

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

A Special Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, was held on Thursday, November 10, 2011, at 6:18 P.M., at City Hall, Council Chambers, 419 Fulton Street, with Mayor Jim Ardis presiding, and with proper notice having been given.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Council Members physically present: Akeson (arrived at 6:25 P.M.), Gulley (arrived at 7:10 P.M.), Irving, Rigganbach, Sandberg, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 11; Absent: None.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

(11-433) Communication from the City Manager as follows:

E. Request for the City Council to Provide DIRECTION on the FY2012 OPERATING BUDGET.

City Manager Patrick Ulrich distributed a letter of support for the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau from the Illinois Elementary School Association to the members of City Council.

Council Member Akeson arrived at 6:25 P.M.

Mayor Ardis granted Privilege of the Floor to a number of hospitality and business leaders regarding the potential impact of a decrease in funding to the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. No objections were heard.

Bob Marx, President of Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, thanked the City Manager for the opportunities to meet with him regarding the proposed decrease in funding to PACVB. He noted the PACVB brought significant revenue to the City of Peoria and he said he felt the PACVB could strive to be a better partner and be more tenacious in bringing conventions to the City.

Rocky Vonachen, Peoria Chiefs/O'Brien Stadium, noted the importance of having the PACVB to assist with hotel bookings and restaurant reservations when large sporting events were brought to the City of Peoria.

Jim Baumgartner, Caterpillar, said the PACVB was a good partner with Caterpillar to help make accommodations for their many global visitors. He said the role of PACVB would be even greater with the opening of the museum and the new downtown hotel.

John Freitag, GeoThermal Alliance of Springfield, said they held their first conference in the City of Peoria and had planned to come back for a second year. He said he hoped to make Peoria the conference's permanent home. He said PACVB was a big help to non-profit organizations.

Kathy Ridley, Illinois State Dental Society of Springfield, said she was responsible for planning meetings and the PACVB had been a huge help to her in the past. She noted, if the City decided to decrease their support of the PACVB, it would lessen their ability to assist associations.

Jim Garner, PACVB Chairman, noted the PACVB generated much-needed revenue for the City of Peoria. He said they were excited about the new venues coming to the City and he requested the City provide the same funding.

Mayor Ardis expressed concern regarding the funding level the City of Peoria was paying to PACVB. He said the City needed to see the value of its contribution to the PACVB. He said he would like to see comparisons and best practices of other cities. He requested the PACVB bring back more substantive information to the Council prior to a decision being made.

Council Member Spain said there were many new tourism opportunities for the City of Peoria. He questioned how dollars could be maximized to cover costs and he said he felt this needed further investigation.

Council Member Spain moved to direct Staff to bring back information to the City Council at the first meeting in February regarding a recommendation for strategy for PACVB that would benefit the City of Peoria, and to take a look at the Intergovernmental Agreement; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Council Member Sandberg said he felt all public services brought value to the City and he expressed concern that since 2002 the City's workforce had diminished and the PACVB had not shared in that hardship. He said he felt the majority of the revenue generated by venues such as the Civic Center and the PACVB came from Peoria-area residents, rather than visitors to the City. He said revenue from the Civic Center should be directed to the PACVB. He noted City Departments were asked to bring forward their reductions immediately. He said he would not support the motion.

Mayor Ardis confirmed the dollars generated from the "H" tax could not be utilized in other areas, such as Police, Fire, Public Works, etc.

Council Member Turner said he understood the needs of the PACVB, but he noted the community was changing. He said he expected PACVB to come back with a plan to keep area venues filled with visitors.

Council Member Riggensbach said he agreed the Council needed a clear picture of PACVB to illustrate the City's return on its investment. He said he felt confident Mr. Garner would provide the Council with a detailed matrix of information.

Council Member Spears said he would support the motion. He said the PACVB did an excellent job of bringing people to the area, but he said he agreed the Council needed a clear picture of how these dollars were leveraged. He noted the City had to be able to justify this investment to the taxpayers.

In discussion with Council Member Akesson, City Manager Patrick Ulrich said the PACVB had matrices of information available. He noted, of the five communities the PACVB served, the City of Peoria paid the largest share, but also most of the facilities. He said more information was needed.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg, City Manager Ulrich confirmed one of the communities served by PACVB had pulled its support.

Motion to direct Staff to bring back information to the City Council at the first meeting in February regarding a recommendation for strategy for PACVB that would benefit the City of Peoria, and to take a look at the Intergovernmental Agreement was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Akeson, Irving, Riggerbach, Spain, Spears, Turner, Van Auken, Weaver, Mayor Ardis – 9;

Nays: Sandberg – 1.

City Manager Ulrich distributed two handouts to members of the City Council: 1) Report Backs from November 8, 2011; and 2) Arterial Street Overlay map.

Council Member Gulley arrived at 7:10 P.M.

City Manager Ulrich gave a brief summary of the report backs. He noted some of the items on the list would have follow-up information provided at the November 15, 2011, Special City Council Meeting. He noted some exhibits accompanied the document, including Recommendations of PASS Forward Citizens Initiative on Proposed City of Peoria and Peoria County Shared Services; Police Chief Settingsgaard's report on Asset Forfeiture Funds; and Detail of "Other" Revenues Summary for 2012 Budget.

Police Chief Settingsgaard summarized his report of Asset Forfeiture Funds. He noted there were two account types: PDAFF (for Federal funds) and STAFOR (for State funds). He said the State funds were used for expenditures of the Vice/Drug Unit, such as cell phones, vehicles, and narcotics for undercover buys. He said Federal funds were used for investigations and training. He noted funds could not be used from either account for a Residential Officer Program if there were currently layoffs. He clarified no new position could be funded if current officers were on layoff status.

In discussion with Council Member Spears, Chief Settingsgaard clarified the money for these funds would be determined State or Federal depending on in which Court the arrest was prosecuted.

In discussion with Council Member Spain who questioned what defined a task force, Chief Settingsgaard clarified a task force was a joint body comprised of individuals from multiple entities.

Human Resources Mary Ann Stalcup explained the City's succession plans. She said typical plans were over a ten year period, but the City's was more aggressive. She said the plan included a transition period, with additional training and working with Unions to allow overtime on tasks typically performed by Union employees. She added there would be on-going monitoring of the transition to identify changes which were not anticipated.

Council Member Spain said he appreciated the feedback on this issue. He said it was reassuring that there was a thoughtful plan in place for this transition.

Council Member Spain referred to the Recommendations of PASS Forward and he noted the areas of Public Works, Economic Development, and Information Technology as those recommended for possible Shared Services with Peoria County. He said, with the County's IT Director relocating and the City's IT Director retiring, it seemed to make the most sense to place Information Technology at the top of the priority list. He said he felt these circumstances provided a good opportunity for collaboration.

Council Member Irving questioned what was being done to ensure business retention was addressed to provide benefit to the City, and he requested a report back.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding GASB being reflected in the Budget as a revenue, Finance Director/Comptroller Jim Scroggins clarified the economic refund of 2010D Bonds money came back to the City's General Fund and the City was able to capture the savings.

City Manager Ulrich discussed the proposed increase in the refuse collection fee. He said this increase would allow the garbage contract to pay for itself and the money currently being utilized to subsidize that program could be redirected for street repair. He noted the Arterial Street ratings. He said the road investment had been modest over the years and, as a result, the streets were in ill repair. He said the Motor Fuel Taxes would be used to finance street repairs and operating expenditures could be moved back into the General Fund.

City Manager Ulrich noted the two sizes of garbage totes available to residents, a 95 gallon or a 65 gallon. He said the carts would cost approximately \$2.4 million to purchase 40,000 carts for the City. He said the cost would be \$1.35 per month per household for the first five years; then, the cost would drop to \$.90 per month per household. He said for residents to exchange current totes for new ones, the delivery fee would be \$25.00, with any repairs to carts being covered through the contract. He said, currently, tote rental is \$2.00 per month, with a \$.50 increase occurring January 1, 2012. He said PDC would maintain the \$2.50 cost.

Council Member Van Auken said she still had concerns regarding the size of the totes. She said mobility and storage of these carts were issues for many of her constituents. She noted she was reluctant to do a "pay-to-throw" program. She also encouraged the City to cease the collection of yard clippings with the yard waste, noting this could be a reduction in costs.

Council Member Riggensbach said he appreciated the helpful and transparent information provided on this issue. He said he had also received comments regarding concerns about the size of the totes. He also questioned why the City wanted to get involved in the tote business.

City Manager Ulrich said he felt the totes were a positive for the community, providing some uniformity in how refuse was collected. He said the program was designed to help reign in the cost of the waste collection program so that money to cover the program currently could be shifted to another service that could be provided to citizens. He noted citizens were allowed to opt-out of the totes.

Council Member Riggensbach noted it seemed the program would provide more of a benefit to PDC rather than the City.

Council Member Irving said he was pleased with PDC's services, but he said he also felt the tote sizes were an issue, especially regarding zoning issues with storage of these totes. He also expressed concern that the account reconciliation with approximately 4,000 customers had not yet been resolved.

Council Member Akeson said she also felt the totes made refuse collection more uniform and she reiterated the need to encourage recycling throughout the community. She expressed concern regarding the lack of transparency with the proposed program. She suggested using MFT funds for bike paths, etc.

Mayor Ardis said the real issue was to generate revenue to cover the costs of much-needed repairs to roads. He said the entire outline of the program, with a breakdown of revenue and the funds in which the revenue would be placed, was very clear.

Council Member Gulley noted he was inclined to support the plan. He added District 1 citizens were against any increase in fees. He said he was more in favor of increasing property taxes to cover the costs, as it would be more beneficial to citizens. He said Council should move forward with implementation, as it removed the controversial \$6 garbage fee issue and presented a transparent scenario for the new fee.

Council Member Sandberg noted he was opposed to any unilateral tax or fee, as he felt this was not good public policy. He said he also felt it was clearer on the property taxes. He noted the tax rate had not increased in some time, with only \$.12 on each dollar going to the City of Peoria.

Mayor Ardis noted there was no room to raise taxes in the current economy. He reiterated he felt the proposed refuse collection program was transparent and very well presented.

Council Member Spears expressed concern regarding the 3.8% annual increase in the proposed contract with PDC. He said this needed review and additional information needed to be provided to the Council.

Following further discussion, Council Member Van Auken moved to continue the discussion on the proposed refuse collection fee after more information is provided; seconded by Council Member Riggerbach.

Council Member Spain requested clarification on the 50 additional roll-off dumpsters, including whether or not a substitute could be requested, and the relationship between the different options. He also asked what becomes of the toters owned long-term by some citizens in the event the contractor changes.

Motion to continue the discussion on the proposed refuse collection fee after more information is provided was approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: Spears – 1.

Council Member Irving requested a report back regarding the proposed training budget for Public Works. He questioned why the amount budgeted was increasing, even though the employee number was decreasing.

Council Member Spears requested Staff take another look at the use of the Gateway Building. He suggested the City have discussions with the Park District regarding them running the operations of the Gateway. He said the Park District could possibly team with ArtsPartners, or a similar group, to utilize the building for a public marketplace for the arts. He said this would increase usage and create additional revenue at the same time. He noted Lakeview Museum was a possibility for partnering opportunities as well. He further noted the Innovation Center on Main Street could potentially provide some type of entrepreneurship program to teach the City's youth how to create a product and develop a business plan to market the product. He said the Gateway Building could then be used to sell the products. He said these options would help to make the Riverfront a year-round venue for programs and exhibits.

Mayor Ardis concurred that the City should find more ways to use the Gateway Building. He noted, with the opening of the museum, perhaps the private sector could be contacted to see if any interest in ownership of the venue had been generated.

Council Member Spears said ideas for enhancing the landscape of large commercial areas needed to be considered. He suggested a landscaping program designed to provide a dollar for dollar match from the City for plantings, valued up to 2% of the property taxes, to business owners.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS Regarding the FY2012 CITY OF PEORIA BUDGET.

It was determined no member of the public wished to address the City Council/Town Board regarding the FY2012 City of Peoria Budget.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS - ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF GREG WALTERS – RETIREMENT

Mayor Ardis congratulated Assistant Fire Chief Greg Walters on his retirement from the City of Peoria after 28 years of service. He expressed his gratitude to Assistant Chief Walters for his service to the City and wished him well in the future.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

Mayor Ardis congratulated all Marine Corps Veterans on the Marine Corps' Birthday today.

VETERANS' DAY PARADE – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.

Mayor Ardis reminded the public to come to downtown Peoria on Friday, November 11, 2011, at 10:00 A.M. for the City of Peoria's Annual Veterans' Day Parade. He said it was an excellent opportunity to thank all veterans for their sacrifices for this country.

APPRECIATION TO CITY STAFF

Mayor Ardis thanked City Staff for their patience and hard work throughout the Budget process and for giving of their time to attend all of the Budget sessions. He said he especially appreciated the Staff being available to answer any questions which may arise from Council Members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- (11-495) Consideration of a Motion to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION to Discuss 2(c)11 Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; and 2(c)21 Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.**

Council Member Spain moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss 2(c)11 Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting; and 2(c)21 Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06; seconded by Council Member Irving.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Van Auken moved to adjourn the Special City Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Riggendbach.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

The Special City Council Meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

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

Beth Ball, MMC
Chief Deputy City Clerk

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