

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, October 11, 2011, a Regular City Council Meeting was held this date at 6:19 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, Gulley, Irving, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis - 10. Absent: Riggensbach - 1.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.**

**PROCLAMATION:** FINE ARTS SOCIETY 50th SEASON

**PROCLAMATION:** LEE RANSON DAY - OCTOBER 21, 2011

**PROCLAMATION:** HEADSTART AWARENESS MONTH - OCTOBER

**PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL:** PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION BY PHYLLIS PRYDE FOR BONDING AND RENOVATION OF DOWNTOWN AND BRANCH PEORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES

**MINUTES**

Council Member Spain moved to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on September 27, 2011, and the Special City Council Meeting held on October 4, 2011, as printed; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, 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:**

(11-435)      **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works  
\*      Requesting Approval of the SOLE SOURCE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT  
with CENTURY RAILROAD BUILDERS, INC., in the Amount of \$157,755.47,  
for the RECONSTRUCTION of the RAILROAD CROSSINGS on PIONEER  
PARKWAY and RADNOR ROAD.**

(11-436)      **Communication from the City Manager Requesting Approval of a  
RESOLUTION to APPOINT the HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, MARY  
ANN STALCUP, as the AUTHORIZED AGENT for the ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL  
RETIREMENT FUND (I.M.R.F.)**

- (11-437) **Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting Adoption of ORDINANCE NO. 16,744 Amending the CITY OF PEORIA BUDGET for FISCAL YEAR 2011 Relating to the Police Illinois Tobacco Free Communities (ITFC) Grant, in the Amount of \$5,208.00, and the Illinois American Water Grant, in the Amount of \$1,000.00.**
- (11-438) **Communication from the City Manager with Request to Adopt ORDINANCE NO. 16,745 Amending Ordinance No. 11,051, as Adopted on December 28, 1982, Expanding the BOUNDARIES of the ENTERPRISE ZONE to Include SPRINGDALE CEMETERY, with Recommendation from the Planning Commission to Approve; and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Necessary Documents.**
- (11-439) **PEORIA CIVIC CENTER OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET for YEAR ENDED  
\*\* AUGUST 31, 2012, with Request to Receive and File.**
- (11-440) **REPORT of the CITY TREASURER PATRICK A. NICHTING for the Month of AUGUST 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 Sandberg requested that Item No. 11-435 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Van Auken requested that Item No. 11-439 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Van Auken moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as outlined in the Council Communications; seconded by Council Member Spain.

Items No. 11-435 through 11-440 (excluding Item Nos. 11-435 and 11-439, which were removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

- (11-435) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works  
\* Requesting Approval of the SOLE SOURCE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT with CENTURY RAILROAD BUILDERS, INC., in the Amount of \$157,755.47, for the RECONSTRUCTION of the RAILROAD CROSSINGS on PIONEER PARKWAY and RADNOR ROAD.**

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that the railroad crossing on Abingdon Hill was not being addressed before the crossings on Pioneer Parkway and Radnor Road. He said the crossing on Abingdon Hill was in deplorable condition. He questioned how the proposed crossings were chosen for reconstruction.

Director of Public Works Dave Barber explained these two crossings were brought to his attention that the reconstruction was the City's responsibility. He said he would review the railroad crossing on Abingdon Hill for repair and report back to the City Council. He added there were many railroad crossings in the City that needed reconstruction, but some were not the City's responsibility.

Council Member Sandberg suggested that the reconstruction begin with the railroad crossings that were in the most need of repair.

In discussion with Council Member Irving regarding the issue of sole source, Director Barber explained no bids were received for this project. He said one of vendors noticed the bid late and asked if the City would accept his proposal. He stated, if the Council was not in favor of proceeding, he would have the project rebid in the Spring.

In further discussion with Council Member Irving regarding the concrete crossings, Director Barber stated the portion of the rail that was abandoned was abandoned approximately 150 feet South of Pioneer Parkway and the City had agreed to keep that portion of the rail in service as part of the agreement with Pioneer Rail. He said the train needed to be able to back up and switch tracks so the train could proceed to Globe Energy. He further reported the agreement with Pioneer Rail stipulated that the crossing maintenance was the City's responsibility.

Council Member Irving moved to approve the sole source construction contract with Century Railroad Builders, Inc., in the amount of \$157,755.47, for the reconstruction of the railroad crossings on Pioneer Parkway and Radnor Road; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Spain expressed concern regarding the \$84,000 investment in the Pioneer Parkway crossing, but he did not see a need for rail service in the area. He said there were no rail customers to the North, so he did not understand the need for this improvement. He suggested holding a discussion with Pioneer Rail to remove the crossing. He said this money could be spent on other rail crossings that were in worse condition.

Corporation Counsel Randy Ray stated it was always part of the original agreement that the rail would extend beyond Pioneer Parkway so rail service could be provided from the West to every part of Pioneer Park.

Council Member Akeson requested that the motion be separated so the two rail crossings be voted on separately. She suggested that the Pioneer Parkway rail crossing could be deferred and discussed at a later date. She stated she was under the impression every dollar counted and the crossings may be in bad shape, but she questioned if it was imperative that these expenditures be made at this time, especially when there were other crossings that needed attention.

In discussion with Mayor Ardis, Director Barber stated it was his intention to complete the reconstruction during this season.

Mayor Ardis suggested a deferral on this item so further questions could be answered. He questioned what the impact a deferral would have on the project. He said he would like to have a competitive bid come in on this project.

Director Barber said, if this expenditure was not approved soon, the project would need to wait until Spring 2012.

In discussion with Council Member Spears regarding how the need for repairs was determined, Director Barber explained there were a significant number of complaints and, after inspection of the Pioneer Parkway rail crossing, it was discovered there were hidden problems and deterioration would only continue if reconstruction was not completed. He stated the ICC reported problems at the Radnor Road rail crossing.

Council Member Irving provided additional information regarding the need for repair as soon as possible and he urged the Council to support the motion to approve.

Following clarification regarding the RFP process, Council Member Akeson urged the Council to stop spending money based on how many complaints were received on an issue. She expressed concern that projects did not have more direction and she felt a better system needed to be implemented.

Following further discussion, Council Member Sandberg moved to defer this item until the October 17, 2011, Special City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Gulley.

Motion to defer this item until October 17, 2011, Special City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Weaver - 6;

Nays: Irving, Turner, Van Auken, Mayor Ardis - 4.

**(11-439)      PEORIA CIVIC CENTER OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET for YEAR ENDED  
\*\*              AUGUST 31, 2012, with Request to Receive and File.**

City Manager Patrick Ulrich distributed a copy of this report to all members of the City Council.

Council Member Van Auken moved to receive and file the Peoria Civic Center Operating & Capital Budget for Year Ended August 31, 2012; seconded by Council Member Spain.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(11-441)      Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller  
Requesting Adoption of an ORDINANCE Providing for the ISSUANCE of  
One or More Series of MOTOR FUEL TAX REFUNDING REVENUE BONDS  
for the Purpose of Refunding Certain Heretofore Issued and Now  
Outstanding General Obligation Bonds, SERIES 2003A, of the City of  
Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, Authorizing Execution of One or More  
Escrow Agreements and Bond Orders and Providing for the Pledge of  
Certain Motor Fuel Tax Revenues for the Payment of the Principal and  
Interest on Said Bonds.**

Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins stated this bond was to extend Charter Oak Road. He said the proposed bond would be refunded and the City would then issue a Motor Fuel Tax Revenue Bond with a targeted savings of 4%, with an estimated savings of \$140,000 over the remaining time of the bond. He said it would also allow the City to reduce the amount of the remaining General Obligation debt.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding the refinancing and the debt incurred. He said debt was a long-term problem and he would not support a motion to adopt the proposed Ordinance.

Council Member Spain moved to adopt the Ordinance providing for the issuance of one or more series of Motor Fuel Tax Refunding Revenue Bonds for the purpose of refunding certain heretofore issued and now outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series 2003A, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, authorizing execution of one or more Escrow Agreements and Bond Orders and providing for the pledge of certain Motor Fuel Tax Revenues for the payment of the principal and interest on said Bonds; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

ORDINANCE NO. 16,746 providing for the issuance of one or more series of Motor Fuel Tax Refunding Revenue Bonds for the purpose of refunding certain heretofore issued and now outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series 2003A, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, authorizing execution of one or more Escrow Agreements and Bond Orders and providing for the pledge of certain Motor Fuel Tax Revenues for the payment of the principal and interest on said bonds was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

- (11-442) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting Adoption of an ORDINANCE Providing for the ISSUANCE of One or More Series of GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, for the Purpose of Refunding Certain General Obligation Bonds, SERIES 2004B, Heretofore Issued by the City and Now Outstanding, Authorizing Execution of One or More Escrow Agreements and Bond Orders and Providing for the Levy and Collection of a Direct Annual Tax for the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on Said Bonds.**

Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins stated this bond was to refund some capital infrastructure bonds. He said the savings would be approximately 5% and an estimated savings of approximately \$240,000 over the remaining term of the bond.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding the refinancing and the debt incurred. He said debt was a long-term problem and he would not support a motion to adopt the proposed Ordinance.

Council Member Spain moved to adopt the Ordinance Providing for the issuance of one or more series of General Obligation Refunding Bonds of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, for the purpose of refunding certain General Obligation Bonds, Series 2004B, heretofore issued by the City and now outstanding, authorizing execution of one or more Escrow Agreements and Bond Orders and providing for the levy and collection of a Direct Annual Tax for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

ORDINANCE NO. 16,747 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

- (11-443) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting Adoption of an ORDINANCE Providing for the ISSUANCE of One or More Series of GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS for the Purpose of Refunding Certain Heretofore Issued and Now Outstanding GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2005A, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, Authorizing the Execution of One or More Escrow Agreements and Bond Orders and Providing for the Levy and Collection of a Direct Annual Tax for the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on Said Bonds.**

Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins stated this bond was the follow up refunding bond on the Civic Center bonds started in 2010 to cover the \$37 million outstanding. He said they took advantage of the increase in bank-qualified financing available in 2010.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding the refinancing and the debt incurred. He said debt was a long-term problem and he would not support a motion to adopt the proposed Ordinance.

Council Member Spain moved to adopt the Ordinance providing for the issuance of one or more series of General Obligation Refunding Bonds for the purpose of refunding certain heretofore issued and now outstanding General Obligation Bonds, Series 2005A, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, authorizing the execution of one or more Escrow Agreements and Bond Orders and providing for the levy and collection of a Direct Annual Tax for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

ORDINANCE NO. 16,748 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis

- 9;

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

**(11-444) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting Adoption of an ORDINANCE Providing for the ISSUANCE of VARIABLE RATE GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2011, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, Authorizing the Execution of One or More Bond Orders and Providing for the Levy and Collection of a Direct Annual Tax for the Payment of the Principal of and Interest on Said Bonds.**

Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins stated this bond was for capital infrastructure improvements in the near future.

Council Member Spain moved to adopt the Ordinance Providing for the issuance of Variable Rate General Obligation Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2011, of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, Illinois, authorizing the execution of one or more Bond Orders and providing for the Levy and collection of a Direct Annual Tax for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 16,749 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**(11-445) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works Requesting Approval of the DELETION of EIGHTEEN CENTERLINE MILES of PRIMARY SNOW STREETS for the 2011-2012 WINTER SEASON, and to Direct the Public Works Department to Modify the 2011-2012 SNOW PLAN to Operate with EIGHTEEN SNOW ROUTES.**

Director of Public Works Dave Barber stated, due to the potential reduction in Staff being proposed by the Administration, he realized there was a potential reduction of six or more Staff members. He said it was possible the Public Works Department would lose ten full time Staff Members before the end of the year or later. He said it was his obligation to plan for winter and review how the City would meet the needs of the community. He discussed the three levels of storms and how the streets were managed during each, and he discussed the average number of storms per year. He explained a team of 60 people were needed and he had 35 full time staff

members who would be working in this capacity. He said the team would be supplemented with 20 to 25 temporary staff members. He said the temporary staff members were guaranteed two days of work a week from November through March each year and they worked on whatever would be needed to fight snow during that season. He said the recommendation was to eliminate 18 centerline miles of what were now considered primary streets. He said all streets in the City would still be within 2500 feet of a primary snow street, so all citizens would be within a half mile of a main route. He said the structure of the system could be modified so Staff would address 18 routes rather than 23 routes. He gave a brief history of reductions in the past and he stated he did not feel there was any significant impact on response. He said the details of the new plan were still being discussed, but his department anticipated response to most storm events within 18 hours, which was the current goal in the Snow Plan. He stated it was his belief that most citizens would not see any difference in services, with the exception of those located on primary snow routes. He said those streets would not receive initial response for salting.

Director Barber discussed his department's saving measures taken regarding salt supplies due to the increasing prices of salt. He said they had been mixing salt and sand except at intersections. He said he felt this plan would continue to meet the needs of the community and still provide response to citizens within 18 hours of snow events.

Council Member Van Auken referred to Gale Avenue and she said there was a concern that residents would not have snow removal to accommodate a number of disabled and elderly residents in the area. She stated some were in on-going treatment programs. She questioned if those affected citizens could contact the City to address their needs.

Director Barber reported that residents who had emergency situations could contact the Public Works Department or the Police Department's non-emergency numbers and his drivers would do the best they could to respond to medical or other immediate needs. He said it would depend on the type of storm event and when the snow plow drivers could get to affected residents. He urged all drivers to drive slower during snow events because there would be snow pack on side streets. He said main routes would be plowed if there was more than two inches of snow during the snow event.

Council Member Spears pointed out there was a large group of senior citizen housing between Rochelle and Molleck Drives and he questioned if those facilities had been contacted regarding the changes. He requested that Director Barber contact the administrators.

Director Barber explained the hill routes were not primary routes and some of the special needs areas could be handled by those drivers. He said his department would review special needs areas.

In discussion with Council Member Spain, Director Barber explained completion goals had not changed with the new plan. He said completion for most snow events would be 18 hours, with completion following larger storms between 24 to 36 hours.

Council Member Irving requested that the Public Works Department work to address issues related to employers in the City who needed to have access to their businesses following snow events.

Council Member Van Auken moved to approve the deletion of eighteen centerline miles of primary snow streets for the 2011 – 2012 winter season and to direct the Public Works Department to modify the 2011 – 2012 Snow Plan to operate with eighteen snow routes; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Gulley expressed concern for the older neighborhoods because residents located on a snow route were required to remove their cars from the street, but there were no convenient places to park. He said he did not feel these residents should be ticketed.

In discussion with Mayor Ardis regarding hiring sub-contractors for snow removal, Director Barber indicated he was currently soliciting for sub-contractors and he would let the Council know more at a later date.

Motion to approve the deletion of eighteen centerline miles of primary snow streets for the 2011 – 2012 winter season and to direct the Public Works Department to modify the 2011 – 2012 Snow Plan to operate with eighteen snow routes was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, 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)**

**(11-298) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and Growth Management, with a Request to DEFER the Following Items to the OCTOBER 25, 2011, Regular City Council Meeting:**

- A. ORDINANCE Amending APPENDIX B of the Code of the City of Peoria Relating to FRONT YARD FENCES;**
- B. ORDINANCE Amending APPENDIX C of the Code of the City of Peoria Relating to FRONT YARD FENCES.**

Council Member Turner moved to defer this item until the October 25, 2011, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Gulley.

Motion to defer this item until October 25, 2011, was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Sandberg - 1.

**(11-348) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller Requesting Approval for the City Manager to Enter into an AGREEMENT with GOOD ENERGY, L.P. to Provide PROFESSIONAL ENERGY CONSULTING SERVICES for the City of Peoria for the PROCUREMENT of ELECTRICITY for the City of Peoria Residential and Small Commercial Accounts Otherwise Known as an ELECTRICITY RESIDENTIAL OPT-OUT PROGRAM. (New Replacement Communication) The Municipal Energy Aggregation Consultant Selection Fall 2011 Submitted Materials are on File in the Office of the City Clerk.**

Council Member Spain moved to defer this item for two weeks until the October 25, 2011, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding any delays because he felt this would limit the amount of time needed to educate citizens regarding the issue for a successful referendum.



Motion to defer this item until October 25, 2011, was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Irving, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis - 8;

Nays: Gulley, Sandberg - 2.

**(11-350) Communication from the City Manager and Assistant Director of Planning and Growth Management Requesting a REVIEW of EXAMPLE MAPS for REDISTRICTING and to Provide Direction to the AD HOC COMMITTEE of the CITY COUNCIL on REDISTRICTING and/or the Administration.**

Mayor Ardis provided a recap of how this issue had evolved and proposed changes to district boundaries. He said community-wide discussion would be held regarding whether or not citizens wished to make a change to ten districts or eight districts and two At-Large Council Member districts. He said, if citizens indicated they wanted a change, a referendum would be held in Spring 2012. He said organizations had expressed a willingness to facilitate two public meetings. He said a public meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2011, at Bradley University from 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. and on Wednesday, November 2, 2011, at River West at the Frank Campbell Community Center from 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. He said the meetings would be publicized so community input would be encouraged.

Mayor Ardis stated, after the two meetings were held, the Institute of Principled Leadership at Bradley University would provide summary information back to the City Council for discussion in November. He said he expected the Council would hold public discussion at a Council Meeting in addition to the two public meetings. He said this item could be placed on the ballot in Spring 2012 or the system would remain the same as it had in years past.

Council Member Spears stated the Redistricting Committee's actions were on hold until further direction was provided by the City Council.

In discussion it was determined that citizens should be encouraged to participate in the forums so Council Members would know their feelings about changing the number of Council Districts.

In discussion with Mayor Ardis, Corporation Counsel Randy Ray stated January 2, 2012, was the last date the City Council could place something on the ballot for March 2012.

Council Member Sandberg moved to defer this item while the Council received feedback from citizens and revisit this matter at the November 14, 2011, Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Weaver.

Motion to defer this item until November 14, 2011, was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ANTI-BULLYING RALLY to be Held on OCTOBER 21, 2011, at WESTLAKE PLAZA**

Council Member Akeson invited citizens to attend an Anti-Bullying Rally to be held at WestLake Plaza on October 21, 2011, from 3:30 P.M. until 5:30 P.M. She said citizens could voice their concerns about bullying and support the "Bullying Won't Play in Peoria" program. She urged citizens to attend.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to COUNCIL MEMBER RYAN SPAIN**

Council Member Van Auken wished Council Member Spain a Happy Birthday.

**REQUEST for the CITY MANAGER to SET A DATE to Hold a POLICY SESSION to SIMPLIFY THE SIGN ORDINANCE**

Council Member Spain expressed concern that sign regulations were inconsistent and there was a need for Council discussion to recommend changes. He commended City Staff in their recent efforts regarding the sign sweep, but the Sign Ordinance had caused some problems in the community. He said there was a need to develop a system to create compliance, but differentiate a business with a sign that had been visible for a number of years versus a close out sign that was in the middle of the right-of-way. He said the current Sign Ordinance seemed to fuel the perception that it was difficult for businesses to do business in Peoria, even though there were good intentions at the time the Ordinance was passed. He urged the Administration to set the Policy Session date soon even though this was a busy time of year.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that some businesses did not go through the sign permit process.

Council Member Gulley expressed concern regarding businesses who felt they had followed the City's sign regulations, but later found there was a violation.

Council Member Irving said in reviewing the Sign Ordinance sweep, he felt it was a success, but he said there was a significant impact on small businesses

**REQUEST for COMMISSION MEMBERS' CONTACT INFORMATION to be on the CITY'S WEBSITE**

Council Member Akeson expressed concern that Commission Members' contact information was not listed on the City's website. She requested that this information be more transparent for citizens. She commended Assistant Director of Planning and Growth Management Ross Black for responding to her request for Commission information on the City's web site today.

**COMMENDATION to MEMBERS of the SISTER CITY COMMISSION for HOSTING the CELEBRATION of 35 YEARS with SISTER CITY FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, GERMANY**

Council Member Irving commended the celebration with Sister City of Friedrichshafen, Germany. He said he realized the friendships that had been formed over the 35 years and he really appreciated the depth of those relationships. He thanked Communications Manager Alma Brown for her efforts in organizing events and making sure Council Members were where they were supposed to be.

Mayor Ardis said Peoria's relationship with their friends of Friedrichshafen was a model for all Sister City organizations. He said they shared in business, education, and social exchanges with the forty people who traveled here last week. He thanked Sister City Commission Chairman, Rex Linder, and Communications Manager Alma Brown, and the entire Sister City Commission for their work on all the events involved. He said the Sister City program was established by President Eisenhower for an education and cultural exchange.

**WELCOME to SPECIAL GUESTS from ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE**

Mayor Ardis welcomed the members of Jim Combs' Illinois Central College Writing Class. He said he felt this Council Meeting was an opportunity for these students to view how the Council Members made decisions. He said Council Members at these meetings were given an opportunity to fully debate all the issues. He explained the importance of allowing citizens to address the Council at each meeting to voice their opinions or concerns pertaining to City business. He thanked the students for attending the meeting and he urged them to support their communities in the future.

**CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD****(11-446) 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.

Phyllis Pryde, Peoria resident, said she would hold her comments regarding the hotel until the next meeting.

Peg Pendell, Peoria resident, stated she felt the City's snow removal plan was inefficient and she voiced her concerns about enforcement issues. She also expressed concern that she felt targeted by the Police and she requested a citizen's referendum on complaint-driven issues.

LaVetta Ricca, President of Olde Towne South Neighborhood Association, reported on the Litter Committee's final cleanup held on October 8, 2011, at the Carl Cannon Elite School and she commended the 77 students who assisted with the cleanup operation. She said the experience made her proud of these youths and their commitment to their community. She urged citizens to tour the school and view the changes that had been made.

James Polk, former City Council Member, urged citizens to participate in the public meetings regarding redistricting. He stressed the importance of citizens' feedback to the Council and he said this issue needed to move forward.

Savino Sierra, Peoria resident, commended the Fire Department for the Memorial Service they held and he said more citizens needed to attend these kind of events. He expressed concern regarding past snow removal near and around handicapped parking spaces. He said more stripes should be painted on the streets near schools, litter needed to be picked up, and sidewalk flooding needed attention.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was determined that an Executive Session was not needed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.