-2023 BUDGET for the TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA.

Trustee Kelly moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the 2022-2023 Budget for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Motion to open the Public Hearing was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

Chairwoman Ali opened the Public Hearing at 6:11 P.M.

Following a third call for public comment, Chairwoman Ali determined no one wished to speak, and she requested the Public Hearing be closed.

Trustee Ruckriegel moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the 2022-2023 Budget for the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Trustee Allen.

Motion to close the Public Hearing was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

Chairwoman Ali closed the Public Hearing at 6:12 P.M.

(22-123) ANNUAL REPORT DRAFT (April 1, 2021, thru March 31, 2022), with a Request to RECEIVE AND FILE.

Trustee Grayeb moved to receive and file the Annual Report Draft; seconded by Trustee Riggenbach.

Approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-124) RESOLUTION Consenting to the Employment of MESCHER, RINEHART & REDLINGSHAFER, P.C. as TOWN ATTORNEYS, with Request to APPROVE.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve a Resolution consenting to the employment of Mescher, Rinehart & Redlingshafer, P.C. as Town Attorneys; seconded by Trustee Allen.

Resolution No. 22-124 was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-125) RESOLUTION for the Town of the City of Peoria Authorizing Township Officials to Continue a Loss Control Policy with TOIRMA and to Enter into a CONTRACT OF INSURANCE, with Request to APPROVE.

After he noted the importance of the Township having a Loss Control Policy in place, Trustee Grayeb moved to approve a Resolution for the Town of the City of Peoria authorizing Township Officials to continue a Loss Control Policy with Toirma and to enter into a Contract of Insurance; seconded by Trustee Velpula.

Resolution No. 22-125 was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-126) RESOLUTION Authorizing the Town of the City of Peoria to Enter into a PAYROLL SERVICES AGREEMENT with ADP, LLC, with Request to APPROVE.

Trustee Kelly moved to approve a Resolution authorizing the Town of the City of Peoria to enter into a Payroll Services Agreement with ADP, LLC; seconded by Trustee Oyler.

Resolution No. 22-126 was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-127) RESOLUTION Authorizing the Town of the City of Peoria to Enter into an AGREEMENT with the HEARTLAND CLINIC, with Request to APPROVE, and to RECEIVE AND FILE the 2021 STATISTICAL REPORT.

Trustee Allen moved to approve a Resolution authorizing the Town of the City of Peoria to enter into an Agreement with the Heartland Clinic, and to receive and file the 2021 Statistical Report; seconded by Trustee Ruckriegel.

Resolution No. 22-127 was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-128) RESOLUTION Authorizing the Town of the City of Peoria to Make a DONATION to the CENTER FOR PREVENTION OF ABUSE, with Request to APPROVE, and To RECEIVE AND FILE the 2021 REPORT.

Trustee Jackson moved to approve a Resolution authorizing the Town of the City of Peoria to make a donation to the Center for Prevention of Abuse, and to receive and file the 2021 Report; seconded by Trustee Grayeb.

In response to Trustee Kelly's inquiry regarding donations, Township Supervisor LaTrina Leary said each year the Town of the City of Peoria donated funds to local organizations and agencies to aid the community. She provided an overview of the outreach, programs and services provided by each of the recipients of Township funding: Center for Prevention of Abuse, Friendship House, and Tri-County Urban League. She said the budgeted amount for donations remained the same as previous years, but it was reallocated to benefit multiple programs in the community to increase the effectiveness of the outreach.

Trustee Velpula said he would abstain from voting on this item because he was a member of the Center for Prevention of Abuse Board of Directors.

Resolution No. 22-128 authorizing the Town of the City of Peoria to make a donation to the Center for Prevention of Abuse was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Chairwoman Ali – 10;
Nays: None;
Abstention: Velpula – 1.

(22-129) RESOLUTION Authorizing the Town of the City of Peoria to Make a DONATION to FRIENDSHIP HOUSE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE, with Request to APPROVE, and to RECEIVE AND FILE the LETTER Included with the Resolution.

Trustee Ruckriegel moved to approve a Resolution authorizing the Town of the City of Peoria to make a donation to Friendship House of Christian Service, and to receive and file the Letter included with the Resolution; seconded by Trustee Allen.

Resolution No. 22-129 was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-130) RESOLUTION Authorizing the Town of the City of Peoria to Make a DONATION to TRI-COUNTY URBAN LEAGUE, with Request to APPROVE, and to RECEIVE AND FILE the LETTER Included with the Resolution.

Trustee Velpula moved to approve a Resolution authorizing the Town of the City of Peoria to make a donation to Tri-County Urban League, and to receive and file the Letter included with the Resolution; seconded by Trustee Kelly.

Resolution No. 22-130 was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-131) ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET and APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE for 2022-2023, with Request to ADOPT.

Trustee Grayeb moved to adopt the Annual Town Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for 2022-2023; seconded by Trustee Jackson.

Ordinance No. TO-22-01 was adopted by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-132) RESOLUTION Consenting to the Employment of CLIFTONLARSONALLAN, LLP, as Outside INDEPENDENT AUDITORS, with Request to APPROVE.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve a Resolution consenting to the employment of CliftonLarsonAllan, LLP, as outside independent auditors; seconded by Trustee Velpula.

Resolution No. 22-132 was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-133) RESOLUTION DESIGNATING INDIVIDUALS to Prepare the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, with Request to APPROVE.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve a Resolution designating individuals to prepare the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for fiscal year 2023-2024; seconded by Trustee Oyler.

Resolution No. 22-133 was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-134) RESOLUTION Designating the Time, Place and Date of the 2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, with Request to APPROVE.

Trustee Grayeb moved to approve a Resolution designating the time, place and date of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting; seconded by Trustee Allen.

Resolution No. 22-134 was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Chairwoman Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA

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

(22-135) Communication from the Mayor and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the DECLARATION OF LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY.

(22-136) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a PURCHASE with REHRIG PACIFIC COMPANY, in an Amount Not to Exceed $44,624.00, for 702 New 95-GALLON GARBAGE CARTS, for Replacement and Inventory. (All Council Districts)

(22-137) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with a Request to APPROVE a PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT with CORBIN DESIGN, for an Amount not to Exceed $40,000.00 for the DOWNTOWN WAYFINDING PROJECT.

(22-148) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Human Resources with a Request to APPROVE and Authorize the Execution of a CONTRACT with RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES (RMA), in the Amount of $37,560.00, to Administer the Fire Captain Promotional Examination.

(22-138) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,964 Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R3 (Single-Family Residential) District, for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL for the Property Located at 5620 N. WESTERN AVE (Parcel Identification No. 14-17-353-009), Peoria, IL. (Council District 4)

(22-139) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and Staff to ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 17,965 Approving a SPECIAL USE in a Class R-E (Estate Residential) District, for a SHORT-TERM RENTAL, for the Property Located at 7725 N. ORCHARD RD (Parcel Identification No. 14-10-102-010), Peoria, IL. (Council District 3)

(22-140) APPOINTMENT by Mayor Ali to the GREATER PEORIA MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES with a Request to Concur:

Don Knox (Voting) - Term Expiration 5/1/2026

Mayor Ali questioned if the Council wished to have any of the Consent Agenda Items removed for further discussion. She determined no Items were requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

Item Nos. 22-135 through 22-140, and 22-148, were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(22-141) Communication from the City Manager with a Request to APPROVE an INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT Establishing the PUBLIC HEALTH EQUITY FUND, Between the City of Peoria, PEORIA COUNTY, and the PEORIA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH.

City Manager Urich said the Peoria County Board of Health, the governing body of the Peoria City/County Health Department, would manage City of Peoria and Peoria County funds in the Public Health Equity Fund that was established to address concerns regarding the social determinants of health utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He said Monica Hendrickson, Public Health Administrator for the Peoria City/County Health Department, provided information in the packet regarding the social determinants of health in detail. He said the Intergovernmental Agreement would be approved by the County Board at the next meeting.

Mayor Ali said the funds for the Public Health Equity Fund were approved in the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget, and this Intergovernmental Agreement was the next step towards applying ARPA funds to benefit the health of the community.

