

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, Saturday, November 22, 2003, a Special Meeting of the City Council was held this date at 8:10 A.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.

Others present: Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle, Assistant City Manager Alan Pennington, Finance Director Jim Scroggins, Human Resource Director Pat Parsons, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray, Director of Economic Development David Dobson, Interim Equal Opportunity Director David Watkins, Fire Chief Roy Modglin, Police Chief John Stenson, Information Systems Director Cathy Roger, Inspection Director John Kunski, Interim Planning & Growth Director Pat Landes, Acting Director of Public Works Gene Hewitt, Interim Director of ESDA Dave Tuttle, Animal Shelter Director Lauren Malmberg, Workforce Development Director Bashir Ali, Facilities Maintenance Manager Dave Marshall, Police Benevolent President Mike Eddlemon, Captain Steve Eakle, Captain Ron Ship, Assistant Fire Chief Kent Tomblin, Firefighter Terry Dunn, Assistant Inspection Director Kurt Craanen, Don Borgra, President of Local #50 Tony Ardis, Mike King, Reggie Fox, Ben Vyverberg, Ron Camp, Ross Black, Bob Jatkowski, Kimberly King, Former Mayor Jim Maloof and Former Councilman Bruce Brown, Deputy City Clerk Beth Ball, Nancy Schmitt City Clerk Staff, interested citizens and members of the media.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- (03-625) Communication from Director of Human Resources Communication from Director of Human Resources Requesting Authorization to PAY THE COST of the MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM at the Rate of \$66.60 per Month for Those Retired City Employees and their Spouses on the HEALTHCARE PLAN Who are Age 65 and Over and Eligible for Medicare for the Budget Year 2004 at a Cost of Approximately \$268,531. (New Communication)**
- (03-375) Communication from Interim City Manager Regarding BUDGET RECONCILIATION PLAN – 2004 BUDGET, with Recommendations for Council Action as Outlined in the Communication. INCLUDING RELAVENT ITEMS RELATING TO THE BUDGET. (Refer to Item Nos. 03-333 and 03-558)**
- (03-375-B) Communication from Assistant City Manager Regarding a REPORT BACK on GATEWAY BUILDING OPERATIONS.**

(03-333) Communication from Corporation Counsel Recommending Adoption of an ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 13 of the Code of the City of Peoria Relating to FEES for COLLECTION of REFUSE and ESTABLISHING APPROVED METHOD for DISPOSITION of GARBAGE AND REFUSE. (Refer to Item No. 03-375)

Mayor Ransburg opened the Special meeting of the City Council by stating this meeting was to discuss the proposed Budget (03-375). He stated there would be some brief remarks from Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle.

Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle referred to the hand out entitled "Budgetary Impacts Since August 2002." He pointed out the projects that had been eliminated from the budget by the City Council in August 2002, which amounted to \$4.9 million. He stated many items were cut in operations, but there was one significant item, a \$4 million reduction in Capital Debt. Mr. Van Winkle stated that in 2003 there was another \$3.5 million cut in two parts. He stated as the 2003 Budget was introduced and passed in December, 2002, the reconciliation that occurred in the summer of 2003, other cuts were found. Mr. Van Winkle stated with regard to the 2004 Budget, much of the cuts occurred during the summer of 2003, which shows a \$2.1 million gap to be filled. He stated they were looking for another \$6 million in reductions for 2004. Mr. Van Winkle stated finding this money came at the expense of staff. He said by reconciling the cuts that occurred during the mid-part of 2002, 2003, and 2004, they would have cut a total of \$14.4 million, which would extend through one fiscal year.

Interim City Manager Van Winkle stated looking back at the 2001-2002 Capital Budget, which occurred before the cuts, and looking at that amount of the Capital Program with monies that could be used for any purpose, operations or capital, and comparing it to the Capital Program that he recommended in the reconciliation plan for 2004, the Capital Program was a little over \$100,000 greater or higher than that base year in 2002. He said this showed him the City had a healthy Capital Program. He stated when former Interim City Manager Bern Ewert was looking at the Capital Program in July 2003, he was trying over a two or three-year period to bring the Capital Program up from where it was, to where the City wanted it to be on an annual basis. He said Capital Programs vary from year to year, and Mr. Ewert knew it would take two or three years to get there. Mr. Van Winkle said when Mr. Ewert looked at the Capital Program back in June and July, he didn't know about the present \$2.2 million gap. He said Mr. Ewert was not aware that the Council would not close the firehouse, and was not aware of the pension, or shortfalls in assumptions. Mr. Van Winkle said Mr. Ewert just wanted to balance the operations budget and let the rest be for Capital. Mr. Van Winkle stated that when there was a \$2.2 million problem, Capital would have to be reviewed again, which he said he was doing. Mr. Van Winkle stated Mr. Ewert did that in his message to the Council on September 2nd. Mr. Van Winkle said that 57% of Mr. Ewert's recommendations to close a \$500,000 gap came out of Capital. He said that was the only place you could go, based on the decisions of the Council. Mr. Van Winkle said it was a component of the whole, and in looking at these cuts over the last fifteen months he would not consider this to be short-term fix. He suggested looking at it collectively, and he said it was a very healthy adjustment in City government. He suggested having this mindset going forth in discussions, and maybe they would be better able to come together on the final decisions.

Mayor Ransburg handed out a booklet and gave an overview of the Revenue Analysis on Local and State Taxes, the EAV, HRA, Gambling, and Utility Tax. The charts showed changes in Revenues from 1992 to 2002. Mayor Ransburg also reviewed the Planning Charts showing projections for Local and State Taxes, Operating Revenues, Operating Expenses, Retirement Costs, Health Insurance, Capital Improvements and Total Debt and Debt Service through Year 2008.

Council Member Patrick Nichting questioned when the Actuaries' assumptions took place, because he thought the Police and Fire Pensions were after the budget. He said the IMRF was over-funded which caused the adjustment in early retirement.

Mayor Ransburg explained that in the 90's the market was doing very well, so on the upside of the market there would be the reverse problem, he said they did not have to contribute as much to the Fund because the earnings were producing. He said what had happened over a 3-4 year period, the Police and Fire Pensions both under-performed verses their actuarial estimate, so the actuaries started rolling in the difference over a period of time.

Council Member Nichting stated looking at the data of Fire and Police, they had not hit 100% for the last several years.

Council Member Sandberg stated the Fire and Police Pension Benefits were behind \$1.2 million, but according to the communication \$400,000 of excess had been used. He stated the City was not going out of business like private businesses do. He said the volatile target that the actuaries were trying to hit was not as important, and as time went on, there would be the ability to correct and make sure the pensions were actuarially still supportive of the retirees.

Finance Director Jim Scroggins stated that the Police and Fire Pension actuarially calculations were done according to State Statute. He said what was derived from their actuarial evaluation was what municipalities were suppose to contribute.

Mayor Ransburg referred back to the booklet going down the list of proposals and discussing each item so the Council could decide what they wanted in the budget.

Council Member John Morris said he wanted to discuss the graph showing the Cities operating fund balance. He stated the City's policy of keeping a three-month running total was down under \$2 million or under one week of funding.

Finance Director Scroggins stated the unrestricted fund balance was \$6 million this year, which had been improved this year. He said this was the time of year when the cash flow started going down because property taxes would not come in again until next July. Mr. Scroggins projected that this year the City should be close to breaking even as far as the revenues and expenditures, once the final debt service payments were made in December. He said built into this Budget was an increase in fund balance of \$500,000 and another \$200,000 for health and liability reserves. He said at the end of the year, fund balance would be back down to \$2 million.

Mayor Ransburg referred back to the booklet and stated the list of proposals represented the budget reconciliation packet. The first group of budgetary shortfalls was Pension Obligations 1) Increase in IMRF Pension Obligations - \$216,000; 2) Increase in Police Pension Obligations - \$484,000; and 3) Increase Fire Pension Obligations - \$502,000, a total of \$1.203 million.

Council Member Sandberg discussed the \$216,000 shortfall in IMRF. He stated one year ago the City borrowed a \$400,000 surplus. He stated that since they were slightly below that level, they felt they needed to fund \$216,000. He said he did not feel this needed to be done.

Finance Director Scroggins stated IMRF worked a little bit different than the Fire and Police Pension Fund. He said if they approved the use of fund balance, the \$216,000 would come from that.

Mayor Ransburg stated he felt they should follow the suggestions of the actuaries. He said he didn't know if that was by State Statute or just good accounting practice, but suggested they follow the calculations of the actuaries.

Council Member Nichting suggested having the actuaries' report come before the budget so the IMRF, Fire and Police Pensions could be done at the same time. He said if you have the data ahead of time, so much wouldn't have to be made up the following year.

Finance Director Scroggins stated normally the actuaries came in before the budget process in September, but this year they started the budget process in July and the reports were not complete. He said the evaluation was based on January 1st of each year. He said regardless if they did the budget in November or July, the actuary evaluation would be based on January 1, 2003.

Council Member Grayeb stated he appreciated the framework, in which Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle outlined. He stated that \$14.4 million had been cut out of the budget in the last 30 months. He said these massive cuts had huge structural implications of the cost of our government and implications for the livability of our City for years to come. He stated what would be critical going through this was there was no model that was either overly optimistic or pessimistic. He stated he hoped the Council did not over react or under react on the decisions before them.

Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle stated they had been funding the actuarial analysis over the last years in each of these funds. He stated there was a difference between IMRF and the others from the standpoint of the money. He said it was a manner of storing the \$216,000 here, which was already done, or it was sent to the State. He said it could not be used for anything else, so he suggested following the law and regulations and sending it to the State.

Council Member Nichting moved to approve Items 1, 2, 3, the IMRF, Police and Fire Pension Obligations in the amount of \$1.203 million; 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 reviewed Revenue Reductions. Item 4) Reduction in Rental Inspections Fees - \$79,000; 5) Reduction in Planning & Growth Management Estimated Revenues - \$45,000; and 6) Reduction in Trash Collection Fees - \$89,000. The total in Revenue Reductions were \$213,000.

Mr. Van Winkle explained the trash collection fees were figured by taking \$6 per household, the estimate came out to be \$2.5 million, which came out too high. He said it should have been approximately \$2.4, so the figure was adjusted.

Council Member Sandberg had some questions on Item 5, regarding the increase of Zoning Application Fees.

Interim Director of Planning & Growth Management, Pat Landes stated there would be an 82% increase in the fees and fines generated from her department. She said the decrease came from zoning enforcement. She said the budget proposed last summer showed a 4,900% increase in zoning enforcement. She said they usually have about 500 cases per year and to get to that percentage they would have to get 8,000 cases per year. She said there were not that many violations in the City. She also said they did not adjust downwards at this time for reductions in filing fees, either for zoning certificates or cases. She said the increases were running 50-65%, and was being explained to customers as needed.

Council Member Turner moved to accept the reductions on Item #4 Rental Inspection Fees; Item #5 Planning & Growth Management Estimated Revenues; and Item #6 Trash Collection Fees; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Regarding Item #7 – To add 11 Firefighters at \$600,000, Council Member Turner explained his concerns regarding operating Station #11 on overtime. He said the overtime was adding to the cost that the City does not have at this time.

Finance Director Scroggins stated that on an annual basis it would be more expensive to fund Fire Station #11 with overtime, than hiring 11 firefighters to staff Fire Station #11.

Council Member Sandberg stated that by adding 11 firefighters it would be a cost savings to hire, over the way it has been done to this point.

Council Member Turner questioned if the increase of health care, and pensions that has to be paid, uniforms, the increase in salaries, increases in training cost, for 11 firefighters were in the budget.

Finance Director Scroggins stated the \$600,000 included benefits and salaries, and a growth of 10% in benefits and salaries at 5%. He said training cost was a contractual line item.

Fire Chief Roy Modglin stated that the eleven salaries were included in the 2004 budget he submitted. He also stated that Human Resources and Finance has them use the figure of 45% benefits, pensions and etc.

Finance Director Scroggins stated the figures that Fire Chief Modglin presented was not in the budget he presented to Council.

Council Member Teplitz stated the question was what the City could afford to do in regard to employees, whether it was the Fire Department or any other department. She questioned what could the budget withstand in terms of additional employees.

Council Member Thetford stated she would not support to close a fire station in an older neighborhood that gets more calls than some of the other stations, because she felt it would never be reopened, and she said she could not support hiring eleven new firefighters. She stated one option might be to put an aerial truck or equipment of that nature out of service and maintain the fire suppression equipment at Station #11, or to have a jump crew that would work the aerial truck if necessary or use the fire suppression engine if necessary. She said if the fiscal situation changed then things could be reversed.

Council Member Thetford moved not to hire eleven firefighters this year, and not to close Fire Station #11, or any other station, but instead charge the Fire Department with determining whether a jump crew or putting a piece of equipment out of service would be the best choice to maintain that fire station and the remainder of the fire stations; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Council Member Teplitz questioned whether Council Member Thetford was open to funding those positions on overtime.

Council Member Thetford stated she would be against these positions being funded by overtime.

Council Member Turner stated he wanted the station to stay open, but there was not a revenue stream to support keeping this station open and hiring of 11 firefighters.

Council Member Sandberg stated his concern was not Station #11, but any fire station, he said when there was a fire or medical emergency, the interrelationship of all the stations was at risk. He agreed with Council Member Thetford that when a fire station closed about ten years ago, it never reopened.

Council Member Nichting asked Chief Modglin what the impact would be of using a jump crew or putting a piece of equipment out of service.

Chief Modglin stated that in July of this year, at the request of Interim City Manager Ewert they went over five options for the issue of Station #11. He stated the two options that Council Member Thetford referred to was given to him to prioritize back in July. He stated if the eleven firefighters were not hired, or if the Council did not choose to do this on overtime, he said something would close. Chief Modglin said whether it was engine #11, truck #4, or engine #15, something would close, because of minimal manning which requires having to put a certain number of people on each fire truck. He reiterated that if he does not have those eleven people, something would shut down. He said he could not take one person off of eleven different engine companies and still operate, according to contractual agreements. He said to take a truck company out of service, which was one of the options that he was given, he said that was the last option he prioritized. He said they only have four truck companies in the City. He stated if you take a truck company out of service, it would be irresponsible. He stated if another engine company was shut down, that would be closing a fire station. He said there were eight fire stations in the City that had one piece of equipment, and that was an engine company. Chief Modglin stated if you want something out of service instead of engine #11, then your shutting down another fire station somewhere unless it is one of the four stations that has an engine company and an aerial company. He said those stations were in the heart of the City and handled the biggest fire call loads. He said Mr. Ewert gave him the option of a jump crew from an engine company or truck company, and his response to Mr. Ewert was that having a jump crew between an engine and an aerial company was not a good idea, as they have totally different operational functions at a fire. He stated the crew would not be able to determine which machine they were suppose to take to the fire. He stated typically you need more engine companies operating at a fire than truck companies.

Council Member Grayeb stated he was concerned about the whole City, and all the districts. He said we live in a City where every TV station talks about every second counting, a private ambulance service that gives away defibrillators because every second counts, and now we are suppose to, in good conscience, shut down a fire house in a City that does have enough fire houses and increase response time to close to six minutes by an elementary school which has a lot of specially challenged kids, a senior citizen home with hundreds of seniors, and this is the practical effect. He said this was a critical decision that affects every man, woman and child in this City. He said it's not about a fire by Station #11, but it's what happens if we run short elsewhere. He said he hoped the other Council Members understood the implications of what was happening in the City and what has been happening with the help of a monopoly newspaper that has the only daily. He said there had been a very skillful and well-orchestrated attempt that has been somewhat effective to convince the people of this City that fire service and fire service alone is response for the budget problems that we have. He said as long as he continues to be here, he will subscribe to the credo that public safety and the safety of our people is number one, and that the City find the money to fund this. He told Chief Modglin that if he felt this was not essential for the safety of the people for this City, he said he would be supporting the resolution that has been advanced which practically closes down a firehouse no matter how it's cut. He said that Interim Steve Van Winkle has paved the way for some very important concessions involving one of the unions, and possibly management, which would have long-range implications on top of the \$14.4 million, that has been cut. Council Member Grayeb stated response time would be effected all over the City, and he said he could not support anything but maintaining the station as it was because he thinks it is essential for life safety for everyone in the City.

Council Member Ardis expressed his frustration regarding how many times this issue had been brought back for discussion. He said whoever said the gap of \$600,000 was an issue of the City Budget verses the Fire Department, was wrong and the issue was public safety. He said it had been twelve years since the last firehouse closed, and the Council would never vote to close a firehouse unless the District Councilperson supported the closing. He said the issue was not hiring eleven people who work in a City Department, but the issue of core business, which was Police, Fire, roads, etc., basic services first before talking about all the extras. Again, he said the issue was public safety, and he said all the Council's phone numbers were listed and he was not getting any phone calls saying go ahead and close Fire Station #11. He stated that Chief Modglin just said the recommendation that Council Member Thetford put forward was the last recommendation he would give. He said the safety issues were not only for the citizens, but also for the firefighters, and also there were contractual issues. He said he would not support anything but to keep Fire Station #11 open, and hiring the eleven people to save on paying it out in overtime.

Council Member Spears stated there would be a savings of \$600,000 by not hiring the eleven, but on the other hand, more injuries might occur with firefighters being short-handed so, therefore, the work compensation cases would go up because of the higher safety risk. He said this would be putting both the public and firefighters at a higher safety risk. He said there were minimal manning requirements and safety and saving lives was the utmost, and would be adding liability to us as taxpayers. He said if you want to close Fire Station #11, then add the eleven firefighters on to fire trucks because that would get your manning power back up where the safety issue rested.

Council Member Thetford repeated her motion not to hire 11 firefighters this year and not to close Fire Station #11, or any other station, not to fund with overtime, and challenge the Fire Department to decide whether a jump crew would be utilized or putting equipment out of service.

Council Member Ardis questioned Council Member Thetford regarding her motion. He said the recommendation was directly contrary to that of a 20-plus year professional firefighter and head of the City's Fire Department.

In discussion with Council Member Thetford, Fire Chief Modglin stated there was a jump crew at Station #13, which jumped between an engine company and a rescue squad.

Council Member Morris questioned Chief Modglin regarding why Station #11 was picked for closure, and Chief Modglin gave a brief history of how they got to this point.

Council Member Nichting made a substitute motion to move to Items 16-19, which would answer some questions regarding the Fire Department; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Motion to move to Items 16-19 was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Nichting, Spears- 4;

Nays: Gulley, Morris, Sandberg, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 7.

Council Member Gulley questioned the manning level of three on every engine.

Fire Chief Modglin stated there must be three on every engine and truck, and one on a rescue, which is the only exception, and allows two according to the contract. He said the negotiated contract was between the City of Peoria and the Firefighters Union. He said this was what set the minimal manning level at three. He said this was not the same as State and Federal regulations.

Council Member Sandberg stated one person on a fire truck could not do anything. He said the minimal manning was based on getting the job done. He said National Standards required minimal manning of four, not three.

Council Member Gulley questioned the impact on other firefighters or other stations.

Chief Modglin explained if the eleven firefighters were not hired, then a station would be closed, because the eleven firefighters would not be working on overtime. He said the way it effects the safety of the firefighters was when you close down a station or a piece of equipment, that station only responded to fires in it's territory, but it is the back up or the second engine company, to the four stations that is surrounded in its perimeter. He said this would cause waiting for another station coming from a further distance for back up.

Chief Modglin stated monies spent in overtime pay to keep Station #11 open was \$800,000 for minimal manning, compared to hiring the eleven firefighters, which would be only \$600,000 for salaries.

Chief Modglin gave a brief review of the number of fires over a nine-month period. He said there were six structural fires in Station #11 territory. He said Station #11 did not just respond to their territory, he said Station #11 responded to 43 out of their territory. He said over a twelve-month period last year, Station #11 responded to 12 structural fires in their immediate territory, and 279 in the City.

Council Member Turner stated New York had closed nine fire stations, Baltimore closed eight fire stations, Philadelphia closed four, Cleveland and Pittsburgh has closed some. He said they have 60 to 70 more fires than Peoria does, he asked how could they continue to function, and in the City of Peoria we're not going to be able to function or survive if one was closed.

Chief Modglin said the Fire Department could function, they could still do their jobs but it would take them longer to get there and it would take longer to put the fires out because the fires would be bigger.

Council Member Spears stated it was not a firehouse issue, but it was safety in the number of people to fight the fires.

Council Member Teplitz stated the revenue stream was not there to hire the 11 firefighters, then it was not something the City could afford to do. She said she brought forth a way to fund this project by a \$1 garbage fee, which was not passed by Council. She stated when she was on the Police Department there were times when they had to do more with less. She said the question was what could the City afford to do. She talked about the hiring back a number of police officers to fight crime in the highest crime areas, which she said was the number one issue before the citizens and second to address the crushing problems of litter abatement and quality of life issues in the neighborhoods and she said the money was in the budget to pay for that. She said this was no different, if the money was not in the budget to pay for these employees then the City could not afford it.

Council Member Grayeb stated the money was there, but some Council Members chose to vote against the reconciliation document which the Interim City Manager and City Staff brought forward several weeks ago. He said this issue could have been solved before now, but he said some were determined to close the firehouse and make this particular part of the budget the main issue. He said the opportunity was available to make certain that the City had this protection when the Manager brought forth the budget, but no feedback was given. He said it was wrong to play the Police against the Fire, and Code Enforcement against Zoning, and this was the beginning of an attack against public safety and maintaining our neighborhoods, so there would be more money to hand out to developers that had nothing to do with the business of the people of this City, and he said he would not support it.

Motion to not hire 11 firefighters this year, but not to close Fire Station #11, or any other station, not to fund with overtime, and challenge the Fire Department to decide whether a jump crew could be utilized or to put a piece of equipment out of service was approved by roll call vote..

Yeas: Gulley, Morris, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 6;

Nays: Ardis, Grayeb, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears – 5.

Council Member Ardis requested information on Tuesday night from the Chief Modglin of how this will be accomplished and what impact it would have on all the other Fire Stations.

Regarding Additional Positions under Item #8 Reduction in Finance Department which would be \$100,000 less. It was determined this had already been done. No objections were heard to moving on in the agenda.

Council Member Nichting moved to accept Item #9 Public Works – Program Administrator position - \$104,000; seconded by Council Member Ardis.

Interim City Manager Van Winkle stated this position supports the Sidewalk Program and 100% of the cost including benefits would come out of Capital. He said the Sidewalk Program had been enhanced by \$400,000 in 2003 and adding around \$300,000 in 2004, and he said they needed the people to carry out the program. He said sidewalks could be constructed without inspections, but he would not advise it.

Assistant City Manager Alan Pennington referred to Item #10, Traffic Design Position and explained that the Traffic Engineer position was downgraded to Traffic Design Engineer, then added the one position.

Mr. Van Winkle said out of those who remained in Traffic Engineering after early retirement and the people who chose to leave on their own accord, it left next to nothing from the stand point of staff. He said there was one technician left and they would not be filling the Director position with this approval. He said they would be filling Al Schneider's position, who would be reporting to Gene Hewitt and then one more technician position.

Council Member Thetford stated she would have a problem supporting these two positions at this time, since the new City Manager would be starting soon.

Mr. Van Winkle stated that a person was actively in that position, and the person doing this job right now was an Utility Inspector, which was being covered by a temporary person for a period of time. He said if this was not approved, he would be moving him back into the Utility Inspector position, based on workload. He said if this was approved, this person would stay in this position as he has been in this position over the last several years, and he will be doing the program needs over the winter to get ready for the next year. He said this position also supported the Sidewalk Participation Program and there was a lot of paper work and activity that goes all year long for that position. He said you could not compare the Capital Program to the Operations Program because they begin and end at different times. He said the money that was not spent in 2003, would be carried over to 2004, plus what was budgeted for 2004. He said there were no rollovers in other areas, because they have been spent down. He said they were working on Special Assessment Programs from last year.

Council Member Ardis questioned if the 2004 figures for the Sidewalk Program positions were already in the budget.

Mr. Van Winkle stated they were showing an activity-based budget for the capital program where you could see all the costs. He referred to a handout, which showed the Capital Budget comparison between the beginning of 2003, to the present reconciliation plan. He said each area had substantially more money in it plus the new program Mr. Ewert initiated for the school emphasis sidewalk program. He said you could see how it netted out.

Council Member Teplitz questioned the \$141,500 reduction in the 2003 neighborhood sidewalk program allocation. She wanted to know if that money would be lost, since the sidewalk season was over.

Mayor Ransburg stated if the money was not spent, it would show additional funds available, and he said if you sweep those accounts out, it would increase the General Fund.

Mr. Van Winkle said the \$141,500 or what remains would still stay in the Sidewalk Program or rollover to the next year, unless the program was abolished.

Council Member Nichting stated his concern regarded expanding the Capital Budget for the Sidewalk Program and not having the employees to get the work accomplished.

Council Member Sandberg discussed the fact of how early retirement affected the projects getting done when funds were available. He discussed the differences between the Sidewalk Program for the neighborhoods and the Sidewalk Program for school areas and how efficiencies could be made.

Motion to accept Item #9 Public Works Program Administrator position - \$104,000 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Mayor Ransburg – 7;

Nays: Morris, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner – 4.

Council Member Nichting moved to accept #10 Public Work – Traffic Design Engineer; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Mr. Van Winkle stated if this position was approved, they would not have the Traffic Engineer Director position anymore.

Motion to accept Item #10 Traffic Design Engineer position was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Nichting, Spears, Mayor Ransburg – 6;

Nays: Morris, Sandberg, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner – 5.

Council Member Nichting moved to accept the 2 positions for Planning & Growth Management; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Interim Director of Planning & Growth Management Pat Landes explained how her department worked with customers at the counter who wanted to build, develop or expand in the City of Peoria. She said her department did zoning enforcement, development processing and planning. She said if they had people in the department who could do long-range planning, she said they could participate with the County and with other Regions on so many projects. She said the City has not had their interest represented at meetings regarding environmental issues, transportation issues, etc. She said her department had decreased by 27%, and there had been an 83% reduction in long-range planning. She said caseloads had gone up and there had been tremendous growth in all parts of the community.

Motion to accept Item #11 adding 2 positions in Planning and Growth Management was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Nichting moved to accept Item #12 Data Collection for Traffic - \$60,000; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Mr. Van Winkle stated this position was a contract service to examine the traffic flow from year to year.

Mr. Gene Hewitt stated hiring an employee cost more than this contract, he said the contract was with Tri-County and was on an hourly basis, and they conducted these traffic studies as instructed by the City.

Motion to approve Item #12 Data Collection at \$60,000 was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Grayeb, Nichting, Mayor Ransburg – 3;

Nays: Ardis, Gulley, Morris, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner – 8.

Council Member Thetford suggested holding off on funding this issue.

Council Member Nichting moved to accept Item #12 Data Collection for Traffic at \$40,000; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Motion to approve Item #12 Data Collection at \$40,000 was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Grayeb, Nichting, Mayor Ransburg – 3;

Nays: Ardis, Gulley, Morris, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner – 8.

It was determined Item #13 Revenue Increases – Sales Tax regarding package liquor would be deferred until after the liquor meeting was held. No objections were heard.

Council Member Sandberg left the Council Chambers.

Council Member Spears moved to accept Item #14 Revenue from the Special Census; seconded by Council Member Nichting.

Motion to accept Item #14 Revenue from Special Census was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Nichting moved to accept Item #15 Use of IMRF Fund Balance; seconded by Council Member Thetford.

Motion to accept Item #15 Use of IMRF Fund Balance was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Sandberg returned to the Council Chambers.

Council Member Gulley left the Council Chambers.

Council Member Nichting moved to accept Item #16 Reorganization of ESDA.; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Chief Modglin stated there would be \$188,000 savings with this change.

Council Members Morris and Teplitz indicated they wished to wait until the new City Manager was in place.

Motion to accept Item #16 Reorganization of ESDA was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Mayor Ransburg – 8;

Nays: Morris, Turner – 2.

Council Member Gulley returned to the Council Chambers.

Council Members Spears left the Council Chambers.

Council Member Thetford moved to accept Item #17 Haz Mat Overtime Reduction; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Council Member Ardis stated this program was a revenue source for the City. He stated by hiring a couple of people to perform this operation year-round at straight pay, there would be a net gain. He said it would generate more money by performing Haz Mat Inspections on a year-round basis and would not be paying overtime cost to do it.

Council Member Teplitz questioned budget book from June, which stated Hazardous Material Mitigation activity cost was \$811,000, she ask what made up the remainder of that cost.

Chief Modglin stated there were salaries, money for training, certifications, equipment, replaceable supplies and materials and said this included benefits for two people.

Council Member Ardis left the Council Chambers.

Motion to accept Item #17 the Haz Mat Overtime Reduction was approved by roll call vote.
Years: Gulley, Morris, Sandberg, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg –7;
Nays: Grayeb, Nichting – 2.

It was determined Item #18 – Fire Savings - Fire Union Contract changes would be a moot point.

Council Member Ardis and Spears returned to the Council Chambers.

Interim City Manager Van Winkle said he recommended Item #18 and #19 be connected and not voted on if they both weren't voted on. He said if action was taken it would be without his recommendation. He said this was to try to balance the scale.

Following expressing concerns about compression, Council Member Turner moved to reject Item 19 - 1% Reduction in Management Pay Increase; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Motion to reject Item #19 - 1% Reduction in Management Pay Increase was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Morris, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 8;
Nays: Gulley, Nichting, Sandberg – 3.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Morris moved to adjourn; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Motion was approved by general consensus.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

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