

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, June 24, 2003, a Regular Meeting of the City Council was held this date at 6:16 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 Executive Session held on June 10, 2003, and the Regular City Council Meeting held on June 17, 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, with Recommendations as Outlined:****(03-338) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the 2004 CITY OF PEORIA BUDGET.**

Council Member Nichting moved to open the Public Hearing; 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.

Mayor Ransburg opened the Public Hearing at 6:29 P.M.

Mr. Greg Metz, resident of the University and Forrest Hill area, expressed concern regarding the closure of Fire House #11. He said the closure would affect the safety and protection of the residents, schools and churches in the immediate area. He said response times for Police and Fire would also be affected by the I-74 Upgrade. He urged the Council to reconsider the closure of Fire House #11.

Mr. Larry Hansen spoke against funding the deficit with a garbage fee. He suggested an increase in real estate taxes and establish a fee for each container or for each household.

Mr. Bill Stephens, 3611 N. Avalon Place, said he submitted Petitions opposing the closure of Fire House #11 to the City Clerk's Office. He spoke against the closure of the Fire House and the increased health dangers to those in the neighborhood.

Clerk's Note: City Clerk Mary Haynes stated petitions, bearing 1,278 signatures, opposing the closure of Fire House #11 were received in her office.

Council Member Nichting moved to accept the petitions, bearing 1,278 signatures, opposing the closure of Fire House #11 as part of the record; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

No objections were heard.

Mr. Floyd Nolan, 1332 N. Machin Avenue, spoke against the garbage fee being proposed. He expressed concern the fee would promote illegal dumping and he suggested that the fee be included in the yearly tax bill. He also spoke against the closure of Fire House #11.

Ms. Carol Holford, President of Gale Avenue Neighborhood Association, spoke against the closure of Fire House #11. She said taxes should be increased to keep the Fire House open.

Mr. Tony Benifiah, 823 W. Florence, spoke against the closure of Fire House #11. He said there were many nursery schools in the area and he spoke of his own concern for his family and the need for a quick response for medical emergencies.

Ms. Roberta Parks, CEO of the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors, said the proposed Budget created a significant amount of pain for many in different ways. She said it was felt that the reductions were spread equally throughout all City departments and through the tax paying groups. She said the business community would be adversely affected by the proposed budget because of changes in the Home Rule Sales Tax Rebate. She said many of the fee increases would directly affect the business community, but at the same time there were positive changes in the budget proposal. She spoke in support of the Neighborhood Crime Program, which would affect many of the businesses in the hot spot areas. She discussed the benefits of the consolidation of the review and permitting process and the Litter Control Program. She said the Chamber was pleased that the \$2 million would be returned to the Capital Budget and they also supported the amount going into the City's reserve fund. She also suggested that the City review how to control, contain or reduce the rate of increase of employee costs of wages and benefits because these issues could place the City back into a deficit situation by 2005 if it was not dealt with. She urged the Council to support the proposed budget.

Ms. Laura Fults, 2601 W. Reservoir Blvd., Apt #906, spoke against the closure of Fire House #11 due to the elderly population at Sterling Towers. She distributed a list showing the number of residents on each floor and their ages. She thanked the Fire Department for their past support and invited the Council to the Sterling Towers Open House.

Mr. Walter Ratledge, 2617 N. Missouri, spoke against the closure of Fire House #11. He suggested placing the garbage fee on the yearly tax bill and limiting the amount of trash each resident could put out at the curb. He also spoke in support of reopening Fire House #17. He urged the Council to approve the proposed Budget.

Ms. Debbie Rietchel, 401 Water Street, General Manager of the Civic Center, spoke on behalf of the Civic Center Authority. She said the Civic Center was conceived for economic development in the 1970's. She said the Civic Center had spent over two years in strategic and master planning, and conducted economic impact analysis for the next 20 years. She said HRA taxes were needed to carry these plans out, and she pointed out the Civic Center had returned the investment of HRA taxes in the amount of \$134 million annually throughout the Peoria area. She said the reduction of HRA taxes would cripple Civic Center maintenance and improvements, and would eliminate the marketing arm of the Civic Center with the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. She urged the Council not to put an end to a healthy and thriving economic engine of the Peoria Civic Center.

Mr. Chuck Carson, 831 W. North Lane, spoke as a former Firefighter and spoke against the closure of Fire House #11. He encouraged the Council to consider the reopening of Fire Station #17 and he was concerned there were so many elderly residents in the area of Fire Station #17 that had long response times for medical response and fire response.

Ms. Becky Auer, President of Peoria City Beautiful, spoke against reductions in mowing vacant lots and public boulevards and the elimination of many of the annual flowers along roadways. She suggested, if the Council found these cuts to be necessary for this Budget cycle, that the funding be reinstated in the coming years. She distributed a copy of her comments to all members of the City Council.

Ms. Cathy Frenchak read a letter, which was distributed to all members of the Council, from Ms. Arlene Dentino, President of the Peoria Federation of Musicians. The letter advised that in order to discontinue the law that was established in the 1900's providing for a Municipal Band, a referendum would have to be passed and voted upon. The letter urged the Council to reconsider any reduction of the fund providing for the Municipal Band.

Ms. Mary Jo Schettler, President of Peoria Area Community Events, urged the Council to continue to support the commitment they made to P.A.C.E. for 2003. She said the programming had been completed for 2003.

City Clerk Mary Haynes referred to a letter that was distributed to all members of the City Council from Mr. Don Siders speaking against the closure of Fire House #11, speaking against the garbage fee and speaking in support of increasing taxes to cover the amount to be generated by a garbage fee.

City Clerk Mary Haynes also read a letter from Mr. Tom Edwards speaking against turning over the billing of a garbage fee to the current waste handler. He said it would harm competitive bidding, among other reasons.

Following a third call for public comments and after Mayor Ransburg determined that no one else wished to address the issue, Council Member Nichting moved to close the Public Hearing; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:53 P.M.

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

- (03-339) PAYMENT ESTIMATES FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:**  
**KNOXVILLE AVENUE – MT. HAWLEY CONNECTOR ROAD** (Construction of a new street between Knoxville Ave. and Mt. Hawley Rd. opposite the relocation of Country Meadows Lane and a church entrance. Included is the widening of the N.B. right turn lane at Northgate and construction of a directional median, the removal of a median north of Teton Dr., p.c.c. widening, bituminous base course, storm sewers, earthwork, traffic signals, bituminous resurfacing & other misc. work.) R.A. CULLINAN & SON, INC. – PAY ESTIMATE #4: \$95,425.03; TOTAL AUTHORIZATION APPROVED: \$95,425.03. (For Information Only)
- (03-340) Communication from Interim Finance Director/Comptroller Regarding the ANNUAL AUDIT TIMETABLE Regarding the IMPACT of SWEEPING GASB 34 FINANCIAL REPORTING CHANGES on Issuance of City's COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR) and Supplemental Reports for Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2002, with Recommendation to Receive and File.**

- (03-341) SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS "E" (Private Club) LIQUOR LICENSE for 203 HARRISON, with Recommendation of Liquor Commission to Approve.
- (03-342) SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS "C" (Package Goods) LIQUOR LICENSE for 401 MAIN STREET, with Recommendation of Liquor Commission to Approve.
- (03-343) SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS "G" (Restaurant, Beer & Wine Only) LIQUOR LICENSE for 2601 W. LAKE, SUITE B8, with Recommendation of Liquor Commission to Approve.
- (03-344) SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS "C" (Package Goods) LIQUOR LICENSE for 8915 N. ALLEN ROAD, with Recommendation of Liquor Commission to Approve.
- (03-345) SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS "G" (Restaurant, Beer & Wine Only) LIQUOR LICENSE for 5201 W. WAR MEMORIAL DRIVE, SUITE 337, with Recommendation of Liquor Commission to Approve. (SUBCLASS 3A - Sidewalk Restaurant, Private Property voted at Liquor Commission on June 16, 2003)
- (03-346) APPLICATION for CLASS "H" TEMPORARY OUTDOOR LIQUOR LICENSE for ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY NFP for SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2003, at Exposition Gardens.
- (03-347) Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Recommending Approval of RESOLUTION NO. 03-347 Pertaining to APPOINTMENTS and TERMS of the CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION:

Mr. Mark Ackerman (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. Paul Bright (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. Stephen M. Ciciarelli (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. John C. Dillon (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. Kert Huber (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. Edward Meister (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. Michael Snyder (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined

- (03-348) Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Recommending Approval of RESOLUTION NO. 03-348 Pertaining to APPOINTMENTS and TERMS of the SISTER CITY COMMISSION:

Mr. James K. Polk (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. Michael E. Quine (Chairman)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. Keith Arnold (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Ms. Cheryl J. Budzinski (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. David Chen (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. John Day (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. Timothy L. Elder (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. Rex K. Linder (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. James Richerson (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. William B. Roeder (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Dr. Joan L. Sattler (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Ms. Suzanne Love Smith (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined
Mr. Thomas N. Stanesa (Voting)	Term Expiration To Be Determined

- (03-349) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Recommending Concurrence in the REAPPOINTMENT to the ARTS PARTNERS:**

**Council Member John D. Morris**

**Term Expires 6/30/04**

- (03-350) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Recommending Concurrence in the REAPPOINTMENTS to the PEORIA AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU BOARD:**

**Council Member Gale S. Thetford (Voting)**

**Term Expiration To Be Determined**

**Council Member W. Eric Turner (Voting)**

**Term Expiration To Be Determined**

- (03-351) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Recommending Concurrence in the REAPPOINTMENT of the TOWN LIAISON for the TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA:**

**Council Member Patrick Nichting**

**Term Expires 6/30/04**

- (03-352) **Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Recommending Concurrence in the REAPPOINTMENT to the WATER SELECTION COMMITTEE:**

**Council Member John D. Morris (Voting)**

**Term Expires 6/30/04**

**Council Member Gary V. Sandberg (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 Turner.

Item Nos. 03-339 through 03-352 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.

- (03-353) **Communication from Interim Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting Approval of the TERMS of the INDEPENDENT SPECIAL AUDIT and CONTRACT with CLIFTON GUNDERSON, LLP Following the Resignation of the Finance Director/Comptroller Per Section 10-47 of the Peoria City Code.**

Ms. Helen G. Barrick, Partner at Clifton Gunderson LLP, distributed a communication to all members of the City Council providing a fee estimate to perform certain auditing procedures for the City of Peoria.

Council Member Morris moved to approve the terms of the independent special audit and contract with Clifton Gunderson, LLP following the resignation of the Finance Director/Comptroller per Section 10-47 of the Peoria City Code; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that this audit would be conducted by the same firm that had been used for several years for the annual audit. He said he would not support a motion to approve this firm. He said he felt an independent outside auditor should be used to conduct this special audit.

In discussion with Council Member Nichting regarding the process, Interim Director of Finance/Comptroller Jim Scroggins said he felt this was a financially responsible approach to handle the special audit in this manner. He said unqualified opinions had been received by the City during the seven years the previous Finance Director/Comptroller was in the position, and he felt that should speak for itself. He said, in this case, he did not feel it would be financially responsible to obtain an independent audit and pay the additional fee at this time.

Motion to approve the terms of the independent special audit and contract with Clifton Gunderson, LLP following the resignation of the Finance Director/Comptroller per Section 10-47 of the Peoria City Code was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

**(03-354) Communication from Director of Public Works Requesting Approval to EXTEND the RESIDENTIAL REFUSE and YARDWASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT with WASTE MANAGEMENT and to EXTEND STACKED CONDOMINIUM/CITY BUILDING REFUSE COLLECTION CONTRACT with PDC SERVICES until December 31, 2009, Plus Three TWO-YEAR OPTION RENEWALS, and with Modifications as Negotiated and Described in the Council Communication.**

Council Member Teplitz moved to defer this item for four weeks until the July 22, 2003, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Council Member Sandberg suggested that within the next four weeks, a Policy Session be set with the County Board regarding the landfill so the Council could use that information for guidance in making a better decision regarding the extension of these two contracts.

Interim City Manager Ewert stated that in the next four weeks, he felt it was appropriate for the Council to explore this topic before they took their vote on this proposal.

Council Member Teplitz indicated that since this issue was so complex, she felt a quick decision would not benefit the City. She requested that Council, if they wanted, should gather more information or hold a Policy Session.

Council Member Nichting requested that Staff provide information to the Council regarding what had been happening in the industry for the last ten years and the decline in the number of waste haulers.

Motion to defer this item until the July 22, 2003, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(03-355) Communication from Corporation Counsel Recommending Adoption of an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 3 of the Code of the City of Peoria Relating to ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES in a DESIGNATED FESTIVAL AREA ON THE RIVERFRONT for JULY and AUGUST, 2003, Only.**

Corporation Counsel Randy Ray distributed a replacement Ordinance amending Chapter 3 to all members of the City Council restricting the dates to July 18, July 25, July 26 and August 8, 2003 and clarifying the 10% of liquor sales.

Corporation Counsel Randy Ray explained the proposed Ordinance was intended as a pilot program which would allow festivals to be held by three liquor license holders between Water Street and the Illinois River, and State Street and Walnut Street. He said the dates in the replacement Ordinance limited the dates to July 18, July 25 and July 26, and August 8, 2003. He said Water Street would be closed for the festivals and the fee for the subclass would be \$100.00 plus 10% of gross alcohol sales within the festival area, with 3% of gross sales going to a charity. He said the Deputy Liquor Commissioner would not approve any festival which competed with an established event previously scheduled on the Riverfront. He said the proposed Ordinance terminated on August 31, 2003.

Council Member Turner said, in order to make a fair evaluation of the pilot program, there should be a written report provided to the Council so they could determine if this program should be expanded in 2004.

Council Member Turner moved to grant Privilege of the Floor to those who wished to address the Council; seconded by Council Member Gulley.

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

Ms. Susie Stockman, representing P.A.C.E. and RPAC involved in Riverfront programming, stated it was the consensus of RPAC not to support the proposed Ordinance. She said the festivals would dilute the sales for the other events on the Riverfront, and the RPAC group paid a considerable amount of money to the Riverfront, Park District and City for the rental of the stages and areas to hold their events. She questioned the definition of these festivals, and questioned if they would be family-oriented. She said there was also concern that this would be expanded and allowed at other locations in the City.

Ms. Roberta Parks, 401 Water Street, said she was representing her tenants' association and she had polled some of the tenants and the general feeling was that they supported the festival concept. She suggested that Walnut Street be left open for access to parking lots.

Council Member Turner indicated he could support the replacement Ordinance because the restricted dates would not impact other events on the Riverfront that had already been scheduled.

Council Member Turner moved to adopt the replacement Ordinance amending Chapter 3 of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to Alcoholic Beverages, as amended, restricting the dates to July 18, July 25, July 26, and August 8, 2003, and expiring on August 31, 2003; seconded by Council Member Gulley.

Council Member Thetford expressed concern that there seemed to be some confusion regarding the proposed Ordinance, and she indicated she could not support the motion.

Council Member Spears expressed concern regarding the impact these festivals would have on other liquor establishments, especially since most of the restricted dates were Friday nights.

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb regarding policing of the festival area, Police Chief John Stenson said this would be a one-block area and his department would have no problem covering these events. In later discussion, he indicated that if the festival areas were expanded, costs of policing would be a part of the Ordinance to be paid by the sponsors, so he felt it was a good proposal and it would go along with the Council's feelings that events should pay for themselves. He said policing these events would not affect the policing of the ten hot spots.

Motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 15,491 amending Chapter 3 of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to Alcoholic Beverages, as amended, restricting the dates to July 18, July 25, July 26, and August 8, 2003, and expiring on August 31, 2003, was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Teplitz, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 9;  
Nays: Spears, Thetford - 2.

**(03-356) SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS “G” (Restaurant, Beer & Wine Only) LIQUOR LICENSE for 5201 W. WAR MEMORIAL DRIVE, SUITE 212, with NO Recommendation from the Liquor Commission and with a Request for the City Council to Take Such Action as Deemed Appropriate.**

Council Member Turner said the only issue that resulted in no recommendation from the Liquor Commission related to concerns about open liquor being carried out of the Food Court area. He said, he felt the compliance and accountability should be placed in the hands of the liquor license holder. He said there were no objections from the Police Department.

Council Member Turner moved to approve the site for a Class “G” (Restaurant, Beer & Wine only) Liquor License for 5201 W. War Memorial Drive, Suite 212; seconded by Council Member Ardis.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(03-357) Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Requesting to SET DATES for a GOVERNANCE RETREAT.**

Council Member Ardis discussed a meeting he had with Mayor Ransburg regarding a proposal for assisting the Council in the area of Council governance, with Dr. Jerry Gabris as a facilitator. He said there was a provision for the Council to meet and discuss these issues in closed session. He said some suggested dates were July 7, 8, 15 and 16, 2003.

Discussion was held regarding which dates would be suitable. It was suggested by Council Member Thetford that July 16<sup>th</sup> may be the only viable date, since July 7<sup>th</sup> was just after a holiday, and July 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> were Tuesdays.

Mayor Ransburg said alternative dates would need to be chosen.

Council Member Ardis moved that the City Council go into Executive Session on dates to be chosen in the near future to discuss 2(c)(16) Self evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a Statewide association of which the Public Body is a member; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Motion that the City Council go into Executive Session on dates to be chosen in the near future to discuss 2(c)(16) Self evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a Statewide association of which the Public Body is a member was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT WAYNE ANTHONY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF PEORIA AFTER 31 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Mayor Ransburg congratulated Director of Planning and Growth Management Wayne Anthony on his retirement from the City of Peoria effective June 30, 2003. He said Mr. Anthony had served 31 years with the City of Peoria and he thanked him for his years of service.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (03-333) **Proposed FY 2003-2004 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF PEORIA (Which Includes a Communication from Interim City Manager Regarding the PROPOSED FY 2003 to 2004 RESTRUCTURE PLAN, as Amended by Replacement Pages 22 through 26, and Supplemental Information Pages 1 through 12 Pertaining to the FY 2003-2004 Budget) with the Following for Discussion and Possible Advisory Votes:**
- A. Communication from Council Member Gary V. Sandberg Recommending an ALTERNATIVE 2003-2004 BUDGET CONCEPT, as Outlined. (Previously Distributed at the June 17, 2003, Council Meeting);**
  - B. Communication from Council Member William R. Spears Recommending BUDGET AMENDMENTS for 2004, as Outlined;**
  - C. Communication from Council Member Marcella Teplitz Recommending an AMENDMENT to the CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED 2004 BUDGET, as Outlined.**
  - D. Communication from Director of Inspections with Recommendation to Receive and File the REPORT BACK Regarding PROPERTIES DEEMED UNFIT for HUMAN HABITATION and UNSAFE for HUMAN HABITATION.**

A copy of all the following communications were distributed to all members of the City Council: Director of Public Works Steve Van Winkle distributed a communication regarding Negotiations with Illinois American Water Company for Billing Services for the Garbage Fee; Interim City Manager Ewert distributed communications regarding Departmental Reorganization and Re-Engineering Efforts included in Revised FY 2003 and FY 2004 Budget, and regarding Detail of Proposed \$130,000 Change contained in Schedule 3 relating to the Public Works Department; Interim Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins distributed communications with Revised Replacement Pages distributed during June 17, 2003, Council Meeting, regarding Property Tax Rate from 1983 to 2002 and Estimated 2003 Tax Levy, and Detailed Reconciliation of 2003 Budget, 2003 Adjusted Budget as a Result of the Restructure Plan, and the 2004 Budget; and Council Member Thetford distributed her Budget Amendment for 2003.

Following discussion by Mayor Ransburg, Council Member Morris stated the budget proposal was for the remainder of 2003 and all of 2004. He moved that the Council adopt as its modus operandi a consideration of each amendment introduced, one at a time, to determine what should be attached to the Interim City Manager's Budget to be brought back to the July 1, 2003, Council Meeting to be voted upon by the Council; 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.

Interim City Manager Ewert discussed his meeting with Illinois American Water Company regarding their company handling the billing for the garbage fee. He said the representative of Illinois American Water Company indicated they had the capacity to handle the billing of the fee, and would have a firm recommendation by July 1, 2003, so the fee could be billed on citizens' water bills.

In discussion with Council Member Nichting regarding whether or not this could be a violation of the Privacy Act, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray said he did not feel this would be a violation.

Council Member Nichting expressed concern that a resident's home may be labeled unfit for habitation because their water was shut off, because of non-payment of the garbage fee. He said he felt this may compound potential neighborhood problems, and he questioned how this would be addressed.

Interim City Manager Ewert said he would have a recommendation regarding this issue at the July 1, 2003, Council Meeting. He indicated that all proposals may have some problems but he planned to deal with these issues and resolve any problems.

Council Member Thetford expressed concern regarding how this would be addressed because it was an issue she dealt with in her District frequently.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding how this would impact older citizens who were on fixed incomes.

Council Member Morris moved to approve the Interim City Manager's recommendation, as an advisory recommendation, regarding the proposed FY 2003-2004 Budget for the City of Peoria. Following a brief discussion, he withdrew his motion.

Council Member Sandberg gave an overview of his alternative 2003-2004 Budget concept and he proposed that since the Civic Center paid no real estates taxes for basic services, a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes be developed based on the differential based on monies needed to pay the debt service and monies available. He said the Civic Center had never been requested to reduce their Staff or funding, but the Library and the Municipal Band were routinely asked to reduce their funding. He said his proposal removed the \$2.5 million and supported a \$1.5 million parking deck subsidy, and moved the Gateway Building from a tax supported entity in the City to using HRA revenues, and allowing the Civic Center to operate that venue. He said the City of Peoria, since 1992, had grown in area but had shrunk in population, and staffing levels should be the same as 1992, with the exception of the Fire Department and the Public Works Department because of expanded areas. He said the Police Department was larger in 1992 than it was now. He said the recommendation also indicated that if Dispatch wanted additional people, they should charge additional fees. He said there would be a reduction of the Neighborhood Crime Program from ten hot spots to eight hot spots.

Council Member Sandberg moved to approve his alternative concept of the 2003-2004 City of Peoria Budget, as an advisory motion, as outlined; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Council Member Morris said this proposal rested on a massive philosophical change in the use of the hotel, restaurant and amusement dollars, and he said he could not support this kind of a change.

Council Member Turner spoke in favor of the continued support of the Civic Center through HRA taxes. He said the City of Peoria would soon be in competition with nearby communities to attract conventions to the Civic Center. He added, without the needed funding for the Civic Center and the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City would not be progressive.

Council Member Thetford discussed several points of concern regarding the proposed alternative concept, which included not cutting an entity that made money for the City. She also stated she felt there would be huge impact on the Rental Registration Program and downtown parking issues, and she said she could not support the motion.

Council Member Grayeb said the City needed to keep the Civic Center on the cutting edge to attract business to Peoria. He said the Civic Center was in dire need of improvements. He expressed concern that there may be others who planned to take money away from the Civic Center, but he said he would continue to resist any plan that came forward to reduce money for the Civic Center.

Motion to approve Council Member Sandberg's alternative concept of the 2003-2004 City of Peoria Budget, as an advisory motion, as outlined, was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Sandberg – 1;

Nays: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 10.

Council Member Spears discussed his proposal for the 2003-2004 City of Peoria Budget. He indicated he agreed with many of the components of Council Member Sandberg's proposal, but he felt that some cuts went too deep and cut too much from the Civic Center. He proposed that the City only take \$1.5 million of the HRA taxes, leaving \$1 million for the Civic Center. He said he felt that the sales tax revenue was something that had contributed to the current problem. He said he felt the economy would improve in the next eighteen months, and he felt this could be a short-term problem. He said, by then, the Civic Center could then move ahead with their plans. He also proposed holding a special census to obtain a possible additional \$50,000 a year. He said he agreed with Council Member Sandberg's proposal for the downtown. He added he felt Fire House #11 should stay open and he wanted no impact on the Library. He said he agreed with staying at the 1992 staffing levels. He proposed that the Neighborhood Crime Program should begin smaller at five hot spots and grow to ten, which would result in a \$300,000 savings. He added that the sidewalk program would be divided in half by saving \$200,000. He further discussed additional points in his proposal.

Council Member Spears moved to approve his alternative concept of the 2003-2004 City of Peoria Budget, as an advisory motion, as outlined; seconded by Council Member Sandberg.

Following a brief discussion, Council Member Nichting spoke against the proposal in the Interim City Manager's proposal that called for the hiring of a County Planner. He also expressed concern regarding a plan to remodel the Mayor and City Manager offices.

Motion to approve Council Member Spear's alternative concept of the 2003-2004 City of Peoria Budget, as an advisory motion, as outlined was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Sandberg, Spears – 2;

Nays: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 9.

Interim City Manager Ewert stated he had not made a recommendation or a proposal for refurbishing of the Mayor and City Manager offices at this time. He explained the need for some renovations, but he said, any proposal would be on the Council Agenda for the Council's approval.

Council Member Teplitz moved to amend the proposed 2003-2004 City of Peoria Budget by increasing the proposed garbage fee from \$6.00 to the \$7.00, and dedicating the additional \$1.00 to fund a long-term solution for Fire Station #11; seconded by Council Member Thetford.

Council Member Turner said he could support a \$1.00 increase, but he expressed concern that over the next few years, he felt that \$1.00 would continue to increase. He said economist had indicated that there would be no turn-around in the economy for two years. He said he felt the proposed \$1.00 was really a tax. He said he supported keeping Fire Station #11 open, but he indicated another alternative was needed.

Council Member Morris said he could not support the extra \$1.00. He said he did not agree that 11 new firefighters should have to be hired to keep Fire Station #11 open. He said, currently, the station had been kept open with overtime. He said, if this motion was approved, the garbage fee would be increased before the garbage fee had even been voted on by the Council. He said an additional \$1.00 would not be enough, and he felt the Administration would be back before the Council requesting additional increases.

Council Member Sandberg said an additional \$1.00 would only raise \$426,000, which would not meet the goal. He said it would have to be increased more than a dollar to get to the \$600,000 goal. He added that the City of Peoria Fire Department's response time was not up to national standards.

Assistant Director of Human Resources Alan Pennington clarified the goal was \$600,000.

In discussion, Council Member Grayeb stated if this proposal did not pass, he wanted to challenge the friends of the Fire Department to continue to work and find a way to keep Fire Station #11 open. He said he would be open to suggestions because he felt keeping this Fire Station was a fundamental responsibility of the City.

In discussion with Council Member Turner regarding what date would be the earliest the City could hold a referendum vote, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray said the next election would be the primary in March, 2004.

Council Member Turner suggested holding an advisory referendum which would give the City an opportunity to review establishing a public safety tax directed at Police and Fire. He said a referendum may even give the City an opportunity to reopen Fire Station #17.

Council Member Thetford suggested that if the garbage fee was raised by \$1.00, it could be amended in the future and the fee could be reduced.

Council Member Grayeb suggested that a sunset provision be established on the fee that could be reviewed in a couple of years, depending on the state of the economy.

Interim City Manager Ewert said to be fiscally responsible, it could be tied to a certain level of growth and if that level was exceeded, you could reduce dollar for dollar the refuse fee. He said if there was a sunset provision not tied to increasing revenues with no deficit problem, those hired would have their jobs in jeopardy. He said it would also have to be tied to the increase of wages and benefits. He added, even with the refuse fee, there was still a deficit in the out years, but it was smaller. Following further discussion, he stated, a sunset provision could be established, but it would have to be done carefully.

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb regarding why the fee would not be included in the property tax bill, Interim City Manager Ewert said his recommendation on this revenue source was made because he believed it would not put the City at a competitive disadvantage in attracting economic development prospects. He said, if the real estate rate was increased, it was his opinion that it would put the City at an increasingly negative non-competitive position to attract industry to the City.

Motion to amend the proposed 2003-2004 City of Peoria Budget by increasing the proposed garbage fee from \$6.00 to the \$7.00, and dedicating the additional \$1.00 to fund a long-term solution for Fire Station #11 was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Teplitz, Thetford – 4;

Yeas: Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 7.

Council Member Sandberg moved to receive and file the communication from Director of Inspections with report back regarding properties deemed unfit for human habitation and unsafe for human habitation; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Thetford distributed a copy of a communication regarding a Budget amendment for the restoration of funds for P.A.C.E. in the amount of \$30,000 for general programming and \$6,200 for Brown Bag It/Courthouse Cleanup.

Council Member Thetford moved that the full funding for P.A.C.E. be restored for 2003, for a total of \$30,000 for general programming and \$6,200 for Brown Bag It/Courthouse Cleanup, in the 2003 City of Peoria Budget; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Motion that the full funding for P.A.C.E. be restored for 2003, for a total of \$30,000 for general programming and \$6,200 for Brown Bag It/Courthouse Cleanup in the 2003 City of Peoria Budget was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 8;

Nays: Nichting, Sandberg, Spears - 3.

In discussion with Council Member Turner regarding what had been determined about the fee increase to \$5,000 for adult use permits, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray said he would have a recommendation at the July 1, 2003, Council Meeting.

Council Member Thetford expressed concern regarding the budget cuts to the Peoria Municipal Band.

Council Member Ardis moved to receive and file the communication regarding Negotiations with Illinois American Water Company for Billing Services for the Garbage Fee (For Information Only), the communication regarding the Detail of Proposed \$130,000 Change Contained in Schedule 3 relating to Public Works Department (For Information Only), the communication regarding Property Tax Rate from 1983 to 2002 and the Estimated 2003 Tax Levy, and the communication giving Detailed Reconciliation of 2003 Budget, 2003 Adjusted Budget as a Result of the Restructure Plan, and the 2004 Budget; 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.

Council Member Morris moved for an advisory motion for the Interim City Manager to bring back a Budget, including the revised replacement pages 22 through 26 that replaced replacement pages on June 17, 2003, to the City Council for a vote at the July 1, 2003, City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Interim Director of Finance/Comptroller Jim Scroggins explained the revised replacement pages 22 through 26 made some corrections to the 2003 adjusted budget column, and did not affect the out years.

Council Member Sandberg referred to the handout from Interim City Manager Ewert regarding Departmental Reorganization and Re-Engineering Efforts included in Revised FY 2003 and FY 2004 Budget, and he questioned how this memo would be handled in the motion. He pointed out the communication contained a recommendation regarding the establishment of an Assistant City Manager position. He questioned if this item would be included in Council Member Morris' motion.

Mayor Ransburg indicated that the communication was an explanation by the Interim City Manager. He said, if Council action was needed, it could be contained in the Budget the Interim City Manager brought to the Council on July 1, 2003.

Council Member Morris amended his motion for an advisory motion for the Interim City Manager to bring back a Budget, with any amendments that were made or not made at this meeting, including the revised replacement pages 22 through 26 that replaced replacement pages on June 17, 2003, and the recommendations made in the Departmental Reorganization and Re-Engineering Efforts included in the Revised FY 2003 and FY 2004 Budget communication, to the City Council for a vote at the July 1, 2003, City Council Meeting; Council Member Turner.

Council Member Nichting expressed concern that a line item budget had not been provided to the Council.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg, Interim Finance Director Scroggins explained the revisions on pages 22 through 26. He said there was a change on Page 25 to the Midtown Project of \$12,000; relocation of the Inspection Department from Jefferson Street in the amount of \$25,000; land restoration under the Murray Baker Bridge in the amount of \$41,000; and on Page 26, there was change to the I-74 ramp item in the amount of \$33,000.

In discussion, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray said the public would be placed on notice at this meeting, by the Council's action, that the Budget would be voted upon on July 1, 2003. He said it was his opinion that amendments could be made to the Budget at the July 1, 2003, Council Meeting.

Council Member Nichting distributed a news article regarding a company that had access to a Canadian drug program that would cut the prescription drug program by 90%. He referred to the continued increased in the healthcare plan, and he stated this should be reviewed to save taxpayers and the City a significant amount of money. He requested that the Healthcare Committee review this alternative and see if it could be adopted as soon as possible.

Council Member Thetford said she agreed with Council Member Nichting's comments but she suggested that this suggestion be carefully considered by the Healthcare Committee.

Amended motion for an advisory motion for the Interim City Manager to bring back a Budget, with any amendments that were made or not made at this meeting, including the revised replacement pages 22 through 26 that replaced replacement pages on June 17, 2003, and the recommendations made in the Departmental Reorganization and Re-Engineering Efforts included in the Revised FY 2003 and FY 2004 Budget communication, to the City Council for a vote at the July 1, 2003, City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 7;

Nays: Ardis, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears - 4.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REMINDER of JUNE 25, 2003, SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Council Member Morris reminded the Council about the Special Council Meeting that was scheduled for Wednesday, June 25, 2003, at 6:30 P.M. to hear the presentation regarding the consultant's findings on the Sears Block for the potential Lakeview Museum Site. Mayor Ransburg pointed out that the meeting would be broadcast on Cable Channel 17 and rebroadcast at noon on Thursday.

**(03-358) Request to Approve a MOTION for the City Council to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION on Saturday, June 28, 2003, at 8:00 A.M. to Discuss 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.**

Council Member Turner moved that the City Council go into Executive Session on Saturday, June 28, 2003, at 8:00 A.M. to Discuss 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, not to return; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL****(03-359) 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 O'Brien, 3321 N. Chestnut Lane, discussed the current status of the local economy. He expressed concern that Peoria was a no-growth community. He said Peoria was losing jobs and not expanding the economy. He said businesses should be brought in to capture viable jobs. He urged the Council to select a pro-growth new City Manager so Peoria's best days were yet to come, and not just in the past.

Mr. Larry Hanson spoke in support of allowing the Civic Center to retain all the HRA taxes, which he felt was the original intent.

Ms. Levetta Ricca, 711 S. Greenlawn, expressed concern that the veteran's parade welcoming Company "C" back from Iraq was not well attended. She also pointed out the public address system should have been set up for the speakers at the Ball Stadium so all could have heard their comments.

Rev. A. J. Guyton, 1230 W. Third Street, Member of the Baptist Ministerial Alliance, expressed concern about the community and the ten specified hot spots. He discussed the jail ministry that he was involved in and his concern that job opportunities for those returning to society had little choice when it came to returning to their former lives. He expressed concern that there were no job programs or job training. He said he felt a cohesive effort was needed to address these problems.

**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 Morris.

Approved by viva voce vote.

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

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

