

City Manager Dennis Kief read from a prepared memo his response as directed at the Council meeting of June 27th, 2005, regarding his interpretations of Council policies and benefits. Council heard when an employee begins works they receive and sign for a Personnel Policy. His research found the Council does not receive the document and further the Municipal League defines members as officials not employees. He explained Ordinance No. 2203 provides for salary of Mayor and Commissioners and additional benefits they are entitled to, reimbursed travel expenses, and participation in health insurance plans, cell phones, and service clubs. His interpretation of the Ordinance was that Council members should receive some of the same benefits as City Employee's.

Commissioner Blanchard questioned that the Ordinance did not specifically state service club reimbursement. Because the Ordinance was raised questions of interpretation he directed Mr. Kief to prepare guidelines for the Council. Commissioner Dagit requested that he go on record that he did not support paying any expenses for cell phones nor service organizations for commissioners. Commissioner Maddox noted point of order required that motion by the Council directing action from the manager should be considered under new business. Discussion ended.

Mayor Howard asked that staff report on the following:

- Why the City does not make improvements to Court Street. It was explained that the roadway is a State Highway thereby IDOT's responsibility
- Ability to use riverfront boat ramps. Public Works Director Joe Wuellner and Public Properties Greg Ranney explained the works that had been done on the pilings for position of the ramps and Army Corps of Engineers regulating of the water levels. It was suggested to utilize the easier access on the west side of the river where the channel is deep.
- Mr. Wuellner was also asked to report on the possibility of future ordinance that would allow the City to place a sign in the yard of residences that did not comply with City Codes on property maintenance. The signs would have property owners name much like "shame" signs that Peoria has utilized.

A PUBLIC HEARING was opened by Mayor Howard at 5:55 p.m. to contemplate the adoption of an ordinance authorizing the vacation of a portion of Elizabeth Street and a portion of Front Street. The notice was properly published in the Pekin Daily Times on June 24, 2005. All interested parties were given the opportunity to be heard. There were no comments received from the public. Mr. Wuellner told Council vacating the streets was necessary in order to complete the construction of the new riverfront park. Formal public hearings had been held over the previous 2 years on park plans giving citizens opportunities to express their opinions. The hearing was closed at 5:57 p.m.

New Business

ORDINANCE NO. 2439

AMENDING TITLE 2, CHAPTER 13, SECTION 1 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PEKIN 1995 REGARDING TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Motion by Com'r. Blanchard, seconded by Com'r. Maddox, that Ordinance No. 2439 be adopted. The City Clerk noted that the correct number assigned the ordinance was 2439. The amendment was to the Board and Committee Title not the Traffic Code given numbers of 1462-A. Com'r. Blanchard explained that the amendment was to clarify the present structure of the 7 members. Motion by Com'r. Blanchard, seconded by Com'r. Maddox to amend the last line of 12-13-1 to read Committee members may designate from that department's members, an alternate to attend meetings. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye. The Chair called for the roll on the adoption of Ordinance No. 2439. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

Motion by Com'r. Dagit, seconded by Com'r. Maddox, that the **AGREEMENT WITH TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS AND HELPERS LOCAL UNION NO. 627 WASTEWATER TREATMENT DEPARTMENT** be approved. City Manager Dennis Kief told Council that the contract had many of the same general conditions of Street, Solid Waste and General Unit Teamster Contracts. Effective August 1, 2005 for a 5 year term. The contract was intended for the transition of in house operation of the facility. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

Motion by Com'r. Maddox, seconded by Com'r. Dagit that **CORPORATE COUNSEL AND THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF PEKIN BE DIRECTED TO CREATE A SPECIFIC POLICY FOR CITY OFFICIALS SPECIFYING BENEFITS, REIMBURSEMENTS, AND SALARY.** On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

Other Business

Mayor Howard instructed the City Manager to advertise for a new treasurer immediately. Mr. Kief informed Council that the Committee formed to determine duties, qualifications and job description had completed the task. He would instruct the personnel department to proceed with the application process.

Commissioner Jones questioned why the position would not require a Certified Public Accountant or accounting degree. Commissioner Maddox explained that there was no need for a highly educated individual because the committee, himself, Dr. Jack Wilt, and City Manager were looking for a qualified manager of money to handle investments. Commissioner Jones also questioned the Manager on where the money for the \$25,000 salary would be derived. Mayor Howard asked that Attorney Dancey complete the changes needed in the Code and present the ordinance for July 25th meeting.

Mayor Howard instructed Commissioners to respond to the directive to furnish available dates to conduct a Council Retreat. Commissioner Jones felt quarterly revenue reports were necessary for constructive retreat discussion. Mr. Kief was directed to report possible dates received at next Council meeting.

Commissioner Dagit asked the status for hiring a new Planning and Development Director. Mr. Kief reported that the Committee received a few qualified resumes and had reported to seek new applications by July 29th.

Mayor Howard congratulated Bill Fleming, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce for a successful 4th of July event.

Greg Ranney reported to the Council that plans were being made for the Riverfront Park opening on Sunday, September 18, 2005. There will be two bands and events for the kids.

Commissioner Maddox discussed the need for rain to determine if the Parkway and Knollcrest water problem was corrected by diverting rain runoff to the Willow Ditch.

Commissioner Blanchard read an article he had written in the Pekin Times responding to questioning of his reimbursement for a cell phone bill.

Commissioner Dagit reported he is continuing to review the expense report to evaluate how the City can save money on cell phone charges.

Commissioner Jones requested that the manager evaluate the City Policy and possibly allow owners of new homes to be permitted to summer average wastewater billing without previous year history.

Commissioner Jones questioned the manager on the status of an agreement approved with Tri-County Regional Planning and to begin to utilize the consultant.

John Gay addressed Council in regards to his opinions of elected officials receiving perks and the citizen's right to know what they are. Mr. Gay also advised Council that City investments could be earning 4% at Manito Bank. The Mayor informed Council that the Investment Committee was meeting on Friday and instructed the manager to report back to Council.

Reporters from the *Peoria Journal Star* and *Pekin Daily Time* were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Motion by Com'r. Jones, seconded by Com'r. Dagit that Council move to **Executive Session** at 6:35 P.M. to discuss Personnel and Collective Bargaining 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 1 and 2. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

No further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Com'r. Jones seconded by Com'r. Dagit that Council adjourn. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:25 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk