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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, JANUARY 12, 2015 AT 5:30 O'CLOCK P.M.
LAURIE L. BARRA * MAYOR * PRESIDING

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

ABSENT: NONE

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

Roll was called. All members were physically present. 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 Gillespie, seconded by Council Member Abel that the **minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of December 8, 2014 be approved as written.** On Roll call vote all present voted Aye.

PUBLIC INPUT
Mayor Barra asked that public input be free of personal attacks.
Ann Witzig commented on her disapproval of the proposals for Court Street improvements; she sighted payouts in the Annual Treasurers Report and questioned if checks to Hawaiian Sun were an employee benefit or EPA payouts for violations. Mrs. Witzig did not support the agreement with B-D Lawyers Group. She stated the city has never been able to collect unpaid fines.

Sally Johnson commented on garbage fee, violations at the treatment plant, the removal of 5 minute public input at the end of the agenda, hiring of a collection attorney in addition to attorney Dancey. She stated this Council did not care about people and were not making decisions for them.

Gerald Witzig noted that two other times since June he had brought to Council's attention that City owned property at the foot of Susannah west of Main Street needed to be cleaned up. He submitted photos to the Council. He asked that it be taken care of for his tenants' sake.

Bob Bramham spoke in disapproval of using TIF funds for Phase II Developer Agreement in that it discriminated against other businesses and citizens have not benefitted from the program. He urged Council to place the garbage fee for referendum at the April Elections. He questioned giving property away that was being vacated.

Bob Keiser addressed the Council on agenda items he saw as "winners and losers." Mr. Keiser told a story of a friend and veteran named Greg Deal of Pekin who lived on Social Security. He asked that Council consider the needs of the type of people in his story and allow them to opt out of the garbage fee.

Larry Wolfer commented that the $12.00 garbage fee was not a lot of money. He reminded the public that there would be a large increase in the wastewater fee for the next phases of the Sewer Treatment Plant Improvements. It was Mr. Wolfer's opinion that there would be additional fines from the EPA imposed for violations not reported. Mayor Barra stated that the improvements had to be made to a treatment plant built in 1936 for compliance reasons.

CONSENT AGENDA
Motion by Council Member Gillespie, seconded by Council Member Orrick 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: Traffic Safety Minutes December 5, 2014, and Tazewell County Animal Control November 2014 and December 2014 Reports.		
7.2 Receive and File Proclamation: "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day" January 19, 2015.		
7.3 Receive and File: Approved scheduled Council Meeting Dates 2015.		
7.4 Resolution No. 114-14/15 – Mayor's Appointment of Shirley Moore to the Pekin Housing Board Authority for a term of 5 years until January 14, 2020.		
7.5 Receive and File: Pekin Planning Commission Minutes Dated December 10, 2014		
7.6 Receive and File: Pekin Planning Commission Hearings and Recommendations: a. #12-1887 – Estates of Lakeview/Brent Glassey Representative.		

On roll call vote all present voted Aye.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS
Public Hearing was opened by Mayor Barra at 6:00 p.m. It was noted by the Clerk that the Legal Notice was correctly published in the Pekin Daily Times on December 27, 2014. City Manager Darin Girdler informed the Council that the City determined that an alley less than 400 sq. ft. was not needed for public use and asked to vacate a portion of PIN 04-10-02-209-014 to the owners of adjourning property. Attorney Burt Dancey advised the small section was sought by a proposed business for the property commonly known as 1215 Court Street. Bob Keiser stated the property vacated should be sold. Bob Bramham referred to a vacated railroad where adjacent owners were given the option to purchase. Council Member Golden questioned if there were utilities on the property and if all fees would be the expense of the new owners. No other comments were received. Mayor Barra closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 2715-14/15
VACATING A PORTION OF A MUNICIPALITY OWNED ALLEY
WITHIN THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS
PIN 04-10-02-209-014

Motion by Council Member Orrick, seconded by Council Member Gillespie that Ordinance No. 2715-14/15 be adopted. Code Enforcement Officer Ron Sieh explained the small triangular piece was an easement previously missed on the intersection of the alleys. On roll call vote all present voted Aye.

Motion by Council Member Abel, seconded by Council Member Hendricks that the **CONTRACT FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT PURSUANT TO THE PEKIN, ILLINOIS PLAN FOR TAX INCREMENT AREA NO. 1,** be approved. Economic Development Director Leigh Ann Brown presented the agreement with 353 LLC for the stabilization and revitalization of Court Street Corridor Redevelopment of 215, 405, 407 and 507 Court Street properties. The City would invest $1,300,000.00 of the Central Business District TIF funds for this purpose. The proposal was recommended for support of quality of life and productive tenant use for the generation of increased property values, sales taxes food/beverage taxes, gaming income, new jobs and increased downtown traffic as seen in Phase One.
Comments received from Council Members in support:

- Real gains for citizens
- TIF Program benefits all
- Corrects being chastised for tearing down
- Gives reason to come downtown
- Gives taxes back to the City Of Pekin
- Phase One proved to be successful

Staff members answered Council Member Golden's comments and questions regarding the specifics of the contract. Council Member Orrick suggested a plan for the downtown was needed with Tazewell County and asked to postpone the decision for 6 weeks. Mayor Barra allowed Todd Thompson representing the corporation, to answer questions. He stated the developers were not interested in including the County's Arcade Building in the presented contract at this time.

Motion by Council Member Orrick, seconded by Council Member Golden that the Contract be laid over until the first meeting in March. On roll call vote Ayes, Golden and Orrick; Nays, Gillespie, McCabe, Abel, Hendricks, and Barra. Motion Failed. On roll call vote Ayes, Gillespie, McCabe, Abel, Hendricks, and Barra; Nays, Golden and Orrick. Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2716-14/15
APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH B-D LAWYERS GROUP, LLP FOR COLLECTION OF PAST DUE FINES AND COSTS

Motion by Council Member Golden, seconded by Council Member Orrick that Ordinance No. 2716-14/15 be adopted. Council was advised of the agreement for the company to provide services for an effective method of the collecting of unpaid fines. A correction to the agreement for default in payment of 9% interest was noted. Council Member Golden stated the responsibility for collecting fines should be by people employed with the City already. On roll call vote all present voted Ayes, Orrick, Gillespie, McCabe, Abel, Hendricks, and Barra; Nay, Golden. Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2717-14/15
AMENDING TITLE 1, CHAPTER 12 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PEKIN PERTAINING TO THE INTEREST RATE OF UNPAID BALANCES OF FINES

Motion by Council Member Hendricks, seconded by Council Member Orrick that Ordinance No. 2717-14/15 be adopted. The ordinance provided for the addition of the provisions in the municipal code for 9% interest and the collection of fees and penalty for failure to pay unpaid fines. On roll call vote Ayes, Orrick, Gillespie, McCabe, Abel, Hendricks, and Barra; Nay, Golden. Motion Carried.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Council Member McCabe corrected statements made regarding violations at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. During construction of the new plant the Environmental Protection Agency was aware of valves being shut down.

Council Member Abel asked the status of the crossing light at 20th and Broadway Road. Funding research continues. He commented that a funding source for solid waste collection including a garbage fee had been discussed since 2006.

Council Member Golden questioned why the property at the riverfront had not been cleaned up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member McCabe, seconded by Council Member Hendricks, that the Council move to Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss 65 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1.) Personnel. 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 Abel that Council adjourn. Motion carried voice vote. Mayor Bara adjourned the meeting in open session.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 7:20 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk