

**MINUTES**  
**WORKING SESSION**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
**401 WEST WASHINGTON STREET**  
**EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS**

February 26, 2019

Mayor Mingus called the Working Session of the City Council of East Peoria, Illinois to order at 4:00 P.M. with the meeting having been properly noticed.

Upon the roll being called the following answered present: Mayor David W. Mingus, Commissioners Daniel S. Decker, Commissioner Gary R. Densberger, Timothy J. Jeffers, and John P. Kahl.

Absent: None.

Mayor Mingus explained that the City Council is meeting for a Working Session and that no final action would take place by the City Council at the meeting. He explained that the purpose of the meeting is to have a Working Session regarding discussion on budget matters. He turned the discussion over to Commissioner Densberger. Commissioner Densberger explained that the main purpose is to discuss the capital budget in the proposed budget. He explained that a new capital worksheet was drafted and presented to the City Council. He presented the fueling station/parking lot upgrade, seven squad cars, F250 crew cab, generator set for Fire Station 4, one plow truck. He explained that a \$1,200,000 street maintenance fund is proposed.

Commissioner Kahl explained that he is in full support as to what Commissioner Densberger presented.

Commissioner Decker inquired about the City's reserve fund balance that is around \$1,700,000 to \$1,800,000 cash reserve to be there at the end of the fiscal year. Prior to the vote on sales tax, the cash reserve was a half a million less. He explained that the intersection of Camp and River Road is a dangerous intersection where the intersection became a topic for PPUATS. The City approached IDOT about creating a turn lane into Embassy Suites; however, IDOT explained that the City would need to widen the bridge in order to create the turn lane. He explained that the roundabout was the answer to the dangerous intersection. Commissioner Decker believes that the City needs to immediately begin putting money away once a PPUATS project is approved. He feels that it is important that the City needs to take care of its dangerous intersections. PPUATS has provided the City with a lot of funds for projects over the years and PPUATS is a major help with projects. He believes that the City needs to look at what will bring the most money back to the City of East Peoria. Commissioner Decker feels that one solution is a potential change to the pension contributions in the future that free up a substantial amount of money that the City would not have to spend on pensions and could use elsewhere. East Peoria is well funded in its pensions. He would like the City to use those monies for other uses if the pension reform is passed. Commissioner Decker would like an additional plow truck and would like to put additional money toward streets. He would like council to keep an open mind in utilizing potential additional funds.

Commissioner Densberger commented on the pension reform and that it does not solve the overall pension issues.

Commissioner Jeffers stated that he appreciates the proposed capital expenses. He commented on potential additional funds. He commented on street ratings and a potential future working session regarding the topic. Commissioner Jeffers appreciates the future capital expense costs being included on the capital expenses sheet so that the City has a longer-term view for planning purposes. He commented on the possibility of a capital bill coming through the state that may allow for additional money for project. He commented on the heat scarification process that gives the City more for its dollar. He wishes that the City had more monies to be spent on streets.

Mayor Mingus explained that he fully supports the recommendations and he thanked Commissioner Densberger, Jeff Becker, and city employees for their work on the budget. He thanked the City Council for the work and compromise.

Commissioner Kahl commented on the reserves and the City Council putting monies back into reserves. Commissioner Densberger feels that the City needs to continue to build those reserves up to \$4,000,000. Commissioner Kahl commented Police Wages including retirement payouts that closed the gap. He explained that there is still \$44,000 difference considering increases, changes in responsibilities, and stipends. He asked that that \$44,000 difference be investigated. Commissioner Decker explained that it may be due to positions left unfilled.

Mayor Mingus asked for any comments from the audience. There was no response.

Motion by Commissioner Kahl, seconded by Commissioner Densberger; Mr. Mayor, I move you that we adjourn the meeting.

Yeas: Commissioners Decker, Densberger, Jeffers, and Kahl and Mayor Mingus.

Nays: None.

Mayor Mingus declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 4:23 P.M.

/s/ Morgan R. Cadwalader

Morgan R. Cadwalader, City Clerk