

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

Council Chambers, Peoria, Illinois, December 21, 2004, a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Peoria was held this date at 6:15 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, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Sandberg (left at 8:00 P.M.), Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, 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.

**PROCLAMATIONS, COMMENDATIONS, ETC.**

PRESENTATION: PEORIA SELECTED as a NATIONAL AWARD WINNER by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of TOWN WATCH for OUTSTANDING PARTICIPATION in the 2004 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CAMPAIGN.

**ANNOUNCEMENT Regarding the Departure of WHOI REPORTER STEVE NICOLES**

Mayor Ransburg announced that Reporter Steve Nicoles of WHOI TV would be taking a new position in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He wished Steve well in his new position.

**WELCOME to CONGRESSMAN RAY LaHOOD**

Council Member Nichting recognized Congressman Ray LaHood, who was in attendance, and welcomed him to the Council Meeting.

**MINUTES**

Council Member Nichting moved to approve the minutes of the Regular City Council Meetings held on December 7, 2004, and December 14, 2004, and the Executive Sessions held on December 14, 2004, as printed; 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.

**PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES & COMMUNICATIONS****REQUEST TO MOVE AGENDA ITEM**

Council Member Nichting moved to move the Consent Agenda forward to be discussed at this time, and requested that if there were items removed for discussion, that the discussion take place following the presentation by IDOT; seconded by Council Member Sandberg.

Approved by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None.

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

- (04-650) **PAYMENT ESTIMATE for PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: MAIN STREET SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT (Sheridan to North) PHASE II and MAIN STREET OVERLAY (University to North Street), Removal of existing combination curb & gutter, sidewalks, steps & driveway approaches and construction of concrete sidewalks, combination Curb-sidewalks, p.c.c. gutter, driveway pavement, storm sewer, traffic signals & an ornamental street lighting system. Additionally, the existing bituminous pavement from University to North Street shall be milled two inches (2") then overlaid with two inches (2") of bituminous concrete surface course.) R. A. CULLINAN & SON, INC.; PAYMENT ESTIMATE #5 and Final: \$97,489.06; TOTAL AMOUNT: \$720,353.91 (11.8% Over Contract Amount), with Recommendation to Approve \$97,489.06.**
- (04-651) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works Requesting Authorization to PURCHASE MOWING EQUIPMENT from FLINGER'S EQUIPMENT, in the Amount of \$10,545.28.**
- (04-652) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Inspections Requesting Authorization to Enter into a TWO-YEAR RESIDENTIAL DEMOLITION CONTRACT with BACHMAN, INC. and Accept their Low Bid, in the Estimated Amount of \$133,000 per year.**
- (04-653) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Public Works Recommending Concurrence in the Greater Peoria Sanitary District's Award of the 2005 CONTRACT for REPAIR and MODIFICATION of VARIOUS SANITARY SEWERS to J. C. DILLON, INC., Estimated to be \$24,017.50 Established on a Crew-Day Basis.**
- (04-654) **Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel Requesting Authorization for the City Manager to Enter into a TWO-YEAR CONTRACT with SECURITY SERVICES, INC. for Service Process at Unit Costs as Outlined.**
- (04-655) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and Growth Management Recommending an AMENDMENT to Revise Budget Line Items for Actual or Expected Program Costs (with no Increase in the Amount of the Grant) for the 2004 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PUBLIC SERVICE CONTRACTS, as Follows: MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS VALLEY – REAL MEN/REAL DEPRESSION AGREEMENT; COMMON PLACE – TURNING POINT AGREEMENT; and PLANNED PARENTHOOD – TAKING OUR YOUTH SERIOUSLY AGREEMENT.**
- (04-656) **Communication from the City Manager and Fire Chief Recommending Adoption of an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 11 of the Code of the City of Peoria Relating to FEES for FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES PROVIDED to NON-RESIDENTS Relating to Vehicle Fires and Vehicle Accidents, and Extrication of Occupants.**
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- (04-657)  
\*\* Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel  
Recommending Adoption of an ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 30 of the  
Code of the City of Peoria Relating to TAXICABS and INCREASING FEES.
- (04-658) Communication from the City Manager and Finance Director/Comptroller  
Recommending Adoption of ORDINANCE NO. 15,722 Amending the  
BUDGET for Fiscal Year 2004 Relating to EMPLOYEE BENEFITS and the  
POLICE TECHNOLOGY GRANT VII INTEREST.
- (04-659)  
\*\*\* Communication from the City Manager and Interim Director of Economic  
Development Recommending Adoption of AN ORDINANCE Approving the  
CENTRAL ILLINOIS REGIONAL MUSEUM, a DZO Project within the City of  
Peoria Enterprise Zone, and Requesting Authorization to Submit the  
Project Application to the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and  
Economic Opportunity.
- (04-660) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and  
Growth Management Recommending Adoption of the Following:
- A. ORDINANCE NO. 15,723 Approving the PRELIMINARY and FINAL  
PLAN of TALLGRASS CONDOMINIUMS PHASE 2, a Multi-Family  
Residential Development Located South of Charter Oak Road, East  
of IL Route 6, North of I-74, Off of WeaverRidge Boulevard;
  - B. ORDINANCE NO. 15,724 Approving the PRIVATE STREETS,  
PRIVATE STREET NAMES, and PRIVATE STREET MAINTENANCE  
AGREEMENT for TALLGRASS LANE and THORNHILL DRIVE of  
TALLGRASS CONDOMINIUMS and TALLGRASS CONDOMINIUMS  
PHASE 2, a Multi-Family Residential Development Located South of  
Charter Oak Road, East of IL Route 6, North of I-74, Off of Weaver  
Ridge Boulevard.
- (04-661) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and  
Growth Management with Recommendation from the Zoning Commission  
to Adopt ORDINANCE NO. 15,725 Rezoning .41 Acres of Property Located  
at 3531 W. WILLOW KNOLLS DRIVE from the Present Class R-6 (Multi-  
Family Residential) District to a Class C-1 (General Commercial) District.
- (04-662) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and  
Growth Management Recommending Adoption of ORDINANCE NO. 15,726  
Rezoning 17.3 Acres of Property Located at 9500 N. ALLEN ROAD from the  
Present Class R-7 (Multi-Family Residential) District to a Class C-2 (Large  
Scale Commercial) District.
- (04-663) Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and  
Growth Management with Recommendation from the Zoning Commission  
to Adopt ORDINANCE NO. 15,727 Amending Ordinance No. 14,212 an  
EXISTING SPECIAL USE in a Class R-3 (Single-Family Residential) District  
for ELDERLY HOUSING for Property Located at 3901 W. RESERVOIR, with  
Condition.

(04-664) **Communication from the City Manager and Director of Planning and Growth Management with Recommendation from the Zoning Commission to Adopt ORDINANCE NO. 15,728 Amending Ordinance No. 15,017 an EXISTING SPECIAL USE in a Class R-7 (Multi-Family Residential) District for ELDERLY HOUSING and a NURSING HOME for Property Located at 2724 W. RESERVOIR BOULEVARD.**

(04-665) **SITE APPLICATION for a CLASS “K” (Catering) LIQUOR LICENSE for the SECOND and THIRD FLOORS at 240 S. W. JEFFERSON, with Recommendation from the Liquor Commission to Approve.**

(04-666) **APPOINTMENTS by Mayor David P. Ransburg to the YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION:**

**Agbara Bryson (Non-Voting)  
Laura Cordell (Non-Voting)  
Farrell Davies (Non-Voting)  
Bob Gilroy (Non-Voting)  
Kristina K. Mills (Non-Voting)  
Phylicia Moredock (Non-Voting)  
Judith L. Oakford (Non-Voting)  
Lynne Oliver (Non-Voting)  
Cassandra Powell (Non-Voting)  
John W. Williams (Non-Voting)  
Steve Fairbanks (Non-Voting)**

(04-667) **REPORTS:**

**A. REPORT of the CITY TREASURER REGINALD A. WILLIS – OCTOBER, 2004.**

(04-668) **ADOPTION of COMMITTEE REPORT Regarding a PRESENTATION of STORMWATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE and DISCUSSION of POLICY SESSIONS and PRIORITIES.**

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

Council Member Sandberg requested that Item No. 04-659 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Grayeb requested that Item Nos. 04-656 and 04-657 be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Item Nos. 04-650 through 04-668 (excluding Item Nos. 04-656, 04-657, and 04-659 which were removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion) were approved by roll call vote under the Omnibus Vote Designation.

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

Nays: None.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**(04-669) Communication from the City Manager and Interim Director of Economic Development Recommending Approval of the REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT Between the CITY OF PEORIA, LAKEVIEW MUSEUM OF ARTS and SCIENCES, and CATERPILLAR INC. for CONSTRUCTION of the MUSEUM BLOCK PROJECT, and Requesting Authorization for the City Manager to Execute the Necessary Documents.**

Corporation Counsel Randy Ray distributed a copy of revised Sections 7.2 and 8.2 of the Redevelopment Agreement and a copy of the Fourth Addendum to the Amended and Restated Riverfront Village Redevelopment Agreement to all members of the City Council for their review.

City Manager Randy Oliver stated the issue relating to the Fourth Addendum to Amended and Restated Riverfront Village Redevelopment Agreement would not be considered at this meeting. He said the item was distributed for the Council's review and would be coming before the Council the first meeting in January, 2005.

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ransburg granted Privilege of the Floor to Lakeview Museum President and CEO Jim Richerson, Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives Henry Holling, and Congressman Ray LaHood.

Mr. Jim Richerson, President and CEO of Lakeview Museum, introduced members of the Museum Development Team, which included Lakeview Museum Board Chairman R. Rennie Atterbury III, Lakeview Museum Board Vice Chairman Jim Vergon, and Lakeview Museum Board Past Chairman Joe Henderson. He also introduced the members of the Museum Collaboration Group, which included Co-Chairman Bryon DeHaan, Co-Chairman Brad McMillan, and Central Illinois Regional Museum Project Attorney John Elias.

Mr. Henry Holling, Manager of Caterpillar Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives, introduced the Caterpillar Team members, which included Manager of Corporate Public Affairs Tim Elder, Caterpillar Visitor Center Project Manager Mark Johnson, Manager of Corporate Real Estate Tom May, and Corporate Real Estate Attorney Kurt Gehlbach. Mr. Holling acknowledged and commended the efforts of Congressman Ray LaHood regarding this project. He said Congressman LaHood began about four years ago to provide initial direction for the establishment of the Museum Collaboration Group. He introduced Congressman Ray LaHood.

Congressman Ray LaHood said the museum project would be a huge asset for the Peoria community. He gave a brief history of the beginning of the project, and he said he explained to the groups there was not enough money for each to have their own free-standing program or facility. He said he urged them all to come together to work toward this project. He thanked the groups for their willingness and efforts over the past several years. He said the group spent time traveling the country and visiting museums to determine how other communities had pulled together. He said as a result of all the work, he felt the group had designed a spectacular program for Central Illinois. He said the museum would be a regional opportunity and would be a magnet that would attract people from all over Illinois and other places in the Country. He said he felt the museum could be an economic development, cultural, and arts magnet to the Riverfront. He thanked those who came together in collaboration, and he urged the Council to study the document carefully. He thanked Mr. Holling for his efforts in steering the project, and he thanked Caterpillar CEO Jim Owens for his support. He encouraged the City Council to approve the redevelopment agreement.

Mr. Holling commended the efforts of City Manager Randy Oliver in re-engaging the Centerbrook group to redesign the block site, and he thanked him for his work and patience. He also thanked Caterpillar CEO Jim Owens for his support on this critical project.

Mr. Richerson explained the Redevelopment Agreement took the place of the original agreement, which was approved by Council on September 23, 2003. He said the entire two-block site would be occupied by the Central Illinois Regional Museum, the Caterpillar Visitor Center, and museum-owned commercial space and parking. He explained the Central Illinois Regional Museum would be built on the southern end of the site and the Caterpillar Visitor Center would be built on the northern end of the site. He said Caterpillar would assume responsibility for demolition of the entire site and making the site ready for development; and in exchange, the City would transfer ownership to Caterpillar of the two-acre site on the northern portion of the block.

Mr. Richerson further explained the City would assign the previously secured \$3 million Federal grant funds to Caterpillar to be used for off-street parking, new curbs, sidewalks and ornamental lighting. He stated Caterpillar would construct and maintain two off-street surface parking areas, one 22-space lot off of Liberty Street and another 115-space lot off Water Street. He added that Caterpillar would also construct a parking facility on the Caterpillar portion of the site with approximately 60 spaces, 30 of which would be available for the general public. He said Caterpillar would manage and maintain all of the parking on the block; and, in a separate agreement with the Museum, Caterpillar agreed to commit the initial \$100,000 of net proceeds from operation of the parking facilities on the block to the Museum on an annual basis.

Mr. Richerson said the Central Illinois Regional Museum and Caterpillar would submit all design concepts, preliminary plans, final site plans, and construction plans to the City of Peoria for approval.

Mr. Richerson said a maximum of \$500,000 in TIF funds generated by property taxes on the Caterpillar facility would be assigned to the Central Illinois Regional Museum annually for the duration of the TIF. He explained the City and the Museum would work together to extend the duration of the redevelopment plan. He said the City, Caterpillar, and the Museum would work together to apply for and secure Federal, State, and other governmental and private sector grants for the project. He added the Museum and Caterpillar would hold future expansion rights over public parking areas adjacent to their facilities.

Mr. Richerson said the Museum Collaboration Group included Lakeview Museum, Peoria Historical Society, African American Hall of Fame Museum, Peoria Regional Museum Society, Heartland Foundation, Illinois High School Association, the National Conservancy, and Caterpillar Inc. He said the public partners included the City of Peoria, Peoria Park District, State of Illinois and the United States Government. He gave a brief overview of the 28,000 square feet of space for the museum galleries, the 15,000 square feet of space for the Illinois River Learning Center, and the 10,000 square feet of space for the Giant Screen Theater.

Mr. Holling explained the vision for the Caterpillar Visitor Center, which would be educational, interactive with entertaining exhibits.

Mr. Richerson discussed the proposed project schedule with Caterpillar beginning demolition in April, 2005, with completion in July, 2005. He said the Museum and Caterpillar would submit conceptual designs to the City in January, 2006, and final designs in July, 2006. He stated construction would begin in January, 2007, but would be contingent on museum financing developments, and the grand opening was scheduled for January, 2009.



Council Member Morris moved to approve the Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Peoria, Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences, and Caterpillar Inc. for construction of the Museum Block Project, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents; seconded by Council Member Nichting

Council Member Turner said he would be abstaining from discussion and voting due to his employment with Caterpillar Inc.

Council Member Gulley said he did not agree with everything in the redevelopment agreement. He expressed concern regarding new urbanism and some of the parking issues, but he said Lakeview Museum, Caterpillar, Congressman LaHood, and the City of Peoria had worked in concert to get this project off the ground. He said he hoped that this project could be brought together in the same spirit of cooperation that had been displayed in the recent past, and he stressed the importance of the project for the City as a whole.

Council Member Spears recognized and welcomed County Board Member Junior Watkins, who was instrumental in initiating the African American Hall of Fame Museum.

Council Member Spears discussed the Sears block and its importance in the history of Peoria as viable retail space. He said just two years ago, the Council took a vote regarding the Sears block and voted that only 60% of the block would be used for the museum. He expressed his concern regarding that vote. He said he was more than supportive of the entire block being used for the museum, and he recalled when at least four Council Members supported giving the entire block. He expressed his appreciation to Lakeview and Caterpillar for putting their efforts together. He also thanked Museum Collaboration Group Co-Chair Brad McMillan for his efforts, and he thanked Congressman LaHood for his relationship with Senator Durbin and his help in bringing back the Federal portion of the money. He said he was currently lobbying the new Senator, Barack Obama for additional Federal funding for the museum project. He commended the efforts of Developer Mike Wisdom for renegotiating a portion of his Riverfront Agreement regarding parking.

Council Member Grayeb said the reconstruction of I-74 and surrounding infrastructure was vastly important to the continued economic vibrancy and progress of Peoria. He said this infrastructure would add so much value to the community and would ensure its prosperity. He added the City was transitioning into another era of a world-class medical center. He said he agreed with comments made by Council Member Spears regarding Congressman LaHood and Brad McMillan. He also commended the visionary work of former Caterpillar CEO Glen Barton. He said the primary benefit of the new museum development would provide multi-generational connections and would put the children in contact with the rich history of the City of Peoria. He said he felt citizens of Peoria could look forward to the future with a great deal of confidence.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern that the plan for the new museum would not align with the Heart of Peoria Plan or the City's Comprehensive Plan. He said there was nothing in the proposed agreement that dealt with the width of Washington Street and its six lanes of traffic, which was not pedestrian friendly. He said he felt there was nothing in the agreement that would make the downtown area more vibrant and energized.

Council Member Sandberg expressed concern regarding the amount of public financing that was involved for the project. He said the City of Peoria had pledged \$500,000 per year for the next 17 years toward this project. He further expressed concern that Caterpillar and Lakeview wanted an extension of TIF proceeds until the year 2032. He indicated he felt this was money that could have gone toward District #150 and other services. He said he would not support the motion to approve the agreement.

Motion to approve the Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Peoria, Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences, and Caterpillar Inc. for construction of the Museum Block Project, and authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Mayor Ransburg – 9;

Nays: Sandberg – 1;

Abstention: Turner - 1.

Council Member Sandberg left the Council Chambers at 8:00.

**(04-670) PRESENTATION by IDOT Regarding I-74 UPGRADES to Emphasize the Closure of the Murray Baker Bridge on I-74 and Related Roadway from April 2, 2005, through October 1, 2005, and to Discuss Alternative Routing and Signage.**

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ransburg granted Privilege of the Floor to IDOT Deputy Director of Highways for Region III, Joe Crowe.

Mr. Joe Crowe, IDOT Deputy Director of Highways for Region III, said Stage 1 of the I-74 Upgrade Project was completed in October, 2005, and was under-budget and 30 days early. He commended the efforts of all partners involved in the project, and he gave a brief overview of the details of Stage 1. He said Stage 2 work had begun, which included wall work and the beginning of the construction of the tunnel to assist in ridding the downtown area of heavy accident locations. He said Stage 2 work would continue through the winter and would move into the spring.

Mr. Crowe said the completion of the reconstruction of the East Peoria fly-over bridge was important to assist in directing traffic to the Bob Michel Bridge. He explained on April 1, 2005, I-74 would be closed from Glendale to the East Peoria side to completely rebuild the roadway in this area and to remove 180 feet of the Murray Baker Bridge to reconstruct the dangerous ramps which currently existed. He said I-74 would re-opened in October, 2005. He said Peoria had many good alternative routes, and he urged citizens to plan ahead for the closure of I-74 and determine which alternate routes would best serve their needs. He said the Murray Baker Bridge would also be painted during the closure.

Mr. Crowe said the East bound lanes of I-74 would be reconstructed in 2005, and the following year, the West bound lanes would be reconstructed. He said the planned completion date was at the end of 2006. He said they were looking forward to continuing their work with the City as they partnered in this project.

Council Member Ardis said he wanted citizens to be aware that the Murray Baker Bridge would not be closed for the IHSA March Madness Tournament. He said guests who traveled to Peoria from outside the area would not have to alter their routes.

Council Member Ardis said that CityLink had been working with IDOT to establish their routes during the closure of I-74. He said the citizens would be learning more about how they could utilize the Mass Transit system during the closure.

In discussion with Council Member Gulley, Mr. Crowe stated that, besides CityLink, Council Member Gulley was also one of the partners in the project and had worked with IDOT to make sure that the local minority contractors were ready to work on the project. He said they planned to build on that success as Upgrade I-74 continued.



Director of Public Works Steve Van Winkle acknowledged IDOT's investment in the City of Peoria. He said a staggering amount of money had been spent on City streets in this project. He said, because of the I-74 project, these streets were reconstructed without expense to the City. He expressed his appreciation for their efforts.

Mayor Ransburg said there had been minimal disruption to traffic flow, and he commended IDOT on their communication to the public regarding lane closures.

Council Member Grayeb moved to receive and file the presentation by IDOT regarding I-74 Upgrades to emphasize the closure of the Murray Baker Bridge on I-74 and related roadway from April 2, 2005, through October 1, 2005, and the discussion regarding alternative routing and signage; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 10;

Nays: None.

Council Member Nichting left the Council Chambers.

#### **CONTINUATION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**(04-656)      Communication from the City Manager and Fire Chief Recommending  
\*              Adoption of ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 11 of the Code of the City of  
                 Peoria Relating to FEES for FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES PROVIDED to NON-  
                 RESIDENTS Relating to Vehicle Fires and Vehicle Accidents, and  
                 Extrication of Occupants.**

Following a brief comment, Council Member Grayeb moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 11 of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to fees for Fire Fighting services provided to non-residents relating to vehicle fires and vehicle accidents, and extrication of occupants; seconded by Council Member Turner.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,729 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 9;

Nays: None.

**(04-657)      Communication from the City Manager and Corporation Counsel  
\*\*              Recommending Adoption of ORDINANCE Amending CHAPTER 30 of the  
                 Code of the City of Peoria Relating to TAXICABS and INCREASING FEES.**

Council Member Grayeb expressed concern regarding the physical appearance of some taxicabs where windows were broken, lights were out, trim was missing, etc. He questioned how often the City inspected these vehicles.

Council Member Nichting returned to the Council Chambers.

Interim Police Chief Gary Poynter said taxicabs were inspected quarterly and these issues had been addressed. He said the company owner had corrected the situation. He agreed the taxicabs should be in good repair.

Council Member Thetford left the Council Chambers.

Council Member Grayeb moved to adopt the Ordinance amending Chapter 30 of the Code of the City of Peoria relating to Taxicabs and increasing fees; seconded by Council Member Morris.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,730 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Spears, Teplitz, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 9;

Nays: None.

Council Member Thetford returned to the Council Chambers.

**(04-659)      Communication from the City Manager and Interim Director of Economic  
\*\*\*      Development Recommending Adoption of an ORDINANCE Approving the  
            CENTRAL ILLINOIS REGIONAL MUSEUM, a DZO Project within the City of  
            Peoria Enterprise Zone, and Requesting Authorization to Submit the  
            Project Application to the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and  
            Economic Opportunity.**

Due to the absence of Council Member Sandberg who requested that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda, Council Member Morris moved to adopt the Ordinance approving the Central Illinois Regional Museum, a DZO project within the City of Peoria Enterprise Zone, and to submit the Project Application to the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; seconded by Council Member Gulley.

ORDINANCE NO. 15,731 was approved by roll call vote.

Yeas: Ardis, Grayeb, Gulley, Morris, Nichting, Spears, Teplitz, Thetford, Turner, Mayor Ransburg – 10;

Nays: None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**(04-671)      REQUEST for ASSISTANCE in the EAST BLUFF Regarding CRIME.**

Council Member Turner referred to a shooting in the East Bluff on Friday night between two vehicles, and the next morning, many different types of shell casings were found on the street. He said a victim was found dead in his driveway. He said it was reported there was a drug house on Gale Avenue and, even though complaints had been filed, the situations continued to exist. He said these kinds of problems for residents were continuing to become worse. He requested that the Police Department follow up on this situation and work to resolve this problem.

City Manager Randy Oliver requested the address and other information regarding the house.

Council Member Thetford said members of the Police Department had been working diligently regarding these problems. She said she wanted to let the Council know the Police Department was on top of these kinds of situations.

#### **CITIZEN REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

**(04-672)      REQUEST from CITIZENS to Address the CITY COUNCIL Regarding  
            Various Items.**

Hearing no objections, Mayor Ransburg granted Privilege of the Floor to those who wished to address the Council.

Willa Lucas, 611 E. Frye, requested assistance in addition to the POP Officers with the problems in the East Bluff. She said the problem areas were located both North and South of Frye Street. She said the neighborhood was being destroyed by the public walkway, which was dark and not patrolled, and served little purpose. She said the original purpose of the walkway was for students to walk to St. Bernards, but the school was no longer open. She said the walkway was now used for criminal activities, and she requested that the walkway be closed. She thanked Council Member Gulley for his quick response and his concern.

Council Member Thetford requested City Manager Oliver and Public Works Director Steve Van Winkle to explore the possibility of closing the public walkway.

City Manager Oliver said it was possible to vacate the walkway and give the property back to adjacent property owners to install fences, or whatever they wanted to do to their property. He said he would make a recommendation to the Council by mid-January.

Mr. Paul Wilkenson, 2220 N. Sheridan, President of Altamont Park Neighborhood Association, thanked the Council for adopting the board-up Ordinance. He spoke in favor of the proposed regional museum and he discussed a design for parking out of the public view. He spoke in support of the museum block being pedestrian friendly to increase revenue. He added the City needed to find funds to make neighborhoods safe.

Ms. Levetta Ricca, 711 W. Greenlawn, President of Olde Towne South Neighborhood Association, expressed concern regarding problems in her neighborhood.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was determined that an Executive Session was not needed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Nichting moved to adjourn the Council Meeting; seconded by Council Member Morris.

Approved by viva voce vote.

The Council Meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

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