
**PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CITY HALL
111 SOUTH CAPITOL STREET
ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2006 AT 630 O'CLOCK P.M.
FRANK H. MACKAMAN * MAYOR * PRESIDING**

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS, MADDOX, DAGIT, AND BLANCHARD

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER JONES

Council received an agenda and proper notice was posted on Monday, October 9, 2006, of a special meeting, called by the Council at the regular meeting on October 9, 2006, to consider the adoption of a resolution urging the Governor and Legislature to address the projected 55% increase in the costs of electricity.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Mackaman.

Roll was called at 6:35 p.m. Commissioners Maddox, Dagit, and Blanchard were present. Commissioner Jones was absent. A quorum was present.

Mayor Mackaman briefed the Council that Commissioner Jones did not attend the meeting because of a possible conflict of interest. Com'r Jones had advised the Council he was employed by CILCO for nearly 42 years and received a monthly pension from the utility company

Agenda

Motion by Com'r. Blanchard, seconded by Com'r. Maddox that the **agenda be approved as presented**. On roll call vote, all voted Aye.

New Business

The Mayor advised that different approaches could be taken on deliberation of the issue and presented a draft resolution encouraging the Governor to address projected electricity rates.

Com'r. Blanchard stated the rate hikes were unwarranted. He felt the legislators were using the issue for votes at the risk of the citizens. He noted residents would be paying more than once because taxing bodies would compensate for the extra costs by increasing taxes.

Com'r. Dagit proposed a new draft indented to support action by Governor and in addition, provided language to extend the three-year freeze. Requesting the freeze would mirror the House Bill. Debate followed as to the appropriate wording. Comr's. Blanchard and Maddox argued the request for the freeze in rates was partisan in nature. Com'r. Maddox stated he was not against a rate freeze but felt politics should not enter into discussion or consensus. In an informal straw vote, on the appropriateness of adding the language to freeze rates, the opinion was split. Com'r. Blanchard noted he had questioned residents in an informal survey and they agreed relief in the form of a freeze was necessary. Discussion continued on what actual effect including the language would have on the decision in Springfield.

Com'r. Blanchard then withdrew his position to include the language in order to arrive at a consensus.

RESOLUTION NO. 168-06/07

Motion by Com'r. Maddox, seconded by Com'r. Blanchard that Resolution No. 168-06/07 be adopted and be made part of the record.

WHEREAS, the residents of Pekin and other residential customers in Central Illinois face the prospect of up to a 55% increase in the costs of electricity as supplied by Ameren CILCO, due to the approval of a rate hike by the Illinois Commerce Commission;

WHEREAS, the impact of an increase of that magnitude would have severely negative consequences for the citizens of Pekin, especially those on limited and fixed incomes;

WHEREAS, the impact of an increase of that magnitude would have negative consequences on the operating budget of the City of Pekin and other area governmental bodies;

WHEREAS, the Governor and legislative leaders are working to address the situation and give relief in a proposed special session General Assembly meeting for that purpose, and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Pekin believes that a legislative solution and relief are in the best interests of the citizens of Pekin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS:

1. That the City of Pekin support the Governor and the Legislature working together, in special session, before the winter and before implementation of the proposed rate increase, for the purpose giving relief to the citizens of Illinois and to the citizens of the City of Pekin, so as to prevent the hardships and difficulties such an increase would impose upon the public.

PASSED AND APPROVED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pekin, this 11th day of October, 2006; and upon roll call the vote was as follows:

AYES: Blanchard, Dagit, Maddox, and Mackaman

NAYS: _____

ABSENT: Jones

ABSTAINING: _____

APPROVED this 11th day of October, 2006.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

On roll call vote, all voted Aye.

No further business to come before the Council, Mayor Mackaman adjourned the meeting.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:08 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk