

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, November 23, 2004, a Special Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, to hold a Budget Hearing on the 2005 City of Peoria Budget, conduct Public Hearings, and consider any related matters as required by law, was held this date at 5:17 P.M., at City Hall, Council Chambers, 419 Fulton Street, Mayor David P. Ransburg presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following Council Members present: Ardis, Grayeb (arrived at 5:45 P.M.), Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz (arrived at 5:34 P.M.), Thetford (arrived at 5:55 p.m.), Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11; Absent: None.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ransburg requested a moment of silent prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS**(04-587) D. 2005 BUDGET HEARING – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Director of Public Works Steve Van Winkle reported in 2005 Public Works Department personnel services would increase 5.4%, employee benefits would increase 17.3%, contractual would decrease .86%, and materials and supplies would decrease 1.62%, for a total overall increase of 3.91%. He discussed his department's full-time staffing levels for 2005 compared to 2002. He reported in 2002, there were 132 full-time positions and in 2005, there would be 105 full-time positions. He discussed the department's primary services, which included Solid Waste Contract Management, City/County Landfill, Peoria/Peoria Heights/ Western Spur Railroad, and other functions that related to administering the Public Works Department's Budget and managing the Public Works Department.

Council Member Teplitz arrived at 5:34 P.M.

City Engineer Gene Hewitt discussed the Engineering, Traffic, and Permit Divisions. He said in 2002, there were 33 positions in this division, and in 2005, there were 20 positions. He stated, since there had been a reduction in personnel, there was a need to hire consultants to perform certain functions during the past year. He explained the duties of the newly organized Engineering Division. He further discussed design and construction projects that were in the process of being completed or had been completed, which included Mt. Hawley Connector Roadway Project, Charter Oak Extension Project (Phase I and II), Forrest Hill Corridor Improvement (Phases II and IV), NPDES Phase II Stormwater requirements, and the drainage program.

City Engineer Hewitt further discussed the Traffic Engineering and Permit Divisions and explained their functions.

Facility Operations Manager Dave Marshall said the newly organized division was staffed with 27 employees and covered facility operations and traffic operations, as well as parking decks and lots. He said his division's portion of the budget totaled \$5,209,324. He explained the duties of his division, which included the maintenance and operation of 35 City-owned buildings, the management of the annual Facilities Capital Program, and support to the Streets and Sewers Division and the J.U.L.I.E. system.

Facility Operations Manager Dave Marshall further stated his division was in charge of forestry and grounds, and they maintained twenty-one City-owned boulevards, thousands of trees, 250 vacant lots, building grounds, Riverfront Park and nine pocket parks. He discussed their 2004 accomplishments, which included obtaining a \$35,000 Governors Wildflower Grant and re-instituting annual plantings and stump grinding programs.

Council Member Grayeb arrived at 5:45 P.M.

Facility Operations Manager Dave Marshall also discussed in-house duties of those in Traffic Control and Electrical Divisions. He explained the Electrical Division maintained operations of 275 traffic signals for two different traffic control systems, 11,500 street lights, 15 outdoor warning sirens, and the electrical systems in all City-owned businesses. He discussed their 2004 accomplishments, and 2005 programs and initiatives.

Fleet Services Manager Mike Caruso said his division maintained 475 City vehicles and pieces of construction equipment with a staff of eleven that covered two shifts a day. He said his division monitored the 40,000 gallon fuel supply at Dries Lane and the Police station. He said vehicle damage was unpredictable and caused a financial burden on the Fleet Division. He said they kept \$175,000 worth of parts and tires on hand, which was never enough to cover all the equipment. He said the record high fuel prices continued to impact his portion of the Budget.

Council Member Thetford arrived at 5:55 P.M.

Streets and Sewers Manager Dave Haste discussed street maintenance programs, which included the sealcoat program, overlay program, and concrete maintenance program. He said in 2005, they planned to improve brick street refurbishing, snow removal on downtown quadrants, replacement of concrete expansion joints, and alley maintenance. He said 8 employees retired from his division in 2003, which made the continuation of their usual programs difficult. He said these changes resulted in additional training for employees and employees no longer performed single functions. He said that he planned to install automated vehicle locator tracking in 2005 and there were two street sweepers that needed to be replaced. He outlined additional needs for the future, which included an additional snow plow truck for the north growth area, an area for salt storage located north of the City, a wheel loader, and replacement of aging trucks.

City Manager Randy Oliver said one temporary position in the Public Works Department, an HVAC mechanic, would be converted to a full-time position. He said this would have no impact on the budget because it was more cost effective and would provide greater control. He said until the GIS system was implemented in the first quarter, there would be a temporary person in the Storm Water permits area for six months.

Council Member Turner questioned if there were any projects that would not be able to be completed due to reduction in staff over the past year.

Director Van Winkle said it had been taxing their ability to get everything contract-ready on some of the capital projects by the end of the year, but he said those goals had been accomplished, and he felt they would be able to achieve the capital program for 2005. He said inspection activities were thin due to reduction in personnel. He said one of their weaknesses was that one person was covering two or three jobs. He said his employees were working hard to meet the expectations of the Council and the community.

In discussion with Council Member Nichting regarding whether or not the City had enough resources on hand to perform adequate snow removal this winter, Director Van Winkle said the

City had an adequate supply of de-icing and salt materials, and there was enough in the Budget to handle severe weather this winter. He said, in the 2005 Budget, his department would be able to return to the kind of reinvestment needed to keep trucks on the street. He said this winter season the department would still be taxed from the standpoint of maintaining older equipment, because it would take some time after the Budget was adopted to recover from the past year's reductions. He added that personnel for snow removal was thin. He said there were 36 employees to cover 25 snow routes, so if snow removal progressed past one shift, there were not enough employees to cover a second shift. He said he would carry over 18 temporaries this year to be able to fill the employee gap, but if it was a bad winter like in 1999, resources would be taxed. He said they would continue, as in the past, to depend on outside resources for loading and hauling.

Council Member Nichting requested that a revised Snow Plan be distributed to all members of the Council.

In further discussion with Council Member Nichting regarding the aging equipment and if a contingency plan was in place for snow removal, Director Van Winkle said private resources for snow removal were difficult to find in bad weather conditions because they were usually already committed. He said he would commit his work force as much as possible to work overtime for snow removal to get the work accomplished.

Council Member Teplitz and Council Member Thetford both commended the Public Works Department for assistance in their neighborhoods, and they discussed the importance of the maintenance of alleys in older neighborhoods.

In discussion with Council Member Sandberg regarding the two traffic control systems, Director Van Winkle said there was a system for the downtown area and southern valley, and one system for the remainder of the City. He stated the systems were interfaced.

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb, Director Van Winkle stated there was not a written contract with Caterpillar for snow removal assistance in the event of a large snow storm. He said they provided assistance in 1979 and they would probably provide assistance again.

In discussion with Council Member Spears regarding street lights and the newly installed traffic signals as part of the I-74 upgrade, Director Van Winkle said street lights that were part of the interstate system and on the ramps would be maintained by IDOT. City Engineer Hewitt said the City would maintain the traffic signals under the Uniform Traffic Control Agreement. He said IDOT would pay half of the costs of those near the ramps onto I-74.

Council Member Spears said street lights were important in neighborhoods, but street lights in other parts of the City could be reduced to save energy costs.

In discussion with Council Member Morris regarding downtown parking decks, City Manager Oliver said monthly downtown parking deck rates were proposed to be increased by 2% for 2005. He said the 2% increase would roughly correspond with the increase in the CPI.

Council Member Gulley referred to the \$400,000 in the Capital Program for Griswold Street (from Star Street to Krause Street), and he expressed concern that no improvements had been started, and he questioned if this program money was lost when the HOPE VI project was lost. He said the \$400,000 amount had been in the Capital Program since 2003 and other streets improvements had been added since that time.

Director Van Winkle said there was still money for Griswold, about \$400,000 in CDBG funds.

City Engineer Hewitt said there was no additional funding for the Griswold project in 2005 out of CDBG money.

Director of Planning and Growth Management Department Pat Landes said there was about \$400,000 remaining for the Griswold project. She said it was not shown in the Budget because it only gave new amounts that were budgeted for 2005. She said she knew that \$400,000 was not enough for the road project.

Council Member Gulley said a total of \$750,000 was needed for the Griswold project. He said he was concerned that other projects were being added to the project list, while others had not yet been completed. He indicated he would like to find a way to complete funding, in the amount of \$350,000, for the Griswold project.

Mayor Ransburg suggested that Council Member Gulley meet with the City Manager for the Griswold Project to be added to the list that would be fully discussed and voted on at the November 30, 2004, Budget Hearing.

RECESS

Mayor Ransburg called for a recess at 6:47 P.M.

RECONVENING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Ransburg reconvened the meeting at 6:58 P.M.

City Clerk Mary Haynes noted the following Council Members present: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11; Absent: None.

