
**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, MARCH 25, 2013, AT 5:30 O'CLOCK P.M.
LAURIE L. BARRA * MAYOR * PRESIDING**

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS, ABEL, SCHMIDGALL, MCCABE, HENDRICKS, AND BARRA

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS MASSAGLIA AND BLANCHARD

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Laurie L. Barra.

Roll was called. Council Members, Abel, Schmidgall, McCabe, Hendricks, and Mayor Barra were physically present. Absent were Council Members Massaglia and Blanchard. A quorum was present.

Nineteen exchange students from Backnang, Germany visiting Pekin Community High School were introduced by teacher Dale Holzwarth. Mayor Barra extended a warm welcome.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion by Council Member Abel, seconded by Council Member McCabe, that the **minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of March 11, 2013 and the Special Budget Meeting Work Session of March 4, 2013, be approved as written**. Council Member Hendricks noted a correction in the budget work session packet minutes that it was a fire department deputy chief not a police department deputy chief that was discussed for non-funding. The Clerk indicated the official minutes had already been corrected. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

The proclamation "American Red Cross Month" was read and presented by Mayor Barra to support the organization and its noble humanitarian mission. Anne Fox, Executive Director, American Red Cross, John Coker, and Scott Martin, President of Pekin Insurance spoke in appreciation of Pekin's volunteers, donors, and community partners.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Abel, seconded by Council Member McCabe, that the **CONSENT AGENDA be approved as presented**. Mayor Barra presented the following for consideration of the Consent Agenda items by Omnibus Vote.

7.1 Receive and File Monthly Reports: Traffic Safety Committee Minutes dated March 1, 2013; Fire Department February Report; Liquor Commission unapproved Minutes dated February 28, 2013; Tazewell County Animal Control February Report; Building and Inspections February Reports.		
7.2 Proclamation: "American Red Cross Month" March 2013 "Parkinson's is the Pits Month" April 2013		
7.3 Resolution No. 63-12/13 – Zoning Map of the City of Pekin		

On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS
QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer James Wolf distributed quarterly reports for nine months ended January 31, 2013. Mr. Wolf spoke in general terms of specific funds Revenues over Expenses, Major Revenue Sources, and Investment

Earnings. Mr. Wolf explained the unplanned positive number in the General Fund revenues over expenses still netted a loss in the totals due to stormwater and solid waste funds with no revenue sources. He reported taking over the sewer billing also left totals behind. Questions were asked regarding the over stated property tax numbers. Mr. Wolf advised that Pekin had one of the largest percentage increases in the area for revenues from sales tax. He felt with higher gas prices people were not driving out of town to shop. Due to the terminated vehicle impound ordinance, revenues from fines had dropped and estimated \$200,000.00. He pointed out that investment earnings were down due to very low interest rate environment and matured certificates were placed in the operating accounts.

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Council Member Schmidgall presented his suggestion that the Council discuss enacting an attendance policy in light of the extended absence of a Council Member. Attorney Burt Dancey advised that members could be sanctioned but are elected by the voters and could not be removed from office. He felt the member in particular being discussed, had a legitimate excuse for health issues and that there had not been significant problems of the presence of a quorum in the past. Attorney Dancey was asked by Council to draft some language in the next 30 days regarding possible censuring for Council Code of Conduct.

CITY SUSTAINABILITY CODE AND COMMITTEE

Council Member Schmidgall also proposed the Council establish a Pekin Sustainability Committee and Code. Structured similar to the City of Normal, the members would be charged with creating a vision as a community that would steward all resources responsibly, so that the City could continue to thrive and grow for generations to come. He presented the Town of Normal's environmentally sensitive design section created for the zoning code. The code would contain revisions that affect the environment, economy and society in all facets.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1462-A324-12/13 AMENDING TITLE 8, CHAPTER 4, SECTION 1.D. OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PEKIN 1995 REGARDING NO PARKING SCHEDULE

Motion be Council Member Hendricks, seconded by Council Member Abel, that Ordinance No. 1462-A324-12/13 be adopted. Police Chief Nelson presented the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Committee to place No Parking Here to Corner on School Days on the SW corner of St. Joseph Place at Haines Avenue and at the SW corner of Haines Avenue at St. Joseph Place to accommodate school bus traffic. Council Members had asked at a previous meeting that the recommendation be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. and from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

RESOLUTION NO. 64-12/13 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RESOLUTION FOR MAINTENANCE

Motion by Council Member Schmidgall, seconded by Council Member Hendricks that Resolution No. 64-12/13 appropriating \$401,000.00 Motor Fuel Tax Funds be adopted. City Engineer Michael Guerra requested the appropriation of MFT funds to use to pay the 8 Street Department Operations listed on the IDOT Municipal Estimate of Maintenance Costs for pavement repair, snow removal, street lights, traffic signals tree removal, street signs, and spay patching. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Council Member Hendricks questioned the wastewater charge expense and was informed that the rates increase over 6 years in order to repay the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency loans. To qualify for the IEPA loan for construction of the new wastewater treatment plant project, the City had to show means of repayment. The Council Member also spoke in support of an attendance policy. He asked that the staff seek improvements to the audio equipment in the Council Chambers for recording of the Council Meetings and replays. Council Member Hendricks also questioned the expenditure for fixing the City Hall handicapped ramp entrance to City Hall and was informed that the \$18,000.00 would be funded from the bond issue for property maintenance. He apologized for missing the last two Council meetings and extended wished for a Happy Ester to everyone.

Council Member McCabe, in reference to housing starts, was told that Pekin was on a small upswing, though not the same as a few years ago of one-hundred homes constructed.

Council Member Abel was told that the draft of the revised Vehicle Impoundment Ordinance was almost complete.

Council Member Schmidgall discussed upgrading the camera equipment in the Council Chambers. Dave Hess, Information Tech, responded that the IT department was working with original 2002 audio equipment. He advised the cameras were not broadcast quality but were intended in the new City Hall construction plan as security cameras.

Council was informed that the contractor was aware that West Campus demo permit had expired. The work was not a City project therefore, no bond was required. The site in its present state was not construction or a demolition. The Code Enforcement Officer will issue a Notice to appear for violations.

City Manager Joseph Wuellner distributed the revised FY2014 Budget. General adjustments were made following the discussion at the Budget Work Session of March 18, 2013. In order to balance the General Fund additional changes included a bond to cover the requested Cambridge/Shire and Broadway Road Projects and the reduction requested in the Inspection Department personnel line item.

Chief Greg Nelson announced that the Pekin Police and Fire Departments along with the Tazewell County Sheriff's Department would hold their annual Battle of the Badges Blood Drive on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 in the Pekin City Council Chambers.

Dale Kuntz, 5 Fox Point, read his address to the Council titled "Passivity in Pekin Can Be Overcome – Joy, Truth and Beauty."

Eva Arnold, 1008 Cambridge questioned why the storm water matter of their neighborhood was never addressed or known by the Council.

Tim Golden, 2104 Alhambra, addressed the Council on matters of a Freedom of Information Request for documents related to West Campus demolition. He also expressed concern that the HUD funds included expense for meals and lodging rather than for handicapped ramps and sidewalks that had once had a transition plan of \$40,000 annually in replacements.

Roger Greer, 602 Prince Street, distributed photos taken prior to the demolition of 128 St. Mary. He noted the photos indicated several code violations to the City leased property but there was no posting of "uninhabitable building." He asked that he and his wife be given such a waiver for them to house veterans at the Prince Street address.

Gerald Witzig, 11501 Antioch Road, Tremont, Illinois, addressed the Council regarding his opinion that the City was unwilling to work with owner of the West Campus, Merl Huff. Attorney Dancey advised that statements being made were inaccurate. The condition of the property was not the City's responsibility. Mr. Huff needed to take action.

No further business to come before the Council, motion by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Schmidgall to adjourn. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:20 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk