

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, November 25, 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, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11; Absent: None.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

PROCLAMATION: SALVATION ARMY

PROCLAMATION: PEORIA NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

PROCLAMATION: PEORIA AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS: SANTA PARADE DAY –
November 28, 2003

MINUTES

Council Member Nichting moved to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting and Executive Sessions held on November 18, 2003; 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 – CITY OF PEORIA

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

(03-657) BIDS for WINDOW CLEANING, Recommending the Low Bid of DAVE’S WINDOW CLEANING, in the Amount of \$20,720.00, for a Two-Year Contract.

(03-658) BIDS for a FORK-LIFT, Recommending the Low Bid of MATERIAL HANDLING, in an Amount not to Exceed \$19,595.00.
*

- (03-659) **PAYMENT ESTIMATES FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: MAIN STREET SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT (PHASE II) (Sheridan to North) (Removal of existing combination curb & gutter, sidewalks, steps & driveway approaches and construction of concrete sidewalks, combination, Curb-sidewalks, p.c.c. gutter, driveway pavement, storm sewer, traffic signals & an ornamental street lighting system. Additionally, the existing bituminous pavement from University to North Street shall be milled two inches (2") then overlaid with two inches (2") of bituminous concrete surface course.) R. A. CULLINAN & SON, INC. – PAY ESTIMATE #2: \$161,343.45; PAY ESTIMATE #3: \$240,834.58; TOTAL AUTHORIZATION APPROVED: \$402,178.03. (For Information Only)**
- (03-660) **SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS G (Restaurant/Beer & Wine Only) with a SUBCLASS 2 (Live Entertainment) and SUBCLASS 3A (Sidewalk Café) LIQUOR LICENSE for 211 FULTON, SUITE 700, with Recommendation of Liquor Commission to Approve.**
- (03-661) **SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS B-1 (Restaurant/Full Service Bar) with a Subclass 1A (2:00 A.M.) LIQUOR LICENSE for 4700 N. UNIVERSITY, SUITE #15, with Recommendation of Liquor Commission to Approve.**
- (03-662) **REAPPOINTMENT by Mayor David P. Ransburg to the ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE DISABLED, with Recommendation to Concur:**
- David A. Loudenburg (Voting) Term Expires 6/30/06**
- (03-663) **APPOINTMENTS and REAPPOINTMENTS by Mayor David P. Ransburg to the PUBLIC, EDUCATION & GOVERNMENT (P.E.G.) ACCESS FACILITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION, with Recommendation to Concur:**

APPOINTMENTS:

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| James Garrott, Jr. (Voting) | Term Expires 6/30/05 |
| Sue Kingery (Voting) | Term Expires 6/30/04 |

REAPPOINTMENTS:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| John Day (Voting) | Term Expires 6/30/06 |
| Tom Horstmann (Voting) | Term Expires 6/30/06 |
| Maggie Nelson (Voting) | Term Expires 6/30/06 |
| Jim Wilhelm (Voting) | Term Expires 6/30/05 |

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

Council Member Teplitz requested Item No 03-658 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Item Nos. 03-657 through 03-663 (excluding 03-658 which was removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion) 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.

(03-658) BIDS for a FORK-LIFT, Recommending the Low Bid of MATERIAL HANDLING, in an Amount not to Exceed \$19,595.00.
*

Council Member Teplitz moved to table this item; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Motion to table this item was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(03-663) Communication from Director of Economic Development Requesting Approval of an AGREEMENT with TRANSAMERICAN INVESTMENT PROPERTIES, INC., Successor to Pere Marquette Hotel Associates, EXTENDING the PARKING DECK LEASE for Another Three Months, and PURCHASE OPTION PROVISIONS for an Additional 90-Day Period.

Council Member Thetford moved to approve the agreement with Transamerican Investment Properties, Inc., successor to Pere Marquette Hotel Associates, extending the parking deck lease for another three months, and purchase option provisions for an additional ninety-day period; seconded by Council Member Gulley.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that this item had not been presented to the Council in Executive Session. He indicated he learned about this from an outside source and he expressed his concern regarding the lack of communication from the Administration about this issue.

Council Member Gulley said he had attended a series of meetings regarding the Pere Marquette Hotel and the proposed extension. He said he felt there were many projects in his district that were being discussed and in process. He said he felt members had been updated periodically on different projects.

Council Member Spears also expressed concern that he learned about this issue for the first time when he read his Council Agenda Packet. He also expressed concern that this item was not covered in Executive Session. He indicated he felt the Council should have heard about this much sooner.

Corporation Counsel Randy Ray said it was certainly appropriate for the Council to go into Executive Session regarding setting the price for the sale of property. He said he would assist in keeping the Council up-to-date on these kinds of matters.

Council Member Teplitz said she would be abstaining from the vote and discussion due to the fact that her husband provided legal counsel for this matter.

Council Member Grayeb said he felt there had been many discussions regarding the Pere Marquette Hotel which had not been in public. He agreed these kinds of critical issues should be discussed in public when it affected the City and had Budget implications. He said he would support the motion, however.

Motion to approve the agreement with Transamerican Investment Properties, Inc., successor to Pere Marquette Hotel Associates, extending the parking deck lease for another three months, and purchase option provisions for an additional ninety-day period was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner,
Mayor Ransburg - 10;

Nays: None;

Abstention: Teplitz - 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (03-625) 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.**

Council Member Thetford moved to approve 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 \$268,531.00; seconded by Council Member Sandberg.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

- (03-375) Communication from Interim City Manager Regarding BUDGET
** RECONCILIATION PLAN – 2004 BUDGET, with Recommendations for Council Action as Outlined in the Communication, INCLUDING RELEVANT ITEMS RELATING TO THE BUDGET. (Refer to Item Nos. 03-333 and 03-558)**

Council Member Thetford moved to defer this item until the end of Unfinished Business; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Motion to defer this item until the end of Unfinished Business was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner,
Mayor Ransburg - 10;

Nays: Nichting - 1.

Clerk's Note: See Page 26357 for further discussion.

- (03-375 - B) Communication from Assistant City Manager Regarding a REPORT BACK on
*** GATEWAY BUILDING OPERATIONS, with Recommendation to Receive and File.**

Council Member Thetford moved defer this item until the end of Unfinished Business; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Motion to defer the Report Back on Gateway Building Operations until the end of Unfinished Business was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner,
Mayor Ransburg - 10;

Nays: Nichting - 1.

Clerk's Note: See Page 26357 for further discussion.

(03-375 - E) Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg with a Recommendation of the CONSENSUS of the CITY COUNCIL Based on the NOVEMBER 22, 2003, BUDGET DISCUSSIONS, Requesting the City Council to Take Whatever Action Deemed Appropriate. (Items No. 03-375-A, C & D have already been handled.)

Mayor Ransburg distributed a copy of a Budget Reconciliation Plan for the 2004 Budget to all members of the City Council.

Since Items numbered 1 through 19 of the 2004 Budget Reconciliation Chart were discussed at the November 22, 2003, Special Council Meeting, Council Member Thetford began with Item 20 regarding the Gateway Contract with the Park District. She said while she was interested in saving funds regarding the Gateway contract, she was concerned about using a single caterer for the Gateway Building. She added she was hesitant to send out RFP's on this contract. She questioned the amount of savings that could be realized.

Assistant City Manager Alan Pennington said the report back that was deferred until the end of the meeting contained a list of items that listed an annual reduction amount. He said, based on estimates from the City Staff and Park District Staff, the only way to know what the savings could be was to proceed with the request for proposals.

Council Member Thetford moved to explore possible savings on the Gateway contract with the Park District, with a stipulation that any caterer proposal could be rejected if it did not meet Council's approval, and reduce the Budget by \$75,000; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Council Member Spears referred to the debt service on the Gateway Building for the next 12 to 14 years, and he questioned how this was being paid.

Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins said the debt service was presently being paid by joint gaming revenues. He said the City was required to place 10% of gaming revenues in a joint gaming fund to be used specifically for the Riverfront.

In discussion with Council Member Spears regarding how the Gateway Building addressed the City's core business needs, Mayor Ransburg said he felt the intent of the building was to provide a meeting place for business or non-profit businesses. He said, in further discussion with Council Member Spears, charging businesses for the use of the building would not produce a lot of revenue.

Council Member Spears questioned how the Gateway Building impacted the core businesses of the City. He said the Gateway Building was supported by corporate dollars of about \$300,000 a year. He questioned if there was anything that could be done to turn this around and if there was a better way. He suggested selling the building or going out for RFP's to determine if there was an entity out there that would assist in this financial situation.

Council Member Thetford suggested holding a Policy Session to discuss the Gateway Building and what was expected for its future uses.

Council Member Sandberg pointed out the City was actually paying \$340,000 next year for the Gateway Building in debt service. He clarified that after 12 years of paying \$340,000 a year, he said there would be two years of paying \$173,000 a year. He suggested that the money coming from 10% of Riverboat Gaming or other proceeds would be better applied to the Riverfront's core business activities rather than an entity that was draining the City's Budget.

Council Member Gulley said he was not sure having a single caterer for the Gateway would amount to much savings. He said if the City started to charge groups for the use of the Gateway Building, he expressed concern that those groups would return. He referred to the list of suggestions in the report back that could be done administratively to save money and he spoke in support of those suggestions.

Council Member Spears said he was interested in coming up with a solution to fund the Gateway Building for the next five years. He said, if a single caterer contract was approved, he did not want it to be for a long term so the City Council could be free to make future decisions.

Council Member Thetford moved to amend the motion to maintain the funding as currently outlined for the Gateway contract and set a Policy Session to be held shortly after the beginning of 2004 to discuss overall operations and potential savings, and other issues surrounding the Gateway Building, and deny the \$75,000; seconded by Council Member Gulley.

In discussion with Council Member Nichting regarding another revenue source that would take the place of this \$75,000 being removed by the motion, Mayor Ransburg stated that if there were no other revenue sources, the money would have to come from capital.

Motion to amend the motion to maintain the funding as currently outlined for Item 20 – the Gateway contract and set a Policy Session to be held shortly after the beginning of 2004 to discuss overall operations and potential savings, and other issues surrounding the Gateway Building, and deny the \$75,000 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg - 9;

Nays: Nichting, Sandberg - 2.

Council Member Thetford said Item 21- City/County Planner was moot in light of the vote taken at the November 22, 2003, Council Meeting, but she moved to remove the \$50,000 for the City/County Planner previously allocated; 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 Thetford referred to Item 22 and she moved to accept the \$75,000 reduction for the refuse contract – COLA adjustment; 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 Thetford referred to Item 23 – Refuse Contract – Litter Program Cost Reduction and in discussion, Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle explained when the Litter Program was outlined by the previous Interim City Manager, he identified two different uses for this money. He suggested reducing the Litter Program by \$75,000 and taking advantage of Waste Management’s contract to perform those types of functions.

Council Member Thetford expressed concern regarding any reduction in the Litter Program.

Council Member Thetford moved to reject the reduction of \$75,000 to the Litter Program; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Council Member Gulley said the Litter Program had not truly been implemented since June, 2003. He said the program was started but was not operating at the level that it needed to operate. He suggested that the \$75,000 not be rejected because it would make a difference in the older neighborhoods.

Motion to reject the reduction of \$75,000 to the Litter Program was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Nichting, Sandberg, Spears – 3.

Council Member Thetford said that Item 24 regarding Retiree Health Insurance Discount had already been taken care of by the previous vote.

Council Member Thetford referred to Item 25 regarding the elimination of the trash collection fee and adding a property tax, and Mayor Ransburg indicated that the amount would be fourteen cents if the Litter Program was also eliminated and sixteen cents if the City eliminated the trash collection fee and maintained the Litter Program.

Council Member Thetford said an increase in the property tax in place of the garbage fee was not an option she could support.

Council Member Thetford moved to reaffirm the Council’s prior position to enact the garbage fee as previously proposed; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Council Member Ardis said he could not support the garbage fee “tax” and he recommended that this was really a tax just like the property tax. He said citizens would pay the same whether it was in the form of a \$6.00 garbage fee or if they paid the increase of 14 cents on a house valued at \$170,000. He said he would support an increase in the property tax for this issue because he recognized the need for additional revenue. He said he would vote against the motion.

Council Member Nichting requested a point of clarification. He said this motion had already been voted on by the Council at a previous meeting. He said the Council already voted to approve a \$6.00 garbage fee and there was no need to reaffirm the motion.

Council Member Ardis moved for a substitute motion to institute a fourteen cent real estate tax in place of the garbage fee “tax;” seconded by Council Member Sandberg.

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb regarding what the potential savings would be, Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle explained home values would need to be taken into consideration. He said it was his feeling that there would be an attitude adjustment regarding garbage collection by the citizens. He said for many years, garbage service had always been perceived by citizens to be free and there was no motivation to handle their garbage in any other manner than setting garbage at their curbs or alleys for

pick-up. He said he was concerned that when there was a charge for garbage service, there was a likelihood of the increase of irresponsible acts of garbage dumping in ditches and vacant lots. He said he had always been a strong supporter of providing the core business of garbage service out of City taxes.

In further discussion with Council Member Grayeb regarding administrative costs of collecting a garbage fee, Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle said there would be billing costs of \$85,000. He cautioned there would be those people who would not pay willingly, which would result in collection fees. He said his best estimate was \$150,000 in total administrative costs. He said there may be more costs involved if there was negative litter activity.

Council Member Turner discussed other cities' garbage fees, and he pointed out an advantage of a garbage fee was that the Council could vote to remove a garbage fee. However, he said, if this fee became a tax, he did not feel it would ever be removed.

Council Member Thetford discussed other cities who did not fund garbage service for their citizens. She said if there was a property tax increase, there would be growth potential because of the EAV. She said an increase in property tax rate would place the City of Peoria at a disadvantage when competing for homeowners and business owners to move to the City of Peoria. She added, there would be a portion of the garbage fee that would still be subsidized by the City.

Council Member Thetford moved to grant Privilege of the Floor to Ms. Roberta Parks; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ransburg granted privilege of the Floor to Ms. Roberta Parks.

Ms. Roberta Parks, 124 S. W. Adams, Suite 300, Chief Operating Officer of the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, requested that the Council vote against a property tax increase. She said a property tax increase would send a negative message to the business community and it made it more difficult to encourage business expansion and attracting new business to the area.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that citizens would be billed through the water company and he said he was concerned about the logistics in the manner of billing. He said he felt everyone who benefited from the service should pay for the service. He spoke in support of a property tax increase.

In discussion, Council Member Gulley said when he voted to keep Fire Station #11 open, he felt like he was giving the Staff or citizens time to develop some ideas for the Budget. He said no new solutions were brought forward. He said he was at a point to agree to raise the property tax and then continue to work hard to create efficiencies that had been discussed and bring things in balance.

Council Member Grayeb said \$14.4 million had been trimmed from City of Peoria spending in the past 30 months. He said he felt that citizens understood when the City was in difficult times, and they were willing to give their fair share when they knew the Council had done what they could to have a responsible fiscal situation. He questioned if potential business owners factored in all costs when making their decisions to expand or move to Peoria.

Ms. Roberta Parks said she felt most business people reviewed the range of taxes. She pointed out the higher sales tax rate, but she commended the City Council for their work in keeping the property tax level low. She said she did not feel this was the proper time to raise property taxes. She said depending on the type of business, business owners focused on whatever taxes affected their type of business. She urged the Council to look at structural changes and access the services offered, and then decide what the appropriate mix was affordable at this point in time. She said services should grow as revenues grew.

Council Member Grayeb pointed out that property taxes had been reduced from \$1.48 per \$100 of assessed valuation and it was now about \$1.26.

Council Member Teplitz discussed the crime and litter problems in the City. She spoke against a property tax increase, which she said would be added on top of tax increases proposed for District #150, Illinois Central College and the Park District. She said those increases would total \$133.00 without the City's proposed increase. She spoke in support of implementing the garbage fee because it was a narrow and focused way to pay for a service so badly needed.

Council Member Spears said in 1989 there was a tax rate of \$2.70 and it was driven down eight consecutive years in a row and the tax rate was kept at \$1.26 since that time. He said as the City lowered taxes, other entities had raised their taxes. He said he felt that if a garbage fee was implemented, it would never be taken away. He spoke in support of putting this on the property tax bill because he felt it was the right thing to do.

Substitute motion to institute a fourteen cent real estate tax in place of the garbage fee "tax" was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Sandberg, Spears - 5;

Nay: Morris, Nichting, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg - 6.

Mayor Ransburg referred to Page 3, Items 27 through 41 and he explained his intent. In discussion with Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins, Mayor Ransburg and Council Member Thetford determined that another \$150,000 reduction was needed to balance the Budget.

Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle referred to Item 29 – Fleet Recapitalization and said it should be removed because it was handled at the November 22, 2003, Special City Council Meeting.

In discussion, Council Member Teplitz referred to the items listed under "discretionary" on Page 3 and she pointed out these were items that had been repeatedly discussed by Council.

Following some brief comments, Council Member Thetford moved to increase the reduction to Item 29 regarding the fleet recapitalization by \$100,000 making the cut \$130,000; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb regarding how this approach contrasted with the Interim City Manager's proposal, Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle said he would prefer the Council take a hard look at what could be trimmed from the discretionary items before the Council reviewed non-discretionary items. He explained the one item that was critical was fleet recapitalization. He said police cars were being used until they reached 150,000 miles and 17 were down three weeks ago. He said the police vehicle pool had been depleted and this was an area where he thought there would be a major problem if it was reduced any more. He encouraged the Council to find the \$100,000 in another area.

Mayor Ransburg suggested requesting the Interim City Manager to recommend \$150,000 out of non-discretionary funds: fleet recapitalization, buildings – repairs and maintenance, parking decks/lots, fire fleet recapitalization, information systems, and public safety capital.

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb regarding the motion, Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle said he would have to discuss this with the Fire Department before he would make any commitment. He said the fleet recapitalization line item had been under-capitalized for several years and he explained when fleet was down, the people could not perform their higher priority duties.

Council Member Grayeb said he could not support the motion.

Council Member Spears said he would make a substitute motion. He asked the Interim City Manager how quickly the decision on this needed to be made. He also suggested that the Council recess until the Interim City Manager could make a recommendation.

Council Member Thetford moved to amend her motion to direct the Interim City Manager to come back to the Council with a recommendation for \$150,000 in reductions in the non-discretionary accounts: fleet recapitalization, buildings – repairs and maintenance, parking decks/lots, fire fleet recapitalization, information systems, and public safety capital; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Council Member Nichting said he could not support the motion and he expressed concern that Police and Fire would not have appropriate tools to do their jobs because of possible reductions to the fleet.

Council Member Spears suggested there might be other places in the Budget that the Interim City Manager would recommend cost savings other than non-discretionary items.

Council Member Thetford clarified that her motion referred to non-discretionary items only.

Amendment to the motion to direct the Interim City Manager to come back to the Council with a recommendation for \$150,000 in reductions in the non-discretionary accounts: fleet recapitalization, buildings – repairs and maintenance, parking decks/lots, fire fleet recapitalization, information systems, and public safety capital was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Morris, Sandberg, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg - 8;

Nays: Gulley, Nichting, Spears - 3.

Council Member Thetford moved to adopt the budget items previously approved at the November 22, 2003, Special Council Meeting and at this meeting, and direct the Staff to bring back the appropriate Ordinances and budget documents amending the 2004 Budget; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Council Member Grayeb requested a review of the report from the Fire Chief regarding maintaining Fire Station #11 in the mode as delineated by the motion made at the November 22, 2003, Special Council Meeting.

Fire Chief Roy Modglin referred to his communication to the City Council regarding redeployment of Fire Department response equipment due to budget restrictions, which was distributed to all members of the City Council. He said he and his Staff analyzed how all Fire Stations could remain open with eleven fewer people. He explained the only solution was to shut down a piece of equipment somewhere in the City. He said safety of the Firefighters and citizens were taken into consideration first. He said his recommendation was not a good recommendation, but it was the best they could do with the guidelines provided by the Council. He said Engine #12 would be taken out of service at 3005 N. E. Adams and the Rescue Squad would be moved from Central Fire Station up to Fire Station #12 to replace that Engine Company. He said, as Fire Chief, he could not support the recommendation.

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb regarding the impact for fire suppression, Fire Chief Roy Modglin said there was a safety issue for Firefighters and citizens. He said this change would not affect any of the medical call response times. He added that medical call response times would be shortened because the rescue squad was lighter and faster and carried less equipment than an Engine Company. He said actually getting water on a fire would take longer than before. He said so far in 2003, Station #12 had fought only six fires in their first-in territory extending from Adams Street out Galena Road. He said the probability of having a working structure fire in that location was less than in other areas of the City. He said there was not a good answer to this equation.

In further discussion, Fire Chief Modglin said their analysis showed that from Fire Station #12 to the Lutheran Home was approximately six minutes. He said from Central Fire Station to the Lutheran Home would run 9 to 10 minutes in response time, which was a 3 to 3½ minute extension. He said if there was a structural fire, it would take an additional three to four minutes longer to put water on the fire.

Council Member Sandberg said the negative affect was that Fire Station #12 would no longer have a fire response. He said their area would be covered by other fire houses rather than the one that provided fire response now.

In discussion, Fire Chief Modglin said Rescue #1 was the busiest emergency response vehicle in the City. He explained they answered fire calls and medical emergency calls, but they also performed all technical rescues.

In discussion with Council Member Nichting, Fire Chief Modglin explained that fires usually doubled every 90 seconds.

In discussion with Council Member Morris regarding improved medical response times, Fire Chief Modglin explained in the immediate first-in response area, response would only be seconds quicker. He said responses out Galena Road could be faster by about 30 to 40 seconds.

Council Member Ardis moved to grant Privilege of the Floor to Mr. Bob Manning; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ransburg granted Privilege of the Floor to Mr. Bob Manning.

Mr. Bob Manning, 126 E. Embert Place, said the Council's primary responsibility was to provide basic services as well as adequate public safety. He expressed concern that he felt the Council had chosen to ignore that responsibility. He said there was over \$430,000 proposed by the Fire Department in cost savings, including union concessions. He said budget meetings should have started months ago so correct data and information could be provided to make informed decisions. He expressed concern that the Council had a lack of understanding in financial and public safety issues. He said it was his opinion the proposal regarding Fire Station #11 was flawed and he expressed concern that the Council did not listen to the Fire Chief's concerns. He said the City's budget should not be balanced at the expense of adequate safety services.

Council Member Grayeb said he felt a positive vote for this aspect of the package would certainly result in death and injury to citizens and Firefighters. He said almost two months ago, the interim City Manager presented the Council with a budget reconciliation package that produced labor concessions, preserved public safety and continued with keeping the City's fiscal house in proper order. He said for the last 30 months, the City had averaged cuts of almost \$500,000 a month in City operations producing stress in the continued viability and livability of the City. He said Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle's budget addressed the fiscal realities and placed the City in good stead for 2004 negotiations with the major labor unions. He said the budget preserved lives and funded extra police officers and protected citizens' property insurance rates from rising because of inadequate public safety. He expressed concern that the Council chose to disregard these efforts and plunge ahead and risk citizens' lives and the lives of Firefighters. He said this should be unacceptable to all. He urged everyone to listen to those trained in the area of life safety. He said he would not stand for any vote which undermined fire rescue services because of the closure of any station, when he had stated for several years that the Skyline Drive Station should be reopened to address the very real security gap affecting about 1,300 elderly citizens who were 10 to 12 minutes away from rescue services. He expressed concern that the City was in serious trouble from a public safety stand point. He said he didn't remember being more uncomfortable with a budget than he was this year. He said he would have to vote no on the motion.

Council Member Turner said he felt the Council tried to do what was responsible in relation to the City's budget. He said the bottom line was that more City government had been created and had provided more services than the City could afford. He said the Council needed to be realistic. He said personnel had been added and was justified from the standpoint that more money would be coming in but, he added, what was forgotten was that on-going wages and benefits were also added. He referred to Cleveland, Ohio, and their substantial budget cuts to fire, police, and EMS personnel. He said the City of Peoria had fewer cuts than Cleveland, and it would probably endanger some lives, but cuts were made before and the City of Peoria would recover from this. He said everyone needed to work together to solve the problems.

Council Member Thetford spoke in support of the budget proposal. She said this budget proposal did not close any of the City's fire stations as was initially proposed. She pointed out Councils in the past did not have a good track record of reopening closed fire stations, such as the fire station on Skyline Drive. She said if all fire stations were kept open and the City's fiscal situation improved, equipment could be added.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that during the years of prosperity, it was not the Fire Department that grew. He explained that since 1992, the City grew in area and new fire stations were built, but not one additional fire fighter was hired over 1992 levels. He referred to a chart provided by Mayor Ransburg, and he pointed out the cost of providing fire service had grown to \$13 million, but other departments grew much greater over the Fire Department during the same period. He said he could not support the motion.

