
**PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL
111 SOUTH CAPITOL STREET
ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015 AT 5:00 O'CLOCK P.M.
JOHN MCCABE, MAYOR PRESIDING**

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS, ABEL, GOLDEN, DUNN, ORRICK, RITCHASON, LUFT AND MCCABE

ABSENT: NONE

Three members of the Council set a special meeting on September 14, 2015 to consider tabled item Ordinance No. 2725-15/16 known as the Sales Tax ordinance. Notice was properly posted and Council received notice of the special meeting on Friday, September 18, 2015.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor John McCabe.

Roll was called and all Council Members were physically present. A quorum was declared.

Motion by Council Member Orrick, seconded by Council Member Abel that the agenda be approved as presented. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jim Mangan addressed the Council on the matter of the implementation of a sales tax in relation to the Value Statement of the City (note: Conceptual Plan) – An Effective Government / To deliver effectively the services that Pekin's residents want, need and are willing to support. He stated it was necessary to ask the public what they were willing to support. He urged the Council to cancel Tuesday and Wednesday special meetings; vote no on the tax; and to vote at the next Council Meeting to do a mail survey he proposed.

Sally Johnson asked the Council to vote no on the tax based on previous money spending unaccountability.

Joel Fitzanko asked Council to vote no until "the house was in order".

Ann Witzig expressed concern of trust with the funds from the tax and felt the ordinance did not represent the taxpayer wishes. She asked Council to vote no until accountability was addressed.

Bob Bramham expressed concern of the use of the tax money.

Larry Wolfer opposed additional taxes.

Cathleen Bright spoke against the tax that would include infrastructure and street funding, noting the streets have not been maintained.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**ORDINANCE NO. 2725-15/16
AMENDING TITLE 3, CHAPTER 2, SECTION 1, 2 AND 3
OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PEKIN 1995
REGARDING MUNICIPAL TAXATION**

Motion by Council Member Luft, seconded by Council Member Orrick that Ordinance No. 2725-15/16 be adopted. Leigh Ann Brown Economic Development Director summarized the proposal presented to the Council at the last meeting and presented more information to address the concerns. Using the Municipal Retailer Occupation Tax to increase sales tax by 1/2 cent thereby providing half of the for economic development and 1/2 for infrastructure and roads was estimated to bring \$1,600,000 annually of new funds. Discussion followed. Council Members Orrick and Luft stressed the need for an efficiency study before they could vote on a new tax. Council Member Orrick noted it was a once in a lifetime opportunity to be able to raise funds through an increase in sales tax. He also suggested a third fund be created to have the money redirected back to the people that need help. He may consider an increase for those purposes. Additional concern was the tax would deter people from spending money in Pekin. City Treasurer Jim Wolf answered Council's questions on finances. He agreed with the information given that the City would still be similar in sales tax rates with surrounding communities. Council Member Dunn questioned Mr. Wolf on the two separate dedicated funds which Mr. Wolf indicated City finance program would produce clear reports of

where the monies were going. Council Member Luft questioned the reassurance that Council would be the approval process for the program. Council Member Orrick said he could not vote to pass the ordinance in good faith prior to an efficiency study; without knowing where the community stands on the matter. Council Member saw the proposal as a bad investment and spoke of several projects to justify his statement. There was general consensus that an efficiency study of the City and its operations would be conducted before a decision to raise taxes came back to Council. Council Member Luft, seconded by Council Member Orrick that Ordinance No. 2725-15/16 be tabled until March 2016 to meet time deadline to implement June. On roll call vote, Ayes, Golden, Orrick, Luft, Abel, Ritchason; Nays, Dunn and McCabe. Motion Carried.

Without objection from the Council the Special meetings called and posted for Tuesday, September 22, and Wednesday, September 23, 2015 were cancelled.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Public was given the opportunity for input, questions, or concerns. The following people addressed the Council with various comments, Bob Bramham, Ann Witzig, Jim Mangan, Joel Fitzanko, and Larry Wolfer.

Council Member Golden asked the status of the road and street condition report that was funded over a year ago. He asked for enforcement of the ordinance on cell phone use and directed the ordinance on distracted drivers be pursued to include shaving, makeup, and hair. He spoke unfavorable of not receiving deliverables from engineer for options for Court Street.

Council Member Abel asked the City Manager to review City properties that could be utilized by Habitat for Humanity. He spoke in favor of the Mayor's consideration in reviewing the discontinuance of the \$20.00 solid wastes fee for large items.

Council Member Orrick directed the City Manager to have the City Engineer prepare a written report for Veterans Drive expenses and schedule of completion dates. He inquired into the staff review a nuisance ordinance to aid with code enforcement.

Council Member Luft supported discontinuing the \$20.00 charge for larger items for solid waste pickup. He suggested that residents contact the Hope Chest to pickup salvageable items.

No further business to come before the Council, motion by Council Member Dunn, seconded by Council Member Abel to adjourn. Motion carried viva voce.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:20 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk