

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

SEPTEMBER 21, 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, September 17, 2021, at approximately 4:23 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, Public Hearing, and Special Meeting for a Working Session held on August 17, 2021 and the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 7, 2021 be approved as printed.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Mayor Kahl proclaimed September 19-25, 2021 as "Child Passenger Safety Week". He explained that car seat checks are the first Wednesday of the Month at the Fire Department, and he encouraged everyone to take advantage of those car seat checks.

Mayor Kahl proclaimed September 19-25, 2021 as "Support Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities Week". September 24 and 25 will be the days that the Knights of Columbus will be collecting money for tootsie rolls to Support Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities.

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.

Gayle Clayton of 119 Chesnut Drive, East Peoria came up to the podium to express her opposition to Ordinance Number 4598 about authorizing a Special Use for the 125 Chestnut Drive property as an event center. The property is located next door to her property, and there has not been a problem until someone is seeking to get an event license. She explained that she feels that having liquor and people drive up and down street with the capacity of 200 people will be an issue for the safety of the children on the street, as well as a deterioration to the street itself. There have been discussions about parking on the grass and lawn. She is concerned about children not being able to ride their bikes down the road because there are no sidewalks and no curbs. Ms. Clayton is happy with the street now, and she is concerned about the road deteriorating and there likely not being funds to fix the roadway. She is concerned that her property will decrease in value because of the alcohol service and the number of vehicles going down the street. The children and families are her main concern.

Mayor Kahl asked If there was a way to route the traffic from off of Cimmeron Drive instead of using Chestnut to access the 125 Chestnut Drive property and whether that would be agreeable to Ms. Clayton. Ms. Clayton is concerned because not everyone would use the Cimmeron Drive entrance and there is likely to be up to 200 people coming into the neighborhood for events.

Gary Clayton of 117 Chestnut Drive came up to the podium to discuss the Special Use proposed for 125 Chestnut Drive. He explained the history of the neighborhood that has always been residential with a church at the end of the street and having a congregation of 35. The church has been vacant for several years. The Overcashs were concerned about the property across from 119 Chestnut Drive being multifamily, and they then bought the property. He is concerned about the traffic that will be produced by an event center with a 200-person capacity with alcohol being served on a street that he states is not paved and is narrow. He does not feel that anyone would like to live next door to this property, and he feels that it will devalue his property.

Frank Clayton of 119 Chestnut Drive came up to the podium and expressed concerns about proposed Special Use at 125 Chestnut Drive regarding the children riding bikes and playing, and he doesn't want people coming up and down the street with alcohol.

Melissa Vestal of Chestnut Drive explained that she has lived on Chestnut for 11 years. Her children and the neighborhood kids all play together on Chestnut Drive that is a narrow and short road. She does not feel that the road is appropriate for that number of vehicles that would come down the road for events. She feels that the value of her home will be devalued. She explained that with a church there are predictable times for some traffic and is different than an event venue. The Overcashs never came to the neighbors to discuss using the property as an event venue. She explained that they cannot predict the people that will be renting the venue. Ms. Vestal is also concerned about parking during events.

Mayor Kahl inquired as to whether Ms. Vestal would change her view in opposition to the Special Use at 125 Chestnut Drive if there was access off Cimmaron Drive to the event venue. Ms. Vestal explained that she would move from 100% against to maybe 75% against. A different route would be a better alternative. Close off the end of the street and put a dead-end sign in there.

Ms. Sue Overcash, the owner of 125 Chestnut Drive and applicant for the special use for that property came up to the podium. She explained that she is concerned about protecting the neighborhood. She purchased the building in 2017 and the church was built in 2001. There were a lot of unknowns about the church when she purchased the property. At the beginning of the church, there was a substantial congregation that produced traffic. She is thinking that there will be traffic one night a week for events. During the week, there will be people who may view the venue by appointment only. The night before the event those renting the venue will be allowed to have a rehearsal. She feels that there is ample parking. The building capacity is 200 people. She does not anticipate every wedding to have 200 people, and she plans on partnering with hotels that will provide shuttle services. The number of cars will be reduced by the shuttle. There is a spill over option to use her own property. She commented on contemplating having access off Cimmaron Drive. Ms. Overcash commented on approaching neighbors for having spill over options in using the neighbors' paved parking. She commented on the speed limit and would hope that children would not be out late in the neighborhood. She explained that she will have a no tolerance policy on people being reckless. She does not feel that it would decrease people's property value.

