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**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 10, 2014 AT 5:30 O'CLOCK P.M.**
**LAURIE L. BARRA * MAYOR * PRESIDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS, ABEL, MCCABE, GILLESPIE, GOLDEN, ORRICK, AND BARRA,**

**ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBER HENDRICKS**

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

**Roll** was called. All members were physically present except Council Member Hendricks. A quorum was present.

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

**MINUTES**
Motion by Council Member Gillespie, seconded by Council Member Orrick that the **minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of February 24, 2014 and the Special Budget Work Session of March 3, 2014 be approved as written.** On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

**PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS There were no comments**

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

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| **7.1 Receive and File Monthly Reports:** Police Department January Report, Building Department Inspections and Zoning January and February Reports, and Human Right Committee minutes dated January 22, 2014. |
| **7.2 Receive and File** Pekin Planning Commission Minutes dated February 12, 2014. |
| **7.3 Receive and File** Pekin Planning Commission Hearings and Recommendations:<br>a. Hearing #02-1875 and 02-1876 recommends approval of the Site Plan and Special Use for a Stadium Booster Station for Illinois American Water Company located at 1880 Court Street and zoned R-4 (Single Family Residential District) in Tazewell County, Illinois. |

On roll call vote all present voted Aye.

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS**
**PRESENTATION TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE NARROW STREETS**
Ron Mayeur, a citizen member of the Traffic Safety Committee (TSC), gave a brief history of the Committee. Mr. Mayeur told the Council it was felt the narrow streets were an issue with the snow plows, larger fire trucks and garbage trucks. He advised that the TSC was not looking to change ALL of the narrow streets and provided a memo prepared by the City Engineer Michael Guerra with several options for change. It was noted that SUVs and trucks were getting taller and that itself caused visibility issues especially for children. In conclusion he asked to receive Council's direction by meeting with them. Mayor Barra asks for time to review the memo and offered to set up a special meeting with the narrow streets as the only item. Council Member Gillespie stated the meeting and changes were needed for a method in finding a way to solve the issue. Council Member Orrick did not see too much of an issue on a daily basis on all streets. He voiced concern that people would walk across streets in the middle not at the intersections to get to their houses. Mr. Guerra stated the committee would look at the ADT (average daily traffic) and the IDOT regulations for street width to help provide uniformity.

**NINE MONTH JANUARY 31, 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT**

**TREASURER JAMES WOLF** provided 4 reports of which he highlighted numbers he focused on. The reports presented Year to Date (YTD) actual, YTD budget and previous budget YTD.

The income statement (revenues over expenditures) the past 9 month period had unusual events which he explained in the presentation.

He reported the following:

- Total General Fund -$562,018 much less than last year at the same time
- Pulled out Solid Waste and Storm Water to show the costs of the service funds
- Tourism negative but the result of Griffin Drive payments to the contractor
- Sewer dept operations only a positive $263,000 but catching up with billing cycles
- Funds from the state for VFW road distorted the receipts
- School Bus fund catching up due to the school year and our fiscal year not matching up
- Airport had some big expenses which were planned and waiting reimbursement for fuel pumps
- Economic Development had distorted results from loan made for East Court Village
- Insurance had larger revenues as the City changed how the finance department charge departments for the expense
- Vehicle Maintenance Fund showed expenses for departments which he felt was showing better control by individual departments

Council Members made comments and questions from the members were addressed:

- School bus paid quarterly by the schools and the airport's projects are reimbursed at 90%
- City portion approximately $1.1 million using reserves from Tourism for payment of Griffin Drive
- School Bus projected to make an estimated $250,000
- Airport money comes from Federal Aviation Administration that is funneled through the state

The second report Major Revenue Sources showed property taxes higher than expected, for which Mr. Wolf also noted the allocation of property taxes among the budget. He warned that sale taxes have been down nearly 11%, but surrounding communities were seeing an increase in sales tax revenue. Income tax and replacement taxes were positive; packaged liquor and food and beverage taxes were holding. Video gaming tax was not budgeted, but brings in about $8-10,000 per month. The sewer department operations *only* was stated as a positive $263,000, it was felt the fund was coming around in catching up on billing cycles.

Council Member Orrick noted the state raised income tax rate a few years ago, but Wolf confirmed that money did not come to the cities. Council Member Orrick questioned where the AMT franchise fee and was told the fee was received in installments. Council Member Abel asked if higher sales tax dollars were generated last year. Mr. Wolf advised that it seemed to be showing numbers similar to 2 years ago and he speculated that it may be online purchases affecting the City of Pekin sales tax. Council Member Golden asked how many pipeliners were in Pekin. Mr. Wolf said the City had not really seen an uptick as a result of the Enbridge workers. Mayor Barra advised that half the operations moved southwest already and the pipeline suspended work in February and March due to weather.

Mr. Wolf next reported that City revenues were taking a hit even in investment earnings. As a Treasurer he felt compelled to state that the City did not have a culture of over spending or have a spending problem – the City had a revenue problem. It was Mr. Wolf's opinion that revenue had not grown with the pace of the expenses. He said in 2008, then City Manager Denny Kief asked him to study the I-74 corridor cities and the tax and fees paid per capita. Of those 12 communities the City was dead last, even after including the food and beverage tax. When a city is lowest and last and the revenues are not keeping pace that is something to look at. He voiced concern that the City bond rating could be reduced due to the low revenue. In conclusion, Pekin had one of the lowest debt loads for operations.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Council Member Orrick, seconded by Council Member Abel that the **SITE PLAN FOR A STADIUM BOOSTER STATION AT 1880 COURT STREET FROM ILLINOIS AMERICAN WATER COMPANY** be approved. City Manager Wuellner presented the Pekin Planning Commission recommendation to approve a booster station for IAWC at the SE corner of Eastshore Drive and Court Street across from the High School stadium traditionally used for campaign signs. Plan met all setback and regulations. Council Member Golden noted the unit was prepacked and asked if it had siding and what type of roofing; He also asks if there were concerns from any neighbors. Mr. Wuellner said no concerns were presented at the hearing and the structure was specked out to fit in with the neighborhood. Council Member Gillespie and McCabe stated concerns about the intersection being busy during construction. Mr. Wuellner advised the issue of boring or tearing out the road would be up to the contractor and conditions. Council Member Orrick asked if Illinois American had a franchise agreement. Mr. Wuellner responded that the talks stalled years ago, but he thought the City could pursue that with Illinois American. The Manager was directed to pursue the matter. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

Motion by Council Member Orrick, seconded by Council Member Gillespie that the **SPECIAL USE FOR A STADIUM BOOSTER STATION AT 1880 COURT STREET FROM ILLINOIS AMERICAN WATER COMPANY** be approved. There were no further comments on the project. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

Motion by Council Member Golden, seconded by Council Member Orrick that the **2014 ACTION PLAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT** be approved. City Manager Wuellner explained that HUD requires an Action Plan every year stating the needs, priorities, and plans for the upcoming fiscal year and performance measurements based from the Five Year Consolidated Plan. A public hearing was held on March 5, 2014. The action plan must be submitted to HUD before any CDBG dollars are allocated or expended in the upcoming fiscal year. Pamela Anderson, Community Development Director answered questions of the Council. Member McCabe asked if the fiscal year was similar to the City. Ms. Anderson stated yes and she did not see any timeliness issues. She expected to receive her federal allocation sometime in May. Last year this was where she found the excess funding for the Koch Street sidewalks. Council Member McCabe pointed out the late start last year to sidewalks was a result of late funding information. Council Member Golden asked what specs HUD required on projects. Ms. Anderson explained that Davis Bacon Section 3 reporting was followed. It was noted the construction specs were according to those set up by City Engineer Guerra. Council Member Golden commented that you could not tell if the sidewalks were put together well and IDOT specs state that concrete should not be poured when temps are falling below 35 degrees. He had batch plant reports and the temperature on some of the first day was 55 degrees and the next was 34 and he had R-value concerns and curing concerns. He did not see any blankets. Council Member McCabe stated he drove by and felt the sidewalks looked good. Member Golden indicated that the City does not know how the project was going to hold up. Mayor Barra stated that Mr. Golden's comments had no impact on the action plan. She asked the Clerk to call the role. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL**

Fire Chief Kurt Nelson reminded citizens to make sure to have working fire alarms and his department would be glad to help people update their batteries. Assistant City Manager Darin Girdler informed the Council that the staff was looking to get funding from the State IEMA.

Council Member McCabe was out of contact and would try to get back to everyone asap. Council Member Abel noted the only issue he saw with the IL American project was no one would have a place for political signs. Council Member Gillespie commented that he hoped the day's weather was a good sign of no more parking bans to come. Council Member Orrick noted that the Pekin Township gave funds away to tornado victims and noted that the Mayor heard positive comments. Mayor Barra said she spoke to 125 very nice people who were truly appreciative for the City of Pekin, Street, Police and Fire departments.

Ivan Crossman 1410 Valle Vista, expressed concern that parking at the Dome along Veterans Drive was very congested last weekend. He noted there were still signs for the old bus routes that CitiLink doesn't serve anymore.

Tom Veatch 1415 Catherine, voiced his opinion that before other city services were cut there should be a fee enacted for garbage, especially since Pekin was the only City that did not fund the service in some way.

Lloyd Tennison 97 Sapp Street, stated his concerns of flooding in his area and especially near Kreigsman Transport. He had two days he couldn't get to his house because of the flooding. He felt something was supposed to be done a long time ago and that industrial area was adding to the issue. Mr.Tennison asked that the work be completed.

Jim Mangan 1220Parkway Drive, addressed the Council regarding the budget. He indicated 70% of fire calls were following private ambulance calls and it was his opinion that was a strong indication of an overstaffed department. He suggested the Council look at reducing the department to balance the budget instead of reducing services to residents. He estimated it could save $600,000. Mr. Mangan also suggested contracting out garbage and paying out of the General Fund, but at the same time reduce personnel costs. He felt the Council had given unaffordable wage increases, a burden on the public. He indicated the City had a spending problem when salaries are compared to the average Pekinite.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member  Orrick that the Council move to Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. to discuss 65 ILCS 120/2 (c) (5.) Acquisition of Property. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

No further business to come before the Council, motion by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member  Gillespie that Council adjourn. Motion carried voice vote. Mayor Barra adjourned the meeting in open session.

**COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:01 P.M.**

Sarah Newcomb
Deputy City Clerk
Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk