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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, FEBRUARY 9, 2015 AT 5:30 O'CLOCK P.M.
JOHN P. ABEL * MAYOR PRO TEM * PRESIDING

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS, ABEL, GILLESPIE, GOLDEN, ORRICK, HENDRICKS, AND MCCABE
ABSENT: MAYOR BARRA

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As provided by Resolution No. 69-13/14, Council Member Abel was appointed in the absence of Mayor Barra as Mayor Pro Tem.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Mayor Pro Tem Abel.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel recognized Leadership Academy participants in attendance.

Roll was called. All members were physically present except Mayor Laurie Barra. A quorum was present.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Motion by Council Member Hendricks, seconded by Council Member Gillespie that the **minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of January 26, 2015 be approved as written.** On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ann Witzig voiced her opinion to Council on the following matters: She did not feel the City was delivering effective service that Pekin residents want, need or are willing to support in regards to the Court Street Improvements. Ms. Witzig questioned how the City could allow the State to walk away from a heavily damaged road. She spoke in non support of the City being a Home Rule municipality. She stated she was not impressed with the uptown and that Main Street could not even find members for their committee. She expressed opposition to blocking off streets at the riverfront as a means to deter dumping.

Larry Wolfer asked if Public Input included questions from the public. He questioned disbursements in the October Treasurers Report and why the Treasurer could not give a full report of expenditures for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project. It was Mr Wolfer’s opinion that “trickery” was being used by the Treasurer in regards to Solid Waste shortage listed in an October report. Attorney Burt Dancey expressed concerned with Mr. Wolfer’s veiled attack on Mr. Wolf’s credibility.

Bob Bramham spoke in non support of reducing Court Street from 4 to 2 lanes. He questioned who came up with the idea. Mr. Bramham was told Hanson Engineering submitted a plan. The study included preparing for the jurisdictional transfer from the State in connection with a $30 million funding for the Veterans Drive South at Council’s direction. The goals were to reduce long term maintenance costs, improve road conditions and improve pedestrian access and safety. There was no decision to be made yet and the public had the opportunity to comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

7.1 Receive and File Monthly Reports: Liquor Commission Minutes dated November 6, 2015; Human Rights Committee Minutes dated October 22, 2014; Building Department Inspections and Zoning November 2014 and December 2014.
7.2 Receive and File: Annual Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2014 and Library Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2014.

Council Member Golden questioned if the Council would be discussing the Audits. In response he was reminded there would not be a presentation by Willock, Warning & Company. The audits could be discussed directly with Auditor Jim Warning. On roll call vote, Ayes, Gillespie, Orrick, McCabe, Hendricks, Abel; Nay, Golden. Motion Carried.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Council Member Golden questioned the sense in spending money and time on a study before the City would take possession of Court Street from the State. Member Golden referred to the 1995 City ADA transition plan that sidewalks did not conform. He read from ADA materials in regards to receiving property and nonconformity of sidewalks once roadways were accepted. It was his opinion costs estimate for maintenance and discussion of first responders were appropriate. It was Council Member Golden's opinion there should not be a sense of urgency when the State Highway had been in deplorable conditions for a long time and that there were issues that needed to be addressed.

Council Member Orrick voiced his concern that the hospital area contained in the plan for Court Street change was down to 3 lanes. He questioned safety, traffic flow, and speed. He felt the possible $6 million dollars left from the $30 million funding should not be the determining factor and that Court Street was fine.

Council Member Gillespie added his remarks regarding previous traffic safety of Court Street from 14th Street out to the eastern limits. He thanked the Street Department for their efforts in removing the snow from the streets after the last weather event.

Council Member McCabe advised the public that the Court Street project was in the planning stage. He encouraged Council, staff and the public to continue to seek more money from PPUATS and to think long range.

Mayor Pro Tem Abel informed the Public that the Council would have the opportunity to review comments received on the Court Street Study from Hanson Engineering possibly some time in March.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member Golden, seconded by Council Member Orrick, that the Council move to Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. to discuss 65 ILCS 120/2 (c) (6.) Lease of Municipally Owned Property. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

No further business to come before the Council, motion by Council Member Orrick, seconded by Council Member Golden that Council adjourn. Motion carried voice vote. Mayor Pro Tem Abel adjourned the meeting in open session.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 6:25 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk