




Office of the City Manager

**TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council**

**FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager** 

**DATE: September 2, 2011**

**SUBJECT: Issues Update**

The following are issues related to the City for the weekly Issues Update. If there are additional items you believe should be included, please let me know.

**STAFF TO COMPLETE ENTERPRISE ZONE EXTENSION AND DZO PROJECT APPLICATION FOR SPRINGDALE CEMETERY FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION.** One of the incentives of the Enterprise Zone Program is having a project assigned as a Designated Zone Organization (DZO) project. This Designation allows corporations making charitable contributions to the DZO project to receive a state tax deduction for double the amount of their contribution. A DZO project must be within an enterprise zone. The PeoriaNEXT Innovation Center and Peoria Riverfront Museum have both been official DZO projects.

Springdale Cemetery would be a logical DZO project. Such designation, coupled with more aggressive marketing, could help the Cemetery attract greater donations. Economic Development staff has begun the process to expand the City of Peoria Enterprise Zone to include Springdale Cemetery. As the first step, the Planning Commission will take up the expansion at their September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Simultaneously, staff will prepare the application to designate Springdale Cemetery as a DZO project. Both the Enterprise Zone expansion and DZO designation will come before Council for approval on October 11, 2011. Both changes will need to be approved by the State of Illinois. It is staff's hope that full approval will be in place before the end of the year so that corporations wishing to make contributions can get the double deduction in 2011.

**CENSUS SNAPSHOT FAMILIES HOUSEHOLDS.** The Census Bureau recently released more data from the 2010 Census. The attached snapshot provides an overview of some new household and family data. **(Electronic Copy Only)**

**FAQ REGARDING REDISTRICTING.** Attached to this week's Issues Update **(Electronic Copy Only)** is **FAQ Regarding City of Peoria Redistricting.** This document was prepared by the City's Legal and Planning Departments in response to the City Council's request to have information regarding various redistricting issues prepared and distributed to the community. The FAQ is being sent to a distribution list that includes neighborhood association, media, City commissions, other governmental entities, and a variety of community and/or special interest groups. The City Council on August 9, 2011 had deferred action regarding redistricting to accommodate community review and input, and has the item scheduled for Council consideration on October 11, 2011.

**EARLY SUCCESS IN VENDOR NEGOTIATIONS.** On July 26, 2011, the City Council authorized the City Manager and his staff to negotiate with City vendors and execute contracts that exchanged an extra

year of service with a cost discount. Department Heads have been working with various vendors. Three contracts have been successfully reduced:

- The Fire Department negotiated a 5% reduction in its contract with IWERC to conduct wellness physicals for firefighters. The negotiation should yield a savings of at least \$8,800. IWERC's contract will be extended for one year.
- The Emergency Communication Center has successfully negotiated with two of its vendors. In exchange for a one-year contract extension with CodeRed (which provides the City and County with community messaging or "reverse 911" capabilities), the City will receive 10% discount. Since the City equally splits the cost of this system with the County, the total savings of \$11,625 will yield a savings to the City of \$5,812.50. Additionally, AT&T provides the City with two annual data extracts that update this system with new or changed phone numbers. In exchange for an additional contract year, AT&T will reduce the current cost of \$2100/request to \$525 for the first request and \$350.000 for the second request. This cost reduction of \$3,325 will also be split with the County, yielding a savings to the City of \$1,662.50.

As staff continues to successfully negotiate with vendors, we will use Issues Update to communicate with Council.

**SEPTEMBER 2011 CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT.** The September 2011 Capital Projects Report is included in this week's Issues Update for your review. **(Electronic Copy Only)**