

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, June 17, 2003, a Regular Meeting of the City Council was held this date at 6:18 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 (arrived at 8:55 P.M.), Nichting, Sandberg, Spears (arrived at 6:20 P.M.), 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 held on June 10, 2003, as printed; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Nichting, Sandberg, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 9;

Nays: None.

Council Member Spears arrived at 6:20 P.M.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS

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

- (03-309) NOTICE OF LAWSUIT on Behalf of MR. GARY V. SANDBERG, Seeking a Reversal of an Order Enforcing Registration at 1723 N. Bigelow.**
- (03-310) BIDS for SIGN SHOP MATERIAL, Recommending Vendors as Outlined in the Communication, in the Total Amount of \$20,616.96.**
- (03-311) PAYMENT ESTIMATES for PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: STONEGATE ROAD ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT (North Street to Lake Street) (Removal of existing comb. Curb & gutter, and driveway approaches; construction of concrete sidewalks, comb. curb-sidewalks, p.c.c. gutter, driveway pavement, underdrain, storm sewer, and a bituminous concrete pavement overlay.) C & G CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION – PAY ESTIMATE #6: \$39,958.35; TOTAL AUTHORIZATION APPROVED: \$39,958.35. (For Information Only)**
- (03-312) PAYMENT ESTIMATES for PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: PHASE I CONSTRUCTION for CHARTER OAK ROAD EXTENSION (Roadway Embankment construction along Charter Oak Road and along Big Hollow Road – North, construction of a dual box culvert to carry the proposed Charter Oak Road roadway extension over a Big Hollow Creek tributary, staged construction of a two-span railroad bridge/roadway underpass carrying the existing UPRR dual mainline trackage over the proposed Charter Oak Road roadway extension.) FREESEN, INC. PAY ESTIMATE #9: \$138,779.93; TOTAL AUTHORIZATION APPROVED: \$138,779.93. (For Information Only)**

- (03-313) **PAYMENT ESTIMATE for PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: US ROUTE 150 & ILLINOIS ROUTE 91 (Widening, overlay and reconstruction of US Route 150 from Trigger/Koerner Road to Frostwood Parkway, and Illinois Route 91 from US Route 150 to the north.) R. A. CULLINAN & SON, INC.- PAY ESTIMATE #13: \$4,403,963.11; TOTAL AUTHORIZATION APPROVED: \$4,403,963.11. (For Information Only)**
- (03-314) **Communication from Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting Authorization to DISPOSE of CITY PROPERTY (Bicycles and Property Room Items) at a PUBLIC AUCTION to be Held on Saturday, July 19, 2003.**
- (03-315) **Communication from City Treasurer Recommending Approval of RESOLUTION NO. 03-315 Authorizing NAMED BANKS to HONOR CHECKS, DRAFTS, ETC., of the City of Peoria, Authorizing the City Treasurer, the Interim City Manager and the Interim Finance Director/Comptroller to ACCEPT AND RELEASE SECURITIES for SAFEKEEPING held by a THIRD PARTY, and REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 03-183, to Become Effective June 23, 2003.**
- (03-316) **Communication from Corporation Council Recommending Adoption of the Following Regarding ORANGE PRAIRIE ROAD EXTENSION:**
- A. **SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT Relative to the Cost of ORANGE PRAIRIE ROAD EXTENSION;**
- B. **ORDINANCE NO. 15,487 Amending the BUDGET for Fiscal Year 2003 Relating to CONTRIBUTIONS for ORANGE PRAIRIE ROAD.**
- (03-317) **Communication from Corporation Counsel Recommending Adoption of ORDINANCE NO. 15,488 Ascertaining the PREVAILING RATE OF WAGES for LABORERS, WORKMEN and MECHANICS Employed on PUBLIC WORKS in the City of Peoria.**
- (03-318) **SIDEWALK PARTICIPATION REQUEST: SPEEDWAY SUPERAMERICA, LLC, Located at 3124 N. PROSPECT ROAD, in the Amount of \$10,480.00.**
- (03-319) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in the APPOINTMENT to MAYOR PRO TEM:**
- Council Member Gale Thetford Term Expires 6/30/04
- (03-320) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in REAPPOINTMENTS to the FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION:**
- Ms. Cheryl Kuppler (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/06
- Ms. Geraldine Mitchell (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/06
- (03-321) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in the REAPPOINTMENT to the GREATER PEORIA MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**
- Council Member Jim Ardis Term Expires 6/30/04

