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**PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE CITY HALL  
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2003, AT 5:00 P.M.  
LYNDELL N. HOWARD \* MAYOR \* PRESIDING**

**PRESENT:** COMMISSIONERS MADDOX, MASSAGLIA, JONES, AND RICHMOND

**ABSENT:** NONE

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Notice of a special meeting of the City Council to consider estimate of taxes to be levied for FY May 1, 2003 through April 30, 2004, to consider hiring a City Manager and implementing a search process, and move to Executive Session to discuss ILCS 120/2. (c.) (1.) Employment of Specific Employee was received by Council on November 26, 2003.

The **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by students of PCHS Government Class

**Roll** was called and all Commissioners were present.

**New Business**

Motion by Com'r. Maddox, seconded by Com'r. Richmond, that the **estimate of taxes to be levied for fiscal year May 1, 2003 through April 30 2004 be \$4,639,900.00** be approved. Com'r. Maddox stated the estimate to levy was still high and felt there was time to work on the numbers to lower the rate. Com'r. Jones felt the numbers could be tweaked with additional cuts.

With PowerPoint slides, City Manager Dennis Kief informed Council for budget purposes of comparable municipalities property tax rate, sales tax dollars, and utility tax if applicable. He used graphs to show area communities rates and EAV comparisons. He presented 10-year history of tax rates, expenditures and reserves. Current general reserves were \$4.7 million. He also informed Council of the proposed budget figures as of 11/26/03 that included the property tax rate increase to \$1.295. Proposed garbage collection fee was eliminated and there was no utility tax but numbers allow for a quarter-cent sales tax increase. Mr. Kief presented his personal tax bills for the last 5 years to demonstrate the small percentage that is attributable to the City and the decrease each year of the City's share. He told the audience that state and federal mandates and lower revenues had forced this year's increase. Councilmember discussed previous City management of tax levies and reserves.

Donna Henderson and John Henderson 1120 ½ N. 16<sup>th</sup> Street spoke in opposition to an increase in her tax bill. She indicated her tax bill had risen every year since she moved to Pekin and persons on disability were unable to afford the taxes to live in their house. It was explained to her that the City of Pekin is only a small percentage of her total bill and she should also address her concerns to other taxing bodies.

Donna Rose 2009 Highwood spoke in support of the Council moving forward in the search for a City Manager.

Jack Gay 1000 Lincoln Street addressed Council in opposition of increased tax bills stating widows and laid off people could not pay higher tax bills. He told Council to live within their means.

Garnet Meischner 1401 Janssen Street voiced his opinion of City Manager form of government.

The motion was restated and on roll call vote, Ayes, Maddox, Richmond, Howard; Nays, Jones and Massaglia. Motion carried.

It was noted a public hearing for Truth in Taxation would be held on Monday, December 8, 2003 for those persons wishing to be heard on the \$4,639,900.00 to be levied.

Council discussed **Consideration of Hiring a City Manager and Implementing a Search Process for Hiring a City Manager**. Com'r. Jones stated he was a strong believer in Manager Form of Government. He felt it was time to set criteria for the position and decide how to proceed. Mayor Howard suggested Commissioner Jones head a committee for that purpose.

Motion was then made by Com'r. Richmond, seconded by Com'r. Maddox, that **Jim Jones Chairman, Patrick Oberle and Dennis Kief be appointed to a search committee for a City Manager**. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

Motion by Com'r. Jones, seconded by Com'r. Richmond that Council move to **Executive Session** at 6:05 P.M. to discuss Employment of Specific Employee of the Public Body ILCS 120/2 (c.) 1. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

On returning to open session with all Council members present a motion was made by Com'r. Massaglia, seconded by Com'r. Maddox that Council authorize the City Attorney to prepare a contract to hire Dennis Kief as City Manager commencing 01/01/04 through 01/01/05 with a provision that either party may cancel the agreement upon 60 days notice with a \$2,500.00 increase in compensation and a \$5,000.00 bonus upon satisfactory completion of the contract.

Reporters from the *Peoria Journal Star*, *Pekin Daily Times*, Jonathan Ahl News Director WCBU and WHIO news correspondent were in attendance and given the opportunity to ask questions.

No further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Com'r. Jones, seconded by Com'r. Richmond that Council adjourn. On voice vote, all present voted Aye.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:40 P.M.**

Sue E. McMillan  
City Clerk