
**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR 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, AUGUST 10, 2015 AT 5:30 O'CLOCK P.M.
JOHN H. MCCABE * MAYOR * PRESIDING**

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

ABSENT: NONE

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

Roll was called. All members were physically present. A quorum was present.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion by Council Member Ritchason, seconded by Council Member Dunn that the **minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of July 27, 2015 be approved as written**. On roll call vote all present voted Aye.

PUBLIC INPUT

Council heard comments, requests and questions from the following members of the public:

Jeff Stevens presented drainage issues he had on Parkfield Drive in Deerfield Estates. He stated the ditch in the subdivision backs up during heavy rains and asked that the City address the stormwater problems. Council Member Golden voiced concern that the Deerfield plat called for a berm and questioned the oversight of the plan and specs during construction. He suggested a qualified engineer review all development plans and construction. Council Member Orrick stated checks and balances were needed from the City. Rick Cunningham told Council each expansion of the developer increased the problem his property was also experiencing of washed-out yards.

Dave Vaupel expressed his appreciation to the City for getting over 130 runners for over 33 miles safely through the Pekin Streets for the successful 2015 St. Jude Run from Pekin to Peoria leg.

Bob Bramham thanked the members of the Council who spoke up in favor of returning the public input specking time to before business items and at the end of the meeting. He spoke of his displeasure for Council not acting on Inspections issues of high grass, a house demolition, the late filing of liens, the engineer's spending at the Waste Water Treatment Plant without Council approval and the lack of actions being taken by the City Manager.

Sally Johnson expressed concern of a payout to Illinois High School Association basketball tournament and matters of helping HUD and not taking care of all the problems the City had. She expressed appreciation for supporting the public's right to speak twice.

Ann Witzig thanked the members for considering allowing the public to address the Council for 5 minutes. She expressed her views on the possible changes with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She distributed a news article regarding a study for fair housing improvements in Pekin.

Susan McCabe requested the City to keep the HUD funding which provided needed programs for the poor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Ritchason, seconded by Council Member Orrick that the **CONSENT AGENDA be approved as presented**. The following was presented for consideration of the Consent Agenda items by Omnibus Vote.

7.1 Receive and File Monthly Reports and Minutes: Draft Liquor Commission Minutes dated July 23, 2015.		5
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On roll call vote all present voted Aye.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 2723-15/16 AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PEKIN 1995, TITLE 1, CHAPTER 5, SECTION 5 D. CONDUCTING BUSINESS

Motion by Council Member Golden, seconded by Council Member Orrick that Ordinance No.2723-15/16 be adopted. presented was Council's request to the change for Order of Business on a Council Agenda to retain Public Input before New Business and to also allow the public to address the Council at the end of the Council Meetings. Council Member Golden requested at the previous meeting to change public input back the way it was. Each Council Member was given the opportunity to express their support or their reasons for their vote of keeping public input limited to any topic at the beginning of the agenda items.

- Council Member Golden stated there was no advantage to the way the City has it and no disadvantage to the way it was. He felt the public truly had something to say.
- Council Member Dunn told the Council of the number of opportunities for the public to be heard through different communications, email, personal meetings, phone, and mail. He presented research of different municipalities regarding their policies for public comment and found no issue with allowing the public to speak on all matters for 5 minutes once at the beginning of the meeting. He felt Pekin had been liberal affording the public time. He suggested using the submission of questions written on cards in advance.
- Council Member Orrick stated he would vote in favor of a change because it is an elected official's job to listen to the public. He felt there should be a department head policy to attend every meeting to be able to answer the public's questions, comments and concerns.
- Council Member Abel agreed that it be a requirement for department heads to be at every meeting. He did not agree in giving the minority few public that addend meetings addition time to run down the City.
- Council Member Luft felt all employed by the City are paid public servants and agreed department head needed to attend Council meetings. He state he supported giving the public time back. He did not support the example given that there are sufficient other means of communications. Two meetings a month that the public can present their issues had the advantage of the Council hearing the same information at the same time.
- Council Member Ritchason stated feedback from the public was that they were seeing a change with this administration moving in the right direction to have respectful communications with themselves/public.
- Mayor McCabe read from the Illinois Municipal League Handbook the information and opinions for the public's right to speak at meetings and the Open Meetings Act requirements. He stated the Council Meeting were to conduct Council business. In support of the First Amendment he felt it was an important right for the public to be heard. The attorney opinion in the handbook was for municipalities to develop procedural policies in determining time or place. He Council to consider conducting 3rd Monday of the month meetings for public forums in order to give sufficient time to the public. The Clerk was asked to present the history of public comments listed on the agenda, amount of minutes given to speak, and code difference throughout the years. Mayor McCabe felt more than 5 people would be attending meetings to voice concerns if there were issues with the majority of residents expressing themselves though all the other communication opportunities available.

On roll call vote; Ayes, Golden, Orrick, Luft, Ritchason; Nays, Dunn, Abel, McCabe. Motion Carried.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Discussion was heard regarding the request to explain why a check to the IHSA was a paid with out coming before this Council. Mayor McCabe informed the Council that review of the paper work found that it was not a grant as provided under the Tourism Committee. The City paid for advertizing at the March Madness high school event. Council Members Golden felt words were being changed to describe a check that was disapproved by Council in a previous year. He requested a follow up report and that the Tourism minutes be provided to him. Council Member Orrick felt because the City was a Home Rule Community the distribution of funds from the Hotel Motel Tax could be change. Council Member Dunn asked that Leigh Ann Brown attend the next meeting to answer the question presented by the Council on the issue of the check.

Council Member Orrick asked that the Jane Street flooding issue become a top priority, to hire an engineering firm to determine options to correct, and that the City find the money to stop the flooding now. He also requested

separate studies of all water problems in Deerfield, Vista Grande, Hickory Hills, be completed. Council Member Orrick noted the Liquor Commission minutes indicated the group would consider changing the Code to allow the sale of alcohol where motor fuel was sold. Mayor and Liquor Commissioner McCabe stated that the city had been approached by different companies and because of possible economic venture opportunities the topic was before the commission to explore. It would be the Council to make any final decision to amend the Code of the City.

Council Member Abel requested staff to review and respond to the fact that the City uses Peoria for physicals and work related matters. He questioned why Pekin Hospital was not utilized.

Council Member Golden spoke to the following:

1. Concern of the condition of Sheridan Road. Questioned why the new bridge would be built and not reconstruction of the road by the City at that time.
2. Request the Street Condition Report from the City Engineer be sent to the Council
3. Asked the status of the design study, scoping document, selection of alternatives and project startup of the Redesign of Court Street Project that was presented at an open house by the engineering firm. He asked that the schedule that Hanson had presented be sent to Council again. He also requested to see deliverables.
4. Voiced concern of clumps of weeds on Veterans Drive
5. Questioned if there had been follow up the Highwood/Lisa Court erosion matter. The City Manager responded it was the City Engineer's findings were the best solution would be the installation of riprap to slow the erosion process.
6. Questioned how a residential single family structure could morph into a group home without permits or inspections at a South 7th Street address. Fire Chief Kurt Nelson stated the department was investigating and would provide report to the Council Members at the next meeting after more information became available.
7. Asked the status of the Cambridge flooding issues. City Manager Darin Girdler reported that 3 options for retention of water had been determined which include a installing a lift station; leaving the building structure standing; utilizing the entire property for water retention. Council Member Golden felt a study should have been done before the property was purchased.
8. Stated his opinion that that the public attends meetings as a last resort with concerns because they have exhausted avenues to obtain answers and solutions. He provided example that the City has never provided meaningful resolution to Bob Bramham's house construction issues.

Mayor McCabe informed the public of events and happenings in the City that were of a positive nature; congratulating the success of the St. Jude Run; the talent and poise and abilities of the contestant and winner, Corney Psinas of the Miss Marigold contest; the low crime rate and ISO ratings of the City; the Sunday visit by FEMA representative to see the local flooding damage.

Council Member Abel asked that a time limit also apply to the Council Members on discussions.

No further business to come before the Council, motion by Council Member Orrick that Council adjourn. Motion carried voice vote. Mayor McCabe adjourned the meeting.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:30 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk