

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

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

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. The City Clerk certifies that notice of the meeting was duly served upon Council Members via email on Friday, January 29, 2021, at approximately 4:47 p.m.

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.

Motion by Commissioner Mingus, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move that the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 19, 2021 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. There was no response.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS BY OMNIBUS VOTE:

Mayor Kahl asked if any Commissioner wished to remove any items from the Consent Agenda for discussion. There was no response.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move to adopt a consent agenda consisting of items numbered 1 through 8 as listed on the agenda for this meeting to be considered by omnibus vote.

Item Number 1 – Adoption of Resolution Number 2021-101 – Resolution to Approve Payment of the Schedule of Bills Listed on Schedule Number 18 in the amount of \$2,523,751.54.

Item Number 2 – Adoption of Resolution Number 2021-090 on its Second Reading – Resolution Approving Renewal of Cyber Security Insurance Coverage.

Item Number 3 – Adoption of Resolution Number 2021-091 on its Second Reading – Resolution approving the Festival Building Security and Camera System Upgrade Project by Christenberry Systems & Alarm Company Inc. in the amount of \$11,230.

Item Number 4 – Adoption of Resolution Number 2021-092 on its Second Reading – Resolution authorizing the purchase of a 2020 Ford Transit 250 Vehicle with HVAC Fit Out for Facilities Management from Ufring Auto Group.

Item Number 5 – Adoption of Resolution Number 2021-094 on its Second Reading – Resolution Accepting Lowest Responsible Bid from Connor Company for Eastside Centre HVAC System Replacement Project Replacing Six HVAC Units.

Item Number 6 – Adoption of Resolution Number 2021-085 on its Second Reading – Resolution Authorizing the City of East Peoria to enter into an Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for Installation of Dilemma Detection Devices in Traffic Signals for Route 116 Intersections and Related Funding Appropriation.

Item Number 7 – Adoption of Ordinance Number 4545 on its Second Reading – (AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN INSTALLMENT CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF NEW TASER EQUIPMENT FOR THE CITY'S POLICE DEPARTMENT.)

Item Number 8 – Adoption of Resolution Number 2021-089 on its Second Reading – Resolution Authorizing the Selling Process for City-Owned Surplus Real Estate located at 118 Loren Street in the City of East Peoria.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Items numbered 1 through 8 listed on the Consent Agenda be hereby approved and adopted, the items numbered 2 through 8 having been read once by their title and having laid on the table for no less than one week for public inspection be adopted as presented.

Item Number 1 – Adoption of Resolution Number 2021-101 – Resolution to Approve Payment of the Schedule of Bills Listed on Schedule Number 18 in the amount of \$2,523,751.54. (Adopted by omnibus vote)

Item Number 2 – Adoption of Resolution Number 2021-090 on its Second Reading – Resolution Approving Renewal of Cyber Security Insurance Coverage. (Adopted by omnibus vote)

Item Number 3 – Adoption of Resolution Number 2021-091 on its Second Reading – Resolution approving the Festival Building Security and Camera System Upgrade Project by Christenberry Systems & Alarm Company Inc. in the amount of \$11,230. (Adopted by omnibus vote)

Item Number 4 – Adoption of Resolution Number 2021-092 on its Second Reading – Resolution authorizing the purchase of a 2020 Ford Transit 250 Vehicle with HVAC Fit Out for Facilities Management from Ufring Auto Group. (Adopted by omnibus vote)

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Item Number 7 – Adoption of Ordinance Number 4545 on its Second Reading – (AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN INSTALLMENT CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF NEW TASER EQUIPMENT FOR THE CITY’S POLICE DEPARTMENT.) (Adopted by omnibus vote)

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(Adopted by omnibus vote)

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and the items adopted by omnibus vote designation.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4544, hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE APPROVING GROUND LEASES WITH ADAMS OUTDOOR ADVERTISING FOR PLACEMENT OF OFF-PREMISES SIGNS FOR THE LEVEE DISTRICT AND THE BASS PRO COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS) 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 the ordinance concerns ground leases for Adams Outdoor Advertising for two locations. These are for a 20-year agreement with rental increases every five years.

Commissioner Sutherland and Hill commented on the aesthetics of the signs.

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

Nays: None

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 4544 be adopted as presented.

Resolution No. 2021-088 by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 2021-088 hereto attached, a Resolution to approve abating and eliminating various tax levies for Water and Sewer Bond Issues, Tax Increment Financing Bond Issues, and Development Bond Issues, be hereby approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 2021-088 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 abates the bond amounts from the tax levies. The City sold bonds, and in order to get financing for the bonds, the bonds must be backed by the tax levy. Once the City has enough alternative revenue streams, the City abates the bond amounts from the tax levies.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 2021-088 be duly adopted as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4547 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL USE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2910 MEADOW AVENUE IN THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS) be read at length by the Clerk, and that said Ordinance No. 4547 be accepted on its first reading, and be hereby adopted as presented.

The City Clerk read the ordinance at length.

Commissioner Hill explained that this is a property with a new construction. The special use is to allow for an oversized accessory structure with alternative exterior materials. This is a good fit for the area, and a paved driveway that is connected to the neighbor’s driveway is required. A driveway directly onto Meadow Avenue is not allowed because the Illinois Department of Transportation would not authorize an additional entrance onto Meadow Avenue.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 4547 to be duly adopted as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4549 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL USE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2354 WASHINGTON ROAD IN THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS) be read at length by the Clerk, and that said Ordinance No. 4549 be accepted on its first reading, and be hereby adopted as presented.

The City Clerk read the ordinance at length.

Commissioner Hill explained that this is a special use to allow for the siting of a used car dealership on the property, and the special use limits the number of cars on the property and requires making adjustments to the lights on the property.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 4549 to be duly adopted as presented.

Resolution No. 2021-098 by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 2021-098, hereto attached, a Resolution approving Administrative Code Enforcement Hearing Officer Agreement with J. Brian Heller, P.C., be approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 2021-098 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 City uses Mr. J. Brian Heller as its Administrative Code Enforcement Hearing Officer for code enforcement hearings. The agreement is a cost-effective way to compliment code enforcement. The fee is \$130 per hour effective January 1, 2021 and then \$135 per hour beginning January 1, 2022.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4550 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING THE CITY'S FLEXIBLE BENEFIT PLAN (SECTION 125 CAFETERIA PLAN) FOR THE 2020 AND 2021 PLAN YEARS) be read at length by the Clerk, and that said Ordinance No. 4550 be accepted on its first reading, and be hereby adopted as presented.

The City Clerk read the ordinance at length.

Commissioner Hill commented on the amendments explaining that the changes extend the reimbursement carryover date to a full year past the 2020 and 2021 plan years and allows changing elections during the plan year without the normal stricter limitations. These changes are allowed under the IRS rules due to the COVID19 Pandemic.

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: Commissioner Decker.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 4550 to be duly adopted as presented.

Resolution No. 2021-100 by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 2021-100, hereto attached, a Resolution approving the Eastport Marina Management Agreement between the City of East Peoria and Roberts & Sons Marine Management, LLC, be approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 2021-100 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 approves a Marina Management agreement with Roberts & Sons Marine Management, LLC who have managed the Marina since 2016. The Marina is a key to visitors and tourism.

Commissioner Decker commented on the great job that Ron Roberts does at the Marina.

Mayor Kahl explained that the amount is the same as the past year. He explained that due to the COVID19 Pandemic the Marina had a poor year. The agreement is for one year and Mr. Roberts will submit a plan for the Marina for the year in March for approval.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Resolution No. 2021-096 by Commissioner Sutherland, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 2021-096, hereto attached, a Resolution approving Change Order #6 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, be approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 2021-096 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 Sutherland explained that Change Order Number 6 in the amount of \$89,594 is being approved tonight. He commented on the reasons for the change order that include: installation of a removable opening in a wall to facilitate future repairs of the screening equipment, additional storm drainage work, connection of an unknown underground sewer pipe, and a needed pipe to be installed by the manufacturer. Commissioner Sutherland explained that the City is keeping a close eye on expenses.

Mayor Kahl thanked Water/Wastewater Supervisor Cord Crisler and Commissioner Sutherland for their work on the Project.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Resolution No. 2021-097 by Commissioner Mingus, seconded by Commissioner Sutherland; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 2021-097, hereto attached, a Resolution authorizing the purchase of a 2007 Ford F350 Diesel, MedTech conversion (Ambulance) from the Washington Fire Department in the amount of \$10,000, be approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 2021-097 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 Mingus explained that the resolution is authorizes the purchase of a used ambulance from the Washington Fire Department that will upgrade a current reserve ambulance.

Commissioner Hill commented on the budget reductions that were done due to the COVID19 Pandemic. He explained that there is a revenue stream in the Fire Department, there are Fire Department vehicles that were sold, and the revenue stream is more than budgeted. However, he feels that the income is not the Fire Department's to spend. He will support this resolution because of the sale of the old vehicle and the sale and purchase being the most cost-effective means to obtain a used ambulance.

Commissioner Decker explained that the Fire Department has Dan Johnson who extends the life of the vehicles, as well as the Public Works Department that has been doing work for the Fire and Police Department vehicles. He commended the departments for working together.

Commissioner Mingus discussed the 15% budget cuts and revenue that comes in every month. Billing rates changed in July and the money received has been significantly increased to \$180,000 plus over the anticipated revenues. Fire believes that they will be under the 15%. The billing rate changes ensured that citizens of East Peoria would not have an increase.

Mayor Kahl expressed appreciation for this purchase as a cost-effective way of replacing a reserve ambulance, the Fire Department in helping keep up equipment, and the Commissioners for working together. He believes that it is bottom line saving in each department meeting the 15% threshold.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Mingus, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4548 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THE POSSESSION OF THE EAST PEORIA FIRE DEPARTMENT) 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 Mingus explained that this authorizes the sale of a current reserve ambulance, which the Fire Department believes can be sold for a decent amount to offset the used ambulance purchase.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Resolution No. 2021-099 by Commissioner Mingus; RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE OF ONE 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, while also decreasing the number of Deputy Chiefs due to budget issues with the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, due to staffing changes made to the Fire Department command staff pursuant to Resolution No. 2021-070 adopted on December 1, 2020, the Fire Department has one unfilled firefighter position that has remained open due to lack of an available firefighter training academy; and

WHEREAS, with the availability of an upcoming firefighter training academy, the City now seeks to increase the number of Firefighters of the East Peoria Fire Department by one to 33 to fill the opening;

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

Section 2. The Fire Chief is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Police and Fire Commission of the 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 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. One Deputy Fire Chief
- C. Three Assistant Fire Chiefs
- D. Nine Lieutenants
- E. Thirty Firefighters
- F. One Paid on Call Firefighter

Motion by Commissioner Mingus, seconded by Commissioner Hill; Mr. Mayor, I move that Resolution No. 2021-099 be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Mingus explained that due to budget cuts the two deputy chief positions were decreased last year and one Deputy Fire Chief was brought back in December. There was not a new firefighter academy at the time, and it was planned to increase the firefighters at that time when a new firefighter academy was planned.

Mayor Kahl commented on the fluctuations of staffing on the Fire Department. The goal is to always minimize overtime and ensure that the City has manpower to cover positions by being proactive. The fire academy is planned for March 2021.

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: Commissioner Decker.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 2021-099 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.

Steven Tuttle came up to the podium and expressed concerns about litter in his neighborhood and the possibility of requiring certain licenses over which the City does not have authority. He inquired about what he could do regarding the litter in his neighborhood. Mayor Kahl explained that there is a Beautification Commission that helps with upkeep of the City properties and rights-of-way that he could volunteer to help. If he has concerns about how a private property owner is taking care of their property, he needs to speak with code enforcement.

Mayor Kahl asked for any additional comments from anyone in the audience. There was no response.

Mayor Kahl then asked for comments from Council.

Commissioner Decker urged the public to refrain from parking on the roadway if there is a snow event or snowstorm coming. The roadways are not as wide as they need to be for plow trucks on road, and it is difficult for the trucks to get around to clear off the roadway. The brush pickup from the ice/snow even in January is scheduled for February 15-19, 2021 on resident's normal garbage day. The rules for the brush pickup are the same as the normal brush pickup rules. He expressed his thoughts and prayers to the Police Officer and all families involved. He explained that the investigation into the early morning event at CVS is ongoing. Commissioner Decker expressed appreciation for the Police, Mayor, and City Council.

Commissioner Hill commended Commissioner Decker and Justin Hale for their work on the Veterans' Traveling Memorial Wall. He expressed thoughts and prayers to the East Peoria Police Officer and family and thoughts and prayers to FBI agents that lost their lives recently.

Commissioner Sutherland recommended that individuals look at their water usage to ensure that there is no more consumption, a leak, or water softener issues. He expressed appreciate to the Police Department for their service.

Commissioner Mingus explained that there is no scheduled car seat check event with the Fire Department in February; however, if someone needs a car seat checked, they can still do so by calling and scheduling an individual appointment. He expressed thoughts and prayers to the injured Police Officer and family and wished the Officer a speedy recovery.

Mayor Kahl explained that there is an ongoing investigation in the February 2, 2021 early morning incident outside of the CVS on Farmdale and East Washington Street. He explained that the City expressed appreciation and support for the Police Department and expressed prayers for the Police Officer and family on a speedy recovery. He explained that he hopes people understand what it takes to do the job as a police officer. The police place their life on the line for others.

Motion by Commissioner Sutherland, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; Mr. Mayor, I move you that we adjourn until Tuesday evening, February 16, 2021 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 7:17 P.M.

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