

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

A Special Joint Meeting of the City Council and Town Board of Peoria, Illinois, was held on Monday, November 3, 2008, at 6:20 P.M., City Hall, Room 400, Council Chambers, 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois, with proper notice having been given for the purpose of discussing the 2009 City of Peoria Budget, with Mayor Jim Ardis presiding.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following Council Members physically present: Gulley, Manning, Montelongo, Nichting, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis – 10; Jacob (attending by electronic means) - 1; Absent: None.

Others present at the Special Meeting were: Interim City Manager Henry Holling, Senior Staff Attorney Kimberly King, Communications Manager Alma Brown, Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins, Budget Coordinator Jan Little, Acting City Engineer Nick Stoffer, Superintendent of Operations and Maintenance Bob Tyler, Operations and Maintenance Engineer Steve Myers, Senior Civil Engineer Jane Gerdes, Civil Engineer Scott Reeise, Public Works Streets & Sewers Manager David Haste, Public Works Fleet Manager Bob Williams, Traffic Operations Manager Craig Espinoza, Acting Director of Human Resources/Labor Relations Manager Joe Smith, Patient Advocate/Human Resources Coordinator Janet Tomlins, Risk Manager Ed Hopkins, Director of Planning and Growth Management Pat Landes, Assistant Director of Planning and Growth Management Ross Black, Senior Urban Planner Kim Smith, Director of Economic Development Craig Hullinger, Fire Chief Kent Tomblin, Director of the Peoria Animal Welfare Shelter Lauren Malmberg, Police Chief Steven Settingsgaard, Assistant Police Chief Phil Korem, Information Systems Director Cathy Roger, ECC Manager David Tuttle, Director of Inspections John Kunski, Code Enforcement Manager Linda Lard, Six Sigma Black Belt Chris Setti, EOO Manager David Watkins, Police Fiscal Affairs Marsha Walraven, Supervisor of General Assistance Joe Whalen, Town Assessor Bonnie Gavin, Township Attorney Bill Conner, City Treasurer Reginald Willis, City Clerk Mary Haynes, Chief Deputy City Clerk Beth Ball, members of the media, and interested citizens.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ardis requested a moment of silent prayer or silent reflection and he requested that the family of Illinois Senator Barack Obama be remembered due to the passing of his grandmother, and the family of Illinois Senator Dick Durbin be remembered due to the passing of his daughter this week. Mayor Ardis then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY & TOWN OF PEORIA****(08-559) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding a PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY INCREASE for the City of Peoria for 2008.**

Council Member Nichting moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Property Tax Levy Increase for the City of Peoria for 2008; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ardis opened the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing opened at 6:24 P.M.

Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins explained the proposed levy exceeded a 5% increase, so a Truth in Taxation Hearing was required. He stated the Notice for the Public Hearing was published in the Peoria Journal Star on Sunday, November 2, 2008.

Following the third call by Mayor Ardis for citizens to address the City Council and after determining that no one wished to address this issue, Council Member Nichting moved to close the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Property Tax Levy Increase for the City of Peoria for 2008; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ardis closed the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:27 P.M.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**(08-556)      Communication from the Interim City Manager and Corporation Counsel Requesting the Council to Take Action on an ORDINANCE Setting COMPENSATION for ELECTED OFFICIALS of the CITY of PEORIA, and an ORDINANCE Setting COMPENSATION for Certain ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS, with SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM and REPLACEMENT ORDINANCE. (Motion on the Floor.)**

Council Member Spears distributed a replacement Ordinance setting compensation for City Elected Officials and a replacement Ordinance setting compensation for Certain Elected Town Officials to all members of the City Council.

Council Member Spears explained the replacement Ordinance setting compensation for City Elected Officials would freeze the Mayor's salary and District Council Members' salaries until 2010. He said beginning in 2010, the District Council Members' salaries would increase to \$14,000 per year and the Mayor's salary would increase to \$32,400 per year.

Council Member Spears moved for a substitute motion to adopt the replacement Ordinance setting compensation for City Elected Officials of the City of Peoria; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 16,351 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Montelongo, Nichting, Spain, Spears, Turner, Mayor Ardis – 7;

Nays: Jacob, Manning, Sandberg, Van Auken - 4.

Council Member Spears moved to adopt the replacement Ordinance setting compensation for certain Elected Town Officials; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 16,352 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Jacob, Manning, Montelongo, Nichting, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis – 10;

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

**(08-356)      Communication from the Interim City Manager Regarding Continued  
DISCUSSION of the City of Peoria Community Investment Plan Issues  
Related to the Development of the Proposed 2009 Budget and Review of  
Current Capital Projects, with Public Comment Relating to the Budget. No  
Final Action will be Taken.**

Interim City Manager Henry Holling distributed 15 Staff Reports emanating from the October 21, 2008, City Council Meeting relating to the 2009 City of Peoria Budget to all members of the City Council.

Director of Planning and Growth Management Pat Landes and Assistant Planning Director Ross Black distributed a replacement communication regarding the Report Back on Rejuvenate Peoria Concept in Section 15 to all members of the Council.

Mayor Ardis commended Staff for their responses for the requested information. He stated the information was presented in an organized and clear manner for easy understanding.

In discussion with Council Member Van Auken regarding her concern about the large number of City vehicles that were take home vehicles and changes to that policy, Interim City Manager Holling stated the report back reflected the number of vehicles that were taken home by City employees in 2007 compared with 2008. He said an Energy Conservation Task Force was formed to review ways to do a better job of conserving energy and saving money, and a key was the role of take home vehicles. He stated he expected to provide the Council with the final report from the Task Force in the next week and the report would include a recommendation regarding a change in the take home vehicle policy. He said he planned to work with Staff to implement those recommendations and to keep the Council informed regarding the reduction and changes.

Council Member Sandberg further discussed the number of take home vehicles assigned to the Police Department and Police Chief Settingsgaard clarified the numbers.

Council Member Spain and Council Member Spears discussed Fire Station #16 and repairs that were needed immediately and those that could be deferred until another budget year. Operations and Maintenance Engineer Steve Myers explained repairs that were needed in 2009 relating to sanitary sewer work. Council Member Spain requested a report back regarding estimates for sanitary sewer work, a portion of the brick replacement and tuck pointing, and then proceed with the architectural and engineering services that could be included in the Budget. He suggested a comprehensive package, which would include the expansion and some of the other issues, for the 2010 Budget.

Council Member Manning discussed several of the top five projects for drainage improvements and he requested that the Public Works Department retain a list of projects affecting homeowners and their properties so these projects were not forgotten.

Council Member Spears referred to the five-year capital program and he expressed concern that projects seemed to shift in priorities on the list over time, or new projects were added and rated as having a higher priority than projects that were already on the list.

Council Member Sandberg discussed the report back regarding parking lot, parking deck, and parking meter revenues and expenditures. He also discussed the Riverfront Parking Deck debt.

After Mayor Ardis determined there was no further discussion, Council Member Nichting moved to receive and file the 15 Staff Reports, as amended, emanating from the October 21, 2008, City Council Meeting relating to the 2009 City of Peoria Budget; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Jacob, Manning, Montelongo, Nichting, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Interim City Manager Henry Holling provided an overview for the Council regarding the status of the entire 2009 Budget process. He stated the new process was more engaging with the City Staff, but also with the City Council, working toward the goal of producing a balanced maintenance budget. He stated progress was being made and he commended the City Staff in their efforts of recommending reductions to stay within the projected revenues in the budget document. He said work was continuing, but due to the efforts of City Staff, the deficit had been reduced from \$2.2 million, with an additional \$800,000 in mandated budget additions, to approximately \$500,000. He said he felt confident the budget document would be further reduced without sacrificing service, critical programs, and initiatives that were critical to the public and to moving the City forward. He urged the Council to visit his Office to discuss specific budget concerns and requests so the Staff could move forward with a final budget document that would be presented to the City Council in the new few weeks.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that discussion regarding changes and how the budget deficit was reduced to \$500,000 was not held during the Budget Session meetings. He said he would contact the Interim City Manager so his budget concerns were known and could be addressed.

Council Member Van Auken commended the Staff for providing a transparent and understandable process for the Council. She stated she appreciated the Staff working closely with the Council and responding to their budget requests.

Mayor Ardis reminded the Council they requested a balanced maintenance 2009 City Budget and he commended the Staff for responding to the Council in this manner.

In discussion with Council Member Spain regarding the reallocation of funds from capital projects that had been closed and how those funds would now be used, Interim City Manager Holling explained those funds had been used to reduce the 2009 Budget deficit.

Council Member Manning commended the Interim City Manager and the Budget Committee for their work and following the Council's guidelines. He said he felt it was the Council's responsibility to ask their budget questions prior to the final document being prepared by Staff and presented to the Council for adoption.

Council Member Jacob said he would like a report back regarding how the reductions in the 2009 City Budget would impact the City budgets for 2010 and 2011.

Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins stated he would bring back updated five-year projections to the Council as the final numbers were determined for the 2009 Budget.

Council Member Nichting moved to defer continued discussion of the City of Peoria Community Investment Plan Issues Related to the Development of the Proposed 2009 Budget and Review of Current Capital Projects until the November 10, 2008, Rescheduled Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Montelongo.

Motion to defer this item until November 10, 2008, was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Jacob, Manning, Montelongo, Nichting, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**(08-560)    REQUEST for APPROVAL of a MOTION for the CITY COUNCIL to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION to Discuss 2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity.**

Council Member Manning moved that the City Council go into Executive Session to Discuss 2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Jacob, Manning, Montelongo, Nichting, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Spain moved to adjourn the Special Joint City Council and Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Special City Council and Town Board Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

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

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