

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, May 8, 2001, a Regular Meeting of the City Council was held this date at 6:15 P.M., at City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Mayor David P. Ransburg presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Council Members present: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg (arrived at 6:25 P.M.), Spears, Teplitz, Thetford (arrived at 6:40 P.M.), Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11; Absent: None.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MINUTES

Council Member Nichting moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on May 1, 2001, as printed; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by viva voce vote.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS

- (01-276) **NOTICE OF SUIT on Behalf of Mr. Richard D. Clift Alleging the City Illegally took**
* **Property Located at 623-627 S. W. ADAMS STREET Using Eminent Domain**
Procedures.
- (01-277) **PAYMENT ESTIMATE FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:**
MacARTHUR HIGHWAY BRIDGE REHABILITATION (The rehabilitation of
the MacArthur Highway Bridge and approaches including concrete repairs at the
bridge and retaining walls, pavement surface replacement including a bituminous
concrete overlay, removal and replacement of concrete medians, sidewalks, steps
and driveways, and application of a concrete coating to the structure, as well as
other miscellaneous items to finish the improvement.) P. J. HOERR, INC. – PAY
ESTIMATE #1: \$153,850.50; TOTAL AUTHORIZATION APPROVED:
\$153,850.50. (For Information Only)
- (01-278) **PAYMENT ESTIMATE FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: WEST**
GILBERT AVENUE ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (Sterling Avenue
to Gale Avenue) (Removing existing curb, sidewalk, and driveway approaches;
constructing combination concrete curb and sidewalk, driveway approaches, and a
bituminous concrete overlay over existing roadway. Additionally, a storm sewer
system will be installed.) R. A. CULLINAN & SON, INC. – PAY ESTIMATE #4:
\$44,666.05; TOTAL AUTHORIZATION APPROVED: \$44,666.05. (For
Information Only)
- (01-279) **Communication from Superintendent of Police Requesting Authorization to**
PURCHASE TWO X-RAY MACHINES, in the Amount of \$37,924.00, Using
Federal Technology Grant Funding.

(01-280) **Communication from Director of Inspections Requesting Authorization for the City Manager to Enter into AGREEMENTS with OLDE TOWNE NORTH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION and the JOY FELLOWSHIP MENNONITE CHURCH to Maintain Specified City-Owned Vacant Lots in their Respective Neighborhoods.**
**

(01-281) **APPOINTMENT by Mayor David P. Ransburg of the MAYOR PRO-TEM:**
Council Member W. Eric Turner

(01-282) **REAPPOINTMENT by Mayor David P. Ransburg of the DEPUTY LOCAL LIQUOR COMMISSIONER:**

Council Member W. Eric Turner

Clerk's Note: Mayor Ransburg will act as Liquor Commissioner and Council Member W. Eric Turner will be his Deputy in the Mayor's absence.

(01-283) **Communication from Superintendent of Police, Director of Planning and Growth Management, Director of Inspections, Assistant Corporation Counsel and Animal Shelter Director Regarding PROBLEM PROPERTY FINAL REPORT 2000.**

(01-284) **REPORTS:**

A. ANNUAL REPORT OF ELECTRIC UTILITIES LICENSEES AND/OR NATURAL GAS UTILITIES to the ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION – CENTRAL ILLINOIS LIGHT COMPANY. (On File in the City Clerk's Office)

CONSIDERATION of REPORT BACKS as Follows:

(01-211) **Communication from Interim Fire Chief with REPORT BACK Regarding FOUR-MINUTE RESPONSE TIME. (For Information Only)**

(01-225) **Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with REPORT BACK Regarding SCREENING of MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT at 1710 W. DETWEILLER DRIVE.**

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

Council Member Grayeb requested that Item Nos. 01-280 and 01-211 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Nichting requested that Item No. 01-276 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Item Nos. 01-276 through 01-284, and 01-225 (excluding Item Nos. 01-276, 01-280, and 01-211 which were removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

**(01-276) NOTICE OF SUIT on Behalf of Mr. Richard D. Clift Alleging the City Illegally took
* Property Located at 623-627 S. W. ADAMS STREET Using Eminent Domain
Procedures.**

Council Member Nichting stated he would be abstaining due to his ownership of property in the vicinity of the Downtown Stadium Site.

Council Member Turner moved to receive and file the Notice of Suit on behalf of Mr. Richard D. Clift regarding property located at 623-627 S. W. Adams Street using eminent domain procedures; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None;

Abstention: Nichting - 1.

**(01-280) Communication from Director of Inspections Requesting Authorization for the City
** Manager to Enter into AGREEMENTS with OLDE TOWNE NORTH
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION and the JOY FELLOWSHIP MENNONITE
CHURCH to Maintain Specified City-Owned Vacant Lots in their Respective
Neighborhoods.**

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb, Director of Inspections John Kunki indicated that lots had not been maintained so far this year, and if the height of grass had grown higher than the ten-inch limit, then the City would have had the lots mowed by a contractor or a neighborhood association. He added that this was the reason the first initial mowing was paid at the rate of \$50.00.

Council Member Grayeb expressed concern that the mowing contracts had not been completed before now, and he suggested that this request come before the Council earlier in the season.

Council Member Grayeb moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into agreements with Olde Towne North Residents Association and the Joy Fellowship Mennonite Church to maintain specified City-owned vacant lots in their respective neighborhoods; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(01-211) Communication from Interim Fire Chief with REPORT BACK Regarding FOUR-
*** MINUTE RESPONSE TIME. (For Information Only)**

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb, Interim Fire Chief Roy Modglin explained four-minute response time was a national standard set by the Fire Service based on the rapid speed of fire spread and the necessity to get help to someone who experienced medical emergencies. He added the medical community stated that brain death began to occur by the end of four minutes. He also explained there were certain areas of the City which, because of location and the difficulty of approaches, made it impossible to arrive within four minutes, even though that was their focus.

Discussion was also held regarding the relocation of Fire Station #13. It was indicated that the main reason for the relocation was for the response time, which was only 45 seconds to some parts of the City, but those seconds were crucial.

Council Member Grayeb moved to receive and file the report back regarding the four-minute response time; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(01-285) Communication from Director of Public Works Requesting Direction Regarding the REMOVAL OR PRESERVATION of a 100-YEAR OLD HACKBERRY TREE at 207 N. E. MONROE (RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH).

Council Member Gulley moved to receive and file the communication; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Motion to receive and file the communication was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(01-286) Communication from Director of Economic Development and Director of Public Works Requesting Approval for the RELOCATION OF AMERITECH'S FIBER OPTIC LINE, in the Amount of \$1,699,649.00, and Authorization for the City Manager to Execute the Necessary Documents for the Downtown Baseball Stadium.

Mayor Ransburg said he would be abstaining from the discussion and the vote due to his ownership of a portion of the Peoria Chiefs Baseball Team, and he requested that Mayor Pro Tem Turner assume the Chair.

Council Member Nichting stated he would be abstaining due to his ownership of property in the vicinity of the Downtown Stadium Site.

Council Member Gulley moved to approve the relocation of Ameritech's fiber optic line, in the amount of \$1,699,649.00, and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents for the Downtown Baseball Stadium; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Council Member Thetford arrived at the meeting at 6:40 P.M.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding what the almost \$1.7 million paid for, Economic Development Administrator Karie Friling explained this amount was just the fiber optics for the Baseball Stadium two-block area only.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that the fiber optic line would be in the way of future development opportunities in the area. He indicated his desire for long term planning in the area of downtown and the Riverfront.

City Manager Michael McKnight said an additional two blocks to MacArthur would be ideal but it was a question of money and time the Ball Team had to deal with, which did not provide time to search for additional funding. He added the cost factor stopped further exploration of the expansion.

In further discussion, Director of Public Works Steve Van Winkle explained they explored the idea of going to where the cables were previously spliced or the switchboard location to determine if there was a feasible way to take advantage to relocate more, but another alternative was not found to make it less expensive. He said the Council had placed a cap on City expense so going beyond that and running the line additional blocks at additional costs was not considered to be an option.

Motion to approve the relocation of Ameritech's fiber optic line, in the amount of \$1,699,649.00, and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents for the Downtown Baseball Stadium was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Gulley, Grayeb, Morris, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Mayor Pro Tem Turner – 8;

Nays: Sandberg – 1;

Abstention: Nichting, Mayor Ransburg - 2.

(01-287) Communication from Director of Inspections Regarding the CITY'S RESPONSE to CILCO UTILITY CUTS. (For Information Only)

Council Member Nichting moved to receive and file the communication regarding the City's response to CILCO's Utility Cuts; seconded by Council Member Thetford.

Council Member Thetford said in the past she had discussed the possibility of establishing a group to review the issue of high utility bills and assistance for those who were in need, but in light of the fact that some of the City Staff members were working on this issue, she suggested that the Council Members who were liaisons to the Neighborhood Development Commission review the report. She further suggested that through the Neighborhood Development Commission, rather than establishing another group, they could discuss what else the City could do to respond to this need.

In discussion with Council Member Turner regarding how other cold-climate cities were addressing the problem, Mr. Kunki said all cities in Illinois were experiencing the same problems as the residents of Peoria. He said he met with other agencies in the past few days to further determine what assistance would be available regarding temporary housing in cases where utilities had been cut, and the majority of the agencies indicated they were at full capacity and they felt 30% to 40% of those in temporary housing were a direct result of their utilities being cut. He also discussed the program "A Hand Up" and explained the results of the most recent cleanup program.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ransburg granted Privilege of the Floor to Ms. Sharon Durbin.

Ms. Sharon Durbin, founder and Executive Director of "A Hand Up," said she worked for Illinois Power Company. She explained the history of the program to build community relationships in their service territory to provide avenues for individuals to work off utility bills. She said CILCO also supported the program. She said another portion of the program was to provide opportunities for people to earn their GED and for each hour they were in class, they received a \$10.00 donation toward their utility bill. She gave the Illinois toll free number of 1-866-242-6387 for anyone having questions about assistance.

Mr. Kunki said the local number to call for assistance was 671-4966, extension 213.

Council Member Grayeb discussed profit revenue of the parent company of CILCO, and he suggested that the broad picture of reducing overall energy costs should be addressed. He urged the Council to consider bringing back local control of the energy company, maybe through some public/private cooperative effort.

In discussion with Council Member Thetford regarding her suggestion that citizens, who were in the "A Hand Up" Program, also use their skills to assist senior citizens who had code violations and were in the Housing Court process, Mr. Kunki said he felt this was a great idea and would review how to proceed.

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb regarding an initial pledge of a donation by the owner of AES, Mayor Ransburg stated he would be making a call to the owner and would report back to the Council regarding a possible donation that could be used to assist citizens with their energy costs.

Motion to receive and file the communication regarding the City's response to CILCO's Utility Cuts was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(01-288) Communication from Mayor David P. Ransburg Regarding a COUNCIL GOVERNANCE RETREAT.

Mayor Ransburg distributed a revised chart listing potential subjects for Policy Sessions and a chart listing possible Council Retreat topics to all members of the City Council.

Following a brief discussion, it was determined that Saturday, June 16, 2001, should be listed as a tentative date for the City Council to hold a Retreat to discuss Parliamentary Procedure, Council Rules and Policy Issues.

Mayor Ransburg suggested that if Council Members wanted to add any topics to the list, they could contact City Clerk Mary Haynes with their suggestions.

Council Member Nichting moved to remand the list to City Clerk Mary Haynes for compilation of subjects that Council Members wanted to add to the list; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(01-289) Communication from Council Member William Spears with RESOLUTION in Support of FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING to CONSTRUCT a LIMITED ACCESS FREEWAY to Provide DIRECT ACCESS from THIS REGION to the CHICAGO METROPOLITAN REGION.

Council Member Spears moved to approve the Resolution in support of Federal and State funding to construct a limited access freeway to provide direct access from this region to the Chicago Metropolitan Region. No second was heard.

Council Member Morris moved to receive and file the communication; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Motion to receive and file was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Spears - 1.

(01-290) CITY MANAGER REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL.

Council Member Grayeb moved to receive and file the City Manager Report to City Council; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (00-075) Communication from Council Member Patrick Nichting Regarding the REVIEW of**
(00-140) the REDUCED PARKING RATES for all CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
PART-TIME EMPLOYEES at Designated Sites, which will Vary from Time to
Time, with a REQUEST TO TABLE.

Council Member Nichting moved to Table this item; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Motion to Table was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

- (00-864) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with**
REPORT BACK on the STAFF REVIEW of the EXISTING USES and
COMPLIANCE ISSUES for Property Located at 2022 N. WISCONSIN AVENUE.

Council Member Thetford moved to defer this item for one week until the May 15, 2001, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Motion to defer this item until May 15, 2001 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS**COMMENTS REGARDING the CLOSURE OF RIVERTECH CENTER and CENTRAL ILLINOIS ACCESS, INC.**

Council Member Thetford referred to the RiverTech Center and their recent announcement regarding closure, but she said that Central Illinois Access, Inc. would still be accepting donated computers to refurbish them and provide them to individuals who were in need. She said Central Illinois Access, Inc. was located at 3023 N. E. Adams and their phone number was 686-8210. She added they would provide computer training to children and other individuals.

CITIZEN REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

- (01-291) REQUEST BY CITIZENS to ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL Regarding the**
DIRECT HIGHWAY to the CHICAGO METROPOLITAN REGION. (Refer to
01-289)

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

Mr. Lester Bergsten, Former Council Member, encouraged all citizens who felt strongly about what was happening with the interstate systems in the Peoria area to not give up hope and work in support of a direct highway to Chicago. He indicated these highways supported the economy and tied key population areas together. He agreed that the energy crisis would continue to worsen in regard to escalating gasoline prices and anything that could be done to save millions of gallons of gas, such as interstate systems, that the City should work with the various people who have input on these decisions. He thanked the Mayor and the Council and he urged them to give the highway another try in the near future.

Mr. Bergsten referred to an article in the Journal Star published May 6, 2001, that he wrote in support of a highway from Peoria to Chicago, and he asked that the article be part of the City's permanent record. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak regarding this issue.

Council Member Morris moved to receive and file the Journal Star article written by Mr. Lester Bergsten and published on May 6, 2001; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Mr. Bill Edley, 908 W. Moss Avenue and former State Legislator from the Fulton County-Macomb area, spoke of his support of the study for a Peoria to Chicago highway in 1992. He discussed the importance of highways in the State, and he expressed concern that Peoria had failed to garner highway money while Quincy had been very successful at obtaining needed funding. He expressed concern that the lack of support of the proposed Resolution and by not getting the question be answered as to which corridor would be the fastest, safest and would provide the most economic development for the area, wasted nine years and \$5 million of taxpayers' money. He expressed concern how this would affect Peoria's future economic development.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

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

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