



# City of Peru



David R. Bartley  
City Clerk

P.O. Box 299 • 1901 Fourth Street • Peru, IL 61354-0299  
815-223-0061 • fax: 815-223-9489      www.peru.il.us      dbartley@peru.il.us

## COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019

ROLL CALL

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

*COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2019*

**CLOSED SESSION ONLY**

*MEETINGS WHERE THE SETTING OF THE PRICE FOR SALE OR LEASE OF PROPERTY OWNED  
BY THE PUBLIC BODY IS BEING CONSIDERED*

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

## COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING APRIL 15, 2019

A Committee Of A Whole meeting was called to order by City Clerk Dave Bartley in the Peru City Council Chambers on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 6:45 p.m.

City Clerk Dave Bartley called the roll with Aldermen Ferrari, Waldorf, Lukosus, Sapienza, Payton and Ballard present; Aldermen Potthoff and Radtke absent; Mayor Harl present.

### MINUTES

Clerk Bartley presented the Committee Of A Whole Minutes of March 4, 2019. Alderman Potthoff made a motion that the minutes be received and placed on file. Alderman Waldorf seconded the motion; motion carried.

### PRESENTATION

Mayor Harl presented his State of the Cities address:

#### Police Department

I'll start by share a number: 60.9

Over the last 13 years, the City of Peru has had a 60.9% decrease in crime. That's a staggering number. This multi-year downward trend and current historic low in Universal Crime Reports by the FBI, is a direct reflection of the hard work and commitment of the officers, detectives and civilian support staff of our police department. Peru Police Department works hand-in-hand with members of our community-the residents, the business and the elected officials, with one goal in mind, to keep our city safe.

Peru Police handled over 30,000 total calls for service or officer-initiated activities. Detectives were assigned 108 cases. The Special Investigation & Enforcement Unit handled 46 cases. Our new Community Service Office completed more than 2,900 operational activities. Peru Police Department had a total of 374 community presentations and meetings in 2018.

I will quote Chief Bernabei, "Per capita and per officer, we are the busiest police department in North Central Illinois".

To the Peru Police Department, thank you for a job well done.

#### Fire Department

Continuing with our emergency responders, our fire department responded to 414 calls last year. 2018 is the busiest year on record. The department is fully staffed with 5 full-time and 19 paid on-call firefighters.

I don't know what it is about New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Remember West Clox in December 2011. Many will remember the fire that took place on New Year's Eve/New Year's Day of 2018 at the Witzak Brothers Auto Repair building. We'd like to recognize and thank our fellow communities fire and police departments for the mutual aid to this call. La Salle, Mendota, Spring Valley, Utica, Wenona, Earlville, Granville, Cherry, Cedar Point, Standard, Tonica, Oglesby, Troy Grove and Ladd, thank you.

It is estimated that the fire consumed 500,000 gallons of water to extinguish the blaze and protect the surrounding buildings. While the building was regrettably lost, we were very fortunate that there were no injuries and the fire did not spread. This is a credit to all who helped.

At this time, I will recognize three Peru firefighters who received the Firefighter Excellence Award at the 25th annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial and Firefighter Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony that took place on May 8th in Springfield, Illinois. This award is given for an act of service in the line of duty, demonstrating excellence and professionalism in service to the citizens in the state of Illinois.

Lt. Neil Nadolski, firefighter Ben Bentley and firefighter Alex Duncan, received this award for their efforts in September 2017, rescuing a woman during a fire in La Salle. Congratulations to Neil, Ben and Alex. A big thank you to all the firefighters who safeguard our cities.

## COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING APRIL 15, 2019

### Human Resources (TOPIC HEALTH & WELLNESS)

Human Resources developed a Health and Wellness committee that includes employee representation from each department. The original goal of the Health & Wellness Committee was to promote the City's health and wellness initiative, as

well as, provide input and increase communication regarding employee benefit plans. It was quickly determined that employee engagement is an essential part of health and wellness, which is why the City is committed to increased Health and Wellness Committee sponsored events to increase employee engagement and morale.

Since its commencement, the Health and Wellness Committee has initiated multiple events created to increase healthy eating and fitness awareness. Multiple weight loss challenges have been conducted over the last year with a total of 793.3 pounds lost among 82 participants. The Health & Wellness Committee is now organizing a 6-week Fitness Challenge with the employees. These challenges have not only resulted in a significant weight loss but have promoted employee interaction across departments.

Researching and evaluating alternative health insurance plans that will result in a cost savings to the City and employees is currently being investigated by human resources, Peru City Council and the Health and Wellness Committee. We have recently implemented a vision insurance plan for employees.

The Health & Wellness Committee organized the first annual Employee Family Picnic summer 2018 which was well received by the employees and all who attended had a wonderful time. Another Employee Family picnic will be held in the fall this year. The committee is also looking into incorporating a 5K fun run the morning of the picnic.

The Health & Wellness Committee is currently organizing a golf outing for June 8th, 2019 at Senica's Deer Park. All proceeds will benefit Special Olympics. Public participation is encouraged, and we look forward to seeing you there. For anyone interested, golf outing forms are available tonight.

### Electric Department

Replacement of 12 High Line Poles with 3 different circuits. A straight-line wind took all poles and wire to the ground in a filed in north Peru

Ongoing maintenance at hydro-electric plant

Installed new LED lighting at Washington Park for the Big-League Baseball Diamond

Changed out 50 broken utility poles

Maintenance on all tap changers on transformers inside Peru's Sub-Stations

Upgraded Lights to Led in Peru Parking lots behind Debo's and west of John's Place.

### Installed New and Three Phase Service to:

1. Good Will
2. Casey's General Store
3. Clean Getaway Express Wash – Mahoney Dr.
4. Chipotle
5. CIT Trucking
6. Aldi
7. Central Bank 1721 Midtown Rd.
8. Outside lighting to the Splash Pad
9. La Salle Peru Township Highschool
  - Noted negotiations with Ameren and the city taking over everything west of Creve Coeur Street
10. Concession stand at McKinley Park
11. Built line to New Northern White Sands, Three Phase overhead and underground
12. Rewired and installed new aerators at Bakers Lake. This was not a small job. We trenched and directional bored new wire to all fountain sites

## COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING APRIL 15, 2019

### Public Works

The Public Works Department had a very busy year with the repair of 70 water breaks, chipped more than 270 piles of branches, serviced and maintained more than 60 miles of road with pothole repairs, leaf pickup, street sweeping and snow plowing. They have also performed routine repair and maintenance of the city sewers, catch basins, man holes and lift stations, noting the Arby's lift station and the proposed sewer project. Performed upkeep on the city buildings, grounds and parks. Prepared city baseball and softball field diamonds. Recently unveiled the remodeled mausoleum and opened the facility to last rites. This gives grieving families a controlled environment to protect themselves from the heat, wind, cold rain and snow. Performed semi-annual flushing of the city's 500+ fire hydrants.

Thank you to Public Services, Electric & Public works for all they do.

### Engineering/Zoning – Carls

2018 the Engineering Department and Building & Zoning Department completed their merger into the new Engineering & Zoning Department.

One of the first action items of the department was update the City's family of building codes to the 2018 code editions. The City's building codes had been 5 editions behind. The new codes were effective April 15th, 2019.

2018, 266 building permits were issued – a 13% increase from permits issued in 2017. The 266 permits issued represents \$17,867,673 in construction dollars, an approximate 5% increase from 2017.

2018, the Engineering Department continued with multi-million-dollar capital improvement programs across the City of Peru. Some of the projects completed in the 2018 construction season included the St. John's Addition Phase 1 Storm Sewer Improvements, Area 3 Phase 3 Sewer Separation, Sewer Separation was ninth year of a fifteen plus year unfunded mandate, Central Place Roadway Stabilization and water street demo were 2 projects not budgeted for that 400,000 attracted our attention, at least it did when we went to finance, 2018 General Fund Street Program, 2018 MFT Program, Main Street Water Main Improvements and the Airport Taxiway Extension.

The much-anticipated Splash Pad project was near completion in 2018 and open to the public for the summer months. The 2019 Splash Pad season will include use of the now completed basketball courts, pickle ball court, roller hockey rink and shelters. Thank you to Carpenters formally Local 195, now Local 174, for volunteering their time to erect the splash pad shelters.

Downtown TIF is now in effect.

Reported on the Ameren gas pipeline project.

7<sup>th</sup> Street Water Main Replacement project noting denial of DCEO grant due to water rates being lower than required level for grant funding. Project is starting on Chicago Street working west to Pulaski Street.

### Finance Update

#### Investment in Infrastructure

	FY16	FY17	FY148
Government Funds	2,075,263	1,793,453	5,291,050
Utility Fund	4,689,746	4,743,553	4,450,772
Total Capital Asset Investment	6,765,009	6,537,006	9,741,822
3 Year Total	23,043,837		

- Fiscal year 2019 investments will likely end the year near \$7,000,000
- Fiscal year 2020 is likely to be budgeted near \$8,000,000 in total infrastructure upgrades

## COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING APRIL 15, 2019

### Credit Rating

- Moody's Investor Service upgraded the City of Peru's credit rating from A1 to AA3 in May of 2018
- Moody's reaffirmed the rating in February 2019
- The City's credit rating
- Complimented former Treasurer Gary Hylla's efforts
- Complimented Finance Officer Justin Miller

### Sales Tax Notes

- The City recently set 620 million in sales during a 12-month tax record (December 2018 and November 2019). This will set a fiscal year record for the year ending in April 30th, 2019
- The City also set a home-rule sales tax record for the same period. Likely will also set a home-rule record for the fiscal year ending April 30th, 2019
- Noted how unique the city is as per the perspective and option of economic development projects

### Debt Update

- The City reduced debt by 17% over the last 12 months
- The City is in the final year of 3 debt obligations that will save over \$990,000 annually
- Over the last 10 years, the City has reduced det by 47%

### Pension Update

- The City's police and fire pension assets grew over \$1,850,000 over the year which equates to 18% increase
- The City contributed over 15% more than the department of insurance's required annual contribution
- The police pension is nearing \$10,000,000 in assets which will allow the board to invest funds into a more diverse portfolio and likely help the fund's investment return percentages

### Fun Facts

The City of Peru ranks 74th in the state for overall sales tax!

For communities less than 15,000, we are 6<sup>th</sup> in the state!.

**State of Illinois Sales Tax by Municipality (FY18) - Under 15,000**

Local Government	FY Total	Population	County
OAK BROOK	12,426,819.53	8,077	DuPage
ROSEMONT	7,064,989.13	4,151	Cook
EFFINGHAM	6,821,944.00	12,589	Effingham
COUNTRYSIDE	6,778,577.57	5,964	Cook
MORRIS	6,268,432.13	14,651	Grundy
PERU	5,998,563.04	9,834	LaSalle

### Tribute of Service

Commended the service of Bill Vlastnik to the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners (August 16, 1965), also commended Roelif Loveland and Greg Vaccaro for their many years of service to the board as well.

Commended the service of Doug Biederstedt on his years of service to the Plan Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals dating back to 1970.

Commended Alderman Dave Potthoff for his 28 years of service.

### TBM Avengers Event

This years event will be a two-day event with a night-time aerobatic performance along with a band, beer garden and food vendors. All of this ahead of the Saturday event with 200 veteran participants including Famous Warbirds from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam will feature flight demonstrations, formation flying and simulated torpedo run. With good weather, the city could see 10-15 thousand people in attendance.

## COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING APRIL 15, 2019

Now let's talk about recent additions to the city of Peru's business community. They include:

- Spring Valley City Bank
- A new car wash under construction south of Menards
- T-Mobile
- Jersey Mikes
- Northern White Sand
- Central Bank
- Planet Fitness
- Star Union Spirits
- Chipotle
- We can't forget about the \$1.8 Million dollars Aldi invested in remodeling their grocery store

There are many more; however, these 10 come to mind.

Just to put a fine point on what I've just mentioned, since 2010 up to and including today, we have issued 1,975 building permits totaling over \$171 million dollars of new construction in our fine city.

Plus, we have over \$50 million dollars' worth of projects in the pipeline for the next 12 months. That's a million dollars a week coming on line.

This does not happen without the dedicated men and women employed by the City of Peru. The people you see here tonight... Representing the city of Peru are...

1. Of Peru..
2. By Peru...
3. And for Peru (Pause)
  - a. I want to thank them for their service!

Mayor Harl reiterated the State of the Cities finances in 2009

- Our conservative approach
- Built on reserves
- Needs and wants

Mayor Harl present the following Needs vs/ Wants:

### Police Station

- Need

### Full-Time Recreation/Community Relations Director

- Need and Want

### Band Shelter at Centennial Park

- Want

### Swimming Pool

- Mayor Harl announced the Finance and Safety Services meeting of May 8<sup>th</sup> will be at 6:00 p.m. to hold a town forum to discuss a proposed swimming pool. Mayor Harl stated a pool may be a want and would like to start researching how we could have one. Mayor Harl noted the March 2014 ballot proved the residents were not in favor of increasing taxes to support a pool.

### Road Projects

- Mayor Harl presented a road projects map showing all the roads completed in the past 5 years plus future road projects this year.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident John MacLeod asked for a timeline for 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Mayor Harl noted late 2019 or 2020.

Mayor Harl stated he would like to see some brick roads rehabbed.

## CLOSED SESSION

**COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING APRIL 15, 2019**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Waldorf made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Alderman Ferrari seconded the motion and motion carried. Meeting adjourned 6:54 p.m.