

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

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held at Workforce Development, 211 Fulton Street, Suite 300, Room 338, Executive Board Room, Peoria, Illinois, on Saturday, April 3, 2004, at 8:30 A.M., Mayor David P. Ransburg presiding, proper notice having been given.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Council Members present: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris (arrived at 8:37 A.M.), Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz (8:34 A.M.), Thetford (arrived at 9:02 A.M.), Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11; Absent: None.

Also present at the meeting were City Manager Randy Oliver, Assistant City Manager Alan Pennington, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray, Human Resources Director Pat Parsons, City Clerk Mary Haynes, Joan Schaumburg from the Clerk's Office, Members of the Police and Fire Departments, Rosalie Walker, representing the Neighborhoods, and Members of the Media.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS

- (04-124) **Requesting Approval 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, of deliberations concerning 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 Nichting moved for the City Council to go into Executive Session to Discuss To Discuss 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, of deliberations concerning 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 Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 8;

Nays: None.

The audience was asked to leave before the Executive Session began.

The City Council went into Executive Session at 8:32A.M. During the Executive Session, Council Member Morris arrived at 8:37 A.M.; Council Member Teplitz arrived at 8:34 A.M.; and Council Member Thetford arrived at 9:02 A.M.

The Executive Session adjourned at 9:28 A.M.

RECONVENING of the SPECIAL MEETING

City Clerk Mary Haynes noted the following members present: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11; Absent: None.

The Special City Council Meeting reconvened at 10:02 A.M.

**(04-125) Consideration and Possible Action Pursuant to 5 ILCS 315/14(n)
Concerning Illinois State Labor Relations Board Interest Arbitration
Opinion and Award Regarding Police Residency.**

Council Member Teplitz moved, pursuant to Section 14(n) of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act, to reject the decision of the Arbitration Panel in Case No. ISLRB Case S-MA-02-106, (the Police residency arbitration) with reasons for such rejection to be considered and voted upon by The City Council at its April 20, 2004, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Morris, Sandberg, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg - 7;

Nays: Ardis, Grayeb, Nichting, Spears – 4.

Human Resources Director Pat Parson and Members of the Police and Fire Departments left the meeting.

(04-126) CITY COUNCIL RETREAT to Set GOALS and OBJECTIVES for the City of Peoria.

City Manager Randy Oliver distributed the following packets: 1) A Preliminary Draft for the City of The Peoria Strategic Plan 2003-2008-2020; 2) City of Peoria – Goals and Objectives; and 3) The Peoria City Government Plan and gave a Power Point presentation.

City Manger Oliver said during the past few weeks, the City had implemented some training classes to help refine Information Systems and update the City's Web Site. He said some of the programs he would like to have implemented were a Paperless Agenda; E-payments; the use of Bar Coding; the Automatic Vehicle Locator in the Police Department; Enhance Financial Reporting; the use of ADSi; Imageforce Mug Shot System; and PDAs.

City Manager Oliver said, with Council approval, he would like to provide the City with a Newsletter highlighting City services and ongoing projects.

Discussion was held regarding the use of 494-CARE. City Manager Oliver said he would encourage citizens to call the 494-CARE directly with any complaints and concerns so their calls could be tracked. Council Members agreed they would like to be notified immediately by E-mail or City voice-mail regarding any problems within their districts. Some Council Members expressed concern that by having citizens call the CARE line directly, department heads would be insulated and unaware of problems in their department, but City Manager Oliver said this would not happen.

City Manager Oliver stated he felt consideration needed to be given for a long-term strategy regarding a branding campaign for the City so citizens and outsiders could identify the logo with the City. Some Council Members suggested utilizing pamphlets focusing on the neighborhoods, but the majority felt this was not a priority at this time.

City Manager Oliver said he felt the level of Customer Service could be improved, and stated the City had held training sessions on Conflict Resolutions to help in this area. He explained the City would be engaging in "mystery shopping" whereby someone would contact a City employee and be difficult on purpose to see how the employee would react to the situation. The City would study the feedback from these encounters and schedule the necessary training.

City Manager Oliver said the City would like to create 200 new jobs and conduct 200 business retention visits, whereby the City would contact businesses, listen to their concerns, and work out ways to help those businesses expand. He added the City would be working with six new businesses that had opened in the City to help with any problems they might encounter. Mr. Oliver added the City needed to assist the Civic Center with their expansion and ensure adequate hotel space for all their activities, which would mean an increase in tourism revenue for the City.

Council Member Gulley suggested the City not put the smaller businesses on the back burner and to include them as part of the business retention strategy.

City Manager Oliver said if the City wanted to have a successful business retention strategy, it Staff needed to get involved to make it a team effort.

A suggestion was made that the City review their funds to ensure the necessary resources were available to operate the City regarding the issue of terrorism and educational needs.

In reference to the Growth Cells, City Manager Oliver said Cell One continued to grow with expansion and annexation; property owners concerns needed to be addressed in Cell Two; and a request for a Contract to develop a study to analyze strategy for Growth Cell Three was coming to Council on April 6th and would include the issue of funding sewer expansion in that area. Mr. Oliver added that the Council needed to apply for federal and state funding for the extension of Pioneer Parkway.

City Manager Oliver informed the Council that the creation of the Med/Tech District Commission was completed, and the next step would be to complete the Master Plan for that District. He informed the Council that he had received notification that the City had moved to Stage II in the grant process, which meant the government was ready to obligate the \$2 million dollars. He added, they had requested certain information be returned to their office by April 19, 2004

Mr. Oliver said one of the requirements of the EDA Grant was to negotiate a management agreement as it related to incubators in the Med/Tech District. He said an architect firm had been selected and they would like to break ground by the end of 2004. Mr. Oliver said he assured the architects the City would do what they could to support them and were working with a number of new and existing businesses in the area to help achieve this goal.

City Manager Oliver said the City needed to create a Downtown Business Association or reenergize the one that existed. He said he had met with the representatives of the Mayor's Commission for the Handicapped and one of their major concerns was people parking in handicap parking spaces. He said the City would establish a Block Captain Program by having individuals canvass the area every week to identify problems within that block that the City needed to bring to the property owners attention.

Mr. Oliver said the City would also start implementing a Traffic Plan, which included placing diagonal parking along Madison and Fulton Streets and condense those streets to two lanes.

There was some discussion regarding how the parking spaces in the museum area would be monitored without losing revenue for the Civic Center. City Manager Oliver said he did not want to divert a lot of traffic from the parking decks back out onto the street.

Council Member Nichting said if the City maxed out the capacity of the parking decks, they would risk the possibility of cannibalizing those revenue streams and then the City would need to take additional money out of the general fund to carry the parking decks. In response, City Manager Oliver said this would not happen if meter management was handled properly.

City Manager Oliver said members of the Heart of Peoria Committee would be appointed within the next few weeks, and it was suggested the City have some of those members monitor the handicapped parking spaces and issue tickets to violators.

City Manager Oliver said he felt the Fire and Emergency Services Study should be a priority. He said since there was no system currently in place to check water hydrants, he would like the City to implement a spot testing program to ensure the water pressure was working and all valves were functioning properly. He said he would contact the Water Company to determine what their responsibility was, if any, regarding this issue.

City Manager Oliver said the City would also visit commercial establishments and senior citizens facilities and review their fire drill regulations. The Council agreed the bottom line was to make sure fire hydrants were in proper working condition at all times.

Council Member Ardis inquired if there would be a new fire-training academy at ICC, and, in response, City Manager Oliver said he had been informed by ICC's president that the plan was to utilize the present fire training academy.

City Manager Oliver stated IDOT's design for the "S" curve was about 80% completed, and if the City intended to deal with the drainage issue, a plan would need to be devised for funding of a stormwater system in that area.

In discussion, the City Manager Oliver determined the City Council would like to hold a policy session regarding the "S" curve and invite IDOT to attend the session and provide feedback regarding the scope of services needed regarding the Southern Gateway and the "S" curve projects. The Council also suggested the City invite Senator Shadid to the Policy Session.

City Manager Oliver he would like to see Part 1 Crimes in the City be reduced by 2%, implement AVL locators and an automated system for tickets in the Police Department. He said the Council might want to consider adopting a Parental Responsibility Ordinance stating that parents needed to be more involved with their children's lives. He said the City would work with the community to help bring this item forward. City Manager Oliver suggested establishing a boot camp to deal with certain youth issues, which would be a coordinated effort between the City, the State, the Sheriff's Office and the Court System.

Several Council Members agreed the Police needed to write more ordinance violations tickets for speeding, running stop signs, noise and littering, which seemed to be the major complaints from citizens and be zero tolerant. It was stated that violations were identified to Police Officers, and they were not being addressed.

The Council further agreed that littering was a major concern throughout the City and catching the perpetrators was extremely difficult. Some Members cited drug dealing as another major concern that needed to be addressed by the Police Officers. It was suggested activating the Bounty System to help catch the violators.

The City Manager assured the Council that on Monday morning they would see a dramatic change in those areas. He explained the Police could not catch every violator, but he felt one way to try and solve these problems was to arrest a high percentage of the violators and make the rest of the people more honest.

Mayor Ransburg said a program called "zero tolerance" was practiced by some major cities where trivial matters were addressed by charging the violators a large fine and jailing others. He said the system carried a message that City officials would not tolerate any type of violations thereby reducing the number of violations.

City Manager Oliver said the City needed to keep statistics on the number of tickets written by the Police for each month and post the list in the roll call room so everyone would be aware of their progress.

In response to inquiries by some Council Members regarding the issue of littering, City Manager Oliver said the City had hired people to supervise community service people on the week-ends to help with picking up litter at some of the major focal points throughout the City.

Council Member Gulley said he felt the City needed to review restructuring of the POP implementation plan so the full impact of the team could be established. He said one of the main problems was violators were aware of the scheduled hours the team would be in the area.

Council Members said it was their preference that department heads utilize the e-mail, the City's voice mail or text-message system when communicating with them. They said they felt the City Manager's weekly Issues Updates were very informative.

Council Member Turner requested a copy of the City Manager's Overhead Power Point Demonstration be sent to all Council Members. The City Manager concurred.

City Manager Oliver said he felt it would be beneficial for the City Council to hold Regular City Council Meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month, and two Policy Sessions, held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. He said if Council agreed to this plan, the dates of the liquor hearing would need to be changed so no businesses would be delayed.

In response to Council Member Sandberg's inquiry if Council agreed to the proposed plan, could they receive their agenda packets two days in advance to have more time to review the information, City Manager Oliver said he would need to meet with the City Clerk to work out some details, but he thought a day could be possible, and not any sooner.

City Clerk Mary Haynes said if the agenda was prepared a day earlier, it would present certain scheduling problems. She further explained advisory votes would be more efficient since that would show the will of the Council and could result in more condensed minutes.

Mayor Ransburg said there was an updated list of issues that he felt needed to be discussed in Policy Sessions.

City Manager Oliver said he would like to begin having the two regular meetings and two policy sessions in May, 2004. He said this would give him a chance to work out some of the details with staff.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by viva voce vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 P.M.

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

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