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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL
111 S. CAPITOL ST
ON TUESDAY APRIL 19, 2022 AT 5:30 O'CLOCK P.M.
MAYOR MARK LUFT PRESIDING

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Notice of a Special Council Meeting was properly posted and received by the Council. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing regarding wastewater charges, to conduct Unfinished Business and New Business.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Orrick.

CALL TO ORDER

The City Clerk confirmed all Councilmembers were physically present and logged on for electronic voting.

Mayor Luft called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Rick Hilst	City of Pekin	Councilman	Present	5:17 PM
Karen Hohimer	City of Pekin	Councilwoman	Present	5:21 PM
Dave Nutter	City of Pekin	Councilman	Present	5:20 PM
Becky Cloyd	City of Pekin	Mayor Pro tem	Present	5:18 PM
Lloyd Orrick	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:16 PM
John P Abel	City of Pekin	Councilman	Present	5:21 PM
Mark Luft	City of Pekin	Mayor	Present	5:18 PM

APPROVE AGENDA

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RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Rick Hilst, Councilman
SECONDER:	Becky Cloyd, Mayor Pro tem
AYES:	Hilst, Hohimer, Nutter, Cloyd, Orrick, Abel, Luft

PUBLIC INPUT

Elaine Ritchey thanked the Fire Department for their help putting out her kitchen fire. Ms. Ritchey updated the Council announcing that the water company had replaced her water meter and also spoke against increasing the wastewater fees.

John McNish requested that a motion be made to change the format for the public hearing so that Council and Staff spoke about the wastewater fee increase first and allowed for public input at the end of the discussion.

Mr. Rothert agreed to allow public comments at the end of the public hearing regarding wastewater increases.

Mr. McNish also spoke in favor of Agenda Item 8.1 Professional Services Agreement with Safebuilt, questioned run hours and service regarding Agenda Item 8.3 Authorization to purchase a new Falcon 4 Hot Box from CMW Equipment, requested that the City Attorney be removed from the Ethics Commission, and stated that the school bus was still backing out down 7th Street. Mr. McNish also questioned whether the city manager's business needed to have a business registration license.

Larry Westbrook questioned if the proposal to increase wastewater included Groveland.

Mayor Luft informed Mr. Westbrook that Groveland was not included; only the City of Pekin.

Jim Mangan spoke against the increase of wastewater fees and reminded Council about the City Manager's consulting firm not being in his employee contract.

Lillian Wilt announced to Council that her email had been blacklisted by the City of Pekin. Ms. Wilt stated that the homeowners in Pekin were treated like second class citizens and spoke against the increase in wastewater fees. Ms. Wilt also felt that funds from general fund could be used on roads and that the City should remove the Solid Waste department and hire Waste Management.

Nick Fitzanko, Network Administrator, explained that the City utilizes a third party to identify spam and sometimes servers are added to a temporary block list for 24 hours.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5.1. Notice of Public Hearing For Proposed Increase To Sewer Rates for the City Of Pekin Starting May 1, 2022

Mayor Luft opened the Public Hearing at 5:50 PM.

Mr. Mark Rothert, led the discussion regarding the public hearing regarding the proposed increase to sewer rates for the City of Pekin starting May 1, 2022. Mr. Rothert presented the rate increase through the sewer fund to account for projects needed over the next 5 years relating to storm water due to immense flooding from rainstorms. A few years ago a committee was formed to prioritize infrastructure projects and pay for those projects out of reserves in the Sewerage Fund. When the rates were set to pay bonds for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, we knew their would be a day that those rates would need to be looked at again. For the City to address those flooding concerns, a funding source is needed to help address those issues. The rate has not been increased since 2018 and the proposal is to increase those rates beginning May 1, 2022. Spreadsheet were provided to Council, staff and the public showing the historic rates of the City of Pekin along with comparisons of other communities.

Public Works Director, Mr. Justin Reeise, explained that the rate increase was a proposal of five years' of projection based on upcoming needs. Currently projected a \$3-\$4M shortfall for mandated needs by Federal and State regulations. A large CSO project was needed and several other flooding projects and capital improvement projects. With aging sewers at the end of their life, liners need installed to save on the cost of replacement. Several lift stations also need their regular maintenance as from time to time there are large failures that require repairs.

Mr. Rothert stated that in the capitol budget proposed was a column related to sewerage fund that was in red because they were items unfunded.

Mayor Luft added that with the rising cost of gas, housing and inflation at 9%, there has been no true relief over the last year.

Mr. Rothert stated that if the proposal to increase the rates for wastewater was not passed, staff would have to go back to the drawing board to reduce some projects in the capital budget.

Ms. Josie Esker explained that some of the subdivisions have 100 year old sewer pipes with some areas in Pekin that have combination sewers.

Council discussed why the fee was never increased and how it was voted down by Council each year to do any increase.

Councilmember Hilst commented that after the wastewater treatment plant loan was paid off, he calculated a surplus.

Mr. Rothert answered that there was a minimum fund balance to maintain because of IEPA loans. That amount was roughly $600,000. The City currently is using some for the American Recovery Act money in the Sewerage Fund to act as that gap measure.

Council also discussed how it was the City's responsibility to maintain drains and pipes under homeowners' driveways unless the City had a signed agreement that the homeowner would maintain them.

Councilmember Hilst spoke against the wastewater fee increase and felt their was a surplus. Councilmember Hilst commented how personnel was allocated to the Sewerage Fund and that pay raises for employees were just approved, he did not support that.

Council continued the discussion of fund transfers and the escalator increase. The proposed rate for the sewer fees would increase by the CPI each year but not above 3.5% and not below 0%. The idea behind the escalator was to cover costs of inflation and rising costs.

Councilmember Nutter spoke against raising the fee without dissecting the budget further.

John McNish questioned whether preventive maintenance was being performed on the wastewater treatment plant and whether their was a work order system tracking that. Mr. McNish spoke against the increase in wastewater fees and felt the priority should not be on sewer issues but on fixing the roads.

Lillian Wilt confirming that Mr. Rothert stated that the sewerage fund budget and projects would be okay for the next two years. Mr. Rothert corrected Ms. Wilt explaining that operationally the City may break even but could not do any capital improvement projects.

Elaine Ritchey spoke against the rate increase and suggested that employees take a wage freeze and stop the hiring process.

Mr. Rothert ended the discussion stating that the City and staff was just trying to do their job as where their duty lies, and that all were here for the betterment of the City.

Mayor Luft closed the public hearing at 6:48 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1. Ordinance No. 3069-21/22 Amending Wastewater Charges in Section 3-2-4-2 of the City Code

RESULT:	**FAILED [0 TO 7]**
MOVER:	John P Abel, Councilman
SECONDER:	Dave Nutter, Councilman
NAYS:	Hilst, Hohimer, Nutter, Cloyd, Orrick, Abel, Luft

NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Resolution No. 408-21/22 Professional Services Agreement with SAFEbuilt Illinois LLC

City Manager, Mr. Mark Rothert, presented the agenda item to Council regarding Resolution No. 408-21/22 Professional Services Agreement with SAFEbuilt, stating that next years' budget hired a full time Building Official. A contract with Safebuilt for permit tech services was still needed. The contract with Safebuilt is for that permit tech, use of Community Core software and a building consultant as needed. The permit tech would work 40 hours per week. A new professional agreement would begin June 1 and end April 30th and for the month of May for a one-month transition period. Total cost on an annual basis was $102,000 with a flat rate of that amount paid on a monthly basis. The Community Core would be paid out at $7,500 through next years' budget.

Mayor Luft spoke of the positive changes to the city with the onboarding of Safebuilt.

Councilmembers Abel, Nutter and Hilst also spoke in favor of SAFEbuilts' employees.

Mr. Rothert added that the building fees would be changing soon as the new contract has the City collecting those fees.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Karen Hohimer, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	John P Abel, Councilman
AYES:	Hilst, Hohimer, Nutter, Cloyd, Orrick, Abel, Luft

8.2. Resolution No. 409-21/22 1-Month Extension of Professional Services Agreement with SAFEbuilt

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Becky Cloyd, Mayor Pro tem
SECONDER:	Lloyd Orrick, Council Member
AYES:	Hilst, Hohimer, Nutter, Cloyd, Orrick, Abel, Luft

8.3. Resolution No. 410-21/22 Authorization to Purchase New Falcon 4 Hot Box from CMW Equipment

Public Works Director, Mr. Justin Reeise, explained that the street division of the Public Works had an operational need to purchase hot box equipment that gets regularly used. The City had received the costs through Sourcewell and they were offering a $3,500 trade in value bringing the cost under $32,500. The equipment was in stock now and if the purchase waited until next years' budget the City may have to wait to receive it.

Council discussed the use and trade in of vactor trucks and sweepers. Mr. Reeise added that the current hot box had been in service for 12 years.

Councilmember Nutter declared that he would be abstaining from the vote.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [6 TO 0]**
MOVER:	Dave Nutter, Councilman
SECONDER:	John P Abel, Councilman
AYES:	Hilst, Hohimer, Cloyd, Orrick, Abel, Luft
ABSTAIN:	Dave Nutter

CITY COUNCIL OR STAFF REPORTS

Councilmember Orrick questioned the status of the franchise agreement with AMT and the tar bucket being cut by staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) 1. PERSONNEL 5. PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AND 11. LITIGATION

A motion was made by Councilmember Cloyd seconded by Councilmember Hohimer to move into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 1. Personnel 5. Purchase of Property and 11. Litigation at 7:11 PM. On roll call vote all present voted Aye. Motion carried.

RESULT:	**APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**
MOVER:	Becky Cloyd, Mayor Pro tem
SECONDER:	Karen Hohimer, Councilwoman
AYES:	Hilst, Hohimer, Nutter, Cloyd, Orrick, Abel, Luft

10.1. Motion to: **Move into Executive Session**

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Councilmember Nutter seconded by Councilmember Abel to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote. Mayor Luft adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.