

: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :**: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :**

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, May 6, 2003, a Regular Meeting of the City Council was held this date at 6:15 P.M., at City Hall, Council Chambers, 419 Fulton Street, Mayor David P. Ransburg presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Council Members present: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11; Absent: None.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ransburg requested a moment of silent prayer then he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Council Member Nichting moved to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting and Executive Sessions held on April 29, 2003, as printed; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11;

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE, for City of Peoria and Town of the City of Peoria, with Recommendations as Outlined:

- (03-242) NOTICE OF LAWSUIT on Behalf of VARIETY SPECIALTIES & AMUSEMENT COMPANY, INC. Regarding an Incident on March 28, 2003 and March 31, 2003.**
- (03-243) NOTICE OF LAWSUIT on Behalf of CARLA LAMPRECHT and LISA PTASNIK-BRYANT Regarding an Incident on February 6, 1999 and February 6, 2002.**
- (03-244) BID for ANNUAL OVERHEAD DOOR MAINTENANCE CONTRACT for an Initial Three-Year Period with Option to Extend for Two One-Year Periods, Based on Satisfactory Performance, Recommending the Total Low Bid of KONEMATIC, in the Amounts as Outlined.**
- (03-245) Communication from Director of Economic Development Recommending Adoption of an ORDINANCE NO. 15,472 CONCERNING the ALLOCATION of the CITY of PEORIA 2003 PRIVATE ACTIVITY BOND VOLUME CAP, Allocating \$2,823,400.00 to AFFORDABLE HOUSING ASSOCIATES, LLC, for the Acquisition and Rehabilitation of the Oak Woods Apartment Complex.**

(03-246) REPORTS:**A. TOWN of the CITY of PEORIA FINANCIAL REPORT – Period Ending March 31, 2003.**

Council Member Nichting moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as outlined in the Council communications; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Item Nos. 03-242 through 03-246 were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11;

Nays: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**(03-190) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with Recommendation from the Planning Commission to APPROVE and Recommendation from Staff to DENY a RESOLUTION Approving the PRELIMINARY PLAT of MEDINA CROSSING SUBDIVISION, an Industrial Development Located North of IL Route 6 and West of IL Route 29, along N. State Street.**

Council Member Nichting moved to defer this item for two weeks until the May 20, 2003, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Motion to defer this item until May 20, 2003, was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11;

Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS**ANNOUNCEMENT Regarding FUNDRAISER to HONOR TWO MILITARY MEN KILLED IN WAR WITH IRAQ**

Council Member Turner announced a fundraiser would be held to honor Sgt. Brad Cordes and Cpl. Evan James on Saturday, May 10, 2003, at the American Legion Post #979 on Airport Road. He said these two military men were killed in the war with Iraq. He urged everyone to attend the benefit.

KINGMAN SCHOOL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Council Member Thetford discussed the Kingman School's 100th Anniversary Celebration and she commended the Staff for a successful open house. She thanked those who attended.

COMMENTS Regarding NEIGHBORHOOD AWARD BANQUET

Council Member Thetford discussed the awards presented to neighborhood volunteers at the Neighborhood Award Banquet.

CITIZEN REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**(03-247) REQUEST from CITIZENS to Address the CITY COUNCIL Regarding VARIOUS ISSUES.**

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ransburg granted Privilege of the Floor to those who wished to address the Council.

Mr. Larry Toner, 1216 S. W. Adams, discussed the issue of the Medical and Technology District proposed for the West Bluff. He said he liked the idea of this kind of a development in Peoria, but he indicated he felt the best location was not the West Bluff, but rather the MacArthur Street area or along Kumpf Boulevard. He said he felt the development would have a negative impact on the West Bluff and would destroy the character of their neighborhood. He requested that the Council reconsider this issue.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding in what form the Medical and Technology District item would be coming to the Council, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray explained the Administration would be bringing the item to Council.

Council Member Sandberg said there were several proposals made by different neighborhood organizations and he indicated he felt these alternatives should have equal time for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Nichting moved to adjourn the Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 6:32 P.M.

bb

Mary L. Haynes, MMC
City Clerk of Peoria, Illinois

******* ADMINISTERING THE OATHS OF OFFICE *******

City Clerk Mary L. Haynes gave a welcoming address and administered the Oath of Office to the following incoming elected Officials:

At-Large Council Member James E. Ardis III
At-Large Council Member Charles V. Grayeb
At-Large Council Member John D. Morris
At-Large Council Member Gary V. Sandberg
At-Large Council Member W. Eric Turner

******* CONVENING OF NEW COUNCIL *********ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following Council Members present: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11; Absent: None.

REMARKS BY NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS AT-LARGE

Council Member Turner thanked the citizens who supported his re-election to the City Council and he said he hoped that those who did not vote for him would allow him the opportunity to earn their future support. He said the next four years would be unlike anything experienced to date. He said local and State governments would be forced to make drastic changes due to revenue short falls tied to economic down turn and years of program and work force expansion. He said the next four years would be about accountability. He added the decisions could not be made to optimize individual or special agendas. He said this Council was re-elected to use the leadership and experience that each gained to address a host of issues that would ultimately determine the future of Peoria. He said the Council, the elected policy-makers of the City, needed to be focused to regain community-wide support, trust and respect, and work to find resolutions to problems which faced the City.

Council Member Grayeb said, during the next term, he wanted the Council to place a strong emphasis on public safety, including police, fire and emergency services planning. He pointed out that the City's preparedness should be second to none and no budget difficulties should cause the City to make decisions that would cost citizens their lives or produce injuries. He said leadership needed encouragement to find bolder ways to fight crime, gangs, guns and drugs. He added another goal of the Council should be better efficiencies, accountability and customer service. He suggested a 311 call center for non-emergency complaints which would require new computer programs. He said this system would allow the City to do a better job with focus on City resources with a stricter accountability. He said the City could not afford a slippage of the tax base. He said the City must continue to be progressive and this would require continued job creation, an expansion of our City and regional economic pie, the downtown being a destination location, vibrant retail centers, and restored vitality in older neighborhoods.

Council Member Morris thanked the citizens for allowing him to return to the City Council for another four years. He commended the other elected At-Large Council Members for their Council work and their contributions made to the community that were not in the public eye. He said his dream was not for Peoria to be just one more mid-western City, but to become a world class community. He said the oath that they swore was not to the City, but to the Constitution of the United States. He said it was a great reminder this Country afforded the Council and citizens to gather on Tuesday nights to exercise their freedoms.

Council Member Ardis thanked his wife and his family for their support which allowed him to serve the community. He encouraged the other Council Members to move forward together to accomplish goals of the City. He said he welcomed the diverse aspects that all brought to the issues and encouraged open discussions. He said he looked forward to productively meeting the challenges the Council would face in the near future and the years to come.

Council Member Sandberg thanked those who had supported him over the past 25 years. He especially thanked City Treasurer Mary Ulrich, who would be retiring soon, for being his role model and for her commitment to the City of Peoria over the years. He also thanked City employees who he had worked with over the years, many of whom would be retiring soon. He said each worked on citizen problems to work out the best possible solutions to deliver basic essential services to the community. He said many long-time employees would be retiring soon and lost, also, would be their institutional memories. He stated this loss of personnel resulted from misdirected spending that did not involve any of them. He said he did not want the citizens to be forgotten. He expressed concern that the most recent budget was balanced by eliminating the neighborhood public benefit fund and capital expenses that would delay or magnify current budgetary issues. He said the City was faced with a budget dilemma that could not be solved by reducing basic essential services below the level the investors expected in order for them to remain in Peoria. He said the Council had the responsibility, and he hoped the Council had the courage, to address these issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Nichting moved to adjourn the Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

bb

Mary L. Haynes, MMC
City Clerk of Peoria, Illinois

***RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
CITY HALL ROTUNDA***