E. 2005 BUDGET HEARING - POLICE DEPARTMENT

Interim Police Chief Gary Poynter said the Police Department's Budget was \$30,575,836, including benefits. He said the staffing level in 2002 was 297 compared to 282 in 2005. He gave a brief overview of each division of the Police Department. He further discussed the Investigations Division and their recent activities regarding a joint investigation with the DEA, the establishment of a Computer Crimes Unit, and the installation of video units for recording statements. He discussed Support Services which included the Information Office, Records, Traffic, Training, Community Services, Court Sergeant, Building/Fleet Management, Parking Enforcement, and Crossing Guards. He said all in-car laptops were updated with the ADSI report writing software, they installed the Illinois Department of Transportation's wireless accident report writing software, and they instituted the new Illinois mandated registration requirements for sex offenders. He said Uniformed Services included the Neighborhood Enforcement Action Team (NEAT) and was expected to exceed 10,000 inspections and 7,000 re-inspections. He reported the Problem Oriented Police (POP) Team completed their first full year and made 796 arrests, issued 1,178 traffic tickets, 280 parking tickets, towed 242 vehicles, issued 760 ordinance violations, and attended 165 community meetings and activities.

Interim Chief Poynter gave an overview of the planned utilization of the automated vehicle locator (AVL) system and the use of the GIS system to improve response times.

Interim Chief Poynter reviewed needed capital improvements, which included the improvement of security control within the Police Department facility, the installation of wireless traffic citation software, and improving officer entry and eliminating data entry of citations by Records

personnel. He gave a brief overview of grants that had been obtained over the past year that provided radio equipment, laptop computers, tasers, bomb disposal suits, biohazard equipment, thermal imaging units, report writing software, in-car video systems, digital cameras, radar detectors, and an explosive storage cabinet.

Interim Chief Poynter explained that funding would be needed in five years to replace the bullet-proof vests that were purchased for the Police Department. He added that grants were on the decline and available funding for grants were getting smaller each year. He said grants assisted the Police Department to stay on the cutting edge of technology and equipment.

In discussion with Council Member Turner regarding the bullet-proof vests that were purchased approximately three years ago, Interim Chief Poynter said normally the vests would last five years. He said the Company had a lawsuit because of one failure of a vest and that Company committed to replacing all the vests that were purchased.

In discussion with Council Member Turner regarding the grant for tobacco compliance checks and he questioned if a process had been set up similar to the one used for checking minors buying alcohol, Interim Chief Poynter said tickets were issued for those violations.

Council Member Turner said he felt the store owners should also be fined for this kind of activity.

Interim Chief Poynter said he would review this issue to determine how these situations were being handled.

In discussion with Council Member Nichting regarding Police Districts in his area, Interim Chief Poynter said there were 7 districts north of Glen Avenue with approximately 20 officers per shift patrolling those districts. He said this situation would be reviewed as those areas grew. He said there were 242 officers and in 2005, ten officers would be lost through retirements. He said he was probably down 12 officers now due to injuries, etc.

In discussion with Council Member Grayeb regarding video tapings of criminal statements, Interim Chief Poynter stated video taping was only for homicide cases at this time. He said this was a mandate that needed to be implemented by June, 2005. He said the State provided the funding to the Police Department to purchase the equipment.

Council Member Grayeb expressed concern regarding security at City Hall. He said he was concerned for the safety of employees and citizens who visited City Hall on a daily basis. He pointed out that the City Hall building was a symbol of City government and he felt that measures should be taken to secure the building. He suggested using retired City personnel, who would have access to a Police radio, to welcome visitors to City Hall and assist in directing them to their destinations in City Hall. He added that a number of incidents had happened in the country since the last time he brought this topic to the Council's attention that would warrant additional safety measures.

Interim Chief Poynter said, if it was the will of the Council, he would be glad to work toward implementing a program for City Hall.

Several Council Members commended Interim Chief Poynter on his performance as Interim Chief, as well as the performance of the entire Peoria Police Department. It was pointed out that Interim Chief Poynter was a 40-year veteran of the Police Department and his commitment and dedication was appreciated.

Council Member Ardis commended Interim Chief Poynter on the amount of grant money that was brought into the City through the Police Department. He spoke in support of hiring more Police Officers so more police presence would be felt in the neighborhoods. He urged the Council to stand behind that commitment to address crime issues.

In discussion with Council Member Thetford regarding the POP Teams, Interim Chief Poynter said they could definitely use more POP Team members. He said the POP Team approached neighborhood safety from an innovative angle to remove crime from the streets, and he said he was training all officers to approach crime in this manner. He said the department would maintain the current number of POP Team members, and he would be working toward hiring additional officers.

Council Member Thetford said there were neighborhoods in her District who were concerned that they would lose their POP Team members because they were needed elsewhere in the City. She said the neighborhoods that were covered by POP Teams wanted the teams to stay in their neighborhoods.

Council Member Spears said the Police Department should be finding ways to reduce the criminal society. He said he did not have the answer but the thought process needed to begin at some point. He expressed concern that as crime was reduced in one neighborhood, it was increasing in another neighborhood. He said more officers would reduce crime, but he questioned if crime was just displaced.

Interim Chief Poynter agreed that crime was not being eradicated completely. He said they had to rely on court prosecution and the prison systems.

Council Member Spears said crime needed to be reduced because people wanted to live in a free and civil society. He said discussions needed to begin somewhere regarding crime reduction. He said the Police Department was performing in a commendable manner, but he felt that the loss of middle class citizens assisted in the increase of criminal activity. He said he felt the Council needed to find ways to attract the middle class back to the City of Peoria.

In further discussion, Council Member Spears urged citizens to be alert to changes when new residents moved into their neighborhoods. He said he was concerned that it would take the Police Department longer to determine where criminal activity had moved to, so he urged citizens to be alert and notify the Police if suspicious activity was noticed.

Council Member Gulley suggested that the City implement another program similar to the Build Peoria Program. He said some funding from the City could be added to a grant to fund a jobs program that assisted in fighting crime. He said he felt this was something that needed to be explored.

Council Member Grayeb spoke in support of the POP Teams and he said he felt those teams were very effective in reducing crime. He agreed there was some displacement of crime, but these teams were effective in making good arrests, and criminals were prosecuted and sent to prison. He said there were some criminals who made it impossible for residents to live in peace in their neighborhoods. He said there were programs in the City for assistance, but he said it was his opinion, individuals and parents themselves should be taking on the responsibility of their youth.

In discussion regarding the activities of the Bomb Squad and costs, Council Member Sandberg questioned if a review had been made to determine if all the costs involved were closely balanced, and if there was a cost benefit. He said he was concerned that City services were diminished during the periods of time the Bomb Squad was called out on incidents.

Interim Chief Poynter said he could he could certainly have the unit analyze the costs involved, but he did not feel it would amount to a significant cost, if any.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that Police Officers were used to enforce parking in private lots. He said he felt a better use of Police Officers' time was to solve crimes.

Mayor Ransburg thanked Interim Chief Poynter for his presentation. He commended Interim Chief Poynter on his performance during this time of transition.

F. 2005 BUDGET HEARING - DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION of OTHER DEPARTMENTS and FORMATION of QUESTIONS/DECISION to be Made by COUNCIL at NOVEMBER 30, 2004, BUDGET HEARING

City Manager Randy Oliver said Department Heads and their Staff were available to answer any questions the Council had regarding their individual budgets.

City Manager Oliver said a list of issues that should be discussed at the Special Meeting to hold a Budget Hearing on November 30, 2004, would include if the Council wished to support the request by the Library Board to increase the property tax rate by 2.5 cents to provide additional funding; Did the Council wish to increase funding through the General Fund to the Peoria Municipal Bank and, if so, what amount, what source, and should there be a match requirement; Did Council wish to fund up to \$60,000 to support the operation of Springdale Cemetery subject to compliance with the other terms and conditions of the agreement between the parties, including payment by the County and Park District; Did the Council wish to bond an additional \$2 million through the HRA taxes to fund improvements on the Museum Block and use the previously budgeted CIP funds for sidewalks and drainage projects; Did Council wish to fully staff Fire Station #11 through the addition of 11 firefighters costing \$721,000 annually; Did Council wish to reopen Fire Station #17 through the addition of 11 firefighters at an annual cost of \$721,000; Did Council wish to contribute \$112,028 per year, for four years, toward the World War II Monument to be built on County square; and Did Council wish to fund the replacement of Rebecca Street arches on Main Street.

City Manager Oliver said Council Members should contact him as soon as possible to add any additional issues to the list.

In discussion, Council Member Thetford pointed out the \$60,000 being requested for Springdale Cemetery was part of the agreement they had with the City so it was not a new request.

Council Member Morris requested a listing of source of revenues, compared with the previous year or two, and a listing of expenditures by department, with percentages.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(04-612) Requesting Approval of a Motion for the City Council to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION to Discuss 2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity; and 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 such an action is probable or imminent.

Council Member Nichting moved for the City Council to go into Executive Session to Discuss 2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity; and 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 such an action is probable or imminent; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 11;

Nays: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Nichting moved to adjourn the Special Meeting of the City Council of Peoria, Illinois, to hold a Budget Hearing on the 2005 City of Peoria Budget, conduct Public Hearings, and consider any related matters as required by law; seconded by Council Member Turner.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

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Mary L. Haynes, MMC
City Clerk, Peoria, IL