

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, December 11, 2001, a Regular Meeting of the City Council and Town Board 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, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, 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.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

PROCLAMATION: COMMON PLACE HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WEEK –
December 9 – 15, 2001

PRESENTATION: PRESENTATION OF DONATIONS and UPDATE Regarding FUNDRAISING
CAMPAIGN for LIGHTWEIGHT VESTS for POLICE OFFICERS

MINUTES

Council Member Nichting moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting December 4, 2001, as printed; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS - TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA

(01-819) ORDINANCE LEVYING and ASSESSING TAXES for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2001, and Ending March 31, 2002, of the Town of the City of Peoria for the TOWN GENERAL FUND and I.M.R.F. FUND, in the Amount of \$493,830.00.

Trustee Nichting moved to adopt the Ordinance levying and assessing taxes for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2001, and ending March 31, 2002, of the Town of the City of Peoria for the Town General Fund and I.M.R.F. Fund, in the amount of \$493,830.00; seconded by Trustee Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. TO-01-02 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(01-820) ORDINANCE LEVYING and ASSESSING TAXES for the Fiscal Year Beginning April 1, 2001, and Ending March 31, 2002, of the Town of the City of Peoria for the GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND, in the Amount of \$1,100,000.00.

Trustee Nichting moved to adopt the Ordinance levying and assessing taxes for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2001, and ending March 31, 2002, of the Town of the City of Peoria for the General Assistance Fund, in the amount of \$1,100,000.00; seconded by Trustee Morris.

ORDINANCE NO. TO-01-03 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS - CITY OF PEORIA

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE.

- (01-821)** Communication from Corporation Counsel with **ORDINANCE NO. 15,235**
Amending CHAPTERS 1, 18 and 20 of the Code of the City of Peoria Relating to
PENALTIES, as Outlined.
- (01-822)** **SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS “B” (Restaurant), SUBCLASS #1A (2:00 AM.**
***** **Hours) LIQUOR LICENSE FOR 120 S. W. WATER, with Recommendation of the**
Liquor Commission to be Distributed.
- (01-823)** **SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS “G” (Restaurant, Beer & Wine Only) LIQUOR**
****** **LICENSE FOR 5101 W. HOLIDAY DRIVE, with Recommendation of the Liquor**
Commission to be Distributed.
- (01-824)** **Communication from Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting Approval of the**
******* **ESTIMATED ENCUMBRANCES FOR 2001.**
- (01-825)** **REPORTS:**
- A. Communication from Finance Director/Comptroller Regarding the**
OCTOBER 2001 REVENUE and OPERATING EXPENDITURE REPORT
UNAUDITED. (For Information Only)

CONSIDERATION of REPORT BACKS as Follows:

- (01-818) Communication from Corporation Counsel Regarding REPORT BACK on REFERENDA DEADLINES.**

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

Council Member Nitting requested that Item Nos. 01-823 and 01-824 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Sandberg requested that Item No. 01-822 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Item Nos. 01-821 through 01-825, and 01-818 (excluding Item Nos. 01-822, 01-823 and 01-824 which were 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.

(01-822) SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS "B" (Restaurant), SUBCLASS #1A (2:00 A.M. Hours) LIQUOR LICENSE FOR 120 S. W. WATER, with Recommendation of the Liquor Commission to be Distributed.
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Corporation Counsel Randy Ray distributed a communication to all members of the City Council indicating that the Liquor Commission recommended approval of the site.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding parking, Director of Planning and Growth Management Wayne Anthony indicated that adequate parking was available and met the requirements. He agreed the agreements were somewhat confusing. He pointed out that while parking spaces were not exclusively dedicated to the one use, the agreement was relatively clear that the available spaces would meet the parking requirement.

Council Member Grayeb moved to concur with the Liquor Commission recommendation to approve the site for a Class "B" (Restaurant), Subclass #1A (2:00 A.M. hours) Liquor License for 120 S. W. Water; 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.

(01-823) SITE APPROVAL for a CLASS "G" (Restaurant, Beer & Wine Only) LIQUOR LICENSE FOR 5101 W. HOLIDAY DRIVE, with Recommendation of the Liquor Commission to be Distributed.
**

Corporation Counsel Randy Ray distributed a communication to all members of the City Council indicating that the Liquor Commission recommended approval of the site.

Council Member Nichting said he would be abstaining from the vote due to a business relationship with the petitioner.

Council Member Grayeb moved to concur with the Liquor Commission recommendation to approve the site for a Class "G" (Restaurant, Beer & Wine Only) Liquor License for 5101 W. Holiday Drive; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None;

Abstention: Nichting - 1.

(01-824) Communication from Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting Approval of the ESTIMATED ENCUMBRANCES FOR 2001, in the Amount of \$2,374,686.00.

Council Member Nichting moved to approve the estimated encumbrances for 2001, in the amount of \$2,374,686.00; seconded by Council Member Turner.

In discussion with Council Member Nichting regarding his concern that the communication did not provide any details, other than the total amount of the encumbrances, Finance Director/Comptroller Ellie Hogan explained that, since the total was an estimate, details were not normally provided at this time. She said, when the Budget amendment was brought before the Council in March, 2002, detailed information would be provided at that time.

Council Member Sandberg also expressed concern that more details were not provided. He requested a report back requesting more information.

Motion to approve the estimated encumbrances for 2001, in the amount of \$2,374,686.00 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

(01-826) Communication from Finance Director/Comptroller and Director of Economic Development Requesting Approval to REPROGRAM FUNDS for the LIBERTY PARK PROJECT, in the Amount of \$48,600.00

Council Member Gulley moved to approve reprogramming funds for the Liberty Park Project, in the amount of \$48,600.00; seconded by Council Member Turner.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding his concern that the estimate was off by approximately one-third, Director of Economic Development David Dobson explained there were extra expenses for subsurface obstacles, that were not known until the project was started; there was some electrical wiring conduit that needed to be dealt with; and there was extra landscaping needed.

Council Member Nichting requested a report back regarding the details of the costs that were originally proposed, what was budgeted, and what came before the Council for approval. He also requested the report back include if the costs involved the parking lot to the South of the restaurant.

Council Member Sandberg requested the report back include a description of the project in total.

Motion to approve reprogramming funds for the Liberty Park Project, in the amount of \$48,600.00 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

(01-827) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management Requesting, on Behalf of the Neighborhood Development Commission, CDBG ENTITLEMENT FUNDING for ACCESS RAMPS for RESIDENCES of PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED CITIZENS, and CORPORATE FUNDING for VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

Council Member Gulley moved to approve CDBG Entitlement funding for access ramps for residences of physically challenged citizens, and corporate funding for various activities; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(01-828) Communication from Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting Approval to REALLOCATE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NDC) CDBG ENTITLEMENT and CAPITAL FUNDS; REPROGRAM Prior Year CDBG FUNDS; and CONSIDER ADDITIONAL 2002 CAPITAL FUNDS, as Outlined.

Council Member Gulley moved to reallocate Neighborhood Development Commission (NDC) CDBG Entitlement and capital funds; to reprogram prior year CDBG funds; to approve additional 2002 capital funds, as outlined in the communication, and to direct Staff to research cost saving initiatives by partnering with other agencies to install the ramps at a cost savings to the City; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Motion to reallocate Neighborhood Development Commission (NDC) CDBG Entitlement and capital funds; to reprogram prior year CDBG funds; to approve additional 2002 capital funds, as outlined in the communication, and direct Staff to research cost saving initiatives by partnering with other agencies to install the ramps at a cost savings was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(01-829) Communication from Director of Public Works with Recommendation to Approve PARKING COMMITMENTS for CATERPILLAR/CITY OF PEORIA PARKING AGREEMENT.

Council Member Turner stated he would be abstaining from the vote due to his employment with Caterpillar.

Council Member Gulley moved to approve the parking commitments for Caterpillar/City of Peoria Parking Agreement; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None;

Abstention: Turner - 1.

(01-830) Communication from Director of Economic Development with RESOLUTION CERTIFYING that the REVOLVING LOAN FUND Meets the Requirements of the Economic Development Administration.

Council Member Turner moved to approve the Resolution certifying that the Revolving Loan Fund meets the requirements of the Economic Development Administration; seconded by Council Member Morris.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-830 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(01-831) Communication from Finance Director/Comptroller Recommending Adoption of the Following:

A. ORDINANCE Amending the BUDGET for FISCAL YEAR 2001 of the City of Peoria Relating to BASEBALL STADIUM EXPENSES;

Finance Director/Comptroller Ellie Hogan distributed a revised Ordinance to all members of the City Council.

Council Member Nichting said he would be abstaining from the vote due to his ownership of property in the vicinity of the Baseball Stadium.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding the total costs involved with the Stadium project.

Following a brief discussion, Council Member Turner moved to adopt the revised Ordinance amending the Budget for fiscal year 2001 of the City of Peoria relating to Baseball Stadium expenses; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,236 amending the Budget for fiscal year 2001 of the City of Peoria relating to Baseball Stadium expenses was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Ardis, Sandberg, Spears – 3;

Abstention: Nichting - 1.

B. ORDINANCE Amending the BUDGET for FISCAL YEAR 2001 of the City of Peoria Relating to POLICE GRANTS, LIBRARY CAPITAL FUND USE, HEALTHCARE EXPENSES, and FROSTWOOD PARKWAY ROAD PROJECT.

Finance Director/Comptroller Ellie Hogan distributed a revised Ordinance to all members of the City Council.

Council Member Turner moved to adopt the revised Ordinance amending the Budget for fiscal year 2001 of the City of Peoria relating to Police Grants, Library Capital Fund Use, Healthcare Expenses, and Frostwood Parkway Road Project; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,237 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(01-605) Communication from Council Member Clyde Gulley Requesting to Remove the Issue Regarding the PROPOSED ADDITIONAL DECORATIVE LIGHTING for the MURRAY BAKER BRIDGE LIGHTING PROJECT from the Table and to Place this Item on the January 15, 2002, Regular City Council Meeting Agenda.

Council Member Gulley moved to remove the proposed additional decorative lighting for the Murray Baker Bridge Lighting Project from the Table and place this item on the January 15, 2002, Regular City Council Meeting Agenda; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Discussion was held and it was suggested that this item be placed on the December 18, 2001, Council Agenda, but it was stated that the December 18th Council Meeting may be cancelled.

Motion to remove the proposed additional decorative lighting for the Murray Baker Bridge Lighting Project from the Table and place this item on the January 15, 2002, Regular City Council Meeting Agenda was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(01-759) Communication from City Manager Requesting Approval of CITY OF PEORIA BUDGET OVERVIEW for the Year 2002 – VERSION 4.

Council Member Thetford moved to approve the City of Peoria Budget Overview for the Year 2002 – Version 4, as amended to reflect the commitments under Item Nos. 01-827 and 01-828 regarding the Neighborhood Development Commission to the extent that there were changes to the 2002 Budget; fund the United Way in the amount of \$35,000 with the stipulation that the Township would reimburse the City; fund the Police D.A.R.E. Program in the amount of \$25,000; fund Peoria Area Community Events in the amount of \$50,000; fund the Center for Prevention of Abuse in the amount of \$75,000; and fund the YWCA in the amount of \$75,000; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Finance Director/Comptroller Ellie Hogan noted a correction on the Planning and Zoning Commission fees, and she said the Commission fees should change from \$25.00 to \$500.00 and the Zoning Board of Appeals fees should change from \$215.00 to \$300.00.

Council Member Thetford said she would include the fee change in her motion. The seconder agreed.

Council Member Nichting discussed possible increased costs of concrete in the year 2002 and the concrete needs for the construction of I-74 and City needs. He expressed concern regarding special assessment projects and projects that would not be completed in the 2002 Budget.

Council Member Nichting moved for a substitute motion to add an additional \$1.5 million to the special assessment funding; seconded by Council Member Sandberg.

Council Member Sandberg said it was his understanding the additional funding would come from the \$750,000 that was programmed for the Sears Block and \$805,000 that would not be spent for the shared parking deck.

Substitute motion to add an additional \$1.5 million to the special assessment funding was
DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears – 4;

Nays: Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg - 7.

In further discussion, Council Member Thetford restated and clarified her motion to approve Versions 1, 2 and 3, as modified by Version 4, with the additions she cited.

Council Member Nichting requested that a final version of the Budget be provided for the public to view.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding the amounts of zoning fee increases proposed and the impact the increases would have on older neighborhoods, compared to the low increase of parking rates.

Council Member Ardis expressed concern regarding the amount in the Budget relating to the Economic Development position. He indicated that he did not feel the full \$72,000 should be in the Budget, if only approximately \$40,000 was needed.

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

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ransburg granted Privilege of the Floor to Mr. Larry McEnroe.

Mr. Larry McEnroe, President of the Heart of Illinois Liquor Association and owner of Katie McButt's Tavern located on N. Knoxville, expressed concern regarding the proposed increase of liquor license fees. He said the proposed amounts would be a 45% increase and he pointed out liquor licenses in a nearby community was almost half per year of the proposed amount after the increase.

Council Member Ardis moved to amend the motion to delete the proposed increase for liquor licenses, which totaled approximately \$45,000; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner – 8;

Nays: Grayeb, Teplitz, Mayor Ransburg - 3.

In discussion, Council Member Ardis referred to funding for the YWCA and the Center for the Prevention of Abuse, and he indicated that CDBG funding was normally used to fund these agencies. He expressed concern regarding the precedent this would be setting. He said he fully supported the projects, but he said he felt they should be funded by CDBG monies.

Council Member Ardis suggested a Policy Session regarding how block grant dollars should be spent. He urged the City Manager to place this item on the Policy Session list for 2002.

Motion to approve the City of Peoria Budget Overview for the Year 2002 – Version 1, 2 and 3 and as modified by Version 4, as amended to reflect the commitments under Item Nos. 01-827 and 01-828 regarding the Neighborhood Development Commission to the extent that there were changes to the 2002 Budget; fund the United Way be funded in the amount of \$35,000 with the stipulation that the Township would reimburse the City; fund the Police D.A.R.E. Program in the amount of \$25,000; fund Peoria Area Community Events in the amount of \$50,000; fund the Center for Prevention of Abuse in the amount of \$75,000; and fund the YWCA in the amount of \$75,000; include a correction on the Planning and Zoning Commission fees, changing the Commission fees from \$25.00 to \$500.00 and the Zoning Board of Appeals fees should change from \$215.00 to \$300.00; and delete the proposed increases of liquor license fees was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Ardis, Nichting, Sandberg – 3.

5. Communication from Director of Public Works with REPORT BACK Regarding CHARTER OAK ROAD EXTENSION PROJECT.

Council Member Nichting moved to receive and file the report back regarding Charter Oak Road Extension Project; seconded by Council Member Thetford.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

13. Communication from Finance Director/Comptroller with REPORT BACK Regarding SUPPORT TO OTHER AGENCIES – PARK DISTRICT.

Council Member Sandberg requested a report back regarding an accounting of the money in the Budget for the Gateway Building and Festival Park.

Council Member Sandberg moved to receive and file the report back regarding support to other agencies – Park District; seconded by Council Member Gulley.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

14. Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management Requesting an Approval to Fill the VACANT WEED AND SEED PROGRAM COORDINATOR POSITION.

Council Member Thetford moved to fill the vacant Weed Seed Program Coordinator position in the Planning and Growth Management Department; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS**(01-832) Communication from the City Manager with RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2002 BUDGET for the CITY OF PEORIA.**

Council Member Teplitz moved to approve the Resolution adopting the 2002 Budget for the City of Peoria; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Nichting referred to the extension of Prairie Park that was cut by \$500,000 from the 2002 Budget, and he expressed concern that if a developer came forward wanting green spaces, there were few sites available. He said the intent of the extension was to connect Growth Cells 2 and 3 to provide for economic development. He said he felt this would hurt economic improvement and he would be voting against the motion.

Council Member Turner said he felt no Council Member was totally content with the 2002 City Budget. He said the Budget process was one of the most grueling processes that the Council faced each year. He stated each Council Member realized that unless the City found a new revenue stream, this process would become more and more grueling in the years ahead. He said, in the past five years, the Council had been able to provide basic services, plus provide quality of life enhancements, such as development of growth cells, homeownership programs, new Fire Stations, new police officers, and Riverfront development. He said the City had added Staff to enhance public works service delivery, and the City had a new Baseball Stadium that would become a community-wide asset. He said these were just a few of the accomplishments the City Council had taken part in and helped deliver to the community. He said all the while these projects were developing, there were unexpected cost drivers. He stated the City was now faced with double digit healthcare costs, the City's population was stagnant, which would eventually erode the tax base. He said the City had to accept some community-driven projects and programs, without any revenue stream. He pointed out the problems faced by the City of Peoria were problems that were being faced by all communities across the country. He said business as usual was over and this had become very clear in the Budget process just completed by the Council. He said the City could not afford to balance the budget on the backs of the taxpayers but, as citizens, everyone must realize that for the future, those requests above and beyond basic essential services, may be denied in the future as budgets continue to tighten and priorities were adjusted. He added any growth in people, services and projects would be limited, and even the City's ability to maintain the current levels of service over the next few years, would be tied closely to operating efficiencies, utilization of government, and the development of new processes in handling day to day business.

Council Member Thetford agreed the Budget process had been difficult, but she pointed out the City did not raise property taxes and the City was relying less and less on them. She discussed the addition of funding for sidewalks, and she said some projects had to be postponed for a year, but the projects would be done.

Council Member Grayeb commended the City Administration and the Staff for their work on the Budget in the past months to meet the needs of the Community. He also discussed the importance of new revenue streams. He indicated, even with the newly adopted Budget, there would be some gaps in some of the ability to provide public services. He said he felt the Council had come together to bring a responsible package, and he supported the Budget. He stated he felt the Council had found a reasonable way, without raising property taxes, to share some of these costs.

Council Member Morris said \$2.10 per citizen, per day, for police and fire protection, roads, planning, zoning, neighborhoods, library services, economic development, etc. was a good buy. He commended the City Staff for their efforts. He indicated he was proud of the City and he said the golden age was yet to come. He said the Budget was not perfect, but the art of political compromise was trying to get the best package possible for the community.

Council Member Ardis expressed concern that the Budget cut money from both the Fire and Police Budgets. He said, in a political life, it was easier to raise taxes than to make difficult decisions. He said it was a difficult Budget and work would continue until next year.

Council Member Spears said he felt the Budget could have been completed without a tax increase, but he would support the Budget. He challenged the Administration to come back in the next year with operating efficiencies. He said businesses would need to grow and the Council needed to work and assist them to make them more competitive. He said when a new Senior Economic Development Specialist was hired, specific goals and objectives should be established to increase the City's bottom line.

Mayor Ransburg discussed the Budget process and he indicated the process had taken longer than he had anticipated. He said the policy-makers were involved in the process at the front end, and there was good discussion. He said the Council was faced with either major cuts in service to balance the anticipated deficit next year of \$3.6 million, or an increase in revenues. He said the tax increase was not considered lightly. He said in the original Budget, there was no money for sidewalks, special assessment, or drainage issues, and the adopted Budget would provide for those services. He indicated new dollars needed to be brought to the community through economic development, and by attracting new jobs and new people to live in the City of Peoria. He said he felt the Council was committed to doing just that, and he indicated he felt it was important that there was money in the Budget to perform this task. He urged all those involved to find new or better ways to deliver City services. He said there could be other sources of revenue through State or Federal grants that could also help the City. He said he saw much potential for the City of Peoria, and he felt the best days were yet to come.

Motion to approve RESOLUTION NO. 01-832 adopting the 2002 Budget for the City of Peoria was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Ardis, Nichting, Sandberg – 3.

(01-833) Communication from Finance Director/Comptroller with ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES for FISCAL YEAR 2002 for MUNICIPAL PURPOSES for the City of Peoria.

Council Member Turner moved to adopt the Ordinance levying taxes for fiscal year 2002 for Municipal Purposes for the City of Peoria, as amended by the final motion under Item No. 01-759; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,238, as amended, was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

(01-834) Communication from Finance Director/Comptroller Recommending Adoption of the Following:

A. ORDINANCE LEVYING a TAX for FISCAL YEAR 2002 for the WEAVERIDGE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA PARCEL A – GOLF COURSE;

Council Member Nichting moved to adopt the Ordinance levying a tax for fiscal year 2002 for the WeaverRidge Special Service Area Parcel A – Golf Course; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,239 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**B. ORDINANCE LEVYING a TAX for FISCAL YEAR 2002 for the
WEAVERRIDGE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA PARCEL D;**

Council Member Nichting moved to adopt the Ordinance levying a tax for fiscal year 2002 for the WeaverRidge Special Service Area Parcel D; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,240 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**C. ORDINANCE LEVYING a TAX for FISCAL YEAR 2002 for the
WEAVERRIDGE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA PARCEL E;**

Council Member Nichting moved to adopt the Ordinance levying a tax for fiscal year 2002 for the WeaverRidge Special Service Area Parcel E; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,241 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**D. ORDINANCE LEVYING a TAX for FISCAL YEAR 2002 for the
WEAVERRIDGE SPECIAL SERVICE AREA LOW DENSITY, MEDIUM
DENSITY, HIGH DENSITY AND SUBDIVIDED
PARCEL F.**

Council Member Nichting moved to adopt the Ordinance levying a tax for fiscal year 2002 for the WeaverRidge Special Service Area Low Density, Medium Density, High Density and Subdivided Parcel F; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,242 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(01-835) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with
ORDINANCE LEVYING a TAX for the FISCAL YEAR 2002 for the EAST
BLUFF NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES SPECIAL SERVICE AREA.**

Director of Planning and Growth Management Wayne Anthony provided a copy of the East Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. Finance Report, as of December 31, 2000, to all members of the City Council.

Council Member Thetford moved to adopt the Ordinance levying a tax for the fiscal year 2002 for the East Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services Special Service Area; seconded by Council Member Teplitz.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding the Financial Report and a \$60,000 loan, Mr. Walter Ratledge, Vice-President of the East Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service, explained the original loan and 18% was used to pay off the loan. He said the loan was not reflected in the Financial Report distributed to the Council because there was an error in the audit, and the audit would be corrected.

Council Member Thetford said an amended audit would be provided to the Council.

Council Member Sandberg requested that the amended audit also include a listing of the responsibilities of the auditor. He expressed concern regarding the error.

Mr. Ratledge explained there was a communication break down between a former auditor and a new auditor.

Following further discussion, Council Member Nichting requested a report back regarding good will and write-offs of bad loans that were not reflected in the Financial Report.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,243 levying a tax for the fiscal year 2002 for the East Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services Special Service Area was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(01-736) Communication from Director of Public Works Requesting Approval of the Expenditure of \$410,000.00 from the 2002 Capital Budget for CONSTRUCTION of the ORANGE PRAIRIE ROAD EXTENSION Pursuant to the DEVELOPMENT and RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION AGREEMENT.

Council Member Nichting moved to approve the expenditure of \$410,000.00 from the 2002 Capital Budget for construction of the Orange Prairie Road Extension pursuant to the Development and Right-of-Way Dedication Agreement; 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.

NEW BUSINESS

(01-836) CONSIDERATION of a MOTION to CANCEL the REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING Scheduled for DECEMBER 18, 2001.

Following a brief discussion regarding whether or not a Council Meeting was needed for December 18th, Council Member Turner moved to cancel the regular City Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2001, and he further moved that Item Nos. 01-799 and 01-800 be deferred until the January 22, 2002, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Gulley, Sandberg, Spears - 3.

(01-837) CONSIDERATION of a MOTION to CANCEL the REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS Scheduled for DECEMBER 25, 2001, AND JANUARY 1, 2002.

Council Member Turner moved to cancel the regular City Council Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 25, 2001, and Tuesday, January 1, 2002; 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.

- (01-838) **Communication from Human Resources Director Requesting Authorization for the City Manager to Execute a STOP LOSS INSURANCE CONTRACT through EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CORP. with RISK ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES Contingent upon the Approval by the Joint Labor/Management HealthCare Committee.**

Director of Human Resources Pat Parsons distributed this item to all members of the City Council.

Council Member Nichting moved to authorize the City Manager to execute a Stop Loss Insurance Contract through Employee Benefits Corp. with Risk Assessment Strategies contingent upon the approval by the Joint Labor/Management HealthCare Committee; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that this item would not be handled at a Council Meeting the next week, and he indicated he needed more information regarding the bids.

Mr. Parson explained that even if the City waited another week, it was doubtful additional bids would be received.

Council Member Sandberg moved to defer this item for one week. No second was heard.

Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute a Stop Loss Insurance Contract through Employee Benefits Corp. with Risk Assessment Strategies contingent upon the approval by the Joint Labor/Management HealthCare Committee was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

- (01-839) **REQUEST for a Review of the COUNCIL’S CODE OF CONDUCT Regarding the Issue of Verbal Abuse of Council Members and City Employees.**

Council Member Thetford referred to granting citizens the Privilege of the Floor and Council’s Code of Conduct not to allow citizens to verbally abuse Council Members or City Employees, and she requested that Corporation Counsel Randy Ray review the Code of Conduct. She questioned if the Code of Conduct, as written, would allow the Council to request the Chair or the Body to permanently forfeit the privilege to a citizen, where there had been a pattern of this kind of behavior. She said if the current Code of Conduct did not allow the Council to deal with this situation, then she requested that Mr. Ray advise the Council how to deal with the intimidation.

CITIZEN REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

One citizen came forward, but no Council business was discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- (01-840) **Consideration of a Motion for the City Council to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION to Discuss 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concern salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and 2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that such an action is probable or imminent.**

Council Member Turner moved that the City Council to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION to Discuss 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concern salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and 2(c)(11) Litigation,

when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that such an action is probable or imminent; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Motion that the City Council to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION to Discuss 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concern salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; and 2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that such an action is probable or imminent was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

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

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