

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

AUGUST 18, 2020

The Regular 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 asked for any comments from the audience. There was no response.

Motion by Commissioner Mingus, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move that the approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 4, 2020 and the minutes of the Closed Meeting/Executive Session held on August 4, 2020 be approved as printed.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Mayor Kahl stated if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak on any items on the agenda to come to the podium and state the matter or matters to be discussed.

Robert Salzer came up to the podium to comment on a drainage issue he is experiencing at his home. He explained that the issue is not the city's fault. Mr. Salzer feels that the issue needs to be resolved by removing the stones from the drainage ditch. There has not been a problem until this time the stones were placed in the drainage ditch. Mr. Salzer's neighbor also has a problem with the drainage issue that causes the depositing of trash and leaves on his property. Commissioner Decker explained that Supervisor of Streets, Ric Semonski, will clean the ditch out; however, he has not gotten to the project yet. Supervisor Semonski will try to move the project up a bit.

Kurt Klaus came up to the podium and inquired as to whether the City would consider allowing golf carts in subdivisions. He explained that he would like to get his wife out and in the fresh air.

A resident from the Richland Farms area came up to the podium to explain about a water issue that she had in her home. She explained that she has gone through her insurance; however, the insurance has denied part of it as an act of nature.

Mayor Kahl explained that his intent is to bring forward the East Peoria Drainage and Levee District which is an entity that is separate from the City and he believes are responsible for the issue to explain what the Drainage and Levee District does and is responsible for.

Water and Wastewater Superintendent, Cord Crisler, explained that there are pumps in the Richland Farms area that are not the city's pumps. Commissioner Sutherland explained that when there is an eight-inch rain event and houses discharge water into the sanitary sewer system that causes capacity issues. Commissioner Sutherland explained the history of the storm water dams and other projects done by the Army Corps of Engineers.

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

Resolution No. 2021-037 by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS** that the claims as listed on Schedule No. 7 be allowed. Mr. Mayor, I, move that the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to issue orders on the Treasurer for the various amounts, totaling \$1,383,627.09, and the schedule of bills be hereby adopted as presented.

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

Nays: None

Mayor Mingus declared the motion carried.

Resolution No. 2021-032 by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS** that Resolution No. 2021-032 hereto attached, a Resolution to Approve the Riverfront Midrise Apartment Development Agreement with Teekona Group, Inc., be hereby approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 2021-032 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 resolution is for the approval of a Development Agreement with Teekona Group, Inc. for property located between the former Granite City and current Embassy Suites. It requires a minimum of \$13 million investment.

Commissioner Decker expressed his excitement to get a development on the property that will consist of 114 residential units. He feels that it will complement the area.

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 1920-032 be duly adopted as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4515 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL USE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2250 E. WASHINGTON STREET IN THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS) be accepted on its first reading as read by its title, and be laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection.

Commissioner Hill explained that this ordinance is to approve a special use that will allow for the outdoor parking and storage of vehicles for operation of a U-Haul rental facility. No box trucks will be allowed in front of the building, and there are landscaping requirements.

Commissioner Decker explained that he was surprised to see that a special use was required for this type of use.

Commissioner Mingus expressed his enthusiasm in seeing this vacant property being used as a business again.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4516 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL USE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 400 CIMMERON DRIVE IN THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS) be accepted on its first reading as read by its title, and be laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection.

Commissioner Hill explained that this order is to approve a special use for a larger than permitted accessory structure on the property that is just under 40 acres in size. It will be a high-quality barn structure and will be built and inspected professionally.

Commissioner Decker explained that there have been no concerns as it is a larger property, and there is plenty of room for the structure.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4517 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL SPECIAL USE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 400 CIMMERON DRIVE IN THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS) be accepted on its first reading as read by its title, and be laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection.

Commissioner Hill explained that the Overcash family came to the City several years back seeking to have horses on the property and the special use was approved due to the property size and its distance from other properties and structures. The previous special use has expired as it was not acted up on and this is another special use application to allow for horses on the property. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommended approval.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4514 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SPECIAL SERVICE AREA 2019A IN THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA AND APPROVING SPECIAL SERVICE AREA 2019A PROJECT TO IMPROVE ACCESS ROAD 6, THE FUNDING OF ROAD IMPROVEMENTS TO ACCESS ROAD 6, AND THE LEVYING OF PROPERTY TAX AGAINST THOSE PROPERTIES BENEFITTED BY THE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS) be accepted on its first reading as read by its title, and be laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection.

Commissioner Hill explained that back in September 2019 the special service area process began. The public hearing was held in November 2019 and due to delays in construction and improvements this ordinance is coming back before City Council for approval. The City is providing a funding mechanism that the adjacent owners can pay for improvements. The City has no funds in the improvement project and is only providing a funding mechanism for the adjacent owners.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Resolution No. 2021-036 by Commissioner Mingus; RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTERS ON THE EAST PEORIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Title 1, Chapter 5, Section 2.1 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 East Peoria Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, in December 2018, pursuant to Resolution No. 1819-106, the City temporarily increased the number of firefighters on the Fire Department by three to a total of 33 firefighters in an effort to minimize overtime costs in the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution No. 1819-106, the temporary increase to 33 in the number of firefighters in the Fire Department that was approved in December 2018 will then decrease back down to 30 through attrition of members leaving the Fire Department after April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 1920-131 approved in April 2020, the temporary increase in the number of firefighters in the Fire Department to 33 was extended through April 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, a firefighter is anticipated to move to inactive status in the near future; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City of East Peoria to temporarily increase the total number of individuals holding the rank of firefighter in the East Peoria Fire Department by one to 34 until the anticipated change in status of this firefighter; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the City that after the anticipated change in status with this firefighter in the near future, the total number of firefighters in the Fire Department be reduced by one back to 33, and thereafter the total number of firefighters in the Fire Department be reduced through attrition to 30 after April 30, 2021;

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

Section 1. Effective immediately, the Fire Department of the City of East Peoria shall consist of the following personnel:

- A. One Fire Chief
- B. Three Assistant Fire Chiefs
- C. Nine Lieutenants
- D. Thirty-Four Firefighters
- E. One Paid on Call Firefighter

Section 2. The Fire Chief is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Police and Fire Commission of the temporary increase in firefighters and to request the Police and Fire Commission to undertake the process of appointing a probationary firefighter to fill the position hereby created.

Section 3. Subject to further action by the City Council, effective after the anticipated change in status of the firefighter in the near future, the Fire Department of the City of East Peoria shall consist of the following personnel:

- A. One Fire Chief
- B. Three Assistant Fire Chiefs
- C. Nine Lieutenants
- D. Thirty-Three Firefighters
- E. One Paid on Call Firefighter

Section 4. Subject to further action by the City Council, effective on April 30, 2021, pursuant to Resolution No. 1920-131, the Fire Department of the City of East Peoria shall consist of the following personnel upon attrition to the staffing levels established in this Resolution:

- A. One Fire Chief
- B. Three Assistant Fire Chiefs
- C. Nine Lieutenants
- D. Thirty Firefighters
- E. One Paid on Call Firefighter

Motion by Commissioner Mingus, seconded by Commissioner Hill; Mr. Mayor, I move that Resolution No. 2021-036 be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Decker explained that he will be abstaining due to his employment with the City.

Commissioner Mingus explained that in 2018 the number of firefighters was increased to 33 to avoid overtime costs. The City is anticipating an opening soon and this will ensure that someone is trained and ready to go sooner. This will temporarily increase the number of firefighters by and the number will go back down to 33 upon the inactive status of the firefighter. There will be two new firefighters coming onto the Fire Department.

Academy and this will get us on top the process so that they are in place.

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: Commissioner Decker.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 2021-036 be duly adopted as presented.

Mayor Kahl stated if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak on any items not on the agenda to come to the podium state the matter or matters to be discussed. There was no response.

Mayor Kahl then asked for comments from Council.

Commissioner Decker explained that the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will be coming on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 to the Civic Park and several motorcycle riders will be escorting the wall into town. A team of people will set up the Wall, and the Wall will be open until Sunday, September 27. The opening ceremony is scheduled for September 24 at noon. There has been generous support from the public and the city of East Peoria. The Wall organizers are still seeking donations with any donations in excess of the costs of the Wall being donated to the Central Illinois Honor Flight. Sunday, September 27 at noon there will be a more somber retirement of colors and taps done by an active military unit. If anyone would like to help up, please contact Commissioner Decker by calling or emailing him. The Wall will be open 24 hours a day, and they always need two people there not only for security but also to assist people in finding the names of soldiers to etch the names.

Commissioner Hill commented on social media posts and encouraged people to reach out to the City with questions about water bills and other City items. He explained that there is a sewer capital charge and the rates change every year. He commented on the success of the Farmers Market that occurs every Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. from June through September.

Commissioner Sutherland commented on the water and sewer bill. He explained that sewer treatment plant needs to be upgraded, and the water and sewer bill rates were set in 2017. He explained that he promised Cole Smith that he would ride with him in the garbage truck and will ride with him when the weather gets cooler. He thanked those City workers that have been working through the high heat. They have been doing a good job under these conditions.

Commissioner Mingus explained that he now looks where the sump pumps are draining in the City. He commented on the decreased revenues to due the COVID-19 pandemic and asked people to please continue shopping in East Peoria to help the local economy and the City.

Mayor Kahl commented on the Sewer Capital Charge and those funds being specifically for the sewer plant upgrade. The City was being faced with the challenge that IEPA might come in and force the upgrade which would be much more expensive. The Sewer Capital Charge goes directly to pay off the loan payments for the Sewer Upgrade Project. The Sewer Upgrade Project is on schedule, and there have been cost overruns but those have been within the 3% that was built in for the overruns. Mayor Kahl feels that City should have been planning ahead of time for the project. It is a \$66 million project. Mayor Kahl asked everyone to complete their 2020 Census as the end of September is the deadline. For those that have not completed their census, please do so online at 2020census.gov.

Mayor Kahl expressed condolences to Barb McDonald and her family on the loss of their oldest son. He asked anyone who is interested in helping the family to reach out to Mayor Kahl or Commissioner Decker.

Motion by Commissioner Sutherland, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that we adjourn until Tuesday evening, August 18, 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 6:53 P.M.

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