Discussions were held regarding how specific programs and applications would be identified for funding, scheduling regular reports to update the Council on how the funding was spent, and how the Joint Commission on Racial Justice & Equity (RJE) Health and Human Services Subcommittee would be tasked with directing funds to programs and causes in the community. Mayor Ali listed organizations, such as OSF Healthcare and NAACP, that collaborated with the RJE Commission and would provide input regarding the Public Health Equity Fund applications. Discussions were held concerning addressing the social determinants to improve the overall

health of the community, the ARPA fund allocation the Council approved with the 2022-2023 Biennial Budget, and the importance of including community stakeholders in funding decisions while maintaining oversight by City and County Officials. The amount of available funds and the timeline in which they had to be spent, as well as how to best leverage the funds to the greatest benefit of the community were also discussed.

In response to concerns on how the money would be allocated or applied, Mayor Ali said a presentation would be provided on how the money would be allocated and the programs that would be implemented. She said it would also include data and statistics on health equity in Peoria to help Council understand the severity of existing conditions and the effect on the community.

Additional discussions were held regarding regular reporting on program details and Council's oversight on how the Public Health Equity funding was spent. The role of the RJE Commission, the importance of funding their missions in the community, and how they were tasked with prioritizing efforts that would result in the greatest impact were also discussed.

Council Member Ruckriegel remarked on the importance to ensure the Commission had the funding behind it to ensure they could direct the progress. He remarked on the importance of partnering with the County to make the money go farther in order to address the needs.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement establishing the Public Health Equity Fund, between the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and the Peoria County Board of Health; seconded by Council Member Allen.

Mayor Ali encouraged the Council to rely on the individuals and groups tasked with the improvement of public health in the community and their expertise to guide Peoria in the right direction. She said accountability and regular reporting would be part of the multi-year process.

Motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement establishing the Public Health Equity Fund, between the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and the Peoria County Board of Health was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-142) 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 APPROVE a RESOLUTION Amending the COMPREHENSIVE PLAN to Include the East Bluff Housing Needs Assessment and the Community Revitalization Plan.

Council Member Riggenbach said he was pleased with the amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, a culmination of many years of planning, work, and community input to address housing needs and revitalization in the East Bluff. He reviewed the report data provided in the information packet and he said a big focus would be on public outreach. He said while there was not funding allocated to the Community Revitalization Plan, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were allowed for these types of projects. He said updates would be provided as progress was made.

Community Development Director Joe Dulin discussed collaboration with the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) to provide opportunities for affordable housing, and he said Staff discussed goals and strategies of the East Bluff with developers. He reviewed current and future

programs offered by the City and efforts to help nonprofit organizations apply for grants.

Council Member Riggenbach moved to approve a Resolution amending the Comprehensive Plan to include the East Bluff Housing Needs Assessment and the Community Revitalization Plan; seconded by Council Member Velpula.

Council Member Kelly said he would not vote to approve this Resolution because the focus of IDHA was to provide incentives to developers to build subsidized housing, and when the tax credits expired, the developers would leave. He said it was important to reinforce the character of the community and efforts should be focused on improving existing rental properties.

Mayor Ali noted the plan included affordable housing efforts, promoting home ownership and affordable rent rates, not subsidized housing.

Council Member Riggenbach reiterated the benefits of the proposed plan and programs and the progression of East Bluff goals they would initiate. He asked Council to support the item.

Council Member Jensen said she would support the item, noting the recommendations listed in the plan did not include subsidized housing.

Resolution No. 22-143 amending the Comprehensive Plan to include the East Bluff Housing Needs Assessment and the Community Revitalization Plan was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 10;
Nays: Kelly – 1.

(22-143) 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 an ORDINANCE REZONING Property from Class R-4 (Single Family Residential) District to Class C-N (Neighborhood Commercial) District for the Property Located at 2919 W. GARDEN ST. (Parcel Identification No. 18-18-156-001), Peoria, IL.

Community Development Director Joe Dulin said rezoning the property at 2919 W. Garden Street would allow future development by the South Side Mission, and he asked the Executive Director Reverend Craig Williams, Development Manager Rich Draeger, and Business Operations Manager Ivier McSwine to discuss the South Side Mission's plans for the site.

Mr. Draeger said the South Side Mission's goal to invest in 61605 would be fostered with the establishment of a Thrift Store at the Garden Street location. He said it would not only bring funding to the area, but it would also provide jobs and training opportunities.

Rev. Williams said, in addition to providing new jobs opportunities at the Garden Street Thrift Store, additional job training and volunteer opportunities would be created at the supporting warehouse located at 1127 S. Laramie. He said construction was scheduled to begin in a few months, and he discussed the community benefits of South Side Missions newest project.

After she said she was excited to welcome new development to the area and what benefits the project would bring to south Peoria, Council Member Jackson moved to adopt an Ordinance rezoning property from Class R-4 District to Class C-N District for the property located at 2919 W. Garden Street; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Council Member Kelly said he was excited about how the project would assist in efforts to build up neighborhoods, especially on the south side of Peoria, and he said he appreciated what the South Side Mission was accomplishing in the community.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,966 rezoning property from Class R-4 District to Class C-N District for the property located at 2919 W. Garden Street was adopted by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-144) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to DENY the SITE APPLICATION for a Class A (Tavern) Liquor License with On-Site Consumption and Retail Sale of Alcohol for EXOTIC VIBEZ, LLC, D/B/A EXOTIC VIBEZ, 2608 N. SHERIDAN ROAD, Contingent Upon the Issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Deny. (Council District 2)

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka said the Site Application was denied at the Liquor Commission Meeting on Monday April 4, 2022, based on the Police investigation and Fire Code concerns. She said Staff recommended the Council deny the Site Application.

Council Member Grayeb moved to deny the Site Application for a Class A (Tavern) Liquor License with on-site consumption and retail sale of alcohol for Exotic Vibez, 2608 N. Sheridan Road; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-145) Communication from the City Manager, Director of Public Works, and Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE to Amend CHAPTER 31 of the CODE of the City of Peoria, Relating to the STORMWATER UTILITY FEE.

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka said the Code currently allowed up to a 90% Stormwater Utility Fee reduction for eligible property owners along the Illinois River with all stormwater runoff entering the river directly. She said the proposed amendment would provide for property owners who could prove all stormwater was retained on their property would receive a 90% reduction in the fee as well. She explained the fee reduction application process, including the submission of engineering reports and other required paperwork.

After she said she was glad the amendment would allow all property owners with water retention infrastructure to apply for a Stormwater Fee reduction, Council Member Jensen moved to adopt an Ordinance to amend Chapter 31 of the Code of the City of Peoria, relating to the Stormwater Utility Fee; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

In response to Council Member Grayeb regarding the remaining 10% Stormwater Utility Fee, Interim Corporation Counsel Kapustka said all residents benefitted from stormwater infrastructure, noting it serviced areas like public roads, businesses, and public areas.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,967 amending Chapter 31 of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to the Stormwater Utility Fee was adopted by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-119) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE IV, SUBSECTIONS 97 and 103 of the CODE of the City of Peoria, Regarding VIDEO GAMING FEES.

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka reported that Carbondale, Illinois, implemented a sliding-scale for Video Gaming Fees, similar to what was proposed by Council Member Jensen at the April 12, 2022, City Council Meeting. She said new applicants paid a minimum license fee for the first year, and the fee was based on their revenue from the prior year for each subsequent year. She asked for a two-week deferral to allow Staff time to research the option.

Council Member Jensen moved to defer the Ordinance amending Chapter 18, Article IV, Subsections 97 and 103 of the Code of the City of Peoria, regarding Video Gaming Fees, to the May 10, 2022, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Oyler.

Motion to defer this item to the May 10, 2022, Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-146) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller with a Request to RECEIVE AND FILE a REPORT Regarding PUBLIC SAFETY PENSIONS.

Finance Director Kyle Cratty provided an overview of pension fund structures in Illinois, and the ongoing Downstate Police and Fire Pension Consolidation process. He detailed the Police and Fire Pension benefits, contributions, and conditions, noting the differences compared to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF). He said the benefits structure was determined by the State of Illinois Legislature. Director Cratty explained unfunded liabilities and the factors that affected them, including investment returns, Staff salary increases, and other determinants. He described Pension Fund responsibilities of the State of Illinois, the Pension Fund Boards, and employers, or municipalities. He explained the scope of funded and unfunded liability for the City of Peoria, as well as the contributions and efforts to meet those obligations. He said attempting to address those obligations had and would continue to tax the City's budget allocations to Staff and services as they increased to achieve 90% funding by 2040, as required by State Law. He offered options to help mitigate the obligation growth, noting the existing pension benefits could not be diminished or impaired. He said short of a Constitutional Amendment by the State of Illinois to extend the funding deadline or reduce the amount due, there were not many short-term solutions to consider, especially considering the risks of Pension Obligation Bonds pursued by a few municipalities.

Discussions were held regarding the impact of the consolidation of Downstate Police and Fire Pension Funds and how the benefit increase raised costs for employers. Additional discussions were held on Pension Obligation Bonds, including how they affect the City's Bond Rating, and the risk of locking into the time frame and obligation amount in case the State of Illinois amends

the funding obligations. The percentage of the City's revenues allocated to meeting Pension Fund obligations and how the State determined pension obligation terms were also discussed. The importance of collaborating with State Representatives to address Pension Fund issues and rallying other municipalities to take the cause to Illinois Legislature was mentioned. Continued discussions were held on steps Council could take to alleviate increasing obligations.

In response to Council Member Ruckriegel regarding future staffing levels represented in the projections, Director Cratty noted the current staffing levels were maintained for the calculations. After he said it was important to allow future City Officials to adjust staffing levels as needed, Council Member Ruckriegel asked if increasing costs and salary growth were included in the projections. Director Cratty confirmed those factors were included in the calculations, and City Manager Urich said without changes to property tax rates, other revenue sources would need to be identified to address the growing Pension Fund obligations. Council Member Ruckriegel said he agreed with other Council Members that leveraging the State of Illinois into action on amortization was the best course of action.

Council Member Allen requested a Report Back regarding detailed information on Pension Obligation Bonds and the cities in Illinois that purchased them.

Discussions were held regarding actuarial assumptions on the Pension Fund plans, investment terms and conditions as dictated by the State of Illinois, and structuring the Pension Fund to mimic IMRF. Council Member Kelly noted revenue derived from economic growth projections in Peoria were not included in the calculations. He said while the growth rate cannot be predicted, it was important to focus on revenue growth to address the City's obligations.

Council Member Oyler said if cooperative action was not taken on Pension Fund obligations, funding would be depleted for essential City services. He said State of Illinois Legislature should have addressed pressing concerns like Pension Fund obligations in the Spring 2022 session, and he said he concurred with other Council Members that State Legislature should take action on this state-wide issue.

Additional discussions were held concerning the state-wide concerns on Pension Fund obligations, the reduction in City services and Staff over the last 20 years, and potential steps to address Pension Fund obligation concerns. The Illinois Municipal League (IML) efforts to motivate State Legislature into action regarding Police and Fire Pension Fund consolidation terms was also discussed.

Mayor Ali said it was important to focus on renewed economic growth to bring additional jobs, increased population, and additional tax revenue that would address concerns such as Pension Fund obligations.

Council Member Ruckriegel asked for a Report Back with an Illinois municipal comparison on the status of Pension Fund obligations, excluding Chicago. He said it was important to act proactively to avoid leaving this problem for the future generations of Peoria.

Council Member Kelly moved to receive and file a Report regarding Public Safety Pensions; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Council Member Cyr noted the City did not have authority to adjust the amortization schedule or funding goals for the Pension Fund.

Motion to receive and file a report regarding public safety pensions was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

(22-147) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Corporation Counsel with a Request to RECEIVE and FILE a DISCUSSION on PANHANDLING.

Interim Corporation Counsel Chrissie Kapustka provided an overview of previous discussions held by the Council regarding panhandling and allowed mitigation measures. She said there were existing Ordinances and State Laws that prohibited pedestrians in the roadway as traffic obstruction, and an amendment could address concerns in medians and intersections as well. She reviewed results from previous traffic studies, and she said many municipalities were installing signs to discourage panhandling, encouraging citizens to donate to local charities and non-profit organizations instead, or including contact information for those organizations. An example of a sign that read "Panhandling or Soliciting – Unsafe in the Median" was displayed. She provided conditions and criteria that could be used to determine where the signs should be placed in the City, noting many other municipalities were implementing signage as a first step to address panhandling concerns. She provided other options to address the concerns, including Solicitation and Fundraiser Licensing.

After he said he agreed with the Staff recommendation in the Communication, Council Member Grayeb moved to direct Staff to bring an Ordinance amending Section 28-169 of the Code of the City of Peoria to prohibit a person remaining upon a street and median and obstructing traffic to a subsequent City Council Meeting for consideration, and to receive and file the discussion on panhandling; seconded by Council Member Kelly.

Discussions were held regarding preemptive actions to ensure safety of citizens, signage wording, and ways to address aggressive panhandling. Enforcement of statutes and Ordinances already in place was also discussed.

Additional discussions were held regarding sign locations, collaboration with local agencies to provide aid to citizens panhandling or in needs of services, and amending traffic obstruction language in the Code. Accidents and safety concerns regarding panhandling and educating the public on safer methods to aid citizens in need were also discussed.

Motion to direct Staff to bring an Ordinance amending Section 28-169 of the Code of the City of Peoria to prohibit a person remaining upon a street and median and obstructing traffic to a subsequent City Council Meeting for consideration, and to receive and file the discussion on panhandling was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

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

(22-105) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Community Development with a Request to Concur with the Recommendation from Staff, with No Recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission, to ADOPT an ORDINANCE Amending Existing Special Use Ordinance No. 9,126, as amended, in a Class R-3 (Single Family Residential) for CHURCH FACILITIES to Rebuild the Sanctuary Building and New Bell Tower for the Property Located at 10811 N. KNOXVILLE AVENUE (Parcel Identification Nos. 09-29-177-002 and 09-29-326-001), Peoria, IL.

A handout containing a revised Council Communication and revised Ordinance was distributed to all Council Members.

City Manager Urich said Staff had been working on reaching an agreement with the applicant regarding sidewalk conditions, and he listed the terms outlined in the revised Ordinance.

Council Member Cyr moved to adopt an Ordinance amending existing Special Use Ordinance No. 9,126, as amended, in a Class R-3 for Church Facilities to rebuild the sanctuary building and new bell tower for the property located at 10811 N. Knoxville Avenue; seconded by Council Member Ruckriegel.

Council Member Riggenbach said the visit to the site was useful to understand why a compromise was important in this case, but he cautioned against allowing a precedence to be set. He said he will support this item, but he noted the significance of the City's Bicycle Plan and Thoroughfare Plan when making these types of decisions.

ORDINANCE NO. 17,968 amending existing Special Use Ordinance No. 9,126, as amended, in a Class R-3 for Church Facilities to rebuild the sanctuary building and new bell tower for the property located at 10811 N. Knoxville Avenue was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

(22-116) Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel with a Request to APPROVE the SITE APPLICATION for a Class I (Assembly Hall/Stadium) Liquor License with the Retail Sale of Alcohol at the EXPOSITION GARDENS, INC., D/B/A EXPO GARDENS, 1601 W. NORTHMOOR ROAD, with a Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve. (Council District 4)

Council Member Allen said, since the item was deferred at the April 12, 2022, City Council Meeting, due diligence revealed a solution to address concerns of the neighboring community.

At the conclusion of his comments, Council Member Allen moved to approve the Site Application for a Class I Liquor License with the retail sale of alcohol at Exposition Gardens, Inc, D/B/A Expo Gardens, 1601 W. Northmoor Road, as amended, to permit the sale of alcohol inside their venue until 1:00 A.M., to permit the sale of alcohol outside until 11:00 P.M., and to permit the sale of alcohol outside until 1:00 A.M. only during the Heart of Illinois Fair; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Motion to approve the Site Application for a Class I Liquor License with the retail sale of alcohol at Exposition Gardens, Inc, D/B/A Expo Gardens, 1601 W. Northmoor Road was approved, as amended, to permit the sale of alcohol inside their venue until 1:00 A.M., to permit the sale of alcohol outside until 11:00 P.M., and to permit the sale of alcohol outside until 1:00 A.M. only during the Heart of Illinois Fair, by roll call vote.

Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;

Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ameren Rate Increase

City Manager Urich provided details regarding the predicted Ameren energy rate increases resulting from the Regional Electricity Supply Auction on April 14, 2022. He said it was raised from $5.00 per megawatt to $236.00 per megawatt, and consumer bills would increase as much as $500.00 per year. He discussed the City program that purchased electricity on behalf of citizens and small businesses, noting the contract would expire at the end of May, requiring the procurement of electricity on an extremely volatile market. He said suppliers had not provided quotes, but he said more information would be communicated in the next two weeks. He asked citizens to prepare for the electricity bill increases, especially as warmer months approached.

Rental Registration Program

Council Member Kelly said he had met with Council Members Jensen and Jackson, along with Community Development Director Joe Dulin, regarding the Rental Registration Program. He said another meeting was scheduled in a few days and an item for the Council to consider would be presented at a subsequent City Council Meeting.

Writing Contest Winners

Council Member Jackson recognized the winners of a local writing contest regarding the Holocaust. She recognized all students who participated in the contest, noting the first-place winner received a $200.00 award.

Knoxville Corridor IDOT Project

Council Member Riggenbach provided an update on the Knoxville Corridor Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) project proposal. He said meetings including members of the community, City Staff, and IDOT illuminated concerns regarding some of the less-traditional prospects. He said as work continued, he would provide updates on the progress, and he recognized IDOT for understanding the character and structure of the neighborhood in their plans.

Food Carts

Council Member Riggenbach said as workers continued to return downtown as pandemic restrictions were lifted, the food carts had not yet come back. He asked City Manager Urich if there were incentives, such as a reduction in registration fees, that could be implemented to encourage small business owners to return to serve citizens in Downtown Peoria.

Community Development Neighborhood Clean-Up

Council Member Allen recognized the Community Development Department for their efforts during recent Neighborhood Clean-Up Events around Peoria, noting he attended his first event on Saturday, and he was able to explore neighborhoods in his current and future district boundaries.

Redistricting Maps Effective May 1, 2022
Council Member Allen said he wanted to remind constituents that the new Redistricting Maps would go into effect on May 1, 2022. He said the Council Members were available to help citizens during the transition, noting they all worked together to benefit the entire City.

Stormwater Utility Fee Transparency
Council Member Cyr said providing additional transparency regarding Stormwater Utility Fees projects and how the funds were used was essential for citizens to stay updated on developments. He asked if it could be added to the new monthly Financial Report.

Fire Department Engine No. 15 Upgrade
Council Member Cyr said Fire Department Engine No. 15 was upgrading medical services from Basic Life Support (BLS) to Advanced Life Support (ALS). He said the four-year effort, funded through a grant, began with former Fire Chief James Bachman and was completed by Interim Fire Chief Shawn Sollberger, and would greatly benefit District 5 by adding an additional ALS response mechanism.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

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

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of a Motion for the Town of the City of Peoria Board of Trustees to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body; 2(c)(11), litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; and Consideration of a Motion for the Peoria City Council to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body; 2(c)(11), litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; 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.

Council Member Ruckriegel moved to adjourn the Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting to Executive Session for the Town of the City of Peoria Board of Trustees pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body; 2(c)(11), litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; and for the Peoria City Council pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body; 2(c)(11), litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; 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; seconded by Council Member Cyr.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Allen, Cyr, Grayeb, Jackson, Jensen, Kelly, Oyler, Riggenbach, Ruckriegel, Velpula, Mayor Ali – 11;
Nays: None.

The Regular Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 P.M.

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

cc