

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, May 5, 2009, a Special City Council and Town Board Meeting was held this date at 6:20 P.M., at City Hall, Council Chambers, 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Jim Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been posted.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Council Members were physically present: Gulley, Jacob, Manning, Montelongo, Nichting, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis – 11. Absent – None.

WELCOME OF SPECIAL GUESTS AND DIGNITARIES

Mayor Ardis welcomed the following Special Guests and dignitaries who were in attendance: Sheriff Mike McCoy, County Board Chairman Tom O'Neill, County Board Member Junior Watkins, County Clerk Steve Sonemaker, Retired Judge Robert Manning, Retired Judge and Former Mayor E. Michael O'Brien, Former Council Member Lou Carr, Former Council Member Les Bergsten, Former Council Member James Polk, Former City Treasurer Mary Ulrich, the Unofficial Mayor of Downtown George Manias, County Board Member Andrew Rand, County Board Member Jim Dillon, and Dunlap School Board Member Brian McGinnis.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. John King of Riverside Community Church gave the invocation and Mayor Ardis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS

(09-205) Communication from the Interim City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting Approval of a PUBLIC OFFICIAL BOND for the CITY CLERK, CITY TREASURER, and the CITY COMPTROLLER from CALLENDER & COMPANY, at a Cost of \$9,699.00.

Council Member Nichting moved to approve the Public Official Bond for the City Clerk, City Treasurer, and the City Comptroller from Callender & Company, at a cost of \$9,699.00; seconded by Council Member Manning.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

PRESENTATIONS TO RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CITY TREASURER

Mayor Ardis presented the following Resolutions:

"REGINALD A. WILLIS

"WHEREAS, Reginald A. Willis has served as Treasurer for the City of Peoria, Illinois, as well as Township Collector for Peoria Township from 2003 to 2009, and this year brings to an end of six years of dedicated service by Reginald A. Willis to the City of Peoria, during which he has given freely of his time in an unselfish effort and has demonstrated the highest ideals of public service by his dedication; and

"WHEREAS, Reginald A. Willis, in his many years of efficient private and public sector service, including as a State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Staff Member and a Peoria County Board Member, has served with various professional and civic organizations, receiving numerous awards and notable recognition and has well-earned the endless gratitude of the citizens of Peoria;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council, on behalf of its members, the officials and employees of the City of Peoria, and the citizens of the community, do hereby express to Reginald A. Willis, sincere and profound appreciation and thanks for his years of dedicated service.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Honorable Reginald A. Willis be presented this resolution, and this resolution be spread upon the permanent record of the City of Peoria, Illinois, attested to by the City Clerk.

"PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, this 5th day of May 2009 A.D.

/s/ Mayor Jim Ardis

Mayor Jim Ardis

/s/ Clyde E. Gulley, Jr.

Council Member Clyde E. Gulley, Jr.

/s/ Gary V. Sandberg

Council Member Gary V. Sandberg

/s/ George F. Jacob

Council Member George F. Jacob

/s/ Ryan M. Spain

Council Member Ryan M. Spain

/s/ Robert D. Manning

Council Member Robert D. Manning

/s/ William R. Spears

Council Member William R. Spears

/s/ Jim Montelongo

Council Member Jim Montelongo

/s/ W. Eric Turner

Council Member W. Eric Turner

/s/ Patrick A. Nichting

Council Member Patrick A. Nichting

/s/ Barbara Van Auken

Council Member Barbara Van Auken

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary L. Haynes

City Clerk

EXAMINED AND APPROVED:

/s/ Randall Ray

Corporation Counsel"

"PATRICK A. NICHTING

"WHEREAS, Patrick A. Nichting has served as Council Member for the City of Peoria, Illinois, from May 1997 to May 2009, and this year brings to an end of twelve years of dedicated service by Patrick A. Nichting to the City of Peoria, during which he has given freely of his time in an unselfish effort and has demonstrated the highest ideals of public service by his dedication; and

"WHEREAS, Patrick A. Nichting, by his many years of efficient service as Council Member representing the residents of Peoria, has served as Peoria Township Liaison and as a member of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Solid Waste Disposal Committee, Sister City Commission, Weed and Seed Steering Committee, the Joint Labor/Management Healthcare Committee, and Gang Task Force Committee, among others, and has well-earned the endless gratitude of the citizens of Peoria;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council, on behalf of its members, the officials and employees of the City of Peoria, and the citizens of the community, do hereby express to Patrick A. Nichting, sincere and profound appreciation and thanks for his years of dedicated service as a Peoria City Council Member.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Honorable Patrick A. Nichting be presented this resolution, and this resolution be spread upon the permanent record of the City of Peoria, Illinois, attested to by the City Clerk.

"PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, this 5th day of May 2009 A.D.

/s/ Mayor Jim Ardis

Mayor Jim Ardis

/s/ George F. Jacob

Council Member George F. Jacob

/s/ Ryan M. Spain

Council Member Ryan M. Spain

/s/ Robert D. Manning

Council Member Robert D. Manning

/s/ William R. Spears

Council Member William R. Spears

/s/ Jim Montelongo

Council Member Jim Montelongo

/s/ W. Eric Turner

Council Member W. Eric Turner

/s/ Clyde E. Gulley, Jr.

Council Member Clyde E. Gulley

/s/ Barbara Van Auken

Council Member Barbara Van Auken

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary L. Haynes

City Clerk

EXAMINED AND APPROVED:

/s/ Randall Ray

Corporation Counsel"

"ROBERT D. MANNING

"WHEREAS, Robert D. Manning has served as Council Member for the City of Peoria, Illinois, from May 2005 to May 2009, and this year brings to an end of four years of dedicated service by Robert D. Manning to the City of Peoria, during which he has given freely of his time in an unselfish effort and has demonstrated the highest ideals of public service by his dedication; and

"WHEREAS, Robert D. Manning, by his many years of efficient service as Council Member representing the residents of Peoria, has served as a member of the Peoria Civic Center Authority, Historic Preservation Commission, Housing Property Maintenance Commission, and Tourism Reserve Fund Committee, among others, and has well-earned the endless gratitude of the citizens of Peoria; and

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council, on behalf of its members, the officials and employees of the City of Peoria, and the citizens of the community, do hereby express to Robert D. Manning, sincere and profound appreciation and thanks for his years of dedicated service as a Peoria City Council Member.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Honorable Robert D. Manning be presented this resolution, and this resolution be spread upon the permanent record of the City of Peoria, Illinois, attested to by the City Clerk.

"PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, this 5th day of May 2009 A.D.

/s/ Mayor Jim Ardis

Mayor Jim Ardis

/s/ Clyde E. Gulley, Jr.

Council Member Clyde E. Gulley, Jr.

/s/ Gary V. Sandberg

Council Member Gary V. Sandberg

/s/ George F. Jacob

Council Member George F. Jacob

/s/ Ryan M. Spain

Council Member Ryan M. Spain

/s/ Barbara Van Auken

Council Member Barbara Van Auken

/s/ William R. Spears

Council Member William R. Spears

/s/ Jim Montelongo

Council Member Jim Montelongo

/s/ W. Eric Turner

Council Member W. Eric Turner

/s/ Patrick A. Nichting

Council Member Patrick A. Nichting

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary L. Haynes

City Clerk

EXAMINED AND APPROVED:

/s/ Randall Ray

Corporation Counsel"

Council Member Turner moved to approve the Resolutions presented to Council Member Nichting, Council Member Manning and City Treasurer Reginald Willis, and to direct the City Clerk to spread the Resolutions upon the permanent record; 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.

REMARKS BY RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CITY TREASURER

Mayor Ardis commended City Treasurer Reginald Willis for his strong leadership in his service as City Treasurer over the last six years. He expressed his appreciation for City Treasurer Willis' integrity, experience, and his many years of exemplary service, and he said the City was fortunate to have someone with his skills in this position.

City Treasurer Reginald Willis thanked his wife and members of his family for their support and recognized those family members who were in attendance. He said the City Treasurer's Office was run similar to a bank and he expressed his appreciation of the dedication of his Staff for their daily efforts in the operation of the Office. He thanked Mayor Ardis and the Council for their support, and he thanked the citizens of Peoria for having faith in him in re-electing him to the Office of City Treasurer four years ago. He also said he appreciated the 18 years of experience serving as a County Board Member. He stated he had worked for 60 years and it was time to retire, but he felt he was leaving his Office in capable hands with the election of Patrick Nichting to the Office of City Treasurer.

Mayor Ardis commended Council Member Nichting for his 12 years of leadership serving on the City Council, and he said it had been a privilege to serve with Council Member Nichting.

Council Member Nichting thanked his wife and children for their support while he served in public office. He said the job of public servant was challenging as well as rewarding. He expressed his appreciation for the support of City Staff while he served as a Council Member in assisting with making changes to the Fifth District over the past 12 years. He said it had been a pleasure to work with Interim City Manager Henry Holling the past year and he looked forward to continuing their friendship they had established. He thanked retiring City Treasurer Reginald Willis for his support over the years, but especially during the past three weeks of his training to become the newly elected City Treasurer. He commended the dedication of the City Treasurer's Staff and thanked them for their assistance in the transition and for their daily service to citizens. He thanked the Mayor and Council Members for their support in helping him to change the fabric of the Fifth District, as well as to encourage economic growth in the District. He also thanked the other governmental entities who assisted in this endeavor. He expressed his best wishes to newly elected Council Members Dan Irving and Tim Riggensbach in their new positions.

Mayor Ardis commended Council Member Manning for his dedicated service to the citizens of Peoria. He said he felt Council Member Manning had raised the bar on the standard for customer service to the citizens, and he thanked him for the due diligence he performed in being prepared for Council Meetings.

Council Member Manning thanked his wife and daughters for sharing their time with him with the citizens of Peoria. He said when he had an opportunity to serve the City of Peoria, they backed him 100%, and he thanked them for their understanding. He recognized other members of his family and thanked his dad for his support and wise counsel. He said his mother was there in spirit, but he thanked her for her teachings during his life. He congratulated newly elected Council Members Irving and Riggerbach on their positive and clean campaigns, and he encouraged them to be themselves, to do the job to the best of their abilities, and to remember who they represented. He thanked the City Staff and City Council for their support during the past four years. He said he enjoyed the work of tackling the challenges and opportunities facing the City and worked toward solutions rather than excuses. He commended Mayor Ardis for his influence and leadership. He said it had been a privilege working on the behalf of the Third District and felt it played an important roll in the history of Peoria. He said Peoria could not prosper unless the Third District prospered also, and he knew that Mayor Ardis and the Council understood this. He said he looked forward to the future progress of the Third District under the leadership of newly elected Tim Riggerbach.

Council Member Turner said he had respected and appreciated the guidance of parting Council Members Nichting and Manning, as well as their friendship, even though they may not have always agreed on the issues. He added their wisdom, experience, and insight would be missed. He said they would always share a feeling of accomplishment when reflecting on their time serving as Council Members together. He thanked them for their service and he said they would always remain respected friends and trusted colleagues.

Council Member Spears said he did not feel Council Member Nichting was leaving, but only moving to another Office. He congratulated him on attaining his new office and he said he would be missed on Tuesday nights. He said it had been an honor and pleasure serving beside Council Member Manning and he expressed his appreciation for his long friendship. He said Council Member Manning had been an asset to the City and he would be missed.

Council Member Van Auken said she deeply appreciated Council Member Nichting's expertise regarding issues in the Second District. She said Council Member Nichting had always treated his colleagues with respect and she said she appreciated his ability with numbers. She indicated Council Member Nichting would serve well in his new position and hoped he would continuing working with the City Council. She said Council Member Manning had come to be one of her closest colleagues on the Council and she had enjoyed working with him. She said he would be missed and she thanked him for his service to the community.

Council Member Gulley thanked Council Member Nichting for his service on the Council and he commended Council Member Manning for his work with the City Council.

Council Member Montelongo thanked Council Member Manning for his extra-ordinary customer service to the citizens. He said Council Member Manning influenced his vote on many issues. He wished him and his family the best for their future. He thanked Council Member Nichting for his advice over the past two years since he was sworn in, and he congratulated him on his new position.

Council Member Jacob congratulated Mayor Ardis on his re-election and he said he looked forward to working with him again. He thanked Council Member Nichting for his hard work and his advice. He congratulated him on being able to continue his work at City Hall. He also thanked Council Member Manning for the passion he had for the community and for their friendship that had developed over the years working together for the community.

Council Member Spain thanked City Treasurer Willis for his years of service for the City and the County Board representing more than 24 years of public service. He said the community was grateful for his hard work and he had left his mark on the City of Peoria. He congratulated Council Member Nichting for his successful campaign for the office of City Treasurer and he said he felt the office would benefit through his leadership. He added he had benefited from Council Member Nichting's experience and he appreciated his commitment. He said he appreciated Council Member Manning's leadership and his expertise at holding healthy debates, but then moving on to other issues. He said he was a benefit to the community and he appreciated his service to the Third District.

Mayor Ardis expressed his appreciation for the assistance he received from Council Member Nichting when he first came on the Council and he commended him for his accomplishments in economic development in the Fifth District. He said the growth was planned in an organized manner with Council Member Nichting driving most of it. He thanked City Treasurer Willis for being a grounding force behind the scenes, and he added he appreciated his guidance and advice. He commended Council Member Manning for putting his family first, which was behind his decision to leave the Council. He said Council Member Manning was well respected and it had been an honor serving with him.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Nichting moved to adjourn the Special City Council & Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Manning.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The City Council Meeting adjourned sine die at 7:07 P.M.

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

*** * * * ADMINISTERING THE OATHS OF OFFICE * * * ***

Mayor Ardis administered the Oath of Office to Incoming Elected City Clerk Mary L. Haynes.

City Clerk Mary L. Haynes gave a welcoming address and administered the Oath of Office to the following Incoming Elected Officials:

Mayor James E. Ardis III
City Treasurer Patrick A. Nichting
Supervisor of General Assistance, Joseph P. Whalen
Council Member Clyde E. Gulley, Jr.
Council Member Barbara Van Auken.
Council Member Timothy D. Riggerbach
Council Member William R. Spears
Council Member Dan L. Irving

CONVENING OF THE NEW CITY COUNCIL

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Council Members were physically present: Gulley, Irving, Jacob, Montelongo, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis – 11.
Absent – None.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. Bill Smith of Woodland Baptist Church gave the invocation.

REMARKS BY THE NEWLY ELECTED DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS

Mayor Ardis recognized the current Township Assessor Bonnie Gavin, who was re-elected in the April 2009 election, but would not be taking her oath, according to State Law, until January 2010.

Council Member Gulley said he wanted to honor God in his service to the community and he thanked his family for their support and encouragement. He discussed his goals for his District for the coming years, and he personally recognized several people who had influenced his life.

Council Member Van Auken said she looked forward to working with Council Member Irving and Council Member Riegenbach. She thanked her campaign workers and especially Mr. Robert Powers for his dedication. She also thanked the Second District voters for re-electing her as their representative. She further commended the City Staff for their assistance because she said no Council Member could work effectively without their help. She commended Interim City Manager Henry Holling for his influence on the City Staff and for agreeing to serve the City.

Council Member Spears thanked his constituents in the Fourth District and he expressed his pleasure in serving them. He expressed his appreciation to his late father, who taught him to love his country and to his mother for teaching him how to serve his community. He said he felt the people of the Fourth District were the backbone of the City. He thanked his family for their support and he especially thanked his wife, since they were celebrating their 20th Wedding Anniversary. He said he looked forward to the next four years working with the Council and serving the Fourth District .

Council Member Riegenbach said he felt honored to be sworn in on this special occasion. He said his campaign for election was intense, but he and Beth Akesson were allies and would be working together for the good of the City. He thanked his wife and children for their support, as well as the support of business owners, trade unions, Firefighters, and homeowners' associations. He said he felt it was important to offer influence, which would provide a platform that was for the good of the community. He spoke about teachers and other key individuals who had influenced his life. He said he felt a passion for the City of Peoria and he challenged all to be men and women of influence and leadership.

Council Member Irving said it was an honor to be sworn in as a Council Member and to have the opportunity to serve the City of Peoria. He thanked his family, and his wife and children for their support. He commended former Council Member Nichting for his service to the Fifth District, and for serving with integrity. He said he supported open government, providing basic services for all citizens, and economic growth. He added he planned to lead by serving others, resolving issues, and responding to citizens in a timely manner. He thanked the voters of the Fifth District for their faith and trust in him. He said he had met with most City Staff members and was impressed with their work for the City, and he looked forward to working with them in the next four years.

Council Member Nichting thanked his campaign workers and he said he had enjoyed working with the people. He thanked his family for their support and he wished the new Council well in their endeavors. He said he looked forward to new challenges and opportunities in his new position.

Township Supervisor of Assistance Joe Whalen thanked his wife and family for their support. He said he appreciated the voters who came out to vote and those who didn't, because there were countries where there was no freedom of choice. He said it was a great privilege to be able to vote. He thanked key people in his life who had influenced him and he congratulated Patrick Nichting in his election to the office of City Treasurer.

City Clerk Mary Haynes said she appreciated the opportunity the citizens had provided her in this election, as well as past elections. She spoke of the number of Mayors, Council Members, and City Managers she had served with over the years and she said she was fortunate to have worked with dedicated City Staff. She thanked her Staff members for their support, and she said she was grateful for the lessons taught by her parents, even though they have passed, that still remained in her life. She thanked her children and other family members for their support, and she thanked her campaign committee for assisting with petitions and other key people who played a role in shaping her life. She also expressed her appreciation to the City Council for their support through the years, as well as members of the media. She said she was grateful to God for providing an opportunity for her to serve the City. She spoke in support of open government and she thanked the citizens for re-electing her as City Clerk.

Council Member Turner welcomed the two new Council Members and wished them well in the next four years. He said they would have high and low experiences, but these experiences would be second to none. He stated he looked forward to serving with both Council Member Irving and Council Member Riggerbach on the City Council.

Council Member Jacob thanked Council Member Manning and Council Member Nichting for their community service, and he welcomed the newly elected Council Members Irving and Riggerbach. He said it was a great opportunity to serve and to participate in the process. He said community service was a sacrifice, but he felt they would enjoy it.

Council Member Montelongo said he looked forward to working with Council Members Irving and Riggerbach in the next four years, and he congratulated them on their successful campaigns for election. He said he would be glad to assist them in any way needed in the coming years.

Council Member Spain congratulated Mayor Ardis on his re-election and he congratulated newly elected Council Member Riggerbach and Council Member Irving on their elections. He reiterated a comment made to him once that the easy part (running for office) was over and now the hard work would begin.

REMARKS BY THE NEWLY RE-ELECTED MAYOR

On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Ardis commended Communications Manager Alma Brown, Senior Administrative Assistant Kristie Collier, and Senior Administrative Assistant Linda Cooper for their work in organizing and planning the swearing in ceremony this evening. He said the Council appreciated their efforts toward arranging the details and for a smooth transition. He also thanked City Clerk Mary Haynes for her behind the scenes work on the needed documents and on the ceremony also. He commended City Clerk Haynes for her institutional knowledge and the outstanding example she set. He thanked City Clerk Haynes and her Staff, who were unparalleled in the amount of work and responsibility needed for the Office, for their efforts.

Mayor Ardis said his passion was no less now than four years ago, and he said he was more focused in his work with the City Council. He stated he had to acknowledge the sacrifice of his wife and family, and he thanked them for making it possible for him to serve the City. He also thanked key family members and friends for their support and counsel in the past. He said the

Council would work to make the City prosper and grow and he felt they would face the upcoming issues with integrity and respect. He thanked Interim City Manager Henry Holling for pulling the City Staff and Council together. He also recognized Mr. Lee Graves, his employer, who made it possible for him to serve as Mayor. He thanked the employers of all Council Members for making it possible for them to perform these duties for the City. He said the most important focus for the next four years would be on schools, because the City would not grow until the situations with the local schools changed. He stated he met with School District Superintendent Ken Hinton earlier in the day and the City and the School District would be working together on these issues. He thanked the City Council for their support and service to the community, and he also thanked the citizens for their past and future support.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Bill Smith of Woodland Baptist Church gave the benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Riggerbach moved to adjourn the Special City Council & Town Board Meeting; seconded by Council Member Irving.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The City Council Meeting adjourned at 8:19 P.M.

bb

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

RECEPTION FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY IN THE ROTUNDA