
**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, NOVEMBER 25, 2013, AT 5:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

LAURIE L. BARRA * MAYOR * PRESIDING

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

ABSENT: NONE

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 Orrick, seconded by Council Member Abel, that **the agenda be approved as presented**. Council Member Golden stated he had asked that Library Bonding Referendum be placed on the agenda and it was not. For that reason he would be voting no. On roll call vote all present voted Ayes, Orrick, Gillespie, McCabe, Abel, Hendricks, Barra; Nay, Golden. Motion Carried.

MINUTES

Motion by Council Member Orrick, seconded by Council Member Gillespie, that the **minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of October 28, 2013 and the Regular Council Meeting of November 12, 2013 be approved as written**. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Ronna Woodmacy, 353 S. Capitol Street, addressed the Council regarding the action to changes. 4th and S. Capitol Streets to two-way traffic. She referred to the action that denied two-way traffic on the streets to Derby in October 2012. She suggested the Library block off the alley to eliminate a traffic safety problem. Alan Johnson, 113 South 4th Street, presented a petition signed by residents of S. 4th and S. Capitol Streets who opposed losing the one way streets proposed on the agenda. He asked that Council vote no on Ordinance No. 1462-A330.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Orrick, 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. Mayor Barra read and presented the Children's Home Association of Illinois Proclamation recognizing volunteerism and community service in the City of Pekin to Judy Smith Brown, Annual Giving Coordinator.

7.1 Receive and File Monthly Reports: Police Department October Report; Traffic Safety Committee Minutes dated November 1, 2013; Tazewell County Animal Control October Report; Liquor Commission Minutes dated October 24, 2013

7.2 Proclamations: "Giving Tuesday" Children's Home Association of Illinois – December 3, 2013 " Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month" December

7.3 Receive and File: Bids 2013 Sidewalk Improvement Project

On roll call vote all present voted Aye.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS

Presentation of the Annual Levy Ordinance for the Fiscal Year May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014

Assistant City Manager Darin Girdler distributed a breakdown and comparison of the Tax Levy dollar amounts for 2013. It suggested the levy be increased by 4.9% to assist in the attempt to bolster the losses in the General Fund due to Solid Waste and Storm Sewer being not self funded. The Pensions were increased by the actuarial or

3%. He advised the City will continue to have a reduced General Fund of \$1.6 million for solid waste if nothing is done to offset the expenses. Discussion followed. Council Member Hendricks questioned the significance of the 4.9% increase over 5% number. Council Member Orrick felt there needed to be ways to save money, not increase real estate taxes. Mr. Girdler gave a history of the years 1995-2001 where the real estate taxes continued to be decreased, followed by a large 28.9% to catch-up, 2.4-5% steady increases, and freezes 2009 and 2011. Council Member Golden stated expenses needed to be cut. He questioned if TIF dollars could be applied to the General Fund. Council Member McCabe's opinion was that income was needed to provide services and that Council needed to think in long range plans. Council Member Abel spoke of the small percentage of the total tax bill that is attributed to the City. Taxpayers should consider the large amounts that go to the school systems.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 1462-A330-13/14

AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PEKIN 1995 REGARDING TWO-WAY TRAFFIC

Motion by Council Member Gillespie, seconded by Council Member Hendricks that Ordinance No.1462-A330-13/14 be adopted. Police Chief Greg Nelson presented the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Committee to change the 300 blocks of S. 4th Street and S. Capitol Streets, between Broadway and Washington Streets, to allow two-way traffic. He stated the existing parking restrictions were sufficient and no change was requested for parking. There was no longer an issue to move traffic in and out of the downtown main business/retail district. He advised the Council that the request was from the Pekin Public Library to review the traffic safety problems in the area. With the possibility of a renovation that moves the entrance and primary parking to the south side, two way traffic was even more desirable. After discussion consensus was generally in support of the action. Council Member Golden expressed his hesitancy in supporting the change without a comprehensive layout of the Library plan or a consideration of blocking the alley. On roll call vote, Ayes, Orrick, Gillespie, Abel, Hendricks, Barras; Nays, Golden and McCabe. Motion Carried.

Motion by Council Member Gillespie, seconded by Council Member Hendricks that the **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR ANIMAL CONTROL WITH TAZEWELL COUNTY**, be approved. City Manager Joe Wuellner presented the agreement to provide the service for calls for stray domestic animals. He advised the amount of \$45,046.00 per year remained the same. Council Member McCabe opened the discussion that followed on the perception that the county service was being paid for twice. Council was advised that the terms of the contract included the quantity of service the County provides the City by enforcing our code for animals running at large. On roll call vote all present voted Ayes, Orrick, Gillespie, McCabe, Abel, Hendricks, Barra; Nay, Golden. Motion Carried.

Motion by Council Member Hendricks, seconded by Council Member Gillespie that the **BID FOR 2013 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT** be approved and the contract awarded to Illinois Civil Contractors in the amount of \$212,779.40. City Engineer Michael Guerra presented the project to increase the accessibility by pedestrians on the southern portion of the City. The project included sidewalks to be constructed along one side of Koch Street from 5th to the railroad tracks and along one side of Southmoor and Capitol Streets between Derby and Koch Street. Council Member Golden voiced several concerns regarding the timing of laying concrete, the expiration of the CDBG utilized funds, the specifications on quantities or unit costs in the bid. He felt the project should be postponed. Community Development Director Pamela Anderson addressed all matters of federally funded grant for low to moderate Census Tracts. She explained the conditions for spending in a "timely manner" that would affect postponing the project until Spring. Mr Guerra answered the technical matters of the project in response to Council Member Golden's issues. Mayor Barra expressed concern that the questions no longer pertained to the award or policy decisions but were becoming operational matters to be dealt with prior to the meeting. On roll call vote Ayes, Orrick, Gillespie, McCabe, Abel, Hendricks, Barra; Nay, Golden. Motion Carried.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Community Director Pamela Anderson announced HUD, CDBG, IHDA, and SFOOR assistance programs that could be utilized for the tornado damage houses from the previous week in Pekin and Washington.

Assistant City Manager Darin Girdler advised the Council that the proposed levy had been emailed to them. He encouraged each of member to review the figures, stop in his office, and have questions and concerns addressed prior to December 9 meeting.

Council Member Hendricks announced historian James Loewen would deliver a special presentation on his book *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong* at Eureka College on December 2, 2013.

There was general discussion of the different organizations and resources coordinating assistance to those affected by the November 17, 2013 tornado. Council Members echoed words of sorrow to all who had damage and loss and appreciation to the coordinated efforts of each City Department.

Council Member Golden asked that discussion of a bond referendum be placed on the next Council agenda. He felt voters should have the opportunity to voice their feelings at the ballot box for a property tax increase for the \$5.6 million improvement project.

No further business to come before the Council, motion by Council Member Hendricks, seconded by Council Member Abel that Council adjourn. Motion carried voice vote. Mayor Barra adjourned the meeting.

COUNCIL ADJOURNED AT 6:50 P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk