

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, July 18, 2000, a Regular Meeting of the City Council was held this date at 6:20 P.M., at City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Mayor Lowell G. Grieves presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Council Members present: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grieves – 11; Absent: None.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

WORD OF THE WEEK “INITIATIVE”**PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.**

PROCLAMATION: UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION 4H PROGRAM

MINUTES

Council Member Nichting moved to approve the Minutes of the Executive Sessions and the Regular City Council Meeting on July 11, 2000, as printed, with a clarification to the vote under Item No. 00-530 to reflect that Mayor Grieves abstained; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner,
Mayor Grieves – 11;

Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS**CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE:**

- (00-551) NOTICE OF LAWSUIT on Behalf of MS. KAREN INGERSOLL Regarding a Fine of \$1,000 that was Allegedly Improperly Imposed.**
- (00-552) BIDS for COPIERS, Recommending Bids as Outlined, from IKON BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, COPY PRODUCTS CORPORATION, and ILLINOIS VALLEY BUSINESS.**
- (00-553) BIDS for LOG GRINDING, Recommending a Two-Year Contract with CERES ENVIRONMENTAL, in the Amount of \$44,250.00 per Year.**
- (00-554) BID for FIRE DEPARTMENT CAR HOIST, Recommending the Bid of ILLINOIS OIL MARKETING, in the Amount of \$13,908.00.**
- (00-555) Communication from Superintendent of Police Requesting Authorization to PURCHASE ITEMS RELATED TO SRT WEAPONS Using Asset Forfeiture Funds, in the Total Amount of \$19,113.16 from FIREARMS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, RAY O’HERRON, and ABELE-DAVIS CORPORATION.**
*

- (00-556) Communication from Superintendent of Police Requesting Authorization to PURCHASE TWELVE LAPTOP COMPUTERS Using Asset Forfeiture and Tech Grant III Funds, in the Amount of \$113,820.00, from CDS OFFICE TECHNOLOGIES.
- (00-557) Communication from Superintendent of Police Requesting Authorization to PURCHASE TWO BOMB SUITS and ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT Using Tech Grant III Funds, in the Amount of \$46,162.00, from MED-ENGSYSTEMS, INC.
- (00-558) Communication from Superintendent of Police Requesting Authorization to PURCHASE FORENSIC COMPUTER/ONLINE INVESTIGATION SYSTEM AND PHOTOGRAPHIC DIGITAL ENHANCEMENT SYSTEM Using Tech Grant III Funds, in the Amount of \$42,033.00, from MICRO-RAM COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
- (00-559)
** Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management Requesting Approval of a Request from At-Large Council Member Gary Sandberg to Participate in the CITY OF PEORIA ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM.
- (00-560) Communication from Director of Public Works Requesting Approval of the PPUATS FUNDING AGREEMENT and MFT RESOLUTION NO. 00-560, in the Amount of \$28,056.54.
- (00-561) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with ORDINANCE NO. 14,963 Rezoning Property Located at 7710-7712 N. CRESTLINE DRIVE from the Present Class I-2 District (Railroad/Warehouse Industrial) to a Class C-1 District (General Commercial).
- (00-562) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with ORDINANCE NO. 14,964 Amending Ordinance No. 9,957, an EXISTING SPECIAL USE in a Class R-4 District (Single Family Residential) for a BUILDING ADDITION for Property Located at 2703 GRINNELL STREET, with Conditions, and with Letter of Support from The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Peoria, Inc.
- (00-563) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with ORDINANCE NO. 14,965 Amending Ordinance No. 13,878, an EXISTING SPECIAL USE in a Class I-1 District (Industrial Business Park) for a PRESCHOOL to Include a BUILDING ADDITION and a REDUCTION in the PARKING REQUIREMENTS for Property Located at 809 W. DETWEILLER DRIVE, with Condition.
- (00-564) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with ORDINANCE NO. 14,966 Granting a SPECIAL USE IN A Class R-3 District (Single Family Residential) for CAMPING PROGRAMS for Property Located at 501 E. POPLETT HOLLOW ROAD.
- (00-565) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with ORDINANCE NO. 14,967 Granting a SPECIAL USE in a Class O-2 District (Exclusive Office Park) for a FINANCIAL INSTITUTION with a DRIVE-UP for Property Located at 7535, 7545, 7555 N. KNOXVILLE AVENUE, with Conditions.

- (00-566) **Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with ORDINANCE NO. 14,968 Amending APPENDIX "B" of the Code of the City of Peoria Relating to Zoning for Various Text Adjustments Allowing Special Use Requests to be Made by the City and Allowing Neighborhood Groups or Individuals to Initiate Rezoning Request to a More Restrictive Zoning District.**
- (00-567) **SIDEWALK PARTICIPATION REQUEST – BARNEY’S TOWING, 3011 S. W. ADAMS.**
- (00-568) **COMMERCIAL SIDEWALK PARTICIPATION – 2914 N. ROCKWOOD ROAD, 721 N.E. ADAMS STREET, 1319 W. ADRIAN G. HINTON AVENUE, 1300 S. W. WASHINGTON STREET, 1520 W. GARDEN STREET, 2400 S. W. JEFFERSON AVENUE, 1111 S. WESTERN AVENUE, 2819 N. E. ADAMS STREET, 1115 E. REPUBLIC.**

Consideration of REPORT BACKS as Follows:

- (00-493) **Communication from Director of Public Works with REPORT BACK Regarding EAST THRUSH STREET, Between PEORIA AVENUE and WISCONSIN AVENUE SPEED LIMITS.**

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

Council Member Duncan requested that Item No. 00-555 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Sandberg requested that Item No. 00-559 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Thetford requested that Item No. 00-493 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Item Nos. 00-551 through 00-568 (excluding Item Nos. 00-555, 00-559 and 00-493 which were removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grievs – 11;

Nays: None.

- (00-555) **Communication from Superintendent of Police Requesting Authorization to PURCHASE ITEMS RELATED TO SRT WEAPONS Using Asset Forfeiture Funds, in the Total Amount of \$19,113.16 from FIREARMS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, RAY O’HERRON, and ABELE-DAVIS CORPORATION.**
*

Council Member Duncan commended Superintendent of Police John Stenson and his staff on their acquisition of grants so that these purchases could be made without the use of tax dollars.

Council Member Duncan moved to authorize the purchase of items related to SRT weapons using Asset Forfeiture Funds, in the total amount of \$19,113.16 from Firearms for Law Enforcement, Ray O’Herron, and Abele-Davis Corporation; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Motion to authorize the purchase of items related to SRT weapons using Asset Forfeiture Funds, in the total amount of \$19,113.16 from Firearms for Law Enforcement, Ray O'Herron, and Abele-Davis Corporation was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grieves – 11;

Nays: None.

**(00-559) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management Requesting
** Approval of a Request from At-Large Council Member Gary Sandberg to
 Participate in the CITY OF PEORIA ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM.**

Council Member Sandberg said he would be abstaining from the vote because this would affect his personal property.

Council Member Nichting moved to approve a request from At-Large Council Member Gary Sandberg to participate in the City of Peoria Adopt-a-Tree Program; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grieves – 10;

Nays: None;

Abstention: Sandberg - 1.

**(00-493) Communication from Director of Public Works with REPORT BACK Regarding
*** EAST THRUSH STREET, Between PEORIA AVENUE and WISCONSIN
 AVENUE SPEED LIMITS.**

Council Member Thetford stated the report back indicated, for a variety of reasons, it was felt there was no need for stop signs along Thrush Street. She requested that a member of the Public Works staff attend the East Thrush Neighborhood meeting on Thursday evening at 6:00 P.M. at 210 W. Arcadia Street to assist in explaining about the stop signs.

Council Member Thetford moved to receive and file the report back regarding East Thrush Street, between Peoria Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue Speed Limits; seconded by Council Member Ardis.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grieves – 11;

Nays: None.

**(00-569) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management
 Recommending Approval of a Request from EBNHS for a LOAN Secured by
 SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUNDS, and Direct the City Manager to Execute a
 Five-Year Loan Agreement at 5.5%, for an Amount not to Exceed \$12,000.00.**

In discussion with Council Member Thetford, Assistant Director of Planning and Growth Management Pat Landes explained the procedure to recycle the money back to HUD and then back to the City to be used to reinvest in neighborhood housing projects. She said this would not be new money, but was money due to EBNHS, but they needed the money ahead of time to clear the titles so the federal designation could be removed from two properties.

Council Member Thetford moved to approve the request from the East Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service for a loan secured by Special Service District revenues and direct the City Manager to execute a five-year loan agreement at 5.5% interest for an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00; seconded by Council Member Gibson.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grieves – 11;

Nays: None.

(00-570) Communication from Corporation Counsel with RESOLUTIONS SETTING SALARIES for CITY and TOWN ELECTED OFFICIALS.

Trustee Turner moved to approve the Resolution setting the compensation for certain elected Town Officers; seconded by Trustee Ardis.

RESOLUTION NO. 00-570-A was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner – 10;

Nays: Mayor Grieves - 1.

Council Member Turner moved to approve the Resolution setting the compensation for certain elected City Officers, as amended to add setting compensation for At-Large Council Members for four years, beginning May, 2003, for an annual amount of \$9,500.00 and \$125.00 car allowance per month; seconded by Council Member Ardis.

RESOLUTION NO. 00-570-B, as amended, was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner – 10;

Nays: Mayor Grieves - 1.

(00-571) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with Recommendation from the Neighborhood Development Commission to Approve the CITY OF PEORIA DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM and the Allocation of \$60,000.00 of Funding from Previously Budgeted Funds.

Following a brief comment, Council Member Grayeb moved to grant Privilege of the Floor to members of the Neighborhood Development Commission who wished to discuss this issue; seconded by Council Member Nichting.

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

Mr. Duane Heward, Co-Chairman of HOME Committee of the Neighborhood Development Commission, thanked the Council for their support. He discussed the community partnership with the Children's Home and the positive aspects of homeownership. He thanked representatives from neighborhood organizations, agencies, lending institutions, realtors, other groups and City Staff who had worked on the community plan to increase homeownership. He introduced representatives of agencies who had assisted the program.

Mr. Mark Spenny, 255 W. Detweiller, also thanked the Council and all the agencies for their support. He discussed a workshop held last fall for potential home buyers by local financial institutions, national institutions and HUD. He said there was a clear need for a resource guide and for an organization to provide guidance to perspective home buyers in the City of Peoria. He further discussed programs to increase home ownership in the City.

Ms. Farrell Davies, Vice-President of Children's Home and Director of the Block-by-Block Project, discussed their partnership with the City of Peoria. She said the areas of focus were housing, education, and health and safety, and housing was one of the things the Children's Home had worked on with the City more closely than anything else. She added this program was another chance to bring the public and private sector together to provide services to families in the community to be more effective and efficient.

Council Member Grayeb thanked City Staff for their efforts in making neighborhoods better, and he moved to approve the City of Peoria Down Payment Assistance Program and the allocation of \$60,000 of funding from previously budgeted funds; seconded by Council Member Nichting.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg, Ms. Landes discussed the program that would provide \$1,000 for income eligible families to buy homes in the City of Peoria, and she indicated that calls were already being received, but applications could not be accepted until August 1, 2000. She said this program was recommended to the City by realtors in the area. She explained that both East Peoria and Pekin had down payment assistance programs which made them more competitive for home buyers.

Ms. Landes further explained the two new staff positions would be home ownership counselors and she indicated the money for these positions had already been approved in the Budget for the NDC for two years.

Ms. Landes explained how the program would be administered and discussed the importance of guidance regarding home maintenance for successful home ownership.

Ms. Brenda Epley, Past President of the Peoria Area Association of Realtors, discussed the promotion of increased home ownership. She said their organization strongly supported home ownership and the many benefits to the local economy, neighborhood enhancement, and safety. She said the greatest obstacle for first-time home buyers was lack of awareness of the ability to purchase, financing, education and access to resources. She said local programs were grossly under-utilized. She spoke in support of the proposed program and the many opportunities it could offer the community.

Motion to approve the City of Peoria Down Payment Assistance Program and the allocation of \$60,000 of funding from previously budgeted funds was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grieves – 11;

Nays: None.

(00-572) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with Recommendation from the Neighborhood Development Commission to Enter into a CONTRACT with the CHILDREN'S HOME as a Partner for the Proposed ONE STOP HOME (Home Ownership Made Easy) SHOP, and Establish a Committee.

Council Member Grayeb moved that the City enter into a contract with the Children's Home as a partner for the One Stop Home (Home Ownership Made Easy) Shop, authorize the City Manager to enter into the contract through the end of 2002 with the Children's Home to implement those concepts and partnership arrangements, and establish a committee, with the understanding that two new staff positions would be home ownership counselors and the money for these positions had already been approved in the Budget for the NDC for two years; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grieves – 11;

Nays: None.

(00-573) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management and Director of Public Works Requesting Authorization for the City Manager to Sign the FARGO RUN PHASE 1 INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT with the GREATER PEORIA SANITARY AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL DISTRICT.

Council Member Nichting moved to authorize the City Manager to sign the Fargo Run Phase 1 Intergovernmental Agreement with the Greater Peoria Sanitary and Sewage Disposal District; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grieves – 11;

Nays: None.

(00-574) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with ORDINANCE Granting a SPECIAL USE in a Class R-3 District (Single Family Residential) for a RESIDENTIAL CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT for Property Located at Lot 247 of LEXINGTON HILLS SUBDIVISION, with Conditions.

Council Member Spears moved to defer this item for one week until the July 25, 2000, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Thetford.

Motion to defer this item until July 25, 2000, was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grieves – 11;

Nays: None.

(00-575) Communication from Director of Economic Development with Recommendation to Approve a BUDGET and FINANCING PLAN for a COMMUNITY STADIUM and Shared Parking Project, and Authorize Staff to Proceed with Implementation.

Council Member Nichting stated he would be abstaining from the vote and discussion due to his ownership of property in the proposed area.

Director of Economic Development Dave Dobson distributed replacement information regarding Stadium Financing Options to all members of the City Council.

Mr. Tom Edwards, a citizen, also distributed information to all members of the City Council.

Mr. Dobson stated costs were being refined in the areas of acquisition, relocation, demolition and installation of public improvements. He said they had been in contact with the developer and Caterpillar, and have been reviewing State grants and assistance, and it had been determined the proposed cost of the project was in the range of \$23,628,932.00. He referred to the Council communication and gave an overview of the costs outlined in the communication projecting that the proposed maximum City investment would be \$3,500,000. He also pointed out there would be other private investments of over \$20 million.

Mr. Dobson referred to the information distributed to the Council and said he felt the City's costs would be closer to \$2.7 million, but the cap was not to exceed \$3.5 million. He said the Staff had made a continuing commitment to review the financing elements and attempt to find other alternatives to finance the \$3.5 million, if that amount was necessary. He added the developer had requested that a Tax Increment Financing District be formed to encompass just the stadium site, and rebate the taxes generated by the ball park. He said it was important to understand the taxes that would be rebated were new taxes.

Comptroller/Director of Finance Ellie Hogan referred to the \$1.75 million that was identified by the Director of Public Works which needed replacement projects and those projects would be funded with motor fuel tax. She said it was unfortunate that this project did not have \$1.7 million in MFT eligible expenses. She further discussed their attempts to find bonding that would not be taxable.

City Manager Michael McKnight explained even though the Council may approve the proposed financing strategy, this strategy could change because Staff would continue to review alternative financing for the project.

Mr. Rocky Vonachen, President of the Peoria Chiefs, urged the Council to support the project. He gave an overview of the complete project, and he stated the project would be at no risk to taxpayers because the stadium would be privately owned and operated. He discussed the uniqueness of the project in that private investors had provided over \$16 million for the project. He discussed the many events that would be held at the facility. He urged the Council to assist them in moving the project closer to completion.

Mr. Greg Edwards, President of the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, urged the Council to provide the needed funding to help Peoria to grow and to provide the infrastructure to build a new downtown stadium. He said he felt this project would be successful and he gave ten reasons Peoria should have a downtown stadium.

Dr. David Broski, President of Bradley University, thanked the Council for their support shown to institutions in the City. He discussed Bradley's on-going support of their teams' efforts to be their best. He said there were some details to work out, but he discussed Bradley's commitment for their men's baseball team to practice and play downtown in the new stadium, which should generate approximately \$1.5 million over the next 20 years. He also discussed the role Bradley would play to make use of Meinen Field for inter-collegiate soccer. He said Bradley was looking for the opportunity to make an investment in the field to bring it up to a championship-style field for their events and other events.

Mr. Bob Viets spoke in support of the proposed downtown stadium because it addressed the core of the City and it could build on the City's success in the proposed area. He added the proposed area was being under-utilized and by successfully using the ball park as a focal point, the value of the area surrounding the site could be increased. He also stated there were managers in place and significant investors in place to support a good baseball operation.

Ms. Marcella Teplitz, Chairman of the Peoria Housing Authority, stated the Housing Authority had undertaken a \$44 million project within just a few blocks of the proposed site for the stadium, which would anchor that portion of the Southside. She said the PHA viewed the construction of a stadium at the proposed location as a great asset to the PHA project. She urged the Council to support the proposed stadium.

Mr. Pat Sullivan spoke in support of the proposed stadium. He said he felt this would support the neighborhood and bring more people downtown. He urged the Council to support the proposal.

Mr. Pete Vonachen spoke in support of constructing a first class lighted facility in the downtown area. He said he felt this would spur urban development. He discussed the history of baseball in Peoria since 1983 and his initial investment in the baseball team. He said the stadium would enhance the quality of life for the surrounding area with no liabilities to taxpayers.

Mr. Harry Coons, 2500 N. E. Perry Street, referred to questions asked in a communication distributed to the City Council from Mr. Tom Edwards. He spoke against the proposed stadium in the downtown area.

Mr. John White, 1309 E. Elmhurst, questioned if the proposed numbers were final.

Mayor Grieves indicated that the numbers would be refined as the project progressed.

Following a brief clarification, Council Member Duncan moved to approve the proposed budget and financial plan for a community stadium and shared parking project, and authorize Staff to proceed with implementation; seconded by Council Member Morris.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg, Director of Public Works Steve Van Winkle said the costs associated with improvements on State Street, which was a direct impact of the stadium would be included in the \$3.5 million, but the changing of operations on Jefferson and Adams Streets was being driven by other issues beside the stadium project.

Several Council Members voiced their support of the proposed project, and indicated their feelings that the project would enhance the downtown area and neighborhood development.

Council Member Ardis expressed concern about bonding for fire equipment and spending cash for a stadium. He indicated there were other projects in the City that needed attention, such as infrastructure to enhance neighborhoods, sidewalks, sewers, etc. He said he was pleased the City's portion of the financial package had been greatly decreased. He said he was not voting against the stadium, but to continue the constructive efforts that were being undertaken. He said he was concerned about where the funding would come from at this point.

Council Member Spears expressed concern about noise from a stadium that would be located near the Southside residential neighborhoods. He said he was also concerned about the proposed funding sources and he did not feel the City should bond for money for fire vehicles. He said he did not feel this project would attract families to live in the surrounding areas.

Council Member Gibson spoke in support of the project locating to the downtown area. She said she would prefer not to bond for fire vehicles or anything that would deteriorate during the life of the bond.

In discussion, Mr. McKnight said Staff would continue to re-evaluate the funding sources as the project proceeded. He said a key factor was timing since this was an off-budget cycle request. He said he supported a regional approach to this project, and he indicated he requested Mr. Dobson to pursue that. He said it was estimated that \$137,000 would be needed in debt service to off-set the cost of the \$1.7 million. He also stated the funding sources proposed were the only ones available at this time.

Ms. Hogan further stated that discussions with bond counsel indicated that a stadium only bond would likely to be audited. She said it was her recommendation that if the project came in lower than anticipated, that the Southtown Bond would be eliminated first because that one would be purely a stadium bond.

In discussion, Mr. Rocky Vonachen explained their original request over a year and a half ago was for the City to totally fund the cost of a stadium.

Motion to approve the proposed budget and financial plan for a community stadium and shared parking project, and authorize Staff to proceed with implementation was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grieves – 7;

Nays: Ardis, Sandberg, Spears – 3;

Abstention: Nichting - 1.

Council Member Duncan left the Council Chambers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(00-404)

**Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with
REPORT BACK Regarding PARCELS ZONED INCONSISTENTLY with the
Comprehensive Plan and Surrounding Zoning.**

Council Member Spears moved to receive and file the report back regarding parcels zoned inconsistently with the Comprehensive Plan and surrounding zoning; seconded by Council Member Nichting.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor
Grieves – 10;

Nays: None.

Clerk's Note: See Page 24822 for further discussion.

(00-542) Communication from Superintendent of Police Regarding REPORT BACK on NOISE ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS.

Council Member Grayeb moved to receive and file the report back on noise enforcement statistics; seconded by Council Member Nichting.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor
Grieves – 10;

Nays: None.

(00-543) Communication from Superintendent of Police Chief Regarding REPORT BACK on CURFEW DETAIL STATISTICS.

Following a brief comment, Council Member Grayeb moved to receive and file the report back on curfew detail statistics; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor
Grieves – 10;

Nays: None.

Council Member Duncan returned to the Council Chambers.

NEW BUSINESS

(00-576) DISCUSSION REGARDING CRIME IN THE FLORA/ELLIS, WEST BLUFF AND SOUTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOODS, and Requests for Assistance from the City.

Council Member Gibson referred to violent incidents which had occurred in the Ellis and Flora Street area, and she moved to grant Privilege of the Floor to those who wished to address this issue; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

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

Mr. Dave Wentworth 1528 W. Moss Avenue and current Acting President of the West Bluff Council, discussed the long-standing efforts and positive initiatives the residents had been making in targeting the Flora/Ellis neighborhood. He said goals were set to focus on improving the Flora/Ellis neighborhood. He said a fundraiser was held to develop some seed money for a Flora/Ellis Neighborhood Revolving Fund. He said last fall, a safety and policing session was held for the residents, and out of that meeting Operation Hilltop gained momentum. He added that the Flora/Ellis Historic Preservation process was also on-going. He said, currently, they were coordinating with West Bluff Housing Services to target Flora/Ellis for the next area to revitalize, and CIP money had been applied for. He also discussed plans to

walk the neighborhood to generate support for the rehabilitation of the Flora/Ellis area. He said the neighborhood would welcome any suggestions from the City to assist in the stabilization of the Flora/Ellis area.

Ms. Marcella Teplitz, 240 N. E. Randolph, said efforts had been pursued, with success, to acquire property and they had been dealing with owners and absentee owners who were supportive of home ownership opportunities using creating financing. She further discussed the challenges of the neighborhood and requested that the City provide a commitment to assist the West Bluff Council to purchase some of the problem properties. She added the assistance of the City's Administration and Police Department was also requested to continue the crack-down in the Flora and Ellis areas. She said with the right resources, the neighborhood could be renewed with new property owners.

Ms. Carla Denhart, 311 W. Armstrong, said she moved to the West Bluff three years ago. She urged the Council to assist the West Bluff in their revitalization needs. She said the current trend of families moving into this area needed to continue, but there was a concern about crime.

Ms. Katherine Tegard, President of the Flora/Ellis Neighborhood Association, expressed concern about prostitution and drug activity in the neighborhood that occurred every day.

Ms. Velda Vero, 602 W. Armstrong, expressed concern about drugs and crime in the area. She said she and her husband did not want to move from their home. She urged the Council to provide their area with assistance.

Superintendent of Police John Stenson discussed the success of Operation Hilltop and his plan to incorporate a "zero tolerance" plan for the Flora and Ellis area beginning this weekend. He said just a week prior to the recent violence in the neighborhood, the Problem Property Team made a sweep through the neighborhood. He said the "zero tolerance" plan will continue until undesirable behavior was curbed. He said crime was not just a Police Department problem. He encouraged residents to do their part in calling the police when they observe crime. He stressed the importance of their partnership with homeowner associations in the City.

Council Member Duncan stated similar problems were being experienced in the southern portion of the City. He expressed concern that this area may not be as vocal due to the lack of a strong neighborhood organization.

Council Member Thetford also stated there were areas in her District that needed extra Police protection.

Ms. Jule Moore, 1409 W. Millman, stated there were similar problems regarding crime in her neighborhood. She said the residents had worked with the Neighborhood Police Officers but the problems still existed. She said the City needed to assist their neighborhoods also.

Ms. Devon Pierson, 711 S. Matthew, said she was not against the City building a stadium, but she felt the money to be spent for the ball stadium should be invested into the older neighborhoods. She said the City should take care of their problem areas first. She stated there were many areas that needed extra lighting for safety. She urged the States Attorney's Office to prosecute criminals and make them pay for their crimes. She expressed concern for the safety of her children because of crime in the area. She asked the Council to assist the neighborhood.

Ms. Levetta Ricca, 711 S. Greenlawn, said her family had lived on the Southside of Peoria for many generations and people were tired of criminals coming to their neighborhoods. She indicated she felt people of the Southside were treated differently than people from other neighborhoods in the City. She urged the Council to assist the Southside with enforcement of standards set by the City's Code and the Health Department to improve their neighborhoods. She said people on the Southside were tired of requesting assistance from the City. She said people in these neighborhoods were interested in improving their properties but the neighborhoods don't have strong organizations like other neighborhoods. She requested help from the City.

Ms. Virginia Epley, 1837 N. Dechman, expressed concern that her neighborhood had not received assistance from the City that it needed. She urged the City to help residents make their areas better. She also referred to the TIF for the stadium and spoke against the TIF for the Midtown Plaza area.

Mr. John White said the City needed legislation drafted that was less tolerant of neighbors who caused excessive noise and disturbance in neighborhoods. He said he felt this would eventually cause landlords to improve the property and possibly attract better neighbors for the neighborhoods. He requested the City consider his request.

Mr. Dustin discussed his right to speak, how decisions made by Council affected people in the City in the Southtown area, Riverfront parking and parking fees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**(00-404) Communication from Director of Planning and Growth Management with
**** REPORT BACK Regarding PARCELS ZONED INCONSISTENTLY with the
 Comprehensive Plan and Surrounding Zoning, and Request to Begin the Process to
 Begin of Rezoning.**

Council Member Spears moved to reconsider this item; seconded by Council Member Sandberg.

Motion to reconsider was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor
Grieves – 10;

Nays: None.

Clerk's Note: Council Member Duncan did not vote.

Council Member Spears moved to begin the process of rezoning parcels zoned inconsistently with the Comprehensive Plan and surrounding zoning; seconded by Council Member Sandberg.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner,
Mayor Grieves – 11;

Nays: None.

CITIZEN REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

**(00-577) REQUEST from MR. RANDALL EMERT to Address the Council Regarding a
 Request for a STOP SIGN AT W. ANTOINETTE AND S. FOLKERS STREET.**

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

Mr. Randall Emert, 3027 W. Antoinette, expressed concern regarding excessive speeding on Antoinette between Griswold and S. Laramie, which had caused property damage. He requested stop signs be installed at the corner of W. Antoinette Street and S. Folkers Street to make it a four-way stop. He said he would like this installed prior to Manual High School students returning to school. He presented the Council with a Petition supporting a four-way stop bearing 11 signatures.

(00-578) REQUESTS from CITIZENS to Address the Council.

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

Mr. Harry Coons, Perry Street, expressed concern about Bradley's plan for Meinen Field, no one should get free taxes, and the City should provide assistance to low income families.

Mr. Jerry Mays expressed concern about the Police Chief's findings after an investigation of a car stop he was involved in. He said he felt excess force was used by the Police.

Superintendent of Police John Stenson explained that Mr. Mays was stopped by radar for speeding and gave the Police consent to search the car. He said he answered the complaint within the allowed 30 days and a letter was in the process of being mailed to Mr. Mays. He said there was no abuse of police power.

A citizen expressed concern regarding Council action on an Ordinance several weeks ago that did not allow elephant rides. She urged the Council to reconsider the definition of "wild animals" and reverse their Ordinance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(00-579) Consideration of a Motion for the City Council to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION to Discuss 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 Sandberg moved that the Council go into an Executive Session to discuss 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 Morris.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Duncan, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner,
Mayor Grieves – 11;

Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

bb

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