- (03-322) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in REAPPOINTMENT to the HOUSING PROPERTY MAINTENANCE COMMISSION:**
- Council Member Marcella Teplitz Term Expires 6/30/04
- (03-323) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in REAPPOINTMENTS to the INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE:**
- Council Member Jim Ardis (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/05
 Council Member Patrick Nichting (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/05
- (03-324) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in REAPPOINTMENT to DEPUTY LOCAL LIQUOR COMMISSIONER:**
- Council Member W. Eric Turner Term Expires 6/30/04
- (03-325) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in the REAPPOINTMENT to the LIQUOR COMMISSION:**
- Mr. Harold A. (Rocky) Vonachen, III (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/06
- (03-326) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in the REAPPOINTMENT to the PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY:**
- Council Member Clyde E. Gulley, Jr. Term Expires 6/30/04
- (03-327) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in REAPPOINTMENTS to the PEORIA URBAN FORESTRY ADVISORY BOARD:**
- Mr. Brian E. Aaron (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/06
 Mr. John C. Dillon (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/06
 Mr. Ryan Palm (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/06
- (03-328) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in the REAPPOINTMENT to the POLICE PENSION FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**
- Mr. Bernard R. Filzen (Voting) Term Expires 5/10/05
- (03-329) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in REAPPOINTMENTS to the RIVERFRONT BUSINESS DISTRICT COMMISSION:**
- Dr. Edward P. Glover (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/06
 Mr. Gary W. Lasken (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/06
- (03-330) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting Concurrence in REAPPOINTMENTS to the SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE (LANDFILL):**
- Mr. Lester D. Bergsten (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/05
 Council Member Jim Ardis (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/04
 Council Member Patrick Nichting (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/04

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

Item Nos. 03-309 through 03-330 were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 10;

Nays: None.

**(03-331) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management
Recommending Adoption of an ORDINANCE Granting a SPECIAL USE in a Class
C-1 (General Commercial) District for a USED CAR DEALERSHIP for Property
Located at 2316 S. W. JEFFERSON STREET, with Conditions.**

Council Member Gulley moved to adopt the Ordinance granting a Special Use in a Class C-1 (General Commercial) District for a used-car dealership for property located at 2316 S.W. Jefferson Street, with conditions; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 15,489 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 10;

Nays: None.

**(03-332) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management
Recommending Adoption of an ORDINANCE Rezoning Property Located at 407 N.
E. ROCK ISLAND AVENUE from the Present Class I-2 (Railroad/Warehouse
Industrial) District to a Class R-4 (Single -Family Residential) District. (Refer to
Item No. 03-053)**

Council Member Thetford moved to adopt the Ordinance rezoning property located at 407 N.E. Rock Island Avenue from the Present Class I-2 (Railroad/Warehouse Industrial) District to a Class R-4 (Single-Family Residential) District; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 15,490 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 10;

Nays: None.

**(03-333) Communication from Interim City Manager Regarding the PROPOSED FY 2003 to
2004 RESTRUCTURE PLAN, with Recommendation to Place on File in the City
Clerk's Office for Public Viewing, and to Set a BUDGET HEARING on the
ADOPTION of a 2004 CITY OF PEORIA BUDGET on JUNE 24, 2003, at
6:15 P.M..**

Budget Officer Jim Scroggins distributed a copy of replacement pages 22 through 26 and supplemental information pages 1 through 12 of the 2003-2004 Budget Restructure Plan to all members of the City Council. Director of the Peoria Public Library Sue Herring distributed a copy of a memo regarding the impact of reducing the Library Budget by \$300,000 for fiscal year 2004 to all members of the City Council. Council Member Gary Sandberg distributed a copy of an Alternative 2003-2004 Budget Concept. Council Member Turner distributed a communication regarding Budget issues dated June 13, 2003, for information only, to all members of the City Council. A letter from Mr. Bill Beckman was also distributed opposing the closure of Fire House #11.

Interim City Manager Ewert said he had been directed by the City Council to make a recommendation that would right-size the budget operations and expenses in line with anticipated revenues. He said the plan that was presented dealt with the \$6 million shortfall and short-term and long-term budget issues.

Interim City Manager Ewert stated he was recommending a five-year operating budget and a ten-year capital budget. He said, even at the end of 2004 after having eliminated 53 positions, the 2005 budget would still be out of balance again. He added he would be recommending program cuts, even though the programs were all good programs, and he regretted having to recommend laying off employees. He said, in the case of layoffs, he would provide a 60-day notice rather than the required ten-day notice.

Interim City Manager Ewert said expenditure reductions over the next 18 months were recommended at a level of \$4.8 million and new fees and the basic budget, exclusive of the trash fees, were at \$1.0 million. He said the utility tax, in the amount of \$2 million, would be transferred into the capital fund in 2004 and that the reserves of the City would be increased consistent with Council policy of \$700,000 a year. Additionally, he said, there were efficiency initiatives proposed on permitting, field inspections, new single-family construction, and new commercial construction. He said mechanics' positions at the Garage were merged with mechanics for the Fire Department, and the Radio Shop was relocated. He further explained a citizen complaint program would be instituted. He said, because 53 positions were eliminated, all City employees across the board in all departments would have additional responsibilities to make the City more efficient. He added he would be introducing an efficiency program where department heads would be making reports back to the City Council and the City Manager on a quarterly basis with efficiencies that had been implemented.

Interim City Manager Ewert reported that the deficit could be eliminated by 2004, but he said it would require a new source of revenue. He said there would be 53 positions eliminated and eleven lay-offs. He said he was proposing the closure of Fire Station #11, which would increase response time by 36 seconds, but would keep the City within national standards. He referred to the capital budget and he said he was proposing a \$10 million new capital program. He said the supplemental budget was comprised of \$2.5 million, of which \$1.4 million would eliminate the deficit in 2004, and the remaining \$1.1 million would go into a neighborhood crime program.

Interim City Manager Ewert discussed the neighborhood crime program that would have ten districts, which was shown on a map that was distributed to all members of the City Council. He said as crime areas moved in the City, the districts would move, and as the hours of the crime moved, the hours of the Police Officers' days would move. He said the unit would have eight new officers and five existing officers, three from the N.E.A.T. team and two existing Detectives. He said crime area problems had been brought to his attention repeatedly by Council Members, citizens and Staff. He said he also recommended that the N.E.A.T. Team have its administrative responsibilities assumed by others so they could be in the field full-time and three of those officers would go into the Neighborhood Program at a cost of \$93,000.

Interim City Manager Ewert discussed the Litter Control Program, the Regional Planner to be paid 50/50 by the City and County to review initiatives to be jointly agreed upon that would be of common concern to both governments, and the consolidation of review and permitting activities.

Interim City Manager Ewert further discussed staffing levels from 1992 to 2004. He pointed out that in 1994, City staffing levels were at 752 when Peoria was a smaller-sized City, and in 2004, there would be 763 City Staff. He added staffing peaked in 2002 at 864.

Interim City Manager Ewert discussed the Budget and pointed out that, even with recommendations that were proposed to balance the Budget in 2003 with a surplus of \$1.2 million, without the trash fee, there would be a deficit of \$1.4 million. He reported in the out years, the deficit grew. He said with the trash fee, the budget would be balanced in 2004 and in 2005, there would be a deficit, but it would be smaller.

Interim City Manager Ewert said there needed to be a serious review of wage and benefit increases that were granted by the Council with the renegotiations of the new labor contracts. He said, rather than a wage increase of 5.5%, if the wage increases averaged 3.5% and benefits increased 8% rather than 10%, all the red would be eliminated from the budget, if the trash fee was implemented.

Interim City Manager Ewert discussed the capital budget and pointed out again there was little money in the budget to replace fire engines, police cars, and virtually no money in the budget to maintain buildings and parking decks. He added there was virtually no funding to replace computer software in the out years, and little money for storm drainage and economic development.

Budget Officer Jim Scroggins discussed the details of the Basic Operating budget Summary on Page 11 of the Budget Restructure Plan. He said at the end of 2003, the City would have a net budget surplus of \$2.228 million and at the end of 2004, the City would have a net budget deficit of \$1.4 million. He also discussed the Supplemental Operating Budget Summary on Page 17, which added the \$2.5 million for the refuse collection fee.

Assistant Director of Human Resources Alan Pennington discussed the efficiencies of new programs such as the Litter Control Program, Neighborhood Crime Program, Inspection position, enhanced N.E.A.T. Team, and the new position of the Regional Planner.

Council Member Thetford expressed concern regarding the manner in which the garbage fees would be collected. She said there was neighborhood concern that some citizens would choose not to pay the garbage fee and instead deposit their garbage on their neighbor's property. She said it was her understanding the payment of the garbage fee of \$6.00 a month would be mandatory. She also questioned who would collect the fee.

Interim City Manager Ewert explained \$2.5 million would be generated by fees paid by the residents. He said citizens would be billed on a quarterly basis by Waste Management. He said the City's litter ordinances would remain in place and would be enforced.

In discussion with Council Member Spears regarding how the enforcement process would be handled, Director of Public Works Steve Van Winkle said the enforcement process could be decided by the Council or the City could follow the waste hauler's process. He said the waste hauler sent out default notices and gave the person 30 to 45 days, and if the fee was not paid, garbage service would be discontinued. He said the burden of collection would be on the hauler, not the City.

Council Member Spears expressed concern regarding residents who may spend part of the year away from their homes, or those who may want to opt out of the program and have a neighbor collect all refuse in the neighborhood for one pickup point.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg, Director Van Winkle said the current garbage contract was not due to expire until May 31, 2004. He said the option would be the Council's, but unrelated to the Budget, he had begun negotiations with Waste Management for a negotiated extension of their contract. He said he had terms in hand, from both PDC and Waste Management, that he was prepared to recommend at the June 24, 2003, Council Meeting an extension of their contract for a period of five years. He said, if the Council approved, within the framework of the renegotiated contract, the fee system would be built-in. He added, if the Council did not approve and the Council chose to have the contract bid, then the fee system would be built into the documents for bidding.

In further discussion with Council Member Sandberg, Director Van Winkle stated, in the current contract language, the City did not have means in which the contract could be increased or lowered because citizens combined their garbage for a one stop pick-up. He said language was incorporated in earlier contracts, but it was determined it was not needed.

Interim City Manager Ewert said most communities would limit the number of garbage cans at each household that would be picked up, if large groups of people started putting their garbage together for one pick-up point.

Council Member Thetford said a garbage fee was a small price to pay for a comprehensive neighborhood crime prevention program. She said, if the fee was increased to \$7.00 a month, the City would be able to keep one of their busiest Fire Stations open. She said, by collecting this fee through Waste Management, it would give residents an opportunity to determine they did not need their garbage picked up. She said, in her opinion, the only way it would work would be to make it a mandatory fee that was paid and the City should somehow monitor the collection process. She suggested the fee could be included in property tax bills.

Following a brief discussion regarding whether or not there should be a limit on how long Council Members could discuss these issues, Council Member Nichting moved to waive the five-minute rule on Council Discussion; seconded by Council Member Sandberg.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears – 6;

Nays: Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg - 4.

In discussion with Council Member Nichting regarding possible yearly increases in the garbage fee to assist in balancing the budget, Interim City Manager Ewert indicated that, if the Council followed the recommendations that were in the proposed Restructure Plan, there should be no problem in balancing the budget and there would be no need, short of an economic catastrophe, for that to happen.

Council Member Spears pointed out that garbage pick-up was determined to be a core essential City service by the City in previous years and, as the City moved into charging a fee for garbage collection, he said he felt discussion should be held to determine if the City still felt garbage pick-up was a core City business.

Council Member Thetford referred to the proposed cuts that would affect P.A.C.E., in the amount of \$15,000, and she pointed out that P.A.C.E. had already spent that money and had signed contracts for 2003. She requested that the Council re-evaluate those cuts for 2003, and she indicated that P.A.C.E. may have to make some adjustments in their schedule for 2004. She said she would be discussing this issue more at the June 24th Council Meeting.

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb regarding the flexi-policing policy and the focus on ten hot crime spots in the City, Police Chief Stenson confirmed that those officers would not be pulled out of the challenged areas unless there was a dramatic emergency elsewhere in the City. He further discussed the flexibility of the focus areas and the hours worked by the officers. He said many of the areas on the hot spot map mirror the Weed and Seed Program geographical boundaries established by the City Council.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding how the hot spots were determined, Police Chief Stenson explained the intent of the approach that addressed short term and long term issues. He said by putting several Police Officers back on the street and getting seven additional officers, this mission could be accomplished.

In further discussion regarding crime and the seemingly quick release of those arrested back into the neighborhood, Police Chief Stenson explained the City was in partnership with other policing agencies and it was felt the revolving door did not occur as rapidly as it seemed. He said, however, those being held for traffic offenses or those picked up on a warrant could bond out of jail. He said he would continue to use their partnerships to address these issues. He added that crimes against persons were given a higher priority and an ordinance violation had the lowest priority. He indicated that if the jail was full, arrests were still processed. He also stated that some were released on their own recognizance, but it had to be agreed upon between the State's Attorney Office and the Sheriff's Department, and certain criteria had to be met.

Council Member Nichting indicated that when those arrested seemed to return to the neighborhood quickly, it appeared that the Police Department was not performing their duties, and this was a disservice to the Police Department.

Council Member Nichting requested that quarterly reports to the Council include information regarding the crime areas such as the number of arrests, number of notices to appear, number of prosecutions, number of convictions, number of days in jail, and percent of court appearances, so the effectiveness of the program could be judged by the Council.

Council Member Teplitz spoke in support of the proposed Neighborhood Crime Program and the focus on the ten designated hot spots. She said she felt this program would reduce crime and make neighborhoods more livable. She said she expected the hot spots to change as the program continued, and hopefully some of the hot spots would be gone. She said continued focus on these crime areas would ensure the program's success. She said the City could not blame other portions of the criminal justice system for failure. She said each component needed to do the best they could. She commended the Administration for this program, and she questioned what date the program would begin, if approved by Council.

Interim City Manager Ewert indicated that the program would begin July 1, 2003.

Discussion was held regarding how hot spots were designated. Police Chief Stenson explained that the proposed program would be in addition to all the programs the Police Department already administered.

Council Member Teplitz explained that the ten hot spots were areas where all types of serious crimes were committed that affected quality of life issues for the residents who lived there. She added these crime areas usually were in areas where there was poor housing stock that created a haven for criminal activity.

Following a suggestion by Council Member Ardis that all levels of government be lobbied to hire a full time prosecutor for the States Attorney's Office, Police Chief Stenson said discussions had been held with the Legal Department to determine if a designated prosecutor could be appointed to deal with these ten hot spots.

In discussion with Council Member Nichting regarding the anti-gang Ordinances that were implemented in recent years, Corporation Council Randy Ray stated these Ordinances were well suited to assist in dealing with the Neighborhood Crime Program.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding the start date of the program, Interim City Manager Ewert said implementation would begin July 1, 2003, but the program would need some time to gear up, so neighborhoods should not expect all ten hot spots to be addressed on July 1st.

In discussion with Council Member Nichting regarding the joint City/County Planner, Interim City Manager Ewert said he had been directed to look for efficiencies and cooperative efforts. He said the County Board and the City Council would work together to establish an agenda of items and a joint City/County Planner would be a person hired on contract to study those issues and report back on a quarterly basis.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg, Interim City Manager Ewert said the person to be hired would work under the direction of the County Administrator. He said the planner would work on a short-term contract.

Council Member Sandberg said he felt every employee under the County Administrator was two-thirds paid by the citizens of Peoria and the City should have full access to their planners.

Council Member Thetford referred to the recommendation that Fire House #11 be closed, and she said she felt there were more dynamics involved than just reviewing the number of calls. She said calls could be transferred to the other fire stations, but those fire stations were already receiving a large number of calls so response times could be seriously affected. She suggested that the closure of Fire House #11 be discussed further.

Fire Chief Roy Modglin said he did not recommend the closure of Fire House #11 nor the closure of any other fire station in the City. He said the sole reason Fire Station #11 was selected was due to how the area could be covered by other stations. He explained how the 36 second average increase per call was determined, but he expressed concern regarding the number of calls the other stations already responded to on a normal basis. He indicated that with the increased number of calls, additional calls would be responded to but, in all probabilities, a unit would not be located at their Fire Station when the extra calls came in so the 36 second number was an imperfect number. He said a longer response time would mean that a fire could grow larger before a unit arrived at the fire scene, or a medical patient would have a more advanced medical emergency by the time a unit arrived. He said, if firefighters already on a scene called for additional assistance but there was a delay, firefighter injuries could increase. He said there were many factors involved when the closure of Fire House #11 was considered.

Council Member Teplitz spoke in support of increasing the trash fee from \$6.00 a month to \$7.00 a month to provide a solution for funding Fire House #11. She said she would be bringing this forward as an amendment and she hoped there would be support from other Council Members.

In discussion with Council Member Turner, Fire Chief Modglin said Fire House #11 responded to 786 calls in 1992 and responded to 1,347 in the year 2002. He added in 2002, there were 41 actual fires that Fire Station #11 responded to, and 447 basic life support calls.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding national standards, Fire Chief Modglin explained national standards did not refer to average response times, but only response times. He agreed an initial company should arrive at a fire scene within four minutes 90% of the time.

Assistant Director of Human Resources Alan Pennington indicated the referenced standards indicated there was a one minute dispatch, one minute turn out, and four minute vehicle response and eight minutes for a full company alarm. He said there were a few exceptions for equipment that was out of service, or for training, etc.

Council Member Morris arrived at 8:55 P.M.

Council Member Grayeb said he did not understand the thinking by some that the City of Peoria had an excessive amount of fire protection. He referred to a letter from the Vice President of Buehler Home, which was down the street from Fire Station #11, who strongly objected to the closure of their fire station. He expressed concern regarding fire rescue service in the City and he said he felt the Council should also be discussing funding for the reopening of Fire House #17. He said there were thousands of seniors in this area where there was an eight or nine minute response time. He said he continued to hope the Administration would find the funds to proceed with this action.

In discussion with Council Member Morris, Fire Chief Modglin said as Fire Chief he could not recommend the closure of a fire house. He said citizens had come to expect a certain level of service from the Fire Department. He said part of his oath as Fire Chief was to do his best to provide the best amount of fire protection possible to as many citizens as possible, so he could not recommend closure because of the impact on response times.

Council Member Morris discussed the Library's budget and the difficult decisions that would have to be made on those issues due to a proposed cut of \$300,000.

Council Member Gulley referred to the recommended fees for licensing and the increase in adult use fees, and he requested to know how the increase was determined. He also questioned how the increased amount compared to other cities.

Council Member Turner moved to grant Privilege of the Floor to Attorney Bruce Thiemann; seconded by Council Member Gulley.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ransburg granted Privilege of the Floor to Attorney Bruce Thiemann.

Mr. Bruce Thiemann, Attorney for Big Al's, reported that neighboring communities charged varying fees for adult use from no fees to \$500.00 per year fee. He said the proposed increase for Peoria from \$100 per year to \$5,000 was extraordinary. He said he felt their business paid more than their fair share of fees and taxes to the City of Peoria. He said he felt a reasonable increase could be agreed upon, but he felt \$5,000 was not agreeable.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding the increase and a possible monopoly, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray said the fee would also be charged to adult book stores, but he said the fee needed to bear some rational relationship to the regulation expense incurred by the City. He said several City departments were involved in adult use licenses, but he agreed that the amount of the increase should be reviewed.

In discussion with Council Member Spears, Budget Officer Jim Scroggins referred to Page 16 and discussed each fee increase. He distributed a copy of Public Works Permit Section Fees to all members of the City Council.

Council Member Thetford requested a copy of the list of fee increases and the detailed list that Mr. Scroggins referred to in his explanation.

Council Member Thetford expressed concern about the proposed elimination of the incentive for landlords who passed their inspections with no problems. She said she did not agree this incentive should be eliminated.

Council Member Sandberg referred to the Rental Inspection Program and he requested a report back regarding the number of homes, over the last five years, that had to be vacated, the number of homes that were deemed dangerous, and compare that process with the number of inspections that were not rental registration generated, and report which program was more effective and efficient at finding major problems.

Following further discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding downtown parking and whether parking was a core business of the City like garbage pick up, Interim City Manager Ewert said it was his position that the downtown was a central revenue generator of the City and it would require investment from the City to remain healthy.

Council Member Sandberg requested that the City Clerk provide the Interim City Manager with the Council communications setting parking rates for WMBD in the Jefferson Parking Deck.

Council Member Gulley referred again to the increase in adult use fees, and he requested a report back regarding the justification of the increase and how it related to police calls, and the use involvement of other City departments. He also referred to the after school program at the Lincoln Library Branch and he requested that additional consideration be given to that program before it was discontinued.

Council Member Morris said the City Manager had requested the dollar amount of cuts in the Library's budget, but the decision regarding what specific programs would be cut or reduced would be determined by the Library Board.

Council Member Grayeb moved to place on file in the City Clerk's Office for public viewing the proposed FY 2003 to 2004 Restructure Plan, as amended by replacing Page 22 through 26 and adding Supplemental Pages 1 through 12, and to set a Budget Hearing regarding the adoption of the 2004 City of Peoria Budget for June 24, 2003, at 6:15 P.M.; seconded by Council Member Teplitz

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor
Ransburg – 10;

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

- (03-334) Communication from Budget Officer Requesting Approval of the ESTIMATE of TAXES to be LEVIED Pursuant to 35 ILCS 200/18-60 of \$18,998,761 at a Rate Not to Exceed \$1.2649, and to Set the TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING for JULY 1, 2003, at 6:15 P.M.**

Budget Officer Jim Scroggins distributed a replacement communication that included a request to set the Truth in Taxation Hearing on July 1, 2003, at 6:15 P.M. to all members of the City Council.

Council Member Grayeb moved to approve the estimate of taxes to be levied pursuant to 35 ILCS 200/18-60 of \$18,998,761 at a rate not to exceed \$1.2649, and to set the Truth in Taxation Hearing on July 1, 2003, at 6:15 P.M.; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 9;

Nays: Ardis, Nichting - 2.

NEW BUSINESS

- (03-335) REQUEST for an AUDIT to be Conducted upon the Departure of the Current Finance Director/Comptroller.**

Council Member Turner said a policy set by Ordinance mandated that an audit approved by Council should be conducted when a Finance Director/Comptroller left the employment of the City, and he questioned when the process for an audit would be conducted.

Interim City Manager Ewert said the audit would begin on Tuesday.

COMMENT Regarding the COUNCIL RETREAT to Address COUNCIL PROCEDURES and WORKING EFFICIENTLY

Council Member Ardis said an item that would be brought forward on the June 24, 2003, Council Agenda regarding a Council Retreat to address Council procedures and working more efficiently.

No objections were heard.

CITIZEN REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

- (03-336) 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. Bill Stephens, 3600 Block of N. Avalon, spoke in opposition to the closure of Fire House #11.

Ms. Levetta Ricca, 711 S. Greenlawn, discussed garbage in her neighborhood and spoke in support of implementing a mandatory garbage fee.

Ms. Bernadine Nolan, 1332 N. Machin, thanked the Mayor and City Council Members who attended their dedication of the neighborhood flag pole.

Ms. Carol Holford, President of Gale Avenue Home Owners Association, spoke against the closure of Fire House #11, and she spoke in support of the implementation of the Neighborhood Crime Program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was determined an Executive Session was not needed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

bb

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