Commissioner Mingus inquired about parking issues. There are 69 parking spots including handicapped parking spots. The 40 extra cars at events would need to have parking, and there are ideas to have adjoining property that can accommodate the extra forty or so cars.

Mayor Kahl asked for any other comments from the audience. 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 Mingus; 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 2122-059 – Resolution to Approve Payment of the Schedule of Bills Listed on Schedule Number 9 in the amount of \$3,004,825.80.

Item Number 2 - Approval of Resolution Number 2122-051 on its Second Reading - Resolution accepting the Low Bid for EastSide Centre Exterior LED Lighting Upgrade Project from Kirby Risk Electrical Supply Company in the amount of \$13,766.70.

Item Number 3 - Adoption of Ordinance Number 4589 on its Second Reading - (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SWIMMING POOL REGULATIONS OF THE EAST PEORIA CITY CODE.)

Item Number 4 - Adoption of Resolution Number 2122-052 on its Second Reading - Resolution approving Service Agreement for the City's Computer and Information Technology (IT) Network Appliance Maintenance at a total annual cost of \$11,304.

Item Number 5 - Adoption of Resolution Number 2122-053 on its Second Reading - Resolution Requesting Permission for Temporary Closure of State Maintained Roadways for a Public Event for the Festival of Lights Parade on November 20, 2021.

Item Number 6 - Adoption of Resolution Number 2122-054 on its Second Reading - Resolution Approving the Proposals from Concentric Integration and Heart Technology for the Water Treatment SCADA System Upgrade Project.

Item Number 7 - Adoption of Resolution Number 2122-055 on its Second Reading - Resolution Approving the Proposal from Fritch Heating and Cooling for the Water Treatment Plant HVAC Repair Project.

Item Number 8 - Adoption of Resolution Number 2122-056 on its Second Reading - Resolution Accepting First Change Order for Phase D of The City's Sanitary Sewer System Upgrade Project.

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 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 2122-059 – Resolution to Approve Payment of the Schedule of Bills Listed on Schedule Number 9 in the amount of \$3,004,825.80. (Adopted by omnibus vote)

Item Number 2 - Approval of Resolution Number 2122-051 on its Second Reading - Resolution accepting the Low Bid for EastSide Centre Exterior LED Lighting Upgrade Project from Kirby Risk Electrical Supply Company in the amount of \$13,766.70. (Adopted by omnibus vote)

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Item Number 8 - Adoption of Resolution Number 2122-056 on its Second Reading - Resolution Accepting First Change Order for Phase D of The City's Sanitary Sewer System Upgrade Project. (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. 4590, hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF EXCESS CITY PROPERTY AT 130 KERFOOT STREET) 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 ordinance is for the sale of excess city property that is unused. The city makes attempts to put the property back into use, and the city goes through the process of getting an appraised value. The purchasers have offered at least 80% of the appraised value.

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

Nays: None

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 4590 be adopted as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4592, hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,485,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS (WEST WASHINGTON STREET ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE), SERIES 2021A, \$2,485,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS (HOTEL/MOTEL TAX ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE), SERIES 2021B, AND \$2,765,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE), SERIES 2021C, OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING CERTAIN OUTSTANDING ALTERNATE REVENUE BONDS OF SAID CITY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A BOND ORDER IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, PLEDGING CERTAIN REVENUES OF SAID CITY PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES TO PAY THE SAME, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ESCROW AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID BONDS TO THE PURCHASERS THEREOF) 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 ordinance is for recalling bonds that the can be recalled (2012A, 2012B and 2013B) and reissuing them. It is similar to refinancing the bonds. The grossing estimated savings is estimated around \$613,000 with an estimated present value savings of \$585,000 or 8.9%.

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

Nays: None

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 4592 be adopted as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4593, hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$13,980,000 TAXABLE GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE), SERIES 2021D, OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, TAZEWELL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING CERTAIN OUTSTANDING ALTERNATE REVENUE BONDS OF SAID CITY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A BOND ORDER IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, PLEDGING CERTAIN REVENUES OF SAID CITY, PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES TO PAY THE SAME, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ESCROW AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID BONDS TO THE PURCHASER THEREOF) 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 like the last ordinance this is for refunding bonds as well. It is to refund the 2014 bond series and has an estimated gross savings of \$900,000 with an estimated present value savings of \$813,000 or 8.49%.

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

Nays: None

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 4593 be adopted as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4598 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ZONING REGULATIONS IN TITLE 5 OF THE EAST PEORIA CITY CODE FOR SPECIAL USES ALLOWED IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS) 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 involves a code change that will allow old church facilities the possibility of being used as a event facility. It is kept as a special use so that on a case-by-case basis it will go to the Zoning Board of Appeals ("ZBA") and then to the City Council for final vote. This was recommended by a 5-0 vote for approval by the ZBA.

Commissioner Decker, Mingus, Sutherland, and Mayor Kahl explained that they will be voting yes on this because they feel that the City Council should look at each property individually. Mayor Kahl feels that the Special Use should be tied to the owner.

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. 4600 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL USE FOR AN EVENT CENTER ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 125 CHESTNUT 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 commented on the special use and the property. He explained that he went up to the property and received complaints from a property owner. He commented on limitations for hours of operation, music being limited to inside the facility, not more than 200 people on the weekends, and not more than 40 people on weekdays. The special use will cease with the ownership of the property. Commissioner Hill discussed the history of the property being a church with a congregation of at least 100 people. He commented on building his house across from a church where there is a reception hall and the reception hall across from him does not have alcohol to his knowledge. He does not know that the traffic pattern is any different than the church however, it may be more traffic. He explained that the parking must be on a hard surface.

Commissioner Mingus commented on the location and spending time at night on the road. He understands the need and want to repurpose buildings. He does have concerns with the road and the flow of traffic being different from a church. Church traffic is generally families which is likely less cars and weddings likely have more cars and traffic. Church services are Sunday mornings and Wednesdays and do not go until midnight. People are in and out of the building at weddings. Commissioner Mingus's first concern is the entry and exit on the road. His second concern is with parking and issues with parking. They need to look at where will the overflow go, as he feels that you cannot put parking next to someone's home. His third concern is with the liquor license. There are churches in the middle of neighborhoods. You don't normally find bars in the middle of neighborhoods. On Saturday night, a wedding venue does become a bar. He will not support this ordinance or special use.

Commissioner Decker feels that this will be an issue with alcohol at the end of the street. He would like to see a compromise with an entrance. He is concerned with noise that would come from the venue. He will not support this ordinance with the neighborhood concerns.

Commissioner Sutherland explained that he does not like being put in this position. He explained that he lived by a church where Sam Kinison's mom was the pastor at the church. He explained that there were issues with the church not being meant for his neighborhood. He has a problem with the parking at the proposed special use location, has questions about lighting at night, and is concerned about traffic including truck traffic such as garbage trucks and other trucks coming down the road for events.

Commissioner Sutherland made a motion to table the item to a future meeting; seconded by Commissioner Decker. Mr. Mayor, I move that the ordinance be tabled to a future meeting.

Mayor Kahl explained that this is one of the most difficult decisions he has made. He explained that he went down the road and talked to two residents. The church building has set there for over 10 years vacated. His big hang up is the entrance.

City Attorney Scott Brunton explained that the City Council can make changes to the recommendations as they see fit and broker the compromise without the item going back to the ZBA. However, the City Council could choose to have it go back to the ZBA. It is under the direction of the City Council.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and the item tabled to a future meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4594 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE NUMBER OF CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS AUTHORIZED FOR RECREATIONAL CANNABIS DISPENSARIES AND RECREATIONAL CANNABIS TRANSPORTING ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA ZONING CODE) be read at length by the Clerk, and that said Ordinance No. 4594 be accepted on its first reading, and be hereby adopted as presented.

Commissioner Hill explained that the City is limiting the number of adult-use recreational cannabis dispensaries and recreational cannabis transporting organizations in the City Code.

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

Nays: Commissioner Sutherland.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 4594 to be duly adopted as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4597 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONDITIONAL USE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 300 S. MAIN 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 the ordinance is to authorize a conditional use for property at 300 S. main Street to allow a recreational cannabis transporter operation on the property.

Commissioner Sutherland explained that he respects the owner of the business but that he will be voting no.

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

Nays: Commissioner Sutherland.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Hill, seconded by Commissioner Mingus; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4599 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL USE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2305 EAST 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 for a special use for short term rental on the property. It was a longer-term rental that is being changed to a short-term rental. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommended 5-0 to approve the special use. Commissioner Hill explained that in the City Code short-term rentals must pay hotel/motel tax.

