

**MINUTES
NEW COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE CIVIC COMPLEX
401 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS**

APRIL 28, 2019

The SPECIAL Meeting of the City Council of the City of East Peoria, Illinois was called to order by his Honor Mayor John P. Kahl presiding at 6:00 P.M. with proper notice having been given.

Upon the roll being called the following answered present: Mayor John P. Kahl, Commissioner Daniel S. Decker, Commissioner Mark E. Hill, Commissioner Seth D. Mingus, and Commissioner Michael L. Sutherland.
Absent: None.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Hill.

Mayor Kahl led the Council and the audience in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Kahl explained that the City Council Meeting is being held via remote attendance by Zoom Meeting by the public due to the Governor's Executive Order regarding COVID-19 and the relaxing of the Open Meeting Act requirements. Public comments are being taken remotely via Zoom Meetings during the meeting. The meeting is also being shown on Facebook Live on social media.

Mayor Kahl stated if there was anyone who wanted to speak on any items on the agenda item to raise their hands on Zoom Meetings and state the matter or matters to be discussed.

Bob Jorgensen spoke over the Zoom Meeting platform on recycling. He thanked the first responders, grocery store workers, pharmacy workers, and others working during this time and risking their health. He explained that he understands the money issues the City is having. However, he feels that the City can get recycling done at a minimal cost or the same amount that the City would be paying for garbage. He explained that he would have loved to have been in the loop from the beginning. Mr. Jorgensen asked the City to stop picking up the glass and only pick up plastics marked one and two, tin, aluminum, paper, and cardboard. The places for recycling being looked into are comparable to what it would cost to put the recycling in the dump. He also some unusual ideas for recycling. One idea is trying to get a roll off for a week that can be \$160 and using one of the City's trucks. He explained that East Peoria Green has many contacts. There is another environmental group in the City. The East Peoria Green Team has members who work with Waste Management and recycling, someone with G&D, among others. He would love to talk to the City about this, and he feels that recycling can still be done with only plastics marked with one and two. Heh asked the City Council is they had any questions for him. There was no response.

Commissioner Decker thanked Mr. Jorgensen and explained that he will speak in greater detail later in the meeting regarding recycling. There was no response.

Mayor Kahl stated if there was anyone else who wanted to speak on any items on the agenda item to raise their hands on Zoom Meetings and state the matter or matters to be discussed. There was no response.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4493, hereto attached, (ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR FROM THE FIRST DAY OF MAY A.D. 2020 TO THE LAST DAY OF APRIL A.D. 2021) having been read once by its title and having been laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection, be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Hill explained that this is the second reading on the appropriation ordinance which sets the spending limits for the City for 2020-2021 fiscal year. He explained that they are trying to get this done for the coming fiscal year. This is the legal authority for specific spending activities for the City.

Yeas: Commissioners Decker, Hill, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl.

Nays: None

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 4493 be adopted as presented.

Resolution No. 1920-124 by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 1920-124 hereto attached, a Resolution to approve the Working Cash Budget for the Fiscal Year from the first day of May A.D. 2020 to the last day of April A.D. 2021, be hereby approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 1920-124 having been read once by its title and having laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection, be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Hill explained that there have been cuts to the budget due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Mayor Kahl asked each Commissioner to detail the cuts made in each of their departments.

Commissioner Decker commented on budget changes in the Streets and Public Improvements. He explained that recycling will be suspended by one year, a plow truck has been removed, and there is a request for proposal that will sought for the city recycling. He thanked the teamsters who care deeply about their jobs and the community and have given up salary increases for the year. He explained that there were other cuts that totaled 15% reduction, and we do not know the exact budget reductions that will occur.

Commissioner Hill commented on budget changes in his department. He explained that Accounts & Finance, Information Technology, Planning and Community Development, and Buildings and Inspections Departments have cut everything that was physically possible in line items, including reduction of hours and not bringing back one person for the year in Code Enforcement and forgoing projects for the year in the Facilities Department.

Commissioner Mingus explained that the Fire Department has suspended the Deputy Chief positions for the fiscal year; the fire union has made concessions that include no raises for the fiscal year and no clothing allowance for the year; selling equipment that the department can and other additional cuts; no longer having a contract with the Northern Tazewell Fire Protection District; and other operational cuts.

Commissioner Sutherland explained that because of the nearly \$900,000 taken out of the budget for water and sewer lines that included curbs and water lines that those projects have been put off indefinitely until the money is available. He explained that not being able to get projects done is a problem. These and other cuts are part of the entire fiscal problem.

Mayor Kahl explained that the Police Department has cancelled the order for eight police vehicles; two personnel openings will remain unfilled; the police union did not give any concessions, and four of the newest police officers have been laid off. In the administrative departments that he is over in city hall, there have been cuts throughout the operating budgets of those departments. Mayor Kahl explained that the City has a projected \$5.4 million reduction in the revenues, based upon current understandings of the economic situation, and there is still a \$400,000 gap in the budget that he feels will be made up by stopping nonessential spending and personnel hiring. He thanked the teamsters and fire unions for their concessions.

Commissioner Decker commented on recycling. He explained that he will try to figure out a way to fund it recycling enough to keep the service. There are no extras in the budget, and any cuts that were made cut services. He explained that he does not currently have a better way to get recycling done. He explained that he feels that the state should allow communities to forgo their added pension expenses this year, which will allow the City to be better prepared if there is another rise in COVID-19 cases over the winter. This would not be a tax increase on the governments; but rather, it is another way of looking at the financial strain. The City does not desire to get rid of the recycling and the City is committed to looking at other options. Removing recycling does keep everyone employed in the Public Works department. The service costs around \$181,000 per year and there is a question about the savings. There needs to be a revenue stream to start recycling again and he is hopeful that recycling will be in next year's budget. There are other options for recycling. Commissioner Decker commented on a video that Midwest Fiber has available that shows how recyclables are processed. He explained that residents of East Peoria can bring recyclables to two facilities in the next year. Commissioner Decker explained that Todd Shumaker has available other things that can be done with recycling, and Commissioner Decker is hopeful that the costs can come down. He explained that he will work with the Green Team or others to look into a drop off location. He appreciates the comments and asked that anyone interested in the Green Team to contact him. He will be voting yes on the budget.

Mayor Kahl commented on working on the budget by looking at people versus reducing services and commented on it being a difficult decision. He explained that the property taxes do not cover the costs of the recycling program and commented on the costs of recycling being \$66.66 per ton plus a \$7 processing fee while the solid waste fees were \$54.10 per ton last year.

Yeas: Commissioners Decker, Hill, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl.

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 1920-124 be duly adopted as presented.

Resolution No. 1920-138 by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 1920-138 hereto attached, a Resolution Regarding Renewal of Group Term Life Insurance Policy for City Employees with Standard Insurance Company, be hereby approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 1920-138 having been read once by its title and having laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection, be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Hill explained that this for the renewal of life insurance for city employees.

Yeas: Commissioners Decker, Hill, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl.

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 1920-138 be duly adopted as presented.

Resolution No. 1920-139 by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 1920-139 hereto attached, a Resolution Regarding Revisions to the City's Group Health Insurance Plan, be hereby approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 1920-139 having been read once by its title and having laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection, be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Hill explained that the resolution is related to changes to the group health insurance plan. Those changes involve recommendations for the insurance committee and include changes in language for the utilization benefit manager, coverages for colonoscopies and mammograms, and COVID-19 emergency items.

Commissioner Decker explained that he would be abstaining from voting on this resolution as well as the four agenda items following out of an abundance of caution due to his employment with the City.

Yeas: Commissioners Hill, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl.

Abstain: Commissioner Decker

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 1920-139 be duly adopted as presented.

Resolution No. 1920-140 by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 1920-140 hereto attached, a Resolution Regarding Employee Contribution Rates for the City's Group Health Insurance Plan, be hereby approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 1920-140 having been read once by its title and having laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection, be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Hill commented on the contribution rate increases that are due to higher utilization of the plan. Any increases in the rate are split between City and Employees. These rates are approving the employee portion of the contribution rate.

Mayor Kahl stated the contribution rate changes as follows:

	<u>PPO Plan</u>	<u>High Deductible Plan</u>
Individual	\$191.50 (+24.84)	\$161.50 (+24.84)
Individual + Child(ren)	\$298.54 (+52.42)	\$253.54 (+52.42)
Individual + Spouse	\$346.12 (+82.38)	\$296.12 (+82.38)
Family	\$477.36 (+13.72)	\$402.36 (+13.72)

Yeas: Commissioners Hill, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl.

Abstain: Commissioner Decker.

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 1920-140 be duly adopted as presented.

Resolution No. 1920-141 by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 1920-141 hereto attached, a Resolution Regarding the Utilization Manager for the City's Group Health Insurance Plan, be hereby approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 1920-141 having been read once by its title and having laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection, be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Hill commented on the utilization manager change with the City moving to Precedence as a utilization manager.

Yeas: Commissioners Hill, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl.

Abstain: Commissioner Decker.

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 1920-141 be duly adopted as presented.

Resolution No. 1920-142 by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 1920-142 hereto attached, a Resolution to approve the salaries, wages, and employee benefits for certain non-union employees of the City of East Peoria for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2020 and ending on April 30, 2021, be hereby approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 1920-142 having been read once by its title and having laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection, be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Hill explained that there have been big changes due to the pandemic and that the wages for the non-union will not be increased. The City attorney fees with Miller, Hall & Triggs will not increase either.

Yeas: Commissioners Hill, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl.

Nays: Commissioner Decker.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 1920-142 be duly adopted as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4497, hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL) having been read once by its title and having been laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection, be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Hill explained the changes that include and reflect those related to the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act; inserting the Mayor in various provisions of the Manual to act in the absence of having a City Administrator; revising the pre-employment testing provision to be consistent with the updated substance abuse policy; and updating the sections dealing with sick leave, use of vacation leave upon returning from military duty, use of City vehicles, and employee attendance.

Yeas: Commissioners Hill, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl.

Abstain: Commissioner Decker.

Nays: None

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 4497 be adopted as presented.

Resolution No. 1920-145 by Commissioner Mingus; WHEREAS, Brett Brown has been continuously employed by the City from November 1, 1994 through May 1, 2020, most recently occupying the position of Deputy Fire Chief;

WHEREAS, Brett Brown announced his intention to retire from employment effective at the end of the day on May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City is appreciative of the long and continued service provided by Brett Brown; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City to execute the attached Separation Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BEITRESOLVEDBYTHECOUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are found to be true and correct.

Section 2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Separation Agreement with such changes as the Mayor, in his sole discretion, may decide are in the best interest of the City of East Peoria.

Motion by Commissioner Mingus, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move that Resolution No. 1920-145 be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Mingus commended and thanked Deputy Chief Brett Brown on his excellent service to the City and wished him well in his retirement.

Commissioner Decker commended Deputy Chief Brown on his service to the City commending him on his service to the City as a great firefighter and paramedic. Deputy Chief Brown was also a nurse in addition to being a firefighter/paramedic. Deputy Chief Brown never hesitated to be the first one through the door and he is very intelligent. Commissioner Decker thanked Deputy Chief Brown's wife and family and wished Brett the best in his retirement. He explained that Deputy Chief Brown chose to retire so that others would not have to be laid off of work.

Mayor thanked and wished him well and stated the payouts to Mr. Brown.

Yeas: Commissioners Decker, Hill, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl.

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 1920-145 be duly adopted as presented.

Resolution No. 1920-146 by Commissioner Mingus; RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PATROLMEN AND SERGEANTS ON THE EAST PEORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Title 1, Chapter 3, Section 7.1 of the East Peoria City Code authorizes the City Council to determine from time to time by Resolution the number of individuals to hold each rank on the Police Department; and WHEREAS, effective May 1, 2020, the City seeks to temporarily decrease the number of Patrolmen positions by five to 34 Patrolmen during this uncertain time due to anticipated revenue decreases at substantial amounts until such time as the City can reevaluate the budget revenues to a point that those positions may be refilled; and

WHEREAS, a Sergeant has announced his retirement effective on May 15, 2020 and the City seeks to temporarily decrease the number of Sergeant positions by one to six Sergeants during this uncertain time due to anticipated revenue decreases at substantial amounts until such time as the City can reevaluate the budget revenues to a point that this position may be refilled;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THAT

Section 1. Effective May 1, 2020, the Police Department of the City of East Peoria shall consist of the following personnel:

- A. One Police Chief
- B. Two Deputy Chiefs
- C. Seven Sergeants
- D. Thirty-four Patrolmen

Section 2. Effective May 15, 2020, the Police Department of the City of East Peoria shall consist of the following personnel:

- A. One Police Chief
- B. Two Deputy Chiefs
- C. Six Sergeants
- D. Thirty-four Patrolmen

Section 3. The Police Chief is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Police and Fire Commission of the decrease in Patrolmen and Sergeants.

Motion by Commissioner Mingus, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move that Resolution No. 1920-146 be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Mingus explained this reflects the number of officers that the Police Department will have as a result of the budget cuts.

Yeas: Commissioners Decker, Hill, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl.

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 1920-146 be duly adopted as presented.

Mayor Kahl stated if there was anyone who wanted to speak on any items not on the agenda to raise their hand on Zoom Meetings and state the matter or matters to be discussed. There was no response.

Mayor Kahl then asked for comments from Council.

Commissioner Decker explained that there was no stone left unturned in the budget. If there is a City infrastructure issue, please let the City know. He explained that the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall is still currently scheduled for September 2020; however, he cannot guarantee anything at this point. Some of the events that were going to be planned with the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall may be changed. He is waiting to see what the restrictions are moving forward. Last Tuesday, Commissioner Decker had intentions of working hard this week to brainstorm revenue sources for recycling. However, he explained that his mother passed away last Friday. Her passing was expected but was sooner than he expected. He explained that his dad was well known around town; however, he learned how many people knew his mom and her faith. He explained that some people have apprehension with knowing what might happen after they leave this world, but that his mother was contented that she would go to heaven and was always faithful. He explained that the family is not able to have any services public now and that there will be something private tomorrow and something more public on June 14 and or later in July depending on the restrictions.

Commissioner Hill commented on the recycling and explained that he spoke with someone from Midwest Fiber. He is supportive of a possible solution to get the recycling done and is hopeful that there will be a solution. He commented on the COVID-19 numbers and encouraged everyone to question the numbers. He explained that there is a lot of information and commented on different models. The governor is using other models that are putting the state at a peak in Mid-May. He explained that there is a lot of discussion about Chicago and the collar counties being a majority of the cases. He took a look at the infection rate in Jasper County that has 9,600. He explained that most of the people have followed the rules to flatten the curve to not overwhelm that medical facilities. He commented on the contagiousness of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) or R0 number (the number of people that one infected person will pass the virus on to, on average). He explained that the contagiousness rate was over the 3-person rate and that number is now 1.4 and the restrictions have achieved what it should. He believes we've flattened the curve.

Commissioner Mingus commented on recycling not being paid for through property taxes and he believes that the tax rate has been held steady for over fifteen years. The city is not raising property taxes, as the city has other avenues of revenue related to sales tax, the gaming revenues and some others. However, those numbers are down dramatically as a result of the current state of the restrictions. He recommended people to shop local and buy local as best you can as you are helping fund programs like recycling by doing so.

Commissioner Sutherland explained that he is proud of the Teamsters for making concessions; his skepticism regarding the restrictions and suggested that people follow the money; and concern for small businesses. He commented on recycling and urged individuals to try to produce less waste and need for recycling and explained that paper and cardboard are almost one hundred percent recyclable. He commented how the city pays for recycling and how recycling is transferred. He explained that some recycling goes to waste and is then transferred to the garbage dump. He commented on residents pumping their sump pump water directly into the sewer system which overwhelms the sewer system. He explained that people need to stop pumping their sump pump water into the sewer system. He commended the sewer treatment plant workers for protecting the river and getting things done.

Mayor Kahl thanked Jeff Becker and Morgan Cadwalader for attending the City Council meetings during this time. He explained that he received a call from Governor Pritzker regarding his plan for phased reopening of East Peoria which could be used for the entire region. He explained that it was a two-way conversation; he submitted the plan to the Governor; and he has not heard back from him personally since the plan was submitted. Mayor Kahl explained that the entire City Council is supportive of a phased in reopening of the region. He explained that he recognizes the health issue and the economic issue are important; explained that the region has been respectful to date; and reiterated that he is listening to the medical advice and scientists. He feels that there will be a plateau and not a peak. He explained that the percentage of positives has declined slightly and there will be a gradual decline moving forward. He has been working with other communities in four counties that would like to re-approach the Governor with a two-month reopening process beginning May 1 and explained that he will update everyone. There are 18 signatories on the plan that will go to Governor Pritzker tomorrow. He feels that we need to be responsible moving forward, and if the executive order and restrictions are extended, there will be economic and mental well-being issues. He is hopeful that the Governor will be open to looking to the people collectively and will seek the Governor's support moving forward. He asked everyone to remain calm as there is uncertainty and there will be more comments coming later this week.

Motion by Commissioner Sutherland, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that we adjourn until Tuesday evening, May 5, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

Yeas: Commissioners Decker, Hill, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl.

Nays: None

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

/s/ Morgan R. Cadwalader
City Clerk Morgan R. Cadwalader