Council Member Morris said the past several City budgets had focused on revitalizing older neighborhoods and investing in the core of the City. He said that focus was on enhancing basic services and public works more than anything else. He said again this year, \$70 million would be committed to the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments. He said he felt the proposed budget set the tone for years to come. He spoke in support of the budget in that the Council had tried to come to some kind of a balance. He urged the community to look forward and he said public safety and public works was by far the largest investment made in the past, present, and in the future, but the City could not live by that alone or the City would not continue to grow and prosper.

Council Member Ardis expressed concern that the Council did not have more arbitrary discussions. He discussed the issue of the proposed closure of Fire House #11, and he expressed concern with the recommendation that was made that even the Fire Chief would not support. He expressed concern and amazement that the Council would be voting on an issue that would probably endanger some lives. He commended the Interim City Manager for his work on all the budget scenarios that had been discussed. He said one of the City's unions offered over \$190,000 in concessions, which was unheard of, and he expressed concern that this suggestion was not considered by the Council. He agreed this Budget was about priorities, and he said he felt that neighborhoods that would be affected by this motion would be holding the Council accountable for their actions.

Motion to adopt the budget items previously approved at the November 22, 2003, Special Council Meeting and at this meeting, and direct the Staff to bring back appropriate Ordinances and budget documents amending the 2004 Budget was approved by roll call vote.

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

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

(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)

Corporation Counsel Randy Ray distributed a replacement Ordinance to all members of the City Council.

Council Member Thetford moved to adopt the replacement 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; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 15,552 was approved by roll call vote.

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

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

(03-615-A) Communication from Director of Workforce Development Regarding REPORT BACK on IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION for WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, with Recommendation to Receive and File.

Council Member Turner moved to receive and file the report back on In-Kind Contribution for Workforce Development; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that there was no one from Workforce Development present to discuss this issue further, which could save the City another \$135,000.

Council Member Thetford moved to defer this item for one week until the December 2, 2003, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Motion to defer this item until December 2, 2003, was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(03-615-B) Communication from Corporation Counsel Regarding a REPORT BACK on the WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD and the PROVISION of IN-KIND SERVICES, with Recommendation to Receive and File.

Council Member Thetford moved to defer this item for one week until the December 2, 2003, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Motion to defer this item until December 2, 2003, was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(03-375) ** Communication from Interim City Manager Regarding BUDGET RECONCILIATION PLAN – 2004 BUDGET, with Recommendations for Council Action as Outlined in the Communication, INCLUDING RELEVANT 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, with Recommendation to Receive and File.**

Council Member Thetford moved to receive and file Item Nos. 03-375 and 03-375-B; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Council Member Spears requested that the items be separated. Council Member Thetford, the maker of the motion, agreed to separate the items.

**(03-375) Communication from Interim City Manager Regarding BUDGET
** RECONCILIATION PLAN – 2004 BUDGET, with Recommendations for Council
 Action as Outlined in the Communication, INCLUDING RELEVANT ITEMS
 RELATING TO THE BUDGET. (Refer to Item Nos. 03-333 and 03-558)**

Council Member Thetford moved to receive and file the communication regarding Budget Reconciliation Plan – 2004, as outlined; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Motion to receive and file the communication regarding Budget Reconciliation Plan – 2004, as outlined was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(03-375 - B) Communication from Assistant City Manager Regarding a REPORT BACK on
*** GATEWAY BUILDING OPERATIONS, with Recommendation to Receive and
 File.**

Council Member Spears moved to set a Policy Session in January, 2004, regarding the Gateway Building Operations, and discuss this communication at the Policy Session; 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.

NEW BUSINESS

WORDS OF APPRECIATION Regarding INTERIM CITY MANAGER STEVE VAN WINKLE

City Clerk Mary Haynes thanked Interim City Manager Steve Van Winkle for the marvelous manner in which he had conducted business at City Hall while he had served in the position of Interim City Manager. She said she was at City Hall each and every day and Mr. Van Winkle had made this a team effort and had made many difficult days easier.

CITIZEN REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No citizens came forward to address the Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was determined an Executive Session was not needed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

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