

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

A Special Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held on Sunday, June 12, 2011, at 12:00 P.M., at the Gateway Building, 200 N.W. Water Street, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, Peoria, Illinois, for the purpose of holding a City Council Retreat, with Mayor Jim Ardis presiding and with proper notice having been given.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Council Members physically present: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, Riggenbach, Spain, Spears, Turner, Weaver (arrived 12:05 P.M.), Mayor Ardis – 9; Absent: Sandberg, Van Auken - 2.

Others present at the Special Meeting were: City Manager Patrick Ulrich, City Clerk Mary Haynes, Administrative Specialist III Angie Herrick from the City Clerk's office, interested citizens, and members of the media.

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**(11-228) CITY COUNCIL RETREAT ON STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Mayor Ardis welcomed all of those in attendance.

City Manager Patrick Ulrich also welcomed everyone, including the facilitator of the day's retreat, Lyle Sumek. He noted the focus of the retreat was to refine the information compiled from the initial retreat held in May.

City Manager Ulrich distributed replacement pages to be inserted into the City Council's workbooks, including complete replacement of Sections 5 and 7.

Facilitator Lyle Sumek reiterated the focus of the retreat was three specific areas: the City's Vision or destination, the City's Plan or goals, and the City's Itinerary or set of projects. He noted the City Council's job was to provide direction to Staff based on the priorities of the Council. He said once specific activities or deliverables were initiated, individual Staff members would be assigned to these activities to ensure accountability. He added specific time frames for the projects would also be determined and followed.

WORKBOOK SECTION 5 – CITY OF PEORIA'S VISION 2026

Mr. Sumek highlighted the Guiding Principles to achieve the City of Peoria's Vision set by the City Council at the retreat in May. They included the following: A) Safety & Attractiveness; B) Lively Downtown/Warehouse District; C) Diverse & Strong Local Economy; D) Desirable/Livable Neighborhoods; E) Growing City; and F) Fun Place.

Mr. Sumek noted, in fine-tuning these principles, there could be some contradictory information depending on the opinion of the Council as a whole. He said this was an opportunity to hone in on what was important to the Council. He then asked City Council Members to turn to Section 5 – City of Peoria's Vision 2016, of their workbooks and he led the Council through an exercise to prioritize the objectives of each component of the City of Peoria's Vision for the next fifteen years.

PRINCIPLE A: SAFETY AND ATTRACTIVENESS

In discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the following were the six most important components of Principle A: reputation and reality that the City is safe to live and visit; residents and businesses stepping up to create a safe community; people feeling safe and secure in their homes, in their neighborhood, and anywhere in the City; well maintained neighborhood streets, sidewalks, and public areas; minimal blight and litter throughout the City; and community designed for connectivity for all.

Council Member Akeson expressed concern that there was not community input in this strategic planning exercise. She said she felt it was unrealistic for a Council to set policy without it and without all of the Council Members present.

Mr. Sumek clarified for the City Council that the plan being developed was their plan, not a community-based plan as was done in the past.

City Manager Ulrich noted elected officials were elected to their positions to set the vision and the policy for the City, which would set the tone for the direction of the City. He added, once that path was set, it was then his responsibility to work to align the City's resources with the direction set by Council and to achieve those outcomes within the budget constraints.

PRINCIPLE B: LIVELY DOWNTOWN/WAREHOUSE DISTRICT (Formerly ALIVE DOWNTOWN/WAREHOUSE DISTRICT)

Council Member Turner expressed concern that the list of components included specifically Caterpillar headquarters. He said he felt it was important to add other corporations or regional offices.

Council Member Spears said he felt an expansion of higher education in the downtown area was important, including U of I, ICC, Robert Morris, etc.

Council Member Spain said there was a need for more pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. He said the Downtown and Warehouse District areas needed to accommodate more foot traffic.

City Manager Ulrich noted Staff had decided the term "alive" needed to be "lively" in the title of Principle B. Council Member Akeson questioned the term "lively" versus "vibrant." In discussion, the Council determined the word "lively" would make the City unique and elected to keep that term.

In discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the title for Principle B should be "Lively Downtown/Warehouse District." He then determined the following were the seven most important components of Principle B: people living in mixed use buildings, apartments, and urban housing; medical and healthcare services with employees living in the adjacent neighborhoods; nightlife and evening choices of entertainment including restaurants, live music, and performances; reputation as a "hip" or seen as a "cool" place to visit, to live, and to linger after events; Riverfront with people walking along the water, programs and events, marina with services, and food vendors and small cafes; retail businesses focusing on basic services for residents and unique shops; and pedestrian-scale and connectivity of infrastructure and signage.

PRINCIPLE C: GREAT PLACE FOR DIVERSE BUSINESS (Formerly DIVERSE AND STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY)

Council Member Spain said he felt it was important to continue to build on the City's relationship with Caterpillar and its employees. He noted there were a large number of vacant offices in the Downtown area which could be utilized by Caterpillar, as well as other corporations.

In discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the title for Principle C should be "Great Place for Diverse Businesses." He then determined the following were the seven most important components of Principle C: center for medical, healthcare services, and biotech education and research; expanded corporate presence with growing employment within the City; expanded Bradley University campus and educational programs; environment that supports business start up and growth; talented, educated workforce with skill sets for 21st century jobs; expanded State or private university presence with an expanded variety of degree offerings and educational programs; and diverse transportation network (airport, barges, freight and passenger rail service).

Council Member Spain noted it was important to change the perception that it was difficult to do business in Peoria.

Council Member Riggenbach left the meeting at 1:17 P.M.

PRINCIPLE D: DESIRABLE/LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

Council Member Turner expressed concern that the City had not followed through on its promise to make the learning centers within the neighborhoods accessible for community use. He noted this had been a condition of the Council's approval of the Impact Zones. He said he felt an additional objective should be added to Principle D which identified that the City government should be responsive to the needs of the neighborhoods.

In discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the following were the eight most important components of Principle D: neighborhood retail serving the needs of residents; residents and businesses taking pride and sharing responsibility for their neighborhoods; well maintained and connected neighborhood infrastructure including streets and sidewalks; pedestrian-friendly and walkable neighborhoods; homeownership in neighborhoods; replacing vacant and dilapidated housing stock with well-built, quality, affordable homes in neighborhoods; residents feeling safe at home and in their neighborhoods; and government responsive to needs of the neighborhoods.

PRINCIPLE E: GROWING CITY

In discussion with Council Member Spears, City Manager Urich clarified much discussion had been held regarding the classification of "middle class." He said currently the City population was divided into two groups; one of affluence and one of poverty. He noted "working class" was not accurate, as many families who were employed were still at the poverty level. He said the more appropriate terminology was middle class and that was the group that was disappearing from the City's population.

Discussion was held regarding the City and District #150 collaborating to increase the enrollment numbers in District #150.

Council Member Gulley suggested earmarking dollars from CDBG funds to assist District #150 in changing the outcome of education. He said dollars could be utilized to enhance a reading program, for example. He said he felt the City Council had the ability to influence the District toward positive change.

Mayor Ardis said he felt the entire culture of District #150 needed to change in order for them to become successful.

In discussion regarding the importance of education on many levels, the Council determined there should be a Principle G for education, "supporting a culture of excellence in Peoria schools" and where education was listed in other principles, they should be listed under that title. Mr. Sumek said he would refine the title.

Council Member Turner said he felt there needed to be collaboration between the City and neighboring cities. He expressed concern regarding Peoria's citizens crossing the bridge into East Peoria to do shopping and utilizing restaurants because they were more convenient.

In discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the following were the five most important components of Principle E: families want to live in the City; businesses prefer to locate and are able to grow in the City (means 2 and 7 were combined during discussion); young adults (changed from individuals and families during discussion) desire to live in the City; growing middle class population; and positive image of City government with responsible governance and responsive, cost effective service delivery.

PRINCIPLE F: FUN PLACE

Following some discussion, Mayor Ardis said he felt the components of Principle F would fall into place on their own once the goals of the other principles were met.

Mr. Sumek determined "Principle F: Fun Place" could be eliminated.

OTHER PRINCIPLES

Council Member Gulley said he felt "Collaboration with Other Entities" should become a Guiding Principle. He said many items could be listed here including leisure and recreational activities; transportation; developers; service delivery; and regional.

Council Member Spears said he felt it was the City Council's policies that had driven people and businesses out of Peoria.

Upon further discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the new Principle F would become "Culture of Educational Excellence" and Principle G would be "Collaboration for Community Excellence."

RECESS AND RECONVENING OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Sumek requested a brief recess at 3:35 P.M. The Council reconvened at 3:44 P.M.

The City Clerk determined the following members were present: Council Members Akeson, Gulley, Irving, Spain, Spears, Turner, Weaver, and Mayor Ardis. Also present were City Manager Patrick Urich, Facilitator Lyle Sumek, City Clerk Mary Haynes, Administrative Specialist III Angie Herrick, and members of the media.

WORKBOOK SECTION 7 – CITY OF PEORIA PLAN 2011-2016

Mr. Sumek directed Council to Section 7 – City of Peoria Plan 2011-2016, of the City Council workbook. He reiterated the City of Peoria Goals for 2016: smart population growth; financially sound City government; grow businesses; responsive, efficient City organization; and lively Downtown/Warehouse District.

GOAL 1: SMART POPULATION GROWTH

In discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the Council felt the five most important objectives for Goal 1 included the following: increase the number of residents; develop a reputation as a preferred place to live; people feeling safe and secure in any neighborhood; increase homeownership in every neighborhood; and improve the visual appeal of every neighborhood.

Council Member Akeson noted the importance of the City establishing a City Tree Plan or Policy. It was added as Action #32.

In discussion by the Council, it was also decided the addition of Growth Cell Analysis, Evaluation, and Direction be added as Action #33.

Following further discussion, Mr. Sumek then determined the seven most important actions to take within the next five years for Goal 1 to be met included the following: landlord/tenant accountability with analysis of problems, strategy with actions and funding mechanism; neighborhood crime reduction strategy and action plan with identification of major problem, priority areas and actions (with Council adding "without transferring problems to another neighborhood or area"); Code Enforcement code review, performance assessment and actions; TIF for East Village Growth Cell with direction and project (three components were added by Council to further define this action: a. Glen Oak Impact Zone; b. OSF School of Nursing housing stock upgrade; and c. Green development); Pioneer Parkway future direction and funding including completion of Phase I study and advocacy for funding; rail link to Bloomington/Normal advocacy; and sidewalk policy and program with assessment and direction.

GOAL 2: FINANCIALLY SOUND CITY GOVERNMENT

In discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the five most important objectives for Goal 2 included the following: accurate and timely financial information for the Mayor and City Council, managers and employees, and residents; adequate resources to support defined and prioritized City services and service levels; develop financial tools for assisting Mayor and City Council and managers in decision making; increase the City's financial revenues and revenue sources; and maintain a highly motivated and productive workforce which is accountable for their actions.

Mayor Ardis noted, regardless of the outcomes of goal-setting and prioritizing, if a need existed which outweighed what was determined by the Council today, the City Manager would still be able to bring forth suggestions for consideration. The Council agreed.

Following further discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the eleven most important actions to take within the next five years for Goal 2 to be met included the following: pension reform; shared services with Peoria County (short term); shared services with Peoria County (long term); combined purchasing (City/County/Township/School Dist, etc.); healthcare cost containment; employee compensation and benefits policy; multi-year budgeting system; sale of City services to other jurisdictions; City service plan; early retirement program; and financial policies.

GOAL 3: GROW BUSINESSES

In discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the five most important objectives for Goal 3 included the following: retain and grow businesses in the City; retain Caterpillar Headquarters in the City (modified from Vision); more opportunities for start-up businesses and entrepreneurs; expand medical and healthcare into a recognized regional center; and develop a prepared workforce for quality jobs.

Following further discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the six most important actions to take within the next five years for Goal 3 to be met included the following: small business forum; City Economic Development; business-friendly performance audit; sign Ordinance; Bradley

University strategy; and Convention and Visitors Bureau and Civic Center performance assessments (the Council determined it was appropriate to combine the PACVB and PCCA into one action).

GOAL 4: RESPONSIVE, EFFICIENT CITY ORGANIZATION

A discussion was held regarding step increases for employee salaries and Mayor Ardis noted some of these actions were determined by Union contracts. He said discussion should be held with management, however, to ensure these pay increases were not automatic and were warranted.

In discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the five most important objectives for Goal 4 included the following: reorganize City government to create a highly productive organization; improve customer service and the level of customer satisfaction; improve the processes for delivering City services; hire, retain and promote employees based upon performance and a set of core values with performance standards for all city employees and hold them accountable and define performance goals and standards for all employees and hold them accountable. (In discussion, the last two objectives were combined by the Council into one.)

Following further discussion, Mr. Sumek then determined the four most important actions to take within the next five years for Goal 4 to be met included the following: Residential Police Officer program with desired outcomes, direction, development and funding; performance evaluation program with pay for performance system including direction, development and funding; City structure reorganization with assessment, direction and actions; and enhanced customer service plan with expectations, direction and actions.

GOAL 5: LIVELY DOWNTOWN/WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

Council Member Akesson said she felt an important objective for Goal 5 was to increase the number of retail businesses and restaurants. This item was added as Objective 10.

In discussion, Mr. Sumek determined the five most important objectives for Goal 5 included the following: increase the number of residents in the District; increase the number of successful businesses in the District; develop the District as a regional and local destination; develop mixed use opportunities; and increase the number of retail businesses and restaurants.

Following further discussion, Mr. Sumek then determined the five most important actions to take within the next five years for Goal 5 to be met included the following: Warehouse District private investment projects and development agreements; plan for connectivity with direction and development; residential development with direction, project and funding; Downtown Parking Master Plan development; and museum spin off business development with direction, City's role and actions.

City Manager Ulrich said the prioritized information compiled today by the Council would be taken to Staff and assigned to facilitate the development of outlines and timeframes. He said there may be some Staff projects nearing completion that may need to be considered and added to the list. He added the finalized information would then be brought back to Council for final determination of the City's direction.

Mayor Ardis thanked Mr. Sumek for leading the discussion. He also thanked the Council Members and the City Clerk and her staff for their attendance.

City Manager Ulrich noted the City Council Agenda for Tuesday, June 14, 2011, was straightforward. He said the proposed revisions to the Fence Ordinance came forward in Issues Update. He added the Growth Cell 1A Analysis would come forward in July for discussion.

Council Member Turner reminded Council Members to return any outstanding tickets and money from the "Elected Officials Got Talent" fundraiser. He said the money was raised to sponsor individuals to participate in the annual conference held on neighborhoods.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD

It was determined there were no citizens who wished to address the City Council/Town Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was determined an Executive Session was not needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Irving moved to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Special City Council Meeting adjourned at 5:03 P.M.

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

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