




Office of the City Manager

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Urich, City Manager 

DATE: April 13, 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.

ELECTRIC AGGREGATION OUTREACH. At the April 10, 2012 public hearing on the Plan of Operation and Governance for the municipal electricity aggregation program, a member of the community and the City Council expressed concern about confusing electricity choices being offered to citizens. It was suggested that particular efforts be made to reach out to certain populations, especially senior citizens. In addition to working with groups such as the Central Illinois Agency on Aging, the following efforts are being made:

- Representatives from Good Energy will be guests on the "Royce and Roger" morning show on WOAM 1350 on Tuesday, April 17. WOAM's audience has a large segment of senior citizens.
- Charles from Good Energy was a guest on the "Greg and Dan" morning show on WMBD 1470 on Friday morning, April 13, 2012. The discussion centered on the next steps. An audio archive can be found here: http://jmpradio.com/pods/gd/Podcast0409/Good_Energy_041312.mp3.
- Good Energy will be writing articles for the May issue of two publications that have a large readership among senior citizens. The *Community Word* has a readership of about 40,000 and estimates that 40-60% of its readers are baby boomers or older. *50 Plus News and Views* targets this demographic specifically and prints 15,000 copies each month.
- City staff was interviewed by WMBD Channel 31 news on this issue on Friday, April 13, 2012.
- The program's website (www.munienergychoice.com) will be updated to describe the next steps in the process.
- Information will be sent to neighborhood associations.

Good Energy has established a helpline to answer questions regarding municipal aggregation. Citizens wishing to know more about the process can call (309) 245-4566 for assistance.

MUNICIPAL ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION OPT-OUT WINDOW. At the April 10, 2012 public hearing on municipal electricity aggregation, a citizen asked how people who may be on vacation would be treated if they missed the 15-day "opt out" window after a supplier is selected. The Plan of Operation and Governance states that the "opt-out" window will be a minimum of 15 days. Still, it is staff's belief that 15 days is sufficient for nearly all households and that adding more time merely delays the process of switching accounts and realizing savings. However, Good Energy has pledged to work as an intermediary between the winning supplier and account holders whose circumstances prevented them from opting-out within the prescribed window. Information about who to contact in this situation will be made available at www.munienergychoice.com after the supplier has been selected.

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETING. The City of Peoria and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is hosting a public meeting regarding a guide to implementing development in the Warehouse District. The meeting will include presentation of an overall concept plan; recommendations on catalytic project locations; and a review of on-going assessments and market updates.

The meeting will be held at The Rally Point, 320 Liberty Street on Thursday, April 19, 2012 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Questions can be directed to Maggie Martino at Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (mmartino@tricityrpc.org) or Chris Setti at the City of Peoria (csetti@ci.peoria.il.us).

SIDEWALK FOOD VENDOR INSPECTIONS. At the April 10, 2012 City Council meeting, Council Member Weaver asked how current sidewalk food vendors are inspected for health and sanitation, especially those that based outside the City. According to Will Hayes, the Director of Environmental Health at the Peoria City/County Health Department, the Sidewalk and Street Vendor License requires each unit have a physical commissary. The Ordinance does not require that the commissary be in Peoria County, but does require that the commissary be licensed by the Health Department in the jurisdiction where the commissary is located. Proof of licensure from that County must be provided prior to approval to operate and issuance of a local license by the Peoria City/County Health Department. The Peoria City/County Health Department inspects all of the vendors doing food service a minimum of once a month. In 2012, the City has issued 7 of these vendor licenses. The list of licensees is below. The County in which their commissary is located is listed in parentheses.

Haddad's (Peoria County)
Peking (Peoria County)
Than Linh (Peoria County)
La Copacabana (Peoria County)
Manna Food Service (Peoria County)
Willie's Tamales (Marshall County)
Tequila's (Tazewell County)

A food truck will need to abide by the same rules and be associated with a brick-and-mortar commissary.

MOWING CONTRACT. On the March 13, 2012 the City Council approved a contract with Hearn's Unlimited Landscaping to mow City Facilities, Boulevards, ROW, and miscellaneous locations. This approval also provided for the City Manager to approve a contract with the second lowest bidder, Pryde Construction, if Hearn is unable to perform to standard.

After working with Hearn for almost three weeks, Public Works staff has determined that Hearn's Unlimited Landscaping cannot perform as required. There have been issues with locations missed and below standard cutting. We have been working with Hearn to resolve these problems. However, the immediate problem is that this firm is unable to complete the mowing cycle in less than two weeks. This is unacceptable during the early mowing season when the grass is growing quickly.

In order to better keep track of progress, we have divided the mowing into five routes by location. We recommend we continue to let Hearn's Unlimited Landscaping perform work on three of the routes. We will continue to monitor their performance. We are recommending that Pryde Construction be responsible for mowing of two (2) of the five (5) routes. We have discussed this with both contractors and this arrangement is acceptable to them. We will continue to work with these contractors and

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monitor performance. If we still have issues, further adjustments will be made. The prices of these two contractors is very similar; moving to use the number three bidder includes pricing that is almost one third more expensive. We have asked Pryde Construction to start immediately with rain in the forecast.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (ECC) 2012 MARCH REPORT. The March 2012 Emergency Communication Center Report is attached for your review. **(Electronic Copy Only)**