

**MINUTES OF THE MAJORITY OF THE QUORUM  
OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS  
AT AN  
OPEN TOWN MEETING**

A Majority of the Quorum of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, attended a Town Hall Meeting that was held at Rave Theater, Shoppes of Grand Prairie, 5311 American Prairie Drive, Peoria, Illinois, on May 3, 2004, beginning at 6:40 P.M.

In attendance were: Mayor David P. Ransburg, Council Members Ardis, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Turner – 6. Those not in attendance were Council Members Gulley, Grayeb, Morris, Thetford and Teplitz - 5.

Also in attendance were City Manager Randy Oliver; Director of Planning and Growth Management, Patricia Landes; Interim Police Chief Gary Poynter; Lt. Phil Benne; Captain Ron Shipp, Peoria Police Department; John Kunski, Director of Inspections; Kent Tomblin, Assistant Fire Chief; Terry Dunne and Tony Ardis, Fire Department; Karie Friling, Assistant, Director of Economic Development; Stephen Van Winkle, Director of Public Works; Alma Brown, Public Information Officer; and City Clerk Mary Haynes.

Also in attendance were Stan Browning, Sanitary District; Chuck Kreie, Traffic Commission; City Treasurer Reginald Willis; Michael Maloof, member of the Heart of Peoria Commission; former Council Members Lester Bergsten, Bruce Brown, and James Polk; retired Judge Kaufman; approximately 60 interested citizens and a representative of the media.

Council Member Nichting welcomed the people and introduced Mayor Ransburg, Council Members Ardis, Spears, Sandberg and Turner, and City Manager Randy Oliver. He stated this would be a town meeting with questions from the audience and there would be no need for note cards.

Mayor Ransburg then welcomed the people and stated the Council was coming to every District with the objective to communicate to, listen and to find out concerns. He said it was an opportunity to have citizens meet the new City Manager, Randy Oliver. He said it was important for the Council to listen to what citizens liked and disliked and answer questions.

City Manager Randy Oliver gave a brief overview of the City in a slide presentation (on file in the Clerk's Office). A summary of the initial presentation followed: Mr. Oliver explained that out of the tax money on a \$100,000 house, 12% or \$316 went for City services. He added, \$231 or 9% went for Park District, the County utilized \$286 or 10%, and "other" was \$253 or 10%. He said that schools, District #150 and ICC, received 59% or \$1,554. He said that 12% provided Police, Fire, Public Works, and other City services. He said out of approximately \$97 million in operating revenue, 20% came from property tax and 39% came from sales tax. The remaining, he said, came from other sources. He added, on the expenditure side, 29% went for Police, 22% for Public Works and 20% for Fire, with the remainder for support services.

Mr. Oliver explained some of the City's strategies, such as the Business Development fund Loans, the Enterprise Zone and the City's three-cell growth strategy. He spoke of the Medical Technology District and how the research of Caterpillar, the Ag Lab, the hospitals and Bradley University may be put to commercial use through the Med/Tech District. He further discussed progress on a non-lead battery and how that might be capitalized.

**PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE MAJORITY OF THE QUORUM OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, AT A TOWN MEETING -2- May 3, 2004**

He further explained the O'Brien Stadium project that leveraged \$6.5 Million for every \$1 the City contributed and he reminded the citizens that the City did not own the palm trees planted each year by the Chiefs owners.

Mr. Oliver addressed the Heart of Peoria Plan and stated it recommended connectivity to the neighborhoods and increased density downtown. He explained that the Heart of Peoria Commission had been appointed. He added the plan is to make the downtown pedestrian friendly.

Mr. Oliver explained the Museum Block and how that synergy with Caterpillar will allow the citizens to create a memory of going downtown for their children. He stated attendance was projected to be 200,000 people yearly.

Mr. Oliver addressed the fine work PAWS does and stated we need an effective way of promoting responsible pet ownership. He then gave Code Enforcement statistics (on file in the Clerk's office) and said the Fifth District has about 3.64% of the inspections. Mr. Oliver spoke about the work program in the Public Works Department and stated that Charter Oak was on the project boards in the 70's and will be completed in 2005 at a cost of \$25.5 million. Mr. Oliver added that there is an on-going study regarding fire location and equipment deployment and the recommendation from that study should come to Council shortly.

Mr. Oliver spoke about crime statistics and traffic enforcement statistics. He said that some states have cameras at intersections to curtail running red lights, but Illinois has not adopted that. He mentioned Peoria is getting a vehicle locator system so the Police Department will know where every vehicle is deployed. He spoke about the NEAT teams that sweep neighborhoods for cleanup and maintenance purposes and he explained the Peoria Cares system, a one-stop shop for citizens who call in with questions, needs, or complaints. Mr. Oliver explained the new structure of City Council Meetings, whereby the Council would have regular business meetings the first and third Tuesdays in Council Chambers and would conduct study and policy sessions on the second and fourth Tuesdays in Room 404, unless the crowd necessitated going into the larger Council Chambers. He added there would be no final action, only advisory votes. Mr. Oliver's PowerPoint presentation covered statistics on all City Departments and is on file in the Clerks' Office.

Council Member Turner left the auditorium at approximately 7:05 P.M.

At 7:16 P.M. Council Member Nichting answered questions from the audience.

Regarding the timeframe for Allen Road from Alta on, Council Member Nichting stated that an experiment was tried, but failed. He added, the road would be blacktopped eventually. Director of Public Works Steven Van Winkle explained that the contractor understands his obligation and the road should be done by the end of summer.

Regarding the odd intersection at Allen and Alta, Mr. Van Winkle explained the State owns part of that, but the City is working with both the State and the County and will likely be given the North/South piece, while the County gets the East/West piece. He said work is being considered, but there is little money for construction.

**PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE MAJORITY OF THE QUORUM OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, AT A TOWN MEETING -3- May 3, 2004**

Regarding traffic patterns and speed limits on Route 150 from Glen on out, Mr. Van Winkle explained the City has tried various means of traffic calming.

Interim Police Chief Poynter stated that he would increase enforcement in this area.

Frostwood Parkway was cited as another street where speeding is rampant, and Interim Police Chief Poynter stated he would work with the traffic lieutenant to increase enforcement.

Council Member Nichting explained the various enforcement tools the City uses such as radar, speed trailers and deploying manpower.

A citizen inquired what steps could be taken to assist traffic to stay right down Allen Road toward War Memorial Drive. He said it is difficult to get out of the condominiums from Carriage Lane to Northmoor, and wanted a "keep right" sign installed.

Council Member Ardis left the auditorium at approximately 7:30 P.M.

Discussion was held regarding placing stoplights at both ends of Idyllbrook Subdivision because traffic has increased. Council Member Nichting stated there would be a traffic analysis done and a decision will soon be made. Director of Public Works, Steve Van Winkle, explained traffic along Route 150 has increased and lights are needed at almost every entrance, but everyone agrees that lights cannot be placed at every one. Therefore, he said, the traffic analysis would assist the City in making good decisions about placement.

Discussion was held regarding increased traffic and the need to decrease speed allowances in the encompassing areas around Allen Road and War Memorial Drive, as well as Pioneer Parkway, and Council Member Nichting stated these areas will be analyzed as well and appropriate decisions will be forthcoming.

Regarding whether the property tax base will continue to increase over the next few years, City Manager Randy Oliver stated the City would continue to work to accomplish that. He stated the City needs to stimulate growth. He reiterated that the taxes in the growth area do not benefit District #150.

Regarding the issue of a garbage fee versus a tax, Mr. Oliver explained that this system benefited City businesses, and the intent was to keep business in Peoria and not raise their taxes. The citizen stated he understood that was a good decision.

In discussion regarding the benefits of the growth cells, Council Member Nichting pointed out the increased EAV allowed the City to provide services throughout the City.

A concerned citizen requested information about the policy of the City in cutting trees when developments occur. She pointed out the many trees that have been cut near Williamsburg, Route 150 and Allen Road. Council Member Nichting reported that the City had recently adopted a tree ordinance that should assist in this problem.

Council Member Sandberg pointed out this ordinance would not apply to single family residences.

**PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE MAJORITY OF THE QUORUM OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, AT A TOWN MEETING -4- May 3, 2004**

Discussion was held regarding incentives for businesses to rehab their existing buildings rather than building new buildings, moving and abandoning the older buildings. Council Member Nichting pointed out that free market enterprise was the best way to handle this. He added, this gives other businesses opportunities to use the older buildings.

Discussion was also held regarding the area on Allen Road to the Wal-Mart and Council Member Nichting stated that because of the Wal-Mart Development, there is a donut hole in what property is owned by the State and what the City owns. He said this would force the State to reprioritize the upgrade of that road. Mr. Van Winkle explained that because of I-74, it may be 2007 or 2008 before the gap is filled in.

Regarding the extension of Pioneer Parkway, Mr. Van Winkle reported Congressman LaHood is assisting the City in accessing pockets of money for certain expenditures, but the project is estimated at \$35 million, so the City needs a big boost to gain access to enough money to complete this project.

A discussion was held regarding traffic and sewer access in the Wilhelm, Trails Edge and Radnor areas. Radnor was reported to be becoming a speed zone. Council Member Nichting gave an overview of the sanitary sewer issues in that area.

Regarding Charter Oak Road and Big Hollow, Director of Public Works Steve Van Winkle stated that Big Hollow is closed for good for all practical purposes. He said there will be travel on the new road in 2004, and the bridge and some other improvements will be completed in 2005.

Regarding the problems with Grandview Hotel and the old Murphy's restaurant, Council Member Nichting acknowledged there were problem landlords. He recited steps that had been taken, such as fire code inspections, etc. He added, he hoped the buildings would be redeveloped soon, but some of the issues preventing a sale or reuse of the property are in Federal Court.

Regarding fire service in the area, Council Member Nichting recounted some of the steps in building Fire House #21 and relocating Fire Station #19. He added, the City saved over \$800,000 by taking some of these steps. City Manager Randy Oliver stated the City needs an overall strategy for the next 10-20 years, and he is bringing the results of a study to the City Council in May.

Regarding the condition of University from Pioneer Parkway to Northmoor, Director Van Winkle explained there had been some rehabilitation work done on University. Mr. Van Winkle acknowledged that it would be good if the City could provide overlay; but right now, that cannot be done.

Regarding adding new businesses to that area, Council Member Nichting reported that there are some new businesses moving to that area.

Regarding a compliment for the landscaping at War Memorial and Knoxville, Director Van Winkle acknowledged the work of the Park District and volunteers in keeping this area attractive, in spite of budget reductions.

**PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE MAJORITY OF THE QUORUM OF THE CITY  
COUNCIL OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, AT A TOWN MEETING -5- May 3, 2004**

Mayor Ransburg discussed the incubator that is coming to the Med/Tech District and the trip to Madison, Wisconsin, where some of the Council witnessed their incubator. He said this is the wave of the future, although it will take awhile to grow.

Mr. Bill Collier, former Superintendent of Dunlap School District, urged the Mayor and Council to be careful when discussing the budgetary woes of District #150 and the impact of the Growth Cells on the tax distribution. He said the Council should not pit one district against another, but work for the good of all. As one citizen pointed out, his house is worth much more by being in Dunlap School District and that means income for the City.

Regarding the impact of Elliot's on the neighborhood (University), Interim Chief Poynter stated that deployment depends upon crime and changing events. He added, it is too early to tell what impact this business will have on the area, but the Police Department will be responsive to changes.

Director of Planning and Growth Management, Patricia Landes, urged those present to answer their census questionnaire when it comes. She reported that, thanks to Council Member William Spear's suggestion, the Council approved a Special Census and it was projected to bring in \$1.9 million.

Regarding merging the City and County functions, City Manager Randy Oliver pointed out that he has a good working relationship with County Administrator Patrick Urich and that the City and Council cooperate on many functions, such as snow removal, traffic signals, and ESDA.

Council Member Nichting thanked those attending and thanked the staff for their input.

Seeing no one else wished to address the gathering, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

---

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