
**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 THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2011 AT 4:30 O'CLOCK P.M.
RUSTY L. DUNN, MAYOR PRESIDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS, ABEL, BLANCHARD, BARRA, SCHMIDGALL, STRAND,
AND DUNN**

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER KORTKAMP

Council set a special meeting at the regular Council meeting held on Monday, March 14, 2011. Notice was properly posted and Council received notice of the special meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

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

Roll was called and all Council Members were present except Council Member Kortkamp.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Dunn read the agenda item as follows: Presentation of information respecting possible violations of the City's email policy and Code of Conduct by Council Member Tom Blanchard in the repeated improper distribution of confidential information. Consideration by the Council of possible sanctions if violations are found.

Interim City Manager Frank Mackaman provided chronology of events:

- 2/6/11 Information Technology (IT) department's request to discuss a possible ethical issue discovered in E-mail.
- Request for Corporation Counsel opinion on facts
- 2/22/11 met with Mayor
- 3/14/11 Report delivered to Council

Attorney Burt Dancey summarizes the findings:

- 2/12/07 Council Member aware of unacceptable use of email – adoption of Rules of Electronic Emails
- 3/22/10 Code of Conduct approved

In conclusion Attorney Dancey's opinion found Council Member Blanchard had on numerous occasions forward emails to Charles Renner's yahoo account that he was not entitled to receive. The information divulged personnel, negotiations, sales of property, litigation, City Manager evaluation, and Economic Development Director employment.

Attorney Dancey next read the Affidavit of Dave Hess. It started Council Member Blanchard requested a review by the network administrator of a perceived problem of missing emails. Upon review Mr. Hess notice a pattern of forward emails. He delivered the log history from 2009, 2010, and 2011 which verified over 2800 emails forward to the yahoo account. On 3/3/11 an alternative address began to be used.

Council Member Blanchard read a prepared statement in response to the allegations.

RESOLUTION NO. 90-10/11

Motion by Council Member Abel, seconded by Council Member Strand that Resolution No. 90-10/11 Council Member Tom Blanchard is hereby censured and reprimanded for violating the City's email policy and the Code of Conduct by improperly divulging and distributing confidential information to an outside third party on a repeated basis, be adopted.

Mayor Dunn allowed each Council Member's comment regarding the censure to be heard. Discussion followed regarding the infraction of the Code of Conduct and other sanctions which might be deemed more appropriate.

Motion by Council Member Schmidgall, seconded by Council Member Strand that Resolution No. 90-10/11 be amended to include suspension of the remuneration paid to Council Member Blanchard in respect to his or her services as a Council Member for a period of 30 days. On roll call vote of the amendment Ayes, Strand, Barra, Abel, Schmidgall, Dunn; Nay, Blanchard. Motion Carried.

Roll call vote to adopt amended Resolution No. 90-10/11; Ayes, Strand, Barra, Abel, Schmidgall, Dunn; Nay, Blanchard. Motion Carried.

No further business to come before the Council Mayor Dunn adjourned the meeting.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 5:10 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk