

MINUTES
WORKING SESSION
CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE CIVIC COMPLEX
401 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
EAST PEORIA, ILLINOIS

October 19, 2021

The Honorable John P. Kahl Mayor of the City of East Peoria called the Working Session of the City Council of the City of East Peoria, Illinois to order at 5:30 P.M. with the meeting having been properly noticed. The City Clerk certifies that notice of the meeting was duly served upon Council Members via email on Friday, October 15, 2021, at approximately 4:53 p.m.

Upon the roll being called the following answered present: Mayor John P. Kahl, Commissioners, Daniel S. Decker, Mark E. Hill, and Seth D. Mingus.
Absent: Michael L. Sutherland.

Mayor Kahl explained that the City Council is meeting for a Working Session and that no formal business will be conducted by the City Council at the meeting. He explained that the purpose of the meeting is to have a Working Session regarding the American Rescue Plan Act including funding and potential expenditures. He explained that City is expected to receive \$3,064,998.15. He explained that City Treasurer/Finance Director, Jeff Becker, is present to explain those funds and to go through and try to identify recommendations from Council. The City will then need to come to a consensus on possible expenditures for those funds.

Jeff explained that there is a one page summary. The first payment was received on September 3, 2021 in the amount of \$1,500,000. The second will be received in September of 2022. The funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024. The eligible uses for the funds are (1) Support public health expenditures, by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts; (2) Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency; (3) Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic; (4) Provide premium pay for essential workers; and, (5) Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. Director Becker explained ineligible uses.

A few suggestions for expenditures were discussed including (1) a new ERP System for the City of East Peoria; (2) Major road Projects (not included in the annual maintenance program; and (3) repair Festival Parking Lot. The estimated costs for the new ERP system implementation is estimated at \$650,000. The RBI funds for the roads still has \$500,000 to be used in conjunction with the projects. Also, it is estimated that there will be \$1,000,000 funds from the Motor Fuel Tax funds available next year. The Festival Parking Lot needs to be fixed to improve it with the deterioration and wear and tear and there is a new water building that needs to be built there as well.

Mayor Kahl explained that RBI – Rebuild Illinois Funds are what the city is receiving. The festival building parking lot is estimated to cost around \$250,000 that includes the additional for the Public Works Building. The other thing that was brought forward but is not included in the previous three is allocating some funds in capital improvement funds is the Riverfront Park that is need of more funding than was included in the capital fund. Railing and concrete work is needed that is estimated at \$100,000 to \$150,000. He commented on the New ERP Software for the City, and the reason that it has not been brought forward is because the costs have been above \$1,000,000, and it kept getting put off. The overall price tag is estimated at \$1,600,000 and only the \$650,000 would be used from the ARPA funds. The current software is from 1991. He commented on paying so much on year one

and paying it off over a period of 5 years. There were questions about whether the software would encompass scheduling, financial software, and address inefficiency systems. Mayor and Commissioners commented on the need for new software. Director Becker thought that it might work based upon a vendor that presented information on their software previously. Commissioner Hill explained that he feels that it is important to have a detailed requirements definition before the City selects a software. Mayor Kahl, Commissioners Decker, Hill, and Mingus expressed support for the new software of \$650,000.

Mayor Kahl explained that he feels funds are to take care of things that have been put off and go toward the community, because the City has a capital plan separate from this funding. Lead pipe service replacement is going to be needed in the future and there are certain benchmarks that each community must meet. In the second installment of funds, maybe the lead pipe replacement could be discussed as it will be extremely costly, and, as it stands now, it does not look like there has been a lot of grant funding allocated towards this.

Director Becker explained that the new software would offer a transparency component that people can use and as well as employees for benefits and payroll information.

Mayor Kahl opened up the discussion for the City Council.

Mayor Kahl commented on road projects and inquired as to whether the City tries to capture collector roads that are not improved due to the costs of those programs. Commissioner Decker explained that roads are important, as is money toward drainage projects that can help the roads. He is an advocate for roads. If we are looking at other places, drainage issues is important to Commissioner Decker.

Commissioner Hill expressed his support of a brand-new ERP system. He explained that he feels that ARPA funds should be spent on items that were not being planned. He feels that a large portion should go toward residential areas or impact residential areas. He does fully support the system replacement. He would like detailed requirements before we get the right system that supports the City's needs. If he was going to take a large portion of the money, it would be going toward roads in the residential areas. He does fully support the ERP system replacement if the City does detailed requirements before the City reviews vendors.

There was a discussion about the annual costs of the potential software. Commissioner Hill explained that the \$650,000 migration conversion costs seem like an accurate figure.

Commissioner Mingus explained that he would be in favor of using the bulk of the balance of the funding on roads after the \$650,000 for the software. The City should be spending around \$3,500,000 million a year, if not more. He feels that it should be community roads and that is a need.

Mayor Kahl explained that he will send out information on the software upgrade and information on the roads.

Mayor Kahl asked for any comments from the audience.

Don Norbits came up to the podium and commented on the software upgrade. He feels that the City should invest money in upgrading the systems. He is hopeful that they will move forward with that..

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

Page 3

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

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

Nays: None.

Mayor Kahl declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:57 P.M.

/s/ Morgan R. Cadwalader

Morgan R. Cadwalader, City Clerk