
**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 9, 2009 AT 5:30 O'CLOCK P.M.
RUSTY L. DUNN, MAYOR PRESIDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS, ABEL, BLANCHARD, BARRA, KORTKAMP,
SCHMIDGALL, STRAND AND DUNN**

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

Roll was called and all Council Members were present.

AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Strand, seconded by Council Member Blanchard, that **the agenda be presented.**

On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

MINUTES

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

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Dan Cunningham, Director Eastside Center, City of East Peoria, stated he came to pledge the municipality's support for the purchase of the Dragon's Dome. He spoke of the great potential of the endeavor and that good management would outweigh the risk as seen 12 years ago in developing Eastside Center.

Garnet Meischner, 1401 Janssen Street, spoke in opposition to the purchase price of \$1 million dollars that had been discussed and hoped that the City was not "feeding a dinosaur" with the expenditure.

William Griffin, 900 Washington, addressed Council on two points in regards to the Dome discussion:

- The purchase was not a bailout of him but rather an opportunity with proper management to utilize and generate Hotel/Motel tax dollars
- Purchase of the 33 acres alone was worth the investment. In 2004 he had invested over \$500,000 to widen street, construct oversized retention pond, and dedicate Right-of-Way to Allentown Road.

Mr. Griffin advised the facility had brought tourism dollars to Pekin in the form of hotel stays, food and beverage, and sales tax purchases.

Dan Watson, 116612 VFW Road, spoke in support of the Dome due diligence that the City was conducting. His observation for comparison was the Logon Ice Dome that was saved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Schmidgall, seconded by Council Member Kortkamp, that the **Consent Agenda be approved as presented.**

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

1. **Receive and File Monthly Reports and Minutes: Liquor Commission Minutes Dated October 22 and Special Meeting Dated October 1st, 2009**
2. **Charitable Solicitation: Boys and Girls Club of Pekin Tag Day, Saturday, November 14, 2009**

3. **Receive and File Pekin Public Library Fund Financial Statements April 30, 2009 prepared by Willock Warning Co., P.C.**
4. **Receive and File Fiscal Responsibility Report Card 2008 from State of Illinois Comptroller.**
5. **Resolution No. 20-09/10-Mayor's Appointment of Dale Vonderheide to the Liquor Commission for a term until April 30, 2010 to fill the unexpired term of David Eitenmiller.**

On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS

Presentation: The public was advised by Mayor Dunn that Council directed staff to layout Dome Due Diligence so a responsible decision could be made on the acquisition of the property. The current information was presented to the public by City Manager Dennis Kief and Treasurer James Wolf. Mr. Kief read a series of questions that had been posed on the subject throughout the negotiations and presented the answers and specifics of the proposed project:

- Property listed at \$1.7 million
- 33.12 acres purchase price of \$1 million
- 11 acre option for \$35,000
- City's interest for the community with other entities involvement and utilization
- Funding from tourism line item not property tax or general fund
- Not a core service but city needs to be proactive and innovative in providing quality of life issues

Treasurer Jim Wolf then explained the Performance on operation and management of the facility.

Council Members expressed their support, opposition, and concerns regarding the City's interest in purchasing. The City Manager advised Council that formal consideration would be presented in the next few weeks,

Presentation: Quarterly Financial Report from May1, 2009 – October 31, 2009 was given by James Wolf. In a PowerPoint he presented Investment Earnings and major Revenue Sources. He indicated that interest rates had fallen and most tax revenues funds were decreasing. The overall negative figures could have been worse had the City not imposed the 2% Food and Beverage Tax and the Package Liquor Tax.. Council Member Blanchard requested the same type of summary be presented to Council on expenses. No Action to be taken

City Manager Dennis Kief briefed the Council on the proposed Levy numbers for 2009 in a PowerPoint presentation. The purpose was to gather consensus and direction on possible 3 options; the Levy remain the same as 2008, increasing 1.7% (amount eligible if the City were covered by PTELL), or increasing 2.91%.

He also recommended adding to levied pensions, the employee IMRF fund. Since less than 13% of the cost of operating the Police Department and 16% of the Fire Department are levied, he recommended placing other levied dollars in a "Corporate Fund Property Tax" title which would go into the General Fund for all purposes.

Council Members voiced their opinions on the following matters of the presentation:

- Anticipated early retirement savings and significant reduction in health care costs because of switching providers
- Noted the Library depends on tax dollars to operate having no other revenues
- Not being able to go back to taxpayers to request increase in these hard times

No Action was taken

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 2600-09/10 **AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE IMLRMA MINIMUM/MAXIMUM** **CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT**

Motion by Council Member Barra, seconded by Council Member Abel, that **ORDINANCE NO. 2600-09/10 be adopted.** Assistance Finance Director Angie Evans advised Council that the City has participated in the insurance program since 2001. Premiums based on claim history of pool of municipalities had proven to be a substantial cost savings. The Min / Max option of \$646,556.13 allows the City to pay a lower premium as long as claim costs stay below the minimum allowed. On roll call vote, all present voted Aye.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL

Council expressed their condolences on the passing of former Police Officer and Pekin School District 303 Board Member Dean Bacon.

Council Member Abel questioned the low area on the new construction of Hanna Drive being covered by water. Public Works Director Joe Wuellner advised that the section was not paved at the time and all water would flow west to the river. The Councilman also requested from Director of Public Property the report on city building energy analysis that had been completed.

Mayor Dunn announced the NAACP event on Saturday, November 14th honoring Senator Dirksen.

Council Member Blanchard expressed appreciation to all service members honored on Veterans Day. He requested that the financial report be reviewed and that staff try hard to keep expenses down. He felt there needed to be cuts made.

Dan DeHoog, 619 South 12th Street, addressed Council to thank Council Members Blanchard and Schmidgall on their comment in opposition to purchasing the Dome facilities. He spoke in support of taxes not going up and that cuts needed to be made to the budgets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member Kortkamp, seconded by Council Member Strand, that **Council move to Executive Session** at 7:25 P.M. to discuss

5 ILCS 120/2 (c.) 5. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body.

5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 6. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 2. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives.

5ILCS 120/2 (c) 11. Litigation

5ILCS 120/2 (c) 1. Employee hiring, firing, compensation, discipline and performance.

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 8:40P.M.

Sue E. McMillan
City Clerk