

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, November 3, 2009, a Special City Council Meeting was held this date at 6:18 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, Irving, Jacob, Montelongo, Riegenbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis - 11.  
Absent: None.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ardis requested a moment of silent prayer or silent reflection, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.**

**PROCLAMATION:** TOYS FOR TOTS

**PROCLAMATION:** TROT FOR TOTS - NOVEMBER 27, 2009

**PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA****UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**(INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO MOTIONS TO RECONSIDER, IF ANY,  
ITEMS FROM THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING)**

**(09-277) INITIAL DIRECTION ON STEPS TO REDUCE THE ANTICIPATED FY 2010  
BUDGET DEFICIT:**

- A. Communication from the City Manager Requesting the Council to PROVIDE  
DIRECTION to STAFF on CLOSING the REMAINING FY2010 BUDGET  
DEFICIT.**

**MOTION ON THE FLOOR:** Motion to approve the City Manager's recommendations of cuts in the proposed 2010 City of Peoria Budget outlined in the communication, dated October 13, 2009, presented under Item No. 09-277, as amended by eliminating one fire machine (and associated positions) from the list of potential reductions, removing the elimination of three Fire Inspectors positions from the list of potential reductions, and eliminating the Fire Training Supervisor position from the list of potential reductions.

Mayor Ardis clarified the Motion on the Floor. He asked Council Member Sandberg to further clarify his request for reconsideration from the October 13, 2009, City Council Meeting.

Council Member Sandberg said he had voted to approve the recommendation as stated in the Motion on the Floor, but he had asked Council Members to reconsider having the Administrative Hearing Officer since the Administrative Coordinator position had been eliminated. He said the intent of his request was to also consider eliminating the Hearing Officer position.

Mayor Ardis noted the request would require an amending motion from Council Member Sandberg if he wished to remove a position..

Council Member Sandberg moved for an amendment to the Motion on the Floor to add the Administrative Hearing Officer to the list of positions to be eliminated; seconded by Council Member Spain.

Council Member Sandberg noted, in most communities, the Judicial System already in place was utilized to cover this service. He said it should be the City's objective to streamline the process, not to duplicate services.

City Clerk Mary Haynes clarified Council Member Sandberg's amendment to the original Motion on the Floor would require a vote prior to handling the vote for the original motion. She added, only if the motion passed would it be added to the original motion.

Council Member Van Auken said the City had found it was not a savings to go through the Judicial System for the process. She noted the original point of the City's handling of the Housing Court was to streamline the City's process. She added the move had been quite successful.

Motion to amend the Motion on the Floor to add the Administrative Hearing Officer to the list of positions to be eliminated was DEFEATED by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Sandberg, Spain – 3;

Nays: Irving, Jacob, Montelongo, Riggensbach, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis – 8.

Motion on the Floor to approve the City Manager's recommendations of cuts in the proposed 2010 City of Peoria Budget outlined in the communication, dated October 13, 2009, presented under Item No. 09-277, as amended by eliminating one fire machine (and associated positions) from the list of potential reductions, removing the elimination of three Fire Inspectors positions from the list of potential reductions, and eliminating the Fire Training Supervisor position from the list of potential reductions was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

(Clerk's clarification: Motion on the Floor was made with the intent to restore the uniform allowance for the Fire Department.)

**B. Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting the Council to PROVIDE DIRECTION to STAFF Regarding the PRELIMINARY FY2010 – FY2014 FIVE-YEAR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN (CIP).**

Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins provided an overview of the CIP document.

Mayor Ardis noted, in light of the significant reductions made by City Council, members should consider whether or not all of the items listed could be accomplished next year.

City Manager Scott Moore said the intent, once the Plan was adopted, was to only initiate projects after they have been reviewed and a prioritized list had been developed so it could be determined which project could be deferred.

Mayor Ardis suggested to City Manager Moore a review of projects by District Council Members, as well as the At-Large Members, to identify needs of each District. He added Staff

may not view a project as a priority in a certain area; however, a Council Member could view it as a significant priority.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding the Capital Project on page 2 of the Council Communication regarding the White Bridge evaluation and repair at Springdale Cemetery. He questioned whether or not this project was the City's responsibility. He noted there was a line item on each citizen's tax bill for funding bridge repairs in the County.

In discussion with Council Member Van Auken, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray clarified Springdale Cemetery was a public cemetery; therefore, the bridge would also be considered public. He said a partnership developed from an earlier agreement between the City, the County, and the Park District defined the first part of any deficit would be covered by the County and the Park District, with the remainder being funded by the City.

Council Member Van Auken moved to remove the Springdale Cemetery White Bridge evaluation and repair from the CIP list to explore partnering with the County and the Park District to cover the cost of these repairs; seconded by Council Member Sandberg.

Council Member Sandberg noted it was critical to do this review for the items listed in the CIP prior to the CIP approval.

Motion to remove the Springdale Cemetery White Bridge evaluation and repair in the amount of \$50,000.00 from the CIP list to explore partnering with the County and the Park District to cover the cost of these repairs was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Guley, Irving, Jacob, Montelongo, Riggensbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears,  
Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Council Member Spears noted the materials and methods for improvements listed for the Gateway Building Plaza should be reviewed. He noted this was the first that Council had heard there were repair issues in this area and he suggested finding an alternative to replacing the granite, if it would just deteriorate again in a few years. He said he felt making repairs with a more stable material should be explored.

Council Member Spain said he felt it was important to carefully review the list of projects also, so that any item that did not directly impact citizens could be removed prior to approval of the list - for example, office furniture, office equipment, etc. He said money from such line items could then be shifted to projects which had the most impact on citizens. He suggested Council continue the discussion with that in mind.

Council Member Sandberg expressed further concern regarding the Sheridan Road Bridge repairs as well. He said the City should be at least talking with other entities that collect taxes for these repairs to come up with a solution that did not place all the cost on the City.

In discussion with Council Member Jacob, Assistant Director of Planning & Growth Management Ross Black clarified that the \$100,000.00 listed under the Lead Hazard Match under CDBG Grants had been previously approved by the City Council as a match for a \$3,000,000.00 grant that was applied for through the Health Department. He said the grant was not funded; however, the Health Department was exploring further grant opportunities through the State and had requested the matching funds be set aside at least through the end of the year. He said Staff would keep Council informed on this item.

Mayor Ardis noted it was clear Council needed additional time to review the complete list of projects and could then bring back items from the list to consider keeping or removing. Council Member Sandberg said he fully supported the Glen Oak School Impact Zone plan; however, he expressed concern regarding the implementation of the project. He said he felt it was important to not only repair what was broken, but to improve the neighborhood and the quality of life in that area. He challenged the Administration to integrate into the plan a new solution to help bring people back to the East Bluff.

Council Member Riggensbach said he agreed with Council Member Sandberg that it was integral to the project to improve the quality of life in the entire area. He noted the project had received a great deal of cooperation from the Park District and the School District to make it happen.

Council Member Van Auken moved to receive and file the Preliminary FY2010-FY2014 Community Investment Plan, with changes as outlined in the Council discussion; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**C      Communication from the City Manager Requesting the Council to PROVIDE FINAL DIRECTION to STAFF on CLOSING the REMAINING FY2010 BUDGET DEFICIT.**

A complete Council Communication was distributed to members of the City Council.

City Manager Moore distributed a handout to the City Council which provided the status of the remaining FY2010 Budget Deficit, showing Union concessions for a gap of \$642,597.00 and suggested restored positions.

Mayor Ardis noted some of the positions listed to be eliminated could be restored if concessions from the Police Benevolent Association and AFSCME were received.

Council Member Spain said he felt it was important to focus on how to close the remaining budget gap with the information the Council had in front of them. He moved to approve the additional cuts with concessions from Crafts & Trades and IBEW, as outlined by the City Manager, bringing the existing 2010 budget gap to \$642,597.00; seconded by Council Member Irving.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding the debt refinance and he noted the Council had already voted on this item.

Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins clarified the Council had made a preliminary vote on the debt refinance, but Staff needed final direction to implement this option.

Council Member Sandberg said he had previously voted in support of the consideration of this option, but he said he could not support it now. He expressed concern that refinancing was not the answer to the City's debt issues. He said it was not the responsible way to handle debt.

Motion to approve the additional cuts with concessions from Crafts & Trades and IBEW as outlined by the City Manager, bringing the existing budget gap to \$642,597.00, was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Sandberg – 1.

(Clerk's Note: No suggested positions on the City Manager's list were restored.)

**D PUBLIC COMMENTS Regarding the FY2010 BUDGET.**

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the Floor to any citizen who wished to address the City Council regarding the FY2010 Budget.

Charles Williams, Peoria resident, expressed concern about the cuts in the Police Department and he noted the level of crime occurring in his neighborhood and throughout the City. He questioned the need for high-end vehicles to transport the City's Police and Fire Chiefs and Captains and suggested they down-grade to less expensive models. He also expressed concern about the response time from Animal Control and said he felt that would only get worse with further cuts to PAWS.

Lavetta Ricca, Olde Towne South Neighborhood Association President, expressed concern that the City had not stood behind its commitment to the Labor Unions whose contracts they had negotiated and signed.

Savino Sierra, Peoria resident, reiterated the point he made previously about everyone making a sacrifice and he said he felt some Unions were putting their own people out of work by not committing to help with the deficit.

**CONGRATULATIONS to ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR CRAIG HULLINGER on his RETIREMENT**

Mayor Ardis thanked Economic Development Director Craig Hullinger for his service to the City of Peoria and for giving a boost to Peoria's economic development. Mr. Hullinger thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve.

**CONGRATULATIONS to POLICE CAPTAIN ROBERT BAER on his RETIREMENT**

Mayor Ardis noted Police Captain Robert Baer had also retired and he congratulated him on his many years of service to the City of Peoria and to the Peoria Police Department.

**CONGRATULATIONS to POLICE CAPTAIN JERRY MITCHELL on his Recent PROMOTION**

Mayor Ardis congratulated Jerry Mitchell on his recent promotion to Police Captain and he wished him continued success in his new position.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was determined that an Executive Session was not needed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Van Auken moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Council Member Irving.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 P.M.

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

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