
**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 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 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 August 15, 2015 to discuss a check issued to Illinois High School Association (IHSA). Notice was properly posted and Council received notice of the special meeting on Monday, August 17, 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 Luft, seconded by Council Member Orrick that the agenda be approved as presented. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS

Mayor McCabe stated that the meeting initiated by Council Member Golden was to discuss a check in the amount of \$5,000.00 that had been disbursed to the Illinois High School Association in connection with their sponsorship of March Madness Experience for Boys Basketball Tournament held in Peoria.

Discussion followed on the question of who had the authority to make the determination to pay the invoice when in previous years the approval came before the City Council. It was stated the 2014 Council minutes reflected that the Council voted and the disbursement was denied.

Further discussion followed:

- duties of the Tourism Committee
- unavailability of written meeting minutes to the Council of Committee's previous years
- benefit produced to tourism verified by audit of motel overnight stays for proper use of the tax
- language sections in the City code of the Hotel/Motel proceeds of tax to be used exclusively for the promotion of tourism and/or the sections for the function of the Pekin Tourism, Convention and Visitors Committee regarding expenditures of the tax verified by grant application provided in the Committee's budget.

Attorney Dancey gave the opinion that the request for \$5,000.00 was a contractual obligation, not a grant, to the IHSA for sponsorship of the regional event and the City purchased and received consideration in the form of advertising to the visitors for which the manager had authority from approved budget of previous administration.

Council Member Luft requested:

An audit of the Tourism Committee for 2014-2015

Agendas, minutes, notes from meetings

Statement from City Attorney clarifying if there was wrong doing

Written not from the Manager Darin Girdler that Director of Economic Development and Tourism Leigh Ann Brown did nothing wrong.

Council requested clarity in the provisions of the Code be addressed for expenditure approvals by Council over \$1,500.00 limits. It was stated that IHSA had never been required to submit grant applications. Council discussed that action take place for the inappropriate activities of the manager and staff. In conclusion a written and signed admission of misuse of authority and others involvement would put the concerns of Council to rest.

Each Council member was given the opportunity to make individual comments.

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 general comments of mistrust that taxpayer money was spent appropriately; need for transparency; violations of city employees; Bob Bramham, Jim Mangan, Ed Schwin, Sally Johnson, Ann Witzig, Steve Heisel, Larry Wolfer, Steve Dennis and Brandon Dentino.

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

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 6:40 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk