

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, November 8, 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, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears (arrived at 6:20 P.M.), Turner, Van Auken, Weaver (arrived at 6:35 P.M.), Mayor Ardis - 11. Absent: None.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Jim Ardis requested a moment of silent prayer or silent reflection, and then Boy Scout Troop #40 from St. Jude Catholic Church led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.**

**PROCLAMATION:** 125th ANNIVERSARY FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

**PROCLAMATION:** LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH – NOVEMBER

**PROCLAMATION:** CENTRAL ILLINOIS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION WEEK –  
NOVEMBER 12 - 18, 2011

**PROCLAMATION:** 2011 CITIZENS ACADEMY GRADUATION

**MINUTES**

Council Member Spain moved to approve the minutes of the City Council Meeting held on October 25, 2011, and the Special City Council Meeting held on November 1, 2011, as printed; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner,  
Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis - 11;

Nays: None.

**PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OF PEORIA****(11-478) PUBLIC HEARING Regarding the 2012 CITY OF PEORIA BUDGET.**

Council Member Spain moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the 2012 City of Peoria Budget; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner,  
Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

The Public Hearing opened at 6:38 P.M.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ardis opened the Public Hearing

Laraine Bryson, President of the Tri-County Urban League, spoke on behalf of all area social service providers. She expressed concern regarding the proposal to shift CDBG funding to public safety, rather than to utilize it for services to assist low income families, targeted neighborhoods, the homeless, etc. She said she felt the long-term impact of this would include an increase in crime and the deterioration of neighborhoods. She also noted that CDBG dollars were used in many instances as matching grant funds.

Roberta Parks, President of the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, complimented the City Council for their direction to Administration and to the Administration for bringing forward a complete budget package. She noted the reorganization, discussion of alternative methods of service delivery, the Reduction-In-Force, the Early Retirement Incentive, the encouragement of shared services with Peoria County, the reinvestment in the City's infrastructure, and the absence of any tax increases were all positive steps toward financial stability. She added she understood these changes would mean adjustments in the level of service to citizens and she was supportive of the idea of shared services with the County and other units of government. She noted reform regarding pension costs to municipalities was a priority for the Chamber, and she said collaboration with the City on resolving this issue would continue.

Savino Sierra, Peoria resident, expressed concerned regarding the proposed Staff reductions and he said he felt services and morale would be negatively impacted. He reminded Council Members to put themselves in the shoes of those employees being laid off.

Following a third call for additional comments from the public, Mayor Ardis requested to close the Public Hearing.

Council Member Spain moved to close the Public Hearing; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

Approved by roll call.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner,  
Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:50 P.M.

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

- (11-479)      **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and Growth Management Requesting Approval of the 2012 ANNUAL PLAN for SUBMISSION to the UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.**
- (11-480)      **Communication from the City Manager Recommending Adoption of a CHARTER to REPLACE the EXISTING CHARTER Providing for the EXPANSION of the EAST VILLAGE GROWTH CELL (EVGC) TAX INCREMENT FINANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**
- (11-481)      **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and Growth Management Requesting Adoption of the Following:**
- A.      EMERGENCY FURNACE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM as Outlined;**
  - B.      ORDINANCE NO. 16,760 Amending the CITY of PEORIA BUDGET for FISCAL YEAR 2011 Relating to the AMEREN-ILLINOIS ENERGY ASSISTANCE DONATION, in the Amount of \$140,000.00.**

- (11-482)  
\* Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller Recommending Adoption of an ORDINANCE Amending the CITY of PEORIA BUDGET for FISCAL YEAR 2011 Relating to the AUTHORIZED PAYMENT to SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, in the Amount of \$109,986.00, in Accordance with the Terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement.
- (11-483) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director Recommending Adoption of ORDINANCE NO. 16,761 Amending the CITY of PEORIA BUDGET for FISCAL YEAR 2011 Relating to the FIRE SAFER GRANT PROGRAM, in the Amount of \$283,020.00; the STATE and LOCAL AUTO THEFT ENFORCEMENT (S.L.A.T.E.) Additional Program Funds, in the Amount of \$5,000.00; and the BRADLEY UNIVERSITY ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, in the Amount of \$5,000.00.
- (11-484)  
\*\* Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller Recommending Adoption of an ORDINANCE Amending the CITY of PEORIA BUDGET for FISCAL YEAR 2011 Relating to the WILHELM ROAD BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, in the Amount of \$1,777,784.00, and Agreement with Peoria County.
- (11-485)  
\*\*\* Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works Requesting Adoption of an ORDINANCE Vacating IOWA STREET from Grant Street Northeasterly to the Termination of Iowa Street, and that Portion of Grant Street Which Extends from a Point Approximately 790 Feet Southeast of Iowa Street to the Illinois River.
- (11-486) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and Growth Management with Recommendation from Staff to Adopt ORDINANCE NO. 16,762 for a PRIVATE PARKING MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT for the PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY for Property Described as HARRISON HOMES PHASE THREE, a Planned Unit Development Adopted by Ordinance No. 16,684.
- (11-487) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and Growth Management with Recommendation from the Planning Commission to Adopt ORDINANCE NO. 16,763 Amending Ordinance No. 16,679, the OFFICIAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN of the City of Peoria, to Incorporate the NEW COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN.
- (11-488) REAPPOINTMENTS by Mayor Jim Ardis to the PEORIA HOUSING AUTHORITY, with Request to Concur:  
  
John Williams (Voting) - Term Expires 11/17/2014  
Kenneth Zika (Voting) - Term Expires 11/17/2014
- (11-489) REAPPOINTMENTS and APPOINTMENT by Mayor Jim Ardis to the WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD, with Request to Concur:  
  
REAPPOINTMENTS:  
Dale Bunch (Voting) - Term Expires 10/1/2014  
James Fassino (Voting) - Term Expires 10/1/2014  
Sheila Thurman (Voting) - Term Expires 10/1/2014  
  
APPOINTMENT:  
Sandi McCartney (Voting) - Term Expires 10/1/2014

- (11-490) **Communication from the City Manager and City Treasurer Regarding the  
\*\*\*\* MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE REPORT for the PEORIA POLICE PENSION  
BOARD, with Request to Receive and File.**
- (11-491) **Communication from the City Manager and City Treasurer Regarding the  
\*\*\*\*\* MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE REPORT for the FIREMEN'S PENSION BOARD,  
with Request to Receive and File.**
- (11-492) **REPORT of the CITY TREASURER PATRICK A. NICHTING for the MONTH of  
SEPTEMBER 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 Members Akeson requested that Item No. 11-485 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Sandberg requested that Item Nos. 11-482, 11-490, and 11-491 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Weaver requested that Item No. 11-484 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

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

Items No. 11-479 through 11-492 (excluding Item Nos. 11-482, 11-484, 11-485, 11-490 and 11-491, which were removed for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner,  
Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

- (11-482) **Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller  
\* Recommending Adoption of an ORDINANCE Amending the CITY of PEORIA  
BUDGET for FISCAL YEAR 2011 Relating to the AUTHORIZED PAYMENT to  
SPRINGDALE CEMETERY MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, in the Amount of  
\$109,986.00, in Accordance with the Terms of the Intergovernmental  
Agreement.**

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg, Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins confirmed the annual Springdale budget continued to carry an increasing deficit.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding the on-going Springdale deficit. He noted the cemetery had formerly been owned privately and was mismanaged; therefore, ownership had been turned over to the City. He said, prior to 2002, the City of Peoria did not have ownership and did not have to budget for Springdale costs. He said he felt a source of revenue should have been identified to cover these expenses when the City assumed ownership, but that was not the case.

Council Member Sandberg moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 relating to the authorized payment to Springdale Cemetery Management Authority, in the amount of \$109,986.00, in accordance with the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Council Member Spears questioned where the City Council had control over Springdale's budget.

City Manager Patrick Ulrich said direction could be given to the Board by the City to pare back expenses, which may require the Springdale Cemetery Authority Board to rethink their business model and modify expenses and revenue sources.

Council Member Spears expressed concern that the Board wasn't held accountable for their budget numbers the way Council expected City Staff to be. He added Authority Board Members had said the cemetery would never be self-sustaining.

In discussion with Council Member Irving, City Manager Ulrich confirmed the Intergovernmental Agreement with Springdale was perpetual and was modified as needed.

Council Member Weaver requested information back regarding figures for Springdale's budget if a cap were imposed for the City and a comparison of the deficit growth moving forward if no changes were made to the budget.

Council Member Spears questioned why the amount budgeted each year for Springdale's deficit never covered the actual deficit.

Mayor Ardis said the City owned the cemetery and was ultimately responsible for it. He added the Springdale Board and their large number of volunteers has been diligent in covering necessary expenses. He said he agreed the Board should give a presentation to the City Council in the near future.

ORDINANCE NO. 16,764 amending the City of Peoria Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 relating to the authorized payment to Springdale Cemetery Management Authority, in the amount of \$109,986.00, in accordance with the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

**(11-484)      Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller  
\*\*            Recommending Adoption of ORDINANCE Amending the CITY of  
              PEORIA BUDGET for FISCAL YEAR 2011 Relating to the WILHELM ROAD  
              BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, in the Amount of \$1,777,784.00, and  
              Agreement with Peoria County.**

Council Member Weaver said he would be abstaining from discussion and voting on this item due to his ownership of property in the vicinity of the project.

Council Member Irving moved to adopt an Ordinance amending the City of Peoria Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 relating to the Wilhelm Road Bridge Construction Project, in the amount of \$1,777,784.00, and agreement with Peoria County; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 16,765 was adopted by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None;

Abstentions: Weaver – 1.

- (11-485) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works  
\*\*\* Requesting Adoption of an ORDINANCE Vacating IOWA STREET from  
Grant Street Northeastly to the Termination of Iowa Street, and that  
Portion of Grant Street Which Extends from a Point Approximately 790 Feet  
Southeast of Iowa Street to the Illinois River.**

Public Works Director Dave Barber distributed color maps and photographs to members of the City Council.

Council Member Akeson moved to grant Privilege of the Floor to William Ordaz , President of the Detweiller Marina Neighborhood Association.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the Floor to Mr. Ordaz.

William Ordaz, President of the Detweiller Marina Neighborhood Association, said he was speaking on behalf of Detweiller and Averyville Neighborhood Associations. He requested the City Council defer this item, as none of the citizens in the affected neighborhoods had been contacted by Komatsu nor the City of Peoria regarding the proposed vacation. He noted the proposal blocked the final access point to the Illinois River and the neighborhoods wanted assurance that the community would get something back in return for this project.

\*Council Member Akeson moved to defer this item for four weeks; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

Council Member Van Auken expressed her appreciation to Mr. Ordaz for bringing this issue forward to the Council's attention. She added she shared in his disappointment that neighbors had not been contacted when this project came forward.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that the Council communication noted there were no known neighborhood concerns with this project. He said it was the City's responsibility to thoroughly investigate and identify any concerns. He added the Council had existing plans with regard to Illinois River access areas and the Administration should tie these plans in with items being brought forward.

In discussion with Council Member Weaver, Mr. Ordaz clarified the neighborhoods would like to see something come forward that would benefit the community and their intent was not to deter Komatsu's plans. He said he felt a meeting should be held as soon as possible to determine what could be done that would be mutually beneficial to Komatsu and the neighborhoods.

Council Member Gulley said he felt a deferral of the item was not necessary to see there were issues which needed to be addressed. He said Council could decide to meet with the Park District as a caveat to approving the project and go ahead and approve Komatsu's project so it could move forward.

Council Member Akeson said she felt a more comprehensive proposal was needed and asked her colleagues to support the deferral.

\*Motion to defer this item until the December 13, 2011, Regular City Council Meeting was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Gulley – 1.

(\*Clerk's note: Mayor Ardis clarified the proposed four-week deferral would not coincide with a Council Meeting date. Hearing no objections from the maker of the motion and the seconder, it was determined the deferral would be until the December 13, 2011, City Council Meeting.)

**(11-490) Communication from the City Manager and City Treasurer Regarding the  
\*\*\*\* MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE REPORT for the PEORIA POLICE PENSION  
BOARD, with Request to Receive and File.**

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding the decrease in funding levels for the Police and Fire pensions. He questioned why the assumption was made that the funding levels would turn around, when evidence showed it was not the case and the levels were falling further behind each year. He said the City had an obligation to address this issue and not just modify the numbers in order to balance the budget. He reiterated that the self-funding target was getting further away.

Council Member Sandberg moved to receive and file the Municipal Compliance Report for the Peoria Police Pension Board; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

City Treasurer Patrick Nichting reported the return rate was established by the Police and the Fire Pension Boards, which had been lowered recently. He said the "Rolling 30" scenario was recommended to the State Legislature, as determined at the last Legislative Breakfast. He noted the City would be required to immediately fulfill any shortcomings when the market dropped and the funds lost money, regardless of the amount of loss. He said he felt it was not realistic to believe pensions would be funded 100%, but the goal was set by State Statute.

Council Member Van Auken said she felt assumptions for both plans had been prudent and conservative and, in reviewing the numbers, had far exceeded the actuals.

Council Member Riggerbach requested the City Manager keep the "Rolling 30" on the Legislative Agenda, as it was important to the overall financial sustainability of the City.

Motion to receive and file the Municipal Compliance Report for the Peoria Police Pension Board was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner,  
Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

**(11-491) Communication from the City Manager and City Treasurer Regarding the  
\*\*\*\*\* MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE REPORT for the FIREMEN'S PENSION BOARD,  
with Request to Receive and File.**

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding the decrease in funding levels for the Police and Fire pensions. He questioned why the assumption was made that the funding levels would turn around, when evidence showed it was not the case and the levels were falling further behind each year. He said the City had an obligation to address this issue and not just modify the numbers in order to balance the budget. He reiterated that the self-funding target was getting further away.

City Treasurer Patrick Nichting reported the return rate was established by the Police and the Fire Pension Boards, which had been lowered recently. He said the "Rolling 30" scenario was recommended to the State Legislature, as determined at the last Legislative Breakfast. He noted the City would be required to immediately fulfill any shortcomings when the market dropped and the funds lost money, regardless of the amount of loss. He said he felt it was not realistic to believe pensions would be funded 100%, but the goal was set by State Statute.

Council Member Van Auken said she felt assumptions for both plans had been prudent and conservative and, in reviewing the numbers, had far exceeded the actuals.

Council Member Riggerbach requested the City Manager keep the "Rolling 30" on the Legislative Agenda, as it was important to the overall financial sustainability of the City.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg who questioned why there was such a drop in funding levels if the assumptions were presumed to be conservative, Treasurer Nichting explained economic recovery would take a number of years and obligations would continue even though the investments were not paying.

Council Member Sandberg moved to receive and file the Municipal Compliance Report for the Firemen's Pension Board; seconded by Council Member Van Auker.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akerson, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner,  
Van Auker, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

### **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 Recommending Adoption of the Following:**
- A. ORDINANCE Amending APPENDIX B of the Code of the City of Peoria Relating to FRONT YARD FENCES (New Ordinance);**
  - B. ORDINANCE Amending APPENDIX C of the Code of the City of Peoria Relating to FRONT YARD FENCES (New Ordinance).**

Council Member Van Auker moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Appendix B of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to front yard fences; seconded by Council Member Spain.

ORDINANCE NO. 16,766 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akerson, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner,  
Van Auker, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Council Member Van Auker moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Appendix C of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to front yard fences; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

ORDINANCE NO. 16,767 was adopted by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akerson, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner,  
Van Auker, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

### **POLICY/WORKSHOP SESSION**

- (11-493) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works Regarding the POLICY SESSION to REVIEW a DRAFT PLAN for IMPROVING the WAREHOUSE DISTRICT Per the FEDERAL TIGER II GRANT and Provide Direction Regarding Any Changes to the Plan.**



Director Barber distributed a PowerPoint presentation to members of City Council.

Following brief comments, Council Member Spain moved to open the Policy Session to review a Draft Plan for improving the Warehouse District per the Federal Tiger II Grant; seconded by Council Member Irving.

Motion to open the Policy Session was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner,  
Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis opened the Policy Session at 7:45 P.M. and a Policy Session to review a Draft Plan for improving the Warehouse District per the Federal Tiger II Grant was held.

The Policy Session closed at 8:55 P.M. and further discussion was deferred until the November 22, 2011, Regular City Council Meeting.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

**(11-433) E. Communication from the City Manager Requesting the CITY  
COUNCIL to Provide DIRECTION on the FY2012 OPERATING  
BUDGET;**

City Manager Urch distributed two handouts to members of City Council: Early Impact of the Early Retirement Incentive on the Reduction-in-Force Plan summary and Estimated Package Liquor Tax Revenue summary. He also distributed replacement pages 28 and 29 for the 2012 Preliminary City of Peoria Budget Booklet.

City Manager Urch noted the Special City Council Meeting scheduled for November 10, 2011, would include a presentation by the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. He added that Director Barber would not be present due to a commitment at a Landfill Meeting.

City Manager Urch briefly explained the updated Budget numbers, directing Council Members to page 24 of the 2012 Preliminary City of Peoria Budget. He noted, in the Fund Balance Summary, revenues were at \$187,640,993 and expenditures were at \$124,822,236. He added the balance in the General Fund as of January 1, 2012, would be \$43,507,398.

City Manager Urch reminded the Council early deficit projections for the 2012 Budget reflected an \$8.2 million deficit. He said the recent changes to Healthcare for employees and retirees accounted for a \$2.7 million savings. He said, in addition, the Reduction-in-Force Plan, the Early Retirement Incentive, and the on-going Reorganization Plan had also assisted in working to eliminate the deficit.

City Manager Urch provided an overview of the affects of the Early Retirement Incentive on the proposed Reduction-in-Force Plan. He said 18 Staff members had signed up as of November 1, 2011, for the ERI program, with five additional employees expressing an interest in the ERI, and planning to exit prior to December 31, 2011. He said the biggest change in the organization would be the consolidation of Inspections, Planning & Growth Management, and Economic Development Departments. He said the original recommendation of 54 employees being laid off was now reduced to a net of 25, factoring in those committed to the ERI.

Council Member Turner suggested using a Civilian employee to cover the duties of the Communications Officer at the Police Department in order to place another uniformed officer back on the streets to patrol neighborhoods where more officers were needed. He noted his concerns regarding covering large events, such as March Madness, with the elimination of the Communications Manager in the City Manager's office, noting the employee's vital connections to all areas of the community.

Council Member Van Auken expressed her appreciation for the work City Manager Ulrich had done to not lose sight of those RIF'ed employees who could potentially be retained.

In discussion with Council Member Van Auken regarding the possibility of returning housing court duties to the County, City Manager Ulrich noted his reluctance to return the Housing Court duty to the Circuit Court. He said this venue provided a quick resolution to Code violation enforcement.

Council Member Van Auken said she viewed Code Enforcement Inspectors as partners in public safety. She also said the social service agencies were part of the public safety function as well. She noted the difficult task of fundraising efforts for these agencies and acknowledged they were being hit with Federal, State, and Local government funding cuts. She said it was important to keep CDBG funding in place to assist these agencies.

In discussion with Council Member Spears regarding potential staffing changes for the Treasurer's Office, City Manager Ulrich clarified the Treasurer's Office was to be restructured to accommodate more functions. He said the current Staff would do more at the front counter to eliminate the need for citizens to visit multiple departments to obtain what was needed. He cited obtaining permits as one example, noting a citizen would be able to pay for and be issued a permit at one location.

In further discussion with Council Member Spears, City Manager Ulrich commented on savings regarding energy efficiencies and downsizing departments. He noted the City had received Stimulus funding to assist in energy efficiency efforts throughout the City. He also noted discussion had been taking place regarding the relocation of all of the Public Works Staff to Dries Lane and moving the new Community Development division back to City Hall to occupy space on the third and fourth floors. He added that some money had been invested to make lighting more energy efficient in the City's space at the Twin Towers. He said there would also be a potential reduction in the number of vehicles and phones utilized by City Staff.

Council Member Spears also requested information regarding guidelines for utilizing the Asset Forfeiture funds.

Council Member Spain said he shared Council Member Turner's concerns for neighborhoods and suggested retaining two full-time employees from the Community Development Department to work primarily on neighborhood issues. He questioned the decision to lay off any Parking Enforcement officer, whose primary function was to generate revenue for the City. He requested information on the Department Head succession plan.

Council Member Spain said he would be attending a meeting with the Pass Forward committee regarding the potential of sharing services in Economic Development, Information Technology, and Public Works. He said, focusing on Public Works, he thought some collaboration between the sign shops, engineering services, and fleet management (with both Public Works and Fire) could take place.

Director Barber said he would prefer to receive a recommendation from the Pass Forward committee. He noted with the Reduction-in-Force, the Engineering services go away to private contractors, but he said he felt the sign shop would be a more appropriate shared service.

In discussion with Council Member Irving, Police Chief Settingsgaard confirmed the amount budgeted for Police Investigations was used to fund undercover narcotics buys and to pay confidential informants.

Council Member Irving requested a report back regarding the number of business retention visits each year by Economic Development.

Council Member Irving expressed concern regarding the "other" category under various headings throughout the budget. He questioned the amount budgeted in Public Works for phones and a report back was requested.

Director Barber confirmed the amount budgeted for phones in Public Works included wireless connections in all of the vehicles.

Council Member Irving questioned whether or not agencies typically covered by CDBG funding could come together to carry out the administration of their budgets, which would result in less administrative costs overall. He said he felt these agencies could help more citizens if their costs were less.

In response to a request by Council Member Sandberg to clarify the "other" categories throughout the budget, City Manager Ulrich said he could provide a tabled explanation to identify these line items.

Mayor Ardis said he felt the Council had made it clear that the City needed to maintain its obligations with the local social service agencies. He noted the oversight of the funding needed to be considered as well.

Council Member Weaver moved to maintain the current CDBG funding to local social service agencies; seconded by Council Member Van Auken.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Gulley, Irving, Riggerbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner,  
Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11;

Nays: None.

Mayor Ardis noted the review of the proposal regarding refuse collection could be reserved for the discussion at the Special City Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2011.

City Manager Ulrich confirmed there would be a review of the oversight of the CDBG funding to ensure agencies were providing the most services possible for the funding amounts they received.

Mayor Ardis thanked Staff for the information brought forward.

#### **REQUEST TO MOVE AGENDA ITEM FORWARD**

Mayor Ardis requested to move New Business forward. No objections were heard.

**NEW BUSINESS****ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING NATIONWIDE TEST OF THE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 9, 2011**

Mayor Ardis reminded citizens that a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System would be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at 1:00 P.M. He said this test was being conducted to ensure all citizens across the nation could be quickly informed in the event of a natural disaster.

**ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2011**

Mayor Ardis noted the Special City Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, at 6:15 P.M., would provide an opportunity for community input regarding Redistricting and Cumulative Voting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS****(11-433) D. PUBLIC COMMENTS Regarding the FY2012 CITY OF PEORIA BUDGET.**

It was determined no member of the public wished to address the City Council regarding the proposed FY2012 Budget.

**CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL/TOWN BOARD****(11-494) 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.

Savino Sierra, Peoria resident, expressed concern regarding some of the positions which were among the list of proposed cuts. He also noted Mr. Robert Perkinson of VFW Post #814, who was recently honored by the City Council on turning 103 years old, passed away and would be laid to rest with full military honors.

A Peoria property owner who resides in California expressed concern about the manner in which she was addressed by City Officials regarding her decision to invest in Peoria. She said she was also disappointed by the lack of response to the letters she had written to the Mayor and a Council Member in which she had outlined her concerns.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was determined an Executive Session was not needed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Irving moved to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Spears.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Spears - 1.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

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

By:

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Beth Ball, MMC  
Chief Deputy City Clerk

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