

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, October 19, 2010, a Special City Council Meeting was held this date at 5:00 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 (arrived at 5:10 P.M.), Irving, Montelongo, Riggerbach, Sandberg (arrived at 5:59 P.M.), Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis - 10. Absent: Jacob - 1.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS****UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

**(10-464) Communication from the City Manager Requesting for the City Council to Provide Direction to the Administration on the PRELIMINARY FY2011 OPERATING BUDGET.**

In response to a request from Mayor Ardis for a summary overview, City Manager Scott Moore said this was another difficult budget for the City. He discussed the 5% reductions made in the Spring of 2010 by Department Heads and he said budget adjustments were made to the Operating Budget to address a \$3 million deficit. He commended the Department Heads for working within the limited resources as a result. He said the Council decided to defer capital projects at the October 5, 2010, Budget Meeting to further address the proposed deficit for 2011. He explained the Council communication that was distributed to the Council to address the \$13,427,106 deficit and he requested direction from the Council regarding how they wished to address the remaining deficit of \$3,177,410.00.

**DISCUSSION Regarding the POLICE DEPARTMENT**

In discussion with Council Member Turner regarding any plans that could be developed in the Police Department to reduce the number of potential personnel cuts, Police Chief Steve Settingsgaard reported the Police Department would have a \$1 million to \$1.2 million surplus at the end of 2010, and he said he hoped it would be used to fund a portion of the 2011 deficit. He said he felt there would be additional savings in 2011 based on changes in practices in 2010, and he explained some of the changes that had implemented this year to reduce costs. He proposed that some of those funds be set aside to assist with funding the Police Department's deficit, which would also reward Police Department employees for supporting cost-saving measures.

In further discussion regarding funding for hot spot issues that may arise, Police Chief Settingsgaard stated his Department spent \$70,000 to \$80,000 in overtime costs to address these issues in 2010, which was unanticipated. He said he felt a similar amount of money could be saved in 2011 and those funds saved could be used to address extra overtime expenses to address hot spot issues.

Mayor Ardis said it was the Council's intention that COPS grant funds would be used to fund existing Police Officer positions. He said, with the savings that had been gained in the Police Department in training, overtime, etc., he said this would assist in keeping the department whole this year.

Police Chief Settingsgaard said he had been told by the Federal government they could modify the grant and he said he had no reason to believe the grant would not be approved, but there were no guarantees.

In discussion with Council Member Van Auken, Police Chief Settingsgaard said, over the last five years, the Police Department had turned back almost \$3 million.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding VACANT POSITIONS

Discussion was held regarding the number of vacant positions which were currently posted and being advertised to fill. In discussion with Council Member Van Auken, Director of Planning and Growth Management Pat Landes said the position of Urban Planner was currently vacant, but she felt it was a critical position because this Staffing area had already been reduced. She said she stopped advertising for the position until budget decisions had been made, so currently the position was not available to be filled.

In further discussion with Council Member Van Auken, Director of Public Works Dave Barber said the Supervisor's position that was vacant in his Department was a key position in monitoring 35 people during snow operations. He said he was attempting to fill the position with an internal candidate, if possible. ECC Manager Dave Tuttle said the vacant Supervisor's position in his Department was a critical position and he explained how the shifts were covered by Supervisors.

In discussion with Council Member Turner, ECC Manager Tuttle explained the ECC Department should not be under the Police Department's control because the center became an independent department under ESDA in 1993. He said the center served several agencies, not just the Police Department. He added costs had not gone up and he had reached an agreement with the Sheriff's office that related to booking fees to assist with funds.

Council Member Van Auken said the City of Peoria had established a hiring freeze, unless it was to fill a critical position.

Council Member Spain said the City may not be able to afford to fill these positions. He said he was uncomfortable with filling any of these vacancies while continuing discussions regarding layoffs in the Fire Department and other Departments. He said the hiring freeze should remain without exceptions and he asked to go on record regarding this issue.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding OVERTIME EXPENSES

Discussion was held regarding overtime expenses. In discussion with Council Member Gulley, Director of Planning and Growth Management Pat Landes said there was a demand for union employees to attend evening meetings with neighborhood groups, and comp time was used as much as possible. She said one of the few areas she could control was overtime expenses and she stated she usually had savings between 9% and 12% of their budget that had not been spent. Assistant Director Ross Black confirmed the Planning and Growth Department had

used \$712.00 of \$5,998.00 budgeted in local funds for overtime in 2010. Director Landes also stated there was a limited amount of time union employees could accept comp time for overtime hours.

In discussion with Council Member Turner regarding whether or not the Neighborhood Division should be spread among several Departments, Director Landes agreed that neighborhood issues did not belong to one particular Department. She said there were programs, enforcement, and improvements that affected neighborhoods. She said no matter what the structure for neighborhoods had been in the City, she found good cooperation between all the Departments regarding neighborhood issues.

In discussion with Council Member Gulley regarding overtime expenses, Director of Public Works Dave Barber stated there was approximately \$160,000.00 budgeted for overtime and they had allocated 25% of that amount back to the motor fuel tax fund. He said the expenses were based on the weather and he had little control over this allocation, but his Department had curtailed overtime in other areas.

Later in the meeting, Council Member Gulley moved to review overtime expenses in the 2010 Budget to possibly gain additional revenues for operations; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Irving, Montelongo, Riggenbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

Clerk's Note: This vote was actually taken after the arrival of Council Member Sandberg.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mayor Ardis referred to the Economic Development Department and he pointed out the Department had been without a Director in 2010.

City Manager Moore said the duties of the Director fell in the City Manager's office and he explained how those duties were handled. He said the Council had held past discussions that economic development could be a shared service with other agencies or the County. He stressed the importance of economic development, but he said he felt the activity could be conducted differently.

Mayor Ardis discussed the need for businesses in the City to have a strong environment to conduct their business and to attract new employers to the Peoria community. He said, at this time, he felt economic development was an area that should be considered in finding ways to perform these activities differently.

Council Member Riggenbach suggested formulating a well-defined contract with the EDC or Peoria County and the Council should be specific about their expectations. He said the ability to be responsive was important to several agencies in the area. He urged the Administration to make a close review of the City's Economic Development Department to show taxpayers the City was serious about cooperation and maintaining basic services of economic development.

Council Member Van Auken said she agreed with Council Member Riggensbach's comments. She spoke in support of finding other ways to perform economic development activities because it was important to the community's future development. She said she would be looking in other areas, such as Information Systems, Human Resources, Training, Health Insurance, etc., to reduce administrative support staff and exploring other areas before reducing the number of Firefighters.

Council Member Turner referred to economic development and he said the County was in a similar financial situation to the City at the present time. He suggested the City could work with EDC or the Heartland Partnership and designate someone to find economic opportunities for the Peoria community to create revenue.

Council Member Van Auken moved to direct the Administration to explore eliminating a minimum of two positions, and possibly four positions in the Economic Development Department, and as a substitute, place economic development activities in an agreement with Peoria County that would emphasize the City's unique needs and/or explore bolstering the contract with EDC with a requirement that any additional funding to EDC specifically go toward the City of Peoria development, and not to a general fund; seconded by Council Member Riggensbach.

Mayor Ardis suggested the motion be stated to advise Staff to take into consideration the Council's discussion points regarding economic development and bring options back to the Council.

Council Member Van Auken restated her motion to advise Staff to take into consideration the Council's discussion points regarding economic development and bring options back to the Council; seconded by Council Member Riggensbach.

Council Member Spain said he felt it was critical to emphasize regeneration for the attraction of new businesses and business retention to engage current business owners and offer assistance. He said most new jobs created came from new businesses in the City of Peoria. He said he would be abstaining from the vote on this item because he was employed by Heartland Partnership.

Council Member Turner requested that the EDC option be explored first.

Motion to advise Staff to take into consideration the Council's discussion points regarding economic development and bring options back to the Council was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Irving, Montelongo, Riggensbach, Spears, Turner, Van Auken,  
Mayor Ardis - 8;

Nays: None;

Abstentions: Spain - 1.

Council Member Sandberg arrived at 5:59 P.M.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding CODE ENFORCEMENT and INSPECTIONS

Council Member Spears referred to Code Enforcement and Inspections and he commended them for the work they performed in neighborhoods. He said he would never want to eliminate Code Enforcement or Inspections, but suggested there could be some reductions.

Council Member Spears suggested going back to a complaint-driven system for some portions of the City, rather than performing systematic inspections in all areas of the City.

Council Member Spears moved to direct the Administration to explore a hybrid system with some portions of the City operating under a complaint-driven system for Code Enforcement and Inspections, and other portions of the City remaining under systematic inspections to achieve savings; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

Council Member Van Auken said she felt it would be useful to work closely with the Police Chief regarding which areas should have complaint-driven inspections and enforcement.

Motion to direct the Administration to explore a hybrid system with some portions of the City operating under a complaint-driven system for Code Enforcement and Inspections, and other portions of the City remaining under systematic inspections to achieve savings was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Irving, Montelongo, Riggenschach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: Turner - 1.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding EEO DEPARTMENT

Council Member Van Auken moved to direct the Administration to report back regarding the EEO Office's workload and possibly reducing Staff and combining the operation with Peoria County; seconded by Council Member Riggenschach.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Irving, Montelongo, Riggenschach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding TRAINING, TRAVEL, CONFERENCES, TRADE SHOWS, ETC.

Mayor Ardis discussed expenses for training and travel and he urged that the report be as transparent as possible so citizens could understand how the City spent their tax dollars. He also pointed out it was important for the Council to understand the expenditures. He requested a report back regarding training expenditures.

Council Member Van Auken also expressed concern regarding the status of travel funds. She requested that budget items be clear and she urged the City Manager to scrutinize the entire Budget for clarity. She requested information regarding travel specifics be included in the report back.

Council Member Montelongo moved to direct the Administration to create and bring back an Employee Travel Policy for training, travel, conferences, and trade shows; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Irving, Montelongo, Riggenschach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis - 10;

Nays: None.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding PLANNING DEPARTMENT URBAN PLANNER, TECHNOLOGY, MUNICIPAL BAND, and PUBLICATIONS/IN-HOUSE BOOKLETS

In discussion with Council Member Irving, Director Landes explained a specific person for the census work was not hired. She explained one of the Planners spent 25% of their time working on special projects and one of the projects was the census. She said the Planner was now working on the two Impact Zones.

In discussion with Council Member Irving regarding possible integration of technology in the future, City Manager Moore said he would be receiving an update in the next week and he would report back to the Council.

Council Member Irving referred to the Municipal Band line item in the amount of \$88,000.00, and he said they did not charge admission to their concerts. He questioned if there had been any discussion regarding exploring a different way for them to operate to gain some revenue.

City Manager Moore said he had held discussions with the Park District to determine if there were other opportunities to gain revenue to subsidize this expenditure.

Council Member Spears said there were different publications or in-house booklets in the Budget that the City printed. He stated the City had brought employees on board with the internet and he challenged Staff to find ways to use technology to save dollars. He said this may be miniscule, but eventually it would save time and money in printing.

Council Member Spears moved to direct the Administration to report back regarding how technology had been used to reduce expenditures for publications and in-house booklets, and to challenge the Staff to find new ways to use technology to further reduce expenditures; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Irving, Montelongo, Riggensbach, Sandberg, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: None.

Clerk's Note: Council Member Spain did not vote.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding the PAYROLL SYSTEM

Council Member Montelongo moved to direct the Administration to explore the use of a payroll service that was internet-based to streamline the payroll system, provide payroll information to employees, such as ADP Services, and report back; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Irving, Montelongo, Riggensbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: Gulley - 1.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

In discussion with Council Member Spain, Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins clarified that Employee Benefits covered healthcare, workman's comp, Firemen's Pension, Police Pension, and IMRF Pension.

Council Member Spain encouraged the Administration to review the healthcare benefit package and discuss an increase of co-pays or adjusting the premiums. He said he was not calling for a reduction in benefits, but he felt there was a need for Gallagher Benefit Corporation to attend a meeting to discuss healthcare benefit adjustments to assist with making an impact on operation expenditures.

Council Member Spain moved to engage Gallagher Benefit Corporation in discussion with the City Council in conjunction of the Labor/Management Healthcare Committee to discuss adjustments to the healthcare benefit package regarding co-pays and premiums; seconded by Council Member Riggensbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

Council Member Spain suggested it may be coming to a point where the City can no longer offer the full scope of benefits that had been offered in the past. He suggested the Administration begin to explore a two-tiered benefit program with a reduced benefit package for newly hired employees.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding DEBT SERVICE

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that the debt service had increased over \$2 million in the past year for a total of over \$19 million. He said this area of the Budget was out of control and he expressed concern regarding the action of past Councils and he felt the problem should be resolved by constraints on spending.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding SPRINGDALE CEMETERY

In discussion with Mayor Ardis, Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins confirmed the City would fund Springdale Cemetery in the amount of \$250,000.00, which was an additional \$130,000.00 this year.

#### DISCUSSION Regarding ACCEPTANCE of CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION as Outlined in the Council Communication

Mayor Ardis said the Council would hold further discussion at meetings in the next several weeks to address 2011 Budget issues.

Council Member Van Auken moved to accept the preliminary set of options for reducing the 2011 City of Peoria Budget as listed on the 2011 Preliminary Budget Summary, which reduced the 2011 deficit from \$13,427,106.00 to a deficit of \$3,177,410.00, and to accept all the motions made to explore further reduction in the 2011 Budget deficit; seconded by Council Member Riggensbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Irving, Montelongo, Riggensbach, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken,  
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

#### **(10-465) Communication from the City Manager Requesting Direction to Staff Regarding POTENTIAL INCREASES to VARIOUS FEES and FINES. (Refer to Item No. 10-464)**

Council Member Turner moved to defer this item until the next Budget discussion, which would be the October 26, 2010, Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

Motion to defer this item until October 26, 2010, was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Gulley, Irving, Montelongo, Riggensbach, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken,  
Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS Regarding FY 2011 CITY OF PEORIA BUDGET.**

Savino Sierra, a Peoria resident, spoke in support of funding the Public Safety Departments and he urged other Departments to make necessary reductions or designate some positions as part time, if necessary.

Peg Pendle, a Peoria resident, suggested increasing Police efficiency by diversifying the roles of Police Officers. She suggested finding a better way to accept citizen complaints at the Police Department, and she also expressed concern about the amount of debt service the City had accumulated.

William Ordaz, a Peoria resident, recommended assessing fees for Fire and emergency services to assist with the Fire Department budget. He further suggested the Public Works Department reduce street sweeping to every other month and homeowners should remove litter to within twelve inches of the curb. He also suggested that Code Enforcement stop issuing warning tickets and issue work orders for properties that needed attention.

Roy Beckman, a Peoria resident, expressed concern regarding planned reductions in the Police Department. He pointed out the high number of shootings that occurred during the summer of 2010 and he felt there was a need for increased safety for citizens.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**(10-478) Consideration of a Motion to enter 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; 2(c)(6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; 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; and 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.**

Council Member Turner moved to enter 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; 2(c)(6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; 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; and 2(c)(21) Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06; seconded by Council Member Spears.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Montelongo moved to adjourn the Special Meeting; seconded by Council Member Spain.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 P.M.