
**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, 2009 AT 5:30 O'CLOCK P.M.
MAYOR RUSTY DUNN PRESIDING**

PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS, ABEL, BLANCHARD, AND STRAND

ABSENT: KORTKAMP

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Jake Grys.

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

Mayor Dunn asked that the order of business be suspended to allow for Agenda, Consent, and Minutes items to be taken care of prior to the Public Input and Comcast addressing those concerns. All Council members agreed.

AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Jones, seconded by Council Member Abel that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

Mayor Dunn read presented the following for consideration of the Consent Agenda items by Omnibus Vote.

- 1. Receive and File Monthly Reports and Minutes:** Police Report January, Building Permits 2008, Building Permits January, Building Report January, and Liquor Commission Minutes December 8, 2008.

On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

Motion by Council Member Strand, seconded by Council Member Jones, that the **minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of January 26, 2009 be approved as written**. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

Mayor Dunn gave special recognition to the Jake Grys and the Grys family. He thanked them for opening their hearts and their home. The coming together of all the volunteers during the production of Extreme Makeover Home Edition is what this community is all about. Shannon Tebben Sandoval then presented to the family the last Key to the City with her father's name on it. She said Mayor Tebben would have like to have said thank you.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

The public was permitted to present any concerns that they were having with the local cable company. The following people addressed council and spoke generally of the dissatisfaction with reduction of channels, lineup changes, pricing packages, increased fee to provide those channels back, inadequate customer service, inconsistent volume, distorted reception.

Jim Mangan, Parkway Drive
Shirley Faichney, State Street
Bernie Riley, Westgate
Donna Sharnes, Amanda
Lois Cofer 2016 Sierra Drive

Elsie Green, Crestview Drive
Owen Ewing, Matilda Street
Bill Hall, Tennel Road
Jim DeFries Parkfield

Bill Gilroy, 11th Street commented that he was not complaining. The cost was appropriate for providing the service.

Council Members each addressed their concerns and the issues that they had received from the public by emails, phone calls, and personal contact. Council Member Blanchard read and requested that Roger Brandt, Bacon Street be made part of the public record. Mayor Dunn summarized the input of the public as having a common thread of displeasure with customer service.

Attorney Burt Dancey advised Council that the existing franchise agreement renewed in 1995 with Continental Cablevision was for 25 years expired in 2021. Insight Communications Midwest LLC. agreement was assigned to Comcast Corp in August 2007. The City of Pekin as franchise holder had no jurisdiction in program pricing.

John Niebur, District Director of Comcast, was present to answer questions and addressed the issues presented. He noted the company had had only one increase of 6%, they had adjustments to lineups, where switching equipment to correct audio, and have an 800 number to re-route customers during volume calls. The company was trying to close the gap from the purchase, billing conversion, channel changes, etc. but were committed to improving customer service.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS

Comcast Cable * see Public Input

Third Quarter Financial Report

Treasurer Jim Wolf distributed reports on major revenue sources for the fiscal year and the first 9 months ended January 31, 2009 investment earnings. The investment actual numbers were troubling on the negative side - 43% behind the budgeted amount. The shortfall in total investments was caused by bottom level interest rates on CDs. He noted that investment totals were somewhat distorted because of CD investments that had not yet come to maturity and only money received was recorded. State sales taxes lagged behind budgeted amounts and were down about 10%. In the last 2 months. Home Rule Income Tax and Replacement Tax continued to be even worse as people are out of work. Sales Taxes were higher.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Council Member Blanchard, seconded by Council Member Abel, that **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EDFAP) LOAN BE AWARDED TO SKS PIZZA INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,000.00.** The history of the EDFAP program was dated 1986-2005. Fifty loans were made, 50 released, and 3 went to bankruptcy. In 2008 the guidelines were updated and letters sent to banks informing them of the revised program. Pam Anderson, Director of Community Development, reported to Council on the recommendation of the Loan Review Committee to grant the application to Firehouse Pizza. The \$55,000.00 of CDBG dollars would be utilized to assist in filling the gap that was present for the business loan at 2.25%. Risk concerns from Council were addressed. The requirement of the creation of 24 jobs would be monitored and if not created rate of loan would be increased. Owner Stan Cohen addressed the Council and thanked them for their support. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Council Member Blanchard encouraged parents to help the city's youth by talking to them about the risks of smoking.

Greg Ranney Director of Solid Waste advised Council and the community that garbage pickup would be delayed one day the week of Presidents Day.

Mayor Dunn requested Council's agreement in rescheduling the 2nd meeting in February to the Tuesday following in order to attend the Annual Legislative Reception on February 23, 2009. All were in favor. He also announced that the annual Council/Staff Retreat was scheduled for Friday June 12, 2009.

Mrs. Ron Faichney, State Street expressed concern that the commercials talking about the positive economic climate in the Peoria Area are in opposition to reports daily of job layoffs. Mayor Dunn advised that the message was timely when produced in early December but the Heartland Partnership was asked to remove the ads last week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member Strand, seconded by Council Member Blanchard, that **Council move to Executive Session** at 7:10 P.M. to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c.) 6. The setting of a price for sale or lease of Municipally Owned Property. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

No further business to come before the Council, in open session, Mayor Dunn called the meeting closed.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:25 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk