: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, May 10, 2011, a Regular City Council Meeting was held this date at 6:15 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: Akeson, Irving, Riggenbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis - 10. Absent: Gulley - 1.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ardis requested a moment of silent prayer or silent reflection and he requested that Labor Relations Manager Joe Smith be remembered. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.

PROCLAMATION: MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH DAY

PROCLAMATION: POPPY DAYS - MAY 19, 20 and 21

PROCLAMATION: NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK - MAY 16 - 20

PROCLAMATION: BIKE MONTH - MAY

PROCLAMATION: FAMILY HOUSE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: CITY ENGINEER JEFF SMITH - 2011 TOP TEN PUBLIC WORKS LEADER AWARD BY APWA

MINUTES

Council Member Spain moved to approve the minutes of the City Council/Town Board Meeting held on April 26, 2011, the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting held on May 3, 2011, and the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting held on May 7, 2011, as printed; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Akeson, Irving, Riggenbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis - 10;
Nays: None.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA

CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE, for the City of Peoria, with Recommendations as Outlined:

(11-195) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with Request to Award the CONTRACT to the LOWEST RESPONSIVE BIDDER, CRESCENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY for MAST ARM ASSEMBLIES in the Amount of $24,653.00, with a 90-Day Delivery for the North University and West Glen Avenue Intersection Improvement Project.**

(11-196) * Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with Request to Approve a RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION for a Portion of Parcel 13-03-400-007 for the Construction of ORANGE PRAIRIE ROAD from US Route 150 (War Memorial Drive) to IL 91/Grange Hall Road/Alta Lane, in the Amount of $235,000.00.

(11-197) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with Request to Adopt ORDINANCE NO. 16,696 for a PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT by Special Assessment: NORTH AVALON PLACE ORNAMENTAL STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (From W. Hudson Avenue to W. Forrest Hill Avenue and From W. Albany Avenue to Buehler Home).

(11-198) REPORT of the CITY TREASURER PATRICK A. NICHTING for the Month of MARCH 2011, with Request to Receive and File.

Mayor Ardis questioned if the Council wished to have any of the Consent Agenda items removed for further discussion.

Council Member Akeson and Council Member Weaver requested that Item No. 11-196 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Turner moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as outlined in the Council Communications; seconded by Council Member Irving.

Items No. 11-195 through 11-198 (excluding Item No. 11-196, which was removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.
Yeas: Akeson, Irving, Riggenbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis - 10;
Nays: None.

(11-196) * Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with Request to Approve a RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION for a Portion of Parcel 13-03-400-007 for the Construction of ORANGE PRAIRIE ROAD from US Route 150 (War Memorial Drive) to IL 91/Grange Hall Road/Alta Lane, in the Amount of $235,000.00.

Council Member Weaver stated he would be abstaining from discussion and the vote on this item due to his ownership of property in the area.

Council Member Akeson stated she recognized the plan to spend $235,000.00 is in an area of town that is growing. However, she stated the City has budget constraints that she feels would preclude the City from being very prudent with money spent today. She urged the Council to scrutinize this decision and to remember the Council had difficult decisions to make and this was one of them.

Council Member Irving clarified that the project would be 100% funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation. He said the project could not be terminated at this point and he explained the money could not be used for any other purpose. He said there was legislation that had been passed in Springfield and it had been supported by IDOT, and this was a project they were pushing forward from a development standpoint. He said this area was a good development corridor for the City of Peoria and people had donated some portions of right-of-way. He stated there were negotiations taking place currently with residents in the area so he urged the Council to support a motion to approve.

Council Member Irving moved to approve a right-of-way acquisition for a portion of Parcel 13-03-400-007 for the construction of Orange Prairie Road from US Route 150 (War Memorial Drive) to IL 91/Grange Hall Road/Alta Lane, in the amount of $235,000.00; seconded by Council Member Turner.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg, Director of Public Works Dave Barber clarified this parcel was probably the most significant piece of property that would be purchased for this project and was half of the right-of-way for the first 1,350 feet or Phase I of the project.

Motion to approve a right-of-way acquisition for a portion of Parcel 13-03-400-007 for the construction of Orange Prairie Road from US Route 150 (War Memorial Drive) to IL 91/Grange Hall Road/Alta Lane, in the amount of $235,000.00, was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Irving, Riggenbach, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis - 7;
Nays: Akeson, Sandberg – 2;
Abstentions: Weaver - 1.

(11-199) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Human Resources Director with Request to Authorize the City Manager to PURCHASE LIABILITY COVERAGES with ALTERIS PUBLIC RISK SOLUTIONS and AUTO PHYSICAL DAMAGE COVERAGE with GREAT AMERICAN through the Current Broker, ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

Council Member Van Auken moved to authorize the City Manager to purchase liability coverages with Alteris Public Risk Solutions and Auto Physical Damage Coverage with Great American through the current broker, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services; seconded by Council Member Spain.

Approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Akeson, Irving, Riggenbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis - 10;
Nays: None.

(11-200) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with Request to Approve a THIRD SUPPLEMENT to a PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT for Pioneer Parkway Extension Preliminary Engineering Services with CRAWFORD, MURPHY and TILLY, INC., in an Amount Not to Exceed $87,369.00, to Complete Preliminary Engineering and to Obtain Design Approval for the Expanded Limits of the Project and to be Subject to Review and Approval of the Illinois Department of Transportation, and Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Documents. (Amends 03-612-A; Refer to 07-502-A and 08-456-A).

Director of Public Works Dave Barber distributed color maps to all members of the Council.

Council Member Weaver stated he would be abstaining from discussion and the vote on this item due to his ownership of property in the area.

Director of Public Works Dave Barber provided information regarding the beginning of the project in the 1990's. He explained the location of the project went across Growth Cell 2 and Growth Cell 3 and was listed on the IDOT Long-Term Regional Planning Project List, as well as other priority roadway lists. He added it had been one of the City Council recommendations to the Legislators for the past several years. He said the western boundary was Trigger Road and Route 6 cut through the edge, but it was determined in 2003 that an East-West road was needed to cut through the corridor to cut the two-mile stretch in half. He discussed planning process issues that had to be overcome, which included flood plains and wetlands that were regulated by laws. He said it was determined to move forward with the northern route, but there were more wetlands associated with this alternative. He said the project was extended in the planning phase two years ago to go from Route 91 to Trigger Road and connect at Challacomb Road, which was the ultimate connection that needed to be made.

Director Barber discussed some alternatives, which had been discussed at a public meeting held at Grace Presbyterian Church on Route 91. He displayed a map showing the proposed configuration and the northern alignment. He said planning and building was currently taking place around this proposed configuration to include an interchange to address wetland and safety issues. He said the entire project would cost between $40 million and $50 million with approximately $35 million committed to the interchange and he stated there would be a bridge to address railroad issues.

Director Barber explained the conclusion of the Phase I Study completed the preliminary engineering work. He said the next step in the process would be land acquisition once funding was available, then design completion, and finding funding to build the project. He estimated the completion of the entire project would take approximately 15 years once the plan was approved.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg, Director Barber explained Growth Cell 2 would be developed as light industrial and Growth Cell 3 would be residential with some commercial, which aligned with the City's Comprehensive Plan. He said the Fargo Run Plan had been discussed in the past, which would be in Cell 3.

City Manager Patrick Urich pointed out the Comprehensive Plan designated commercial development along Allen Road, but Growth Cell 2 would be light industrial.

Council Member Sandberg said the world of retail was changing and big box stores would not be necessary. He stated he wanted to make sure this investment would drive development.

Council Member Sandberg also expressed concern regarding the loss of railroad access in Pioneer Park and for Growth Cell 2, which would include light industrial. He questioned if the City would be able to provide a balanced bi-directional access from the Union Pacific Northern line to Growth Cell 2 for light industrial businesses.

Director Barber explained there was not a switch in both directions, so some trains would have to back up to get in, but there was railroad access to Candletree on the South side of Pioneer Parkway.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern this road would not provide a solution for Growth Cell 2, which needed railroad access to be successful. He said Cell 2 needed infrastructure for light industry.

Director Barber explained the height of the bridge construction would allow for a "Y" connection at the interchange, when the development warranted the construction of the interchange. He said the "Y" could be added at such time there was a demand for rail service into the district.

Following further comments, Council Member Irving moved to approve a Third Supplement to a Professional Services Agreement for Pioneer Parkway Extension Preliminary Engineering Services with Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Inc., in an amount not to exceed $87,369.00, to complete preliminary engineering and to obtain design approval for the expanded limits of the project and to be subject to review and approval of the Illinois Department of Transportation, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the documents; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Akeson said this project was started ten years ago when economic times were different. She said the expectations for population and the windfall from the growth cell had not come to fruition. She expressed concern regarding the justification for the continuation of spending money on this project. She said the City was in a position to make a statement to control spending no matter where the source of the money came from and it did not matter

when the project was approved by Legislators. She indicated she was not willing to vote in favor when there were needed road repairs and there was not enough money to enhance neighborhoods. She expressed further concern regarding the needed $50 million for the remainder of the project.

Council Member Spain agreed the ultimate costs for this project were significant and this community would not have the funding available now. He said it was important to receive funding assistance from other sources when available. He explained every couple of years Congress created a transportation bill and this was often where funding for large projects in the $30 million to $40 million ranges came from to push projects like this one forward. He said he would support the motion to approve the funding. He said there were many projects in progress that were enhancing all parts of the City. He added he felt this was an important project and would be something that would sustain services throughout the City so investment could happen in all portions of the City.

Mayor Ardis requested a review of the growth cell strategies be placed on the Council Agenda as an item in the next month or so for a public discussion. He said past growth cell strategies were successful and had paid for themselves. He stated, if it wasn't for revenues coming from taxes and investments in the Fifth District, many of the projects in other parts of the City could not happen. He said there was a logical chain of events that needed to occur to be in line for support. He agreed the country was not in good shape financially and spending needed to be reigned in at all levels, but the Council needed to be in line for funding when it was distributed by other entities of the government. He said it was an obligation of the City Council to gain a return on the money the City had paid into State government.

In discussion with Mayor Ardis regarding rail access, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray explained there was an agreement signed with Pioneer Rail when they took over as part of the Kellar Branch discontinuation. He said the City was obligated to build the bridge so the "Y" could be completed.

Director Barber explained this process was to finish the design, but when the planning was conducted, the consultants were made aware of this situation and it is part of the plan. He stated the rail line was not part of the roadway plan, but would be completed separately at some point in time.

Council Member Spears said he supported the project. He said this project would lay the foundation for the road work just like when plans were made for the I-74 reconstruction or for Allen Road. He said the City had to plan for the future and he understood these were difficult dollars to spend, but the Council should not forget the plan and the process to grow the City.

> Motion to approve a Third Supplement to a Professional Services Agreement for Pioneer Parkway Extension Preliminary Engineering Services with Crawford, Murphy and Tilly, Inc., in an amount not to exceed $87,369.00, to complete preliminary engineering and to obtain design approval for the expanded limits of the project and to be subject to review and approval of the Illinois Department of Transportation, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the documents was approved by roll call vote.
> Yeas: Irving, Riggenbach, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis - 7;
> Nays: Akeson, Sandberg – 2;
> Abstentions: Weaver – 1.

(11-201) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works with Request to Approve the CITY OF PEORIA SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCESS, Which Revokes any Former Policy and Represents the Entire Policy with Regard to Special Assessments. (Refer to 08-491).

Council Member Van Auken moved to approve the City of Peoria Special Assessment Program Policies and Process, which revokes any former policy and represents the entire policy with regard to Special Assessments; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that it took years to move through the process of beginning with a petition of support to actually getting the project completed, which included sidewalks, curbs, and street lighting projects. He said the average length of time from beginning to end was five and a half years and there was no reason for the delay unless the funding had not been budgeted. He stated property owners were willing to invest in these projects and the projects should be finished in a comprehensive fashion. He stated he felt the process should be shortened.

In discussion with Council Member Van Auken, Director Barber said his department had worked to shorten the process. He said there were three projects which would be completed this year and there were three projects left for next year, but that would complete the list of all projects. He said he wanted to stay caught up with requests, but it would depend on the size of projects requested and the funding available. He further discussed the process followed when there was not enough funding for larger projects requested, but the money could be used to finish smaller projects.

Council Member Riggenbach said there was some frustration felt by citizens regarding the delays in the process, but there was the understanding that funding was not available. He said he appreciated the fact the current list would be depleted soon.

In discussion with Council Member Weaver and Mayor Ardis, Director Barber explained the communication process and the use of the City's website. He said citizens were welcome to place a call to his office or citizens could meet with the Board at their regular meetings.

Mayor Ardis suggested increasing communication to people who were waiting for a Special Assessments project and providing them with an update on the status once or twice a year.

Director Barber said he would provide an annual update to those petitioners on the list.

Motion to approve the City of Peoria Special Assessment Program Policies and Process, which revokes any former policy and represents the entire policy with regard to Special Assessments was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Irving, Riggenbach, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis - 9;

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

(11-183) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and Growth Management with Recommendation from the Zoning Commission and Staff to DENY an ORDINANCE Amending an EXISTING SPECIAL USE, Ordinance No. 16,082 as Amended, in a Class C-2 (Large Scale Commercial) District for a SHOPPING CENTER to Add a FIVE FOOT TALL, THIRTY-FOUR SQUARE FOOT MONUMENT SIGN for Property Commonly Known as JUNCTION CITY SHOPPING CENTER with an Address of 5901 N. PROSPECT AVENUE with the Proposed Sign Being Located at 5832 N. KNOXVILLE AVENUE.

Council Member Riggenbach moved to defer this item for two weeks until the May 24, 2011, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

Motion to defer this item until May 24, 2011, was approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Akeson, Irving, Riggenbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis - 10;
Nays: None.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUCEMENT Regarding GRAND OPENING and OPEN HOUSE of the NEW PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY NORTH BRANCH

Council Member Van Auken announced the grand opening and open house of the new Peoria Public Library North Branch on Saturday, May 14, 2011, from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. located at 3001 W. Grand Parkway. She invited the public to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENT Regarding GRAND TOUR of WEST BLUFF HOMES

Council Member Van Auken announced the Grand Tour of West Bluff Homes on Sunday, May 15, 2011, from noon until 5:00 P.M. She said advanced tickets were $12.00 and $15.00 the day of the tour. She said there were many beautiful homes being featured and the Peoria Women's Club building would be included in the tour.

(11-202) REQUEST for TRAFFIC FLOW ASSISTANCE from the POLICE DEPARTMENT for SCHOOLS in the AREA of the NORTHMOOR ROAD CLOSURE.

Council Member Sandberg referred to the road closure on Northmoor Road and he expressed concern regarding traffic flow and traffic safety for those entering and exiting schools in the area. He requested that Police presence be placed in that area to assist traffic flow while Northmoor Road was closed.

City Manager Patrick Urich said Police Chief Settingsgaard contacted the Principal at Richwoods High School to discuss traffic issues, but they did not feel there was a problem.

In discussion with Mayor Ardis, Police Chief Settingsgaard stated he was not aware of any traffic incidents in the related area. He said his department would contact all the schools in the area to survey what type of traffic assistance was needed.

ANNOUNCEMENT Regarding COMMUNITY MEETING at EXPO GARDENS Regarding a GO-KART TRACK and OTHER USES for the EXPO GARDENS PROPERTY

Council Member Irving announced Expo Gardens would hold a community meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, from 6:30 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. for an open house for the surrounding neighborhoods. He said discussion would be held regarding a go-kart track being located at Expo Gardens and acceptable uses for the Expo Gardens property.

ANNOUNCEMENT Regarding the REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING on MAY 12, 2011

Council Member Spears announced a Redistricting Committee Meeting would be held at City Hall in the Council Chambers on Thursday, May 12, 2011, beginning at 5:30 P.M. He explained every ten years the Council District boundaries were adjusted following the release of the census numbers. He urged citizens to participate in the process.

Mayor Ardis thanked Council Member Spears for chairing this Committee. He said citizens needed to have the opportunity to understand the strategy used before new boundary changes were made. He encouraged the public to attend and give their input regarding changes that would made due to the population shift to the North and West.

COMMENDATIONS to CITY STAFF for ASSISTANCE to NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Council Member Akeson thanked City Department Heads for the time spent providing information to her and Council Member Weaver during their first weeks after taking office.

(11-203) REQUEST for an Item Relating to COUNCIL RULES be Placed on the MAY 24, 2011, CITY COUNCIL AGENDA for Council Discussion Regarding Possible Changes.

Mayor Ardis referred to the May 7th Council Strategic Planning session that was held and he requested that a copy of the Council Rules be placed in the Council's packets and that an item regarding Council Rules be placed on the next Council Meeting Agenda so possible changes could be discussed. He explained the rules were normally discussed every two years when new Council Members joined the City Council.

ANNOUNCEMENT Regarding STATE OF THE SCHOOLS ADDRESS by SCHOOL DISTRICT #150 SUPERINTENDENT

Mayor Ardis announced the first ever State of the Schools Address would be held by School District #150 Superintendent Grenita Lathan on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at 7:30 A.M. at the Pere Marquette. He said this would be an important event considering all the important decisions District #150 would be facing in the near future and the importance of District #150 to the stability of the community.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

(11-204) REQUEST from CITIZENS to Address the CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD Regarding Various Items.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the Floor to those citizens wishing to address the City Council/Town Board.

Savino Sierra, a Peoria resident, congratulated the Peoria Fire Department on receipt of a grant to hire new Firefighters. He requested that crossing stripes be installed on the streets around Harrison School and he expressed concern regarding the striping on the lanes around O'Brien Ball Stadium. He said he felt the lack of striping made the area dangerous for vehicles.

Kenny Carrigan, a Peoria resident, reported he attended the Pass Forward Meeting on Monday, May 9, 2011, and he commended the attitude of everyone involved who discussed the sharing of County and City services. He said he was glad to see the large number of people who attended the meeting and the cooperation of everyone involved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was determined than an Executive Session was not needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Van Auken moved to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Akeson.

Approved by roll call vote.
Yeas: Akeson, Irving, Riggenbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 10;
Nays: None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

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

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