

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, September 26, 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, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Grieves – 10; Absent: Duncan - 1.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**WORD OF THE WEEK “RESPONSIBLE”****MINUTES**

Council Member Nichting moved to approve the Minutes of the Executive Sessions held on September 12 and 19, 2000, and the Regular City Council Meeting held on September 19, 2000, as printed; 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.

**CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE:**

**(00-715) CILCO PRESENTATION Regarding the National Energy Situation as it Pertains to the Increasing Cost of Natural Gas and CILCO’S Community Information Campaign “OPERATION ENERGY SMART.”**

Hearing no objections, Mayor Grieves granted Privilege of the Floor to Mr. Neal Johnson, Legislative and Public Affairs Representative for CILCO.

Mr. Neal Johnson, Legislative Public Affairs Representative for CILCO, distributed a letter and other material regarding Operation Energy Smart to all members of the Council. He said Operation Energy Smart’s objectives were to alert customers to higher prices; to provide information on how citizens could prepare their homes and use less gas; and to alert citizens how CILCO could help with payment arrangements.

Mr. Johnson said the increased costs of natural gas was a national energy situation. He explained what had caused the cost of natural gas to increase. He said there were increased demands and tighter supplies, and because natural gas was an inexpensive fuel, there had not been a lot of exploration. He projected there would be no relief to these higher prices in the near future. He said President Clinton’s announcement regarding the release of strategic oil reserves would not assist those in Central Illinois regarding heating oil prices.

Mr. Johnson further discussed the ever present amount of generation going on, and Illinois plants being developed. He added there was no shortage of natural gas, but CILCO’s costs had gone up and the increase would be passed on to the customers.

Mr. Johnson said natural gas was at the highest cost that he had seen in over 17 years, and he said there may be some relief coming but it would not be in time to help in this year's heating season. He urged the Council to discuss this with all associations they were affiliated with and direct their questions to his Office, if assistance was needed. He said this program was created to alert the citizens and assist the economically challenged. He added that energy tips were available on their web site.

Council Member Nichting suggested this information be included on the Community Bulletin Board to explain how the increased costs would affect citizens and who they could contact at CILCO to answer questions.

City Manager Michael McKnight agreed and said the Public Information Officer would be able to provide this information to the public.

Council Member Nichting moved to receive and file the CILCO presentation; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Gibson, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner,

Mayor Grievs - 10;

Nays: None.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE:**

- (00-716) **TAG DAY REQUEST from the LIONS CLUB OF PEORIA to Hold Their ANNUAL CANDY DAY on October 13, 2000, to Provide Services for the Blind, Visually Handicapped, Deaf and Hearing Impaired. (Date is Open)**
- (00-717) **Communication from Director of Public Works Recommending to Award the BID for Improvements to the LEACHATE COLLECTION SYSTEM at the Peoria City/County Landfill No. 1 to COULTER CONSTRUCTION in the Amount of \$72,300.00.**
- (00-718) **PAYMENT ESTIMATE FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: R.B. GARRETT AVENUE WIDENING IMPROVEMENT (RICHARD ALLEN DR TO WILLIAM KUMPF BLVD) (Widening existing pavement on Garrett Avenue to 55'; New combination concrete curb & gutter, p.c.c. drives and sidewalks; New storm sewers; Replacing existing street lights with combination ornamental/street lighting system; Widening intersection approach at Kumpf Blvd. to match existing pavement; modifying existing traffic signals for new intersection width; and Landscaping parkway with trees and sod.) - R.A. CULLINAN & SON, INC. - PAY ESTIMATE #3 - \$128,000.69; TOTAL AUTHORIZATION APPROVED: \$128,000.69. (For Information Only)**
- (00-719) **Communication from Superintendent of Police Requesting Authorization to Accept the LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT (TECH GRANT V) from the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance in the Amount of \$366,480.00, with a Match of \$40,720.00.**
- (00-720) **Communication from Director of Public Works Requesting Approval of the JOINT AGREEMENT with PEORIA COUNTY for LIGHTING on WILLOW KNOLLS ROAD From Allen to US Route 150 and Request to REPROGRAM FUNDS for the Improvement.**
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- (00-721)      **Communication from Director of Public Works with ORDINANCE Vacating  
\*\* COLLEGE STREET Lying Between University Street and Frink Street and the  
ALLEYS in BLOCKS 9 and 10, All in Underhill and Bourland's Addition.**
- (00-722)      **Communication from Director of Public Works Regarding TECHNOLOGY  
PARKING DECK REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES. (For Information Only)**
- (00-723)      **SITE APPROVAL for a SUBCLASS 1A (2:00 A.M.) LIQUOR LICENSE for 802  
PIONEER PARKWAY, with Recommendation of Liquor Commission to Approve.**
- (00-724)      **REPORTS:**
- A.      CITY TREASURER'S REPORT - August, 2000.**
- B.      AUGUST 2000 REVENUE AND OPERATING EXPENDITURE REPORT  
                 UNAUDITED.**

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

Council Member Nichting requested that Item No. 00-720 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Gibson requested that Item No. 00-721 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Item Nos. 00-716 through 00-724 (excluding Item Nos. 00-720 and 00-721 which were removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

- (00-720)      **Communication from Director of Public Works Requesting Approval of the JOINT  
\* AGREEMENT with PEORIA COUNTY for LIGHTING on WILLOW KNOLLS  
ROAD From Allen to US Route 150 and Request to REPROGRAM FUNDS for the  
Improvement.**

Following a brief clarification regarding the improvements, Council Member Nichting moved to approve the joint agreement with Peoria County for lighting on Willow Knolls Road from Allen Road to US Route 150, and approve the request to reprogram funds for the improvement; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

- (00-721)      **Communication from Director of Public Works with ORDINANCE Vacating  
\*\* COLLEGE STREET Lying Between University Street and Frink Street and the  
ALLEYS in BLOCKS 9 and 10, All in Underhill and Bourland's Addition.**

Council Member Gibson said she would be abstaining from the vote due to her employment with Bradley University.

Council Member Nichting moved to adopt the Ordinance vacating College Street lying between University Street and Frink Street and the alleys in Blocks 9 and 10, all in Underhill and Bourland's Addition; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,008 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Thetford, Turner,  
Mayor Grieves – 9;

Nays: None;

Abstention: Gibson – 1.

**(00-725) Communication from Corporation Counsel with ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 3 of the Code of the City of Peoria Relating to Alcoholic Beverages Lowering the Minimum Occupancy Requirement from 5,000 to 1,500 persons of an Assembly Hall or Stadium as defined under Definitions in Section 3-1.**

Council Member Turner moved to adopt the Ordinance amending Chapter 3 of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to Alcoholic Beverages lowering the minimum occupancy requirement from 5,000 to 1,500 persons of an Assembly Hall or Stadium as defined under definitions in Section 3-1; seconded by Council Member Morris.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,009 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(00-726) Communication from Finance Director/Comptroller with ORDINANCE Amending the BUDGET for Fiscal Year 2000 of the City of Peoria Relating to RIVERFRONT PARKING FEES.**

Council Member Grayeb moved to defer this item for two weeks until the October 10, 2000, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Motion to defer this item until October 10, 2000, was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**(00-075) Communication from Corporation Counsel Recommending Approval of the  
(00-140) Following:**

**A. ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 28 of the Code of the City of Peoria Regarding CITY PARKING LOTS, DECKS, and GARAGES;**

Council Member Grayeb moved to adopt the Ordinance amending Chapter 28 of the Code of the City of Peoria regarding City Parking Lots, Decks and Garages; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Sandberg referred to Page 2 of the Ordinance and requested a friendly amendment to change the word "shall" to "may" in the first line of (c).

Council Member Grayeb, the maker of the motion, and the seconder agreed to the friendly amendment.

Motion to adopt ORDINANCE NO. 15,010 amending Chapter 28 of the Code of the City of Peoria regarding City Parking Lots, Decks and Garages, as amended, to change the word "shall" to "may" in the first line of (c) on Page 2 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**B. RESOLUTION Regarding PARKING RATES at CITY-OWNED AND/OR OPERATED PARKING FACILITIES and Superseding Resolution No. 00-075-A.; Waiving Charges in City Parking Lots, Decks and Garages after 5:00 p.m. on Weekdays, Weekends, and City Holidays; and a \$4.00 Parking Fee for Special Events which Special Events are Anticipated to Generate Attendance of at Least 500 People, with the Rates set into Effect Immediately; OR**

Corporation Counsel Randy Ray distributed a replacement Resolution to all members of the City Council. He explained the distributed Resolution reflected that the Twin Towers Jefferson, Niagara, Technology Center and River Center Parking Decks would remain subject to charges after 5:00 P.M. on weekdays, weekends and City holidays. He recommended that since the proposed Ordinance amending the Budget, regarding parking fees, had been deferred, this item should be deferred also.

Council Member Grayeb moved to defer this item for two weeks until the October 10, 2000, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Nichting.

Council Member Nichting requested a caveat that when this item came back before the Council, Staff should review Special Service Districts of all forms and special types.

Motion to defer this item until October 10, 2000 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**C. RESOLUTION Regarding PARKING RATES at CITY-OWNED AND/OR OPERATED PARKING FACILITIES and Superseding Resolution No. 00-075-A.; Waiving Charges in City Parking Lots, Decks and Garages after 5:00 p.m. on Weekdays, Weekends, and City Holidays; and a \$4.00 Parking Fee for Special Events which Special Events are Anticipate to Generate Attendance of at Least 500 People, with the Rates Effective January 1, 2001.**

Corporation Counsel Randy Ray distributed a replacement Resolution to all members of the City Council. He explained the distributed Resolution reflected that the Twin Towers Jefferson, Niagara, Technology Center and River Center Parking Decks would remain subject to charges after 5:00 P.M. on weekdays, weekends and City holidays.

Council member Grayeb moved to defer this item for two weeks until the October 10, 2000, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Nichting requested a caveat that when this item came back before the Council, Staff should review Special Service Districts of all forms and special types.

Motion to defer this item until October 10, 2000 was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(00-653) Communication from Director of Public Works Regarding SEARS BLOCK  
DEMOLITION – REPORT BACK.**

In discussion with Council Member Ardis regarding cost savings in demolishing the deck in the near future and demolishing the building later versus demolishing the entire facility at one time, Director of Public Works Steve Van Winkle stated he would have to come back to Council regarding the specific information. He said he had the costs on removing the deck as one cost item and the cost of the building as a separate cost, but he said he did not raise the issue with his Staff to determine if there would be any cost savings by demolishing both concurrently. He said there may be some savings, but he requested more time in order to fully answer the question.

Council Member Ardis moved to defer this item for two weeks until the October 10, 2000, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Mayor Grieves said he felt the time to demolish the facility would be during the winter months so summer events and traffic on the Riverfront would not be disrupted.

Mr. Van Winkle said in order to take advantage of the T21 money which had been allocated for the Sears Block, a plan or report would need to be developed and submitted to I.D.O.T. for State and Federal scrutiny that would present the demolition as Phase I of the ultimate redevelopment of the Sears Block, and request for them to allow T21 funds to be used for this purpose. He said this process would take some time, maybe some months to have everything cleared and ready to proceed for the money to be available. He said it may be late winter or early spring before the work could begin.

Mr. McKnight said it seemed that the Sears Block had turned into a phased project, when initially the need for the T21 money was more immediate. He added, because of this change, the phased project would have to be approved.

Council Member Thetford requested clarification on several items when the report back came back to the Council. She said she assumed there was \$2 million in T21 funds that could be devoted to this project and she needed this information, and further clarification and costs regarding 1., 2. and 3. as outlined in the communication.

Executive Director of Riverfront Development Tom Tincher said T21 funds were received to assist in the construction of a parking deck for 1500 spaces, and the \$3 million would be for costs associated with that. He said if the project was to be phased, the application would have to be redefined regarding the demolition.

Mayor Grieves stated the Council would have to determine whether or not the Sears Building should be demolished.

Council Member Morris said because of the change of leadership of the Riverfront Commission and the upcoming Sears Block project, a re-evaluation of the Riverfront Commission's role was needed. He questioned when the City would be entertaining suggestions from the development community regarding the future of the Sears Block.

Mr. McKnight said he felt the City should proceed with caution because the City needed to make certain approval was granted for the money and then move toward demolition. He indicated the money was originally for building a parking deck, and if the change was not approved, he was concerned about liability if the project moved faster than the approval.

Mayor Grieves, in discussion with Council Member Spears, suggested either the Council hold a Policy Session regarding the Sears Block and discuss who would be driving the project, or hold a joint meeting with the Riverfront Commission to discuss these issues. He added this meeting should be held in the next couple of weeks.

Motion to defer this item for two weeks until the October 10, 2000, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **(00-727) Discussion Regarding a Letter from a Citizen About PARKING FINES on the RIVERFRONT.**

Council Member Nichting stated that a letter had been received from a concerned citizen regarding parking fees on the Riverfront. He explained the citizen had parked in one of the City lots and received a \$5.00 parking fine, and he requested more information.

Mr. Randy Greer, Manager of the National Garages, explained the individual was parked after 11:00 p.m. and the amount of the fine was actually \$2.75. He said this was an honor system and there was a box available for them to pay their fine. He added that he would be glad to reply to this person to explain further.

Council Member Thetford requested that Mr. Van Winkle review this situation. She suggested that there may be an issue of the amount owed after 11:00 p.m. She said she felt this could be made more clear.

#### **(00-728) APPLICATION for CLASS “H” TEMPORARY OUTDOOR LIQUOR LICENSE for ILLINOIS VALLEY STRIDERS for OCTOBER 1, 2000.**

Corporation Counsel Randy Ray distributed a copy of this communication to all members of the Council.

Council Member Turner moved to approve the application for a Class “H” Temporary Outdoor Liquor License for Illinois Valley Striders for October 1, 2000; seconded by Council Member Grayeb.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

### **COMMENTS Regarding IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ENTRYWAY INTO THE CITY ON ADAMS STREET**

Council Member Morris referred to the improvements to the entryway into the City on Adams Street in the First District, and he pointed out this had occurred without City participation. He commended the Southside Business Association, and the businesses in this area.

Council Member Turner commended Council Member Grayeb regarding his persistence in this matter over the past couple of years.

**COMMENTS Regarding the TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
CONFERENCE Held on SEPTEMBER 25, 2000**

Mayor Grieves referred to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Conference held on September 25, 2000, at Wildlife Prairie Park, and he said an interesting presentation was made by Mr. David Rusk. He thanked the Commission for the invitation.

**COMMENTS Regarding CITY ASSISTANCE in Encouraging INVESTMENT IN OLDER  
NEIGHBORHOODS**

Council Member Grayeb expressed concern that some long-time and dedicated neighborhood advocates were leaving their older neighborhoods and moving to other parts of the City. He questioned how the City could assist and encourage investment by citizens in older neighborhoods.

City Manager Michael McKnight reminded the Council about the Workshop that would be presented by the City of Peoria Department of Economic Development on September 27, 2000, in the Council Chambers, at 10:00 A.M. to inform all banks, mortgage companies, and lending institutions in the Peoria area of available financial assistance for new or expanding businesses or the purchasing of homes in the Peoria area. He indicated he felt this would address Council Member Grayeb's concerns.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**(00-729) Consideration of a Motion for the City Council to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION to Discuss 2(c)(6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.**

Council Member Morris moved that the Council go into an Executive Session to discuss 2(c)(6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; 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.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

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