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. 4595 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF EXCESS CITY PROPERTY AT 232 EVERETT STREET) 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 regarding another property being sold. There was a previous purchase agreement on this property that did not close. This is a new purchase agreement.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Resolution No. 2122-060 by Commissioner Decker, seconded by Commissioner Hill; BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS that Resolution No. 2122-060, hereto attached, a Resolution to Approve Contract for Engineering Services with Midwest Engineering Associates for Resurfacing Improvements for Segments of West Washington Street and West Camp Street Providing Access to Levee District, be approved. Mr. Mayor, I move you that this Resolution No. 2122-060 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 Decker commented on the contract for Engineering Services. The city received grant money, and there are a list of roads to spend money on. This is going to encompass two different road sections, one between Holiday street and the flyover, and the other on West Camp Street.

Senator Koehler secured grant money for infrastructure projects. The city has a divided section of Senators. This work ensures the improvements are within Senator Koehler's district and that projects benefit the community as a whole and do not have other funding sources. The estimated costs are \$372,000 with the \$72,000 shortfall being covered under Camp Street TIF funds.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Sutherland, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4596 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SPECIAL SERVICE AREA 2021A IN THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA AND APPROVING SPECIAL SERVICE AREA 2021A PROJECT FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE VALLEY VIEW SUBDIVISION AREA IN THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, THE FUNDING OF THE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE VALLEY VIEW SUBDIVISION AREA, AND THE LEVYING OF PROPERTY TAX AGAINST THOSE PROPERTIES BENEFITTED BY THE WATER SYSTEM 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.

A woman from the audience that lives in Valley View Knolls Subdivision came up to the podium and explained that the name in the ordinance should add the word "Knolls" after the Valley View because the name of the subdivision is Valley View Knolls Subdivision. Commissioner Sutherland explained that Avondale and East Oakwood were on private well that was at the end of its life. He asked Attorney Brunton to explain the Special Service Area ("SSA") process. City Attorney Brunton explained that this is the process to establish the Valley View Knolls Subdivision SSA and the transitions process requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("IEPA") approval. This allows the project to move forward with funding etc. City officials met with the Water Company and residents, and this resulted in a water improvement project. He explained the SSA creation process, including notice, public hearing, and now an approval. The ordinance (1) Approves the project, (2) authorizes a property tax to pay for the water improvement project, (3) Authorizes the city to use the funds to pay for the project, and (4) allows the city to incur debt to pay for the project. The property taxes will pay for the project with the residents paying for the project completely.

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried.

Resolution No. 2122-058 by Commissioner Mingus explained that the resolution was inaccurately listed as 2021-058 and should be 2122-058; WHEREAS, a vacancy exists on the East Peoria Board of Fire and Police Commissioners as a result of longtime member John Redlingshafer's resignation; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Mayor John P. Kahl has recommended the appointment of Mike Johnson to fill the vacancy on the East Peoria Board of Fire and Police Commissioners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS, THAT the appointment by Mayor John P. Kahl of Mike Johnson to the East Peoria Fire and Police Commissioners to fill the vacancy for a term ending April 30, 2022.

AND THAT THIS RESOLUTION NO. 2122-058 BE ADOPTED AS PRESENTED.

Motion by Commissioner Mingus, seconded by Commissioner Hill; Mr. Mayor, I move that Resolution No. 2122-058 be adopted as presented.

Commissioner Mingus thanked Mr. Redlingshafer for his service and thanked Mr. Johnson for his willingness to serve and believes that he will do a good job on the Commission.

Commissioner Decker explained that he will be abstaining due to his position in the city.

Mayor Kahl explained that Redlingshafer has done a great job over the past 10 years and gave at least a year's notice that he would be leaving the Commission. Mike Johnson just stepped down as the Director of the Park District and is serving as the police chief of the Park District. Mr. Johnson has served a long time in the community and volunteered a lot on his own time. The other members are excited to see Mr. Johnson come on board.

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

Nays: None.

Abstain: Commissioner Decker.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and Resolution No. 2122-058 be duly adopted as presented.

Motion by Commissioner Mingus, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that Ordinance No. 4601 hereto attached, (AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 11 OF THE EAST PEORIA CITY CODE REGARDING IMPOUNDMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR ENGAGING IN UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES) 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.

City Attorney Brunton explained that the city already has an ordinance in place for impounding and now this adds the offense of fleeing and eluding that would allow for impounding the vehicle for this offense. Declares this offense of fleeing and eluding as a public nuisance and then adds this as an offense for impounding the vehicle that is involved in this offense.

Commissioner Decker commented on the Police doing a good job, and the state is making it more difficult to become an officer and stay on as a police officer. It is difficult to fill positions even though it is a good job and a well-respected job.

Commissioner Hill explained that if this is another tool to make the job more effective then it would be a great thing to do.

Yeas: Commissioners 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 not on the agenda to come to the podium state the matter or matters to be discussed.

Deputy Police Chief Horn commented on the ordinance giving the Police the ability not to endanger the community and can conduct the investigation. There is a duty to keep the community safe. Tomorrow is the last day for applications on taking experienced (secondary list) for police officers. The lateral program has been in effect for years, and this gives an opportunity for people to further their career. The City is trying to get the best for the City and is not trying to steal people. You can get the application from the City of East Peoria website in the employment section.

Casey Farris of 320 Maria Street came up to the podium. He explained that he has started petition to allow citizens in the city limits, or at least, in certain zones to own chickens. He explained that he has been talking to others on the Citizens of East Peoria Facebook page. He has been asking about stigmas against owning chickens. There are many more that are in favor of having chickens. He explained that he has over 200 signatures in favor of a change in the ordinance. He explained that there are some against. The reason that he wants chickens is that they make great companion animals and pets outdoors. He does not want to upset a majority of the population. He is trying to appease everyone and trying to reach a mediation. He feels that if everyone works together that we can reach a mediation. Mr. Farris knows that there are common misconceptions regarding chickens, and this is why he wants to bring it up and let the voices be heard and mediate those.

Mayor Kahl explained that he appreciates how he handles people when people have been negative toward others. He looks forward to future discussion. The opposition against chickens at the time that a change in the ordinance was brought up was overwhelming and that is why the previous council did not support allowing chickens. He asked Mr. Farris to contact Commissioner Hill and Ty Livingston, Director of Planning and Community Development. There was a discussion about slaughtering of chickens not being allowed.

Commissioner Hill commented on being an ordinance allowing backyard chickens being recommended by approval by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

Mayor Kahl then asked for comments from Council.

Commissioner Decker commented on the previous time that allowing backyard chickens was discussed and the process. He thanked Mr. Farris for how he has gone about this. Clean-up Week is October 4-8, 2021 on your normal garbage pickup day. This is your opportunity to get rid of your larger items. Certain approved items on a 4 x 8 sheet and at most four feet high.

Commissioner Hill explained that the last week of the Farmer's Market is this Friday from 4 pm to 7pm. He thanked Ty Livingston, Jessica Krutke, and Seth Harden for their help with the Farmer's Market. The Farmer's Market Coordinator role is open next year for anyone who is interested.

Commissioner Sutherland explained that the Water and Sewer bill video is almost complete. There is work is completed on the water tower off of Pekin Avenue. The Faulkner Road water main replacement is halfway done. After the Faulkner Road project, he would like to then begin on the Highview Road project.

Mayor Kahl commended Commissioner Hill and Seth Hardin on his work on the Farmer's Market. He also thanked Mary Bensen who was at the Farmer's Market every week. He explained that he disagrees with the overreach of the State and Federal Government. Throughout IL there has been a teacher, nurse, and police shortage pre-covid. Now, he feels that these laws are detrimental to these professions. East Peoria is not alone. There is legislation that has chased qualified people from jobs. For anyone that applies to be a recruit, you have a few options of training academies and to be trained you must be fully vaccinated. He would like these to be reviewed. He feels that we have to ensure that rights of all employees are covered. He commented on his oath to support the Constitution of the State of Illinois and the Constitution of the United States. He explained that no one is discounting the virus. What is at the heart of this is where do you draw the line? He has a difficult time seeing people's rights going by the wayside. Teacher shortages were pre-covid and there are a number of people that were told that to have their job they would need to be vaccinated. He explained that the state has the biggest rights given to people and how are we now taking those rights away? At the end of the day, put yourself in someone else's shoes. He looks at the detrimental impact in moving forward and the overreach. He will stand up for people's rights each and every day. There are a lot of factors including mental health. When you do not have staff to man the beds at the hospital, it will continue to get worse, and he feels that where we are headed is not a good spot.

Motion by Commissioner Sutherland, seconded by Commissioner Decker; Mr. Mayor, I move you that we adjourn until Tuesday evening, October 5, 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 8:11 P.M.

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