



City of Peru



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FINANCE & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: July 6, 2020 TIME: 6:02 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: Council Chambers, Peru Municipal Building
1901 4th Street, Peru, IL 61354

THE FINANCE & SAFETY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Aldermen Radtke, Sapienza and Payton present; Alderman Buffo absent. Mayor Harl present.

OTHER PERSONS PRESENT: Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia, Treasurer Powell, Aldermen Ferrari, Waldorf, Lukosus, Alderman Ballard, ASM Doug Bernabei, City Engineer Eric Carls and Finance Officer Justin Miller, Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert, Tom Collins of The News Tribune

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Alderman Radtke made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2020 Finance & Safety Services meeting. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion; motion carried.

The Committee reviewed and approved the disbursements for payment on July 8, 2020.

PRESENTATION

OLD BUSINESS

Finance Officer Justin Miller presented the following update:

Finance Report- 07/06/2020

Investment Strategy

- Update
 - Staying liquid waiting for CD's to improve

Bond Financing Update

- Bond Rating
 - Sold bonds at 2.28%
 - Put additional funds in money market account

FY2020 Audit

- Update
 - Currently working on the police and fire pensions and progressing well

Finance Officer Justin Miller reported on the ordinance on the regular agenda compensating temporary, part-time employees of the Parks, Recreation and Special Events Department. Finance Officer Justin Miller stated the need for the ordinance is because the recreation fund became part of

the general fund. Finance Officer Justin Miller stated the ordinance will clean up the up the language and not have to amend the wage ordinance each year.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Chief Doug Bernabei initiated a discussion regarding fireworks in the City of Peru. Below is the prepared statement:

Not here tonight to debate the pros and cons of Illinois fireworks law but rather to just give some background on the law and how it affects us locally.

Really in the simplest of terms there are three classes of fireworks.

One is called fireworks which is the ones used for pyrotechnic displays often times set off by municipalities, these class requires ATF license and are not sold at local stands.

Second is called consumer fireworks, they are typically the type that go up or go boom, this class is permitted to be sold by the vendors but they can only sell to someone who has a local permit from their place of residence, I will come back to this in a minute.

The third class is called novelties that includes things like smoke bomb sparklers etc. these are permitted in Illinois without a permit.

I know of no local government that is issuing permits for that middle class called consumer grade fireworks, they are ones that can be sold legally and purchased legally, but only if you have a valid permit to use these, these are the ones that cause injuries and fires and all the complaints.

Stands that sell consumer fireworks and novelties have to be licensed by the state fire Marshal and the city fire department and they are or should be aware of the requirements both for federal transportation as well as selling consumer grade fireworks. I think that if you are in the business of selling from these stands you would know the law. This would be similar to a tavern owner who gets their state and local license, they know the law that you can sell to kids so these vendors should know you don't sell consumer fireworks to someone who does not have valid permit.

Again, these consumer fireworks we are talking about are the ones that go up or boom and can be legally sold but only to someone with permit. It is state criminal charge to sell or to possess consumer fireworks without a permit.

This year more than past complaints went up earlier than normal and requests for enforcement.

I set zero tolerance 17 city ordinance violations to date. The violators are required to appear at a city administrative adjudication hearing and are subjected to a fine.

I did meet with the local vendors and reeducated them on state law and my position that we would not have a blind eye to the selling of consumer fireworks to folks that did not have permits. Of the two companies one was very receptive and only left novelties on their displays. The other vendor was not so receptive and elected to move his business out of Peru, frankly that speaks volumes to me.

I can tell you overwhelmingly I have received very positive feedback not just from Peru residents about our approach but from all across the Illinois Valley area. Make no mistake this is not about

taking a position on enforcement because we have nothing better to do. It is about the quality of life for our residents, it is about respect for our residents and their animals and it is keeping people safe from injuries and property from fire threats.

So not asking for any action tonight but rather just wanted to insure everyone had an understanding of the situation and some things you may wish to consider down the road is:

Do we even want these stands in Peru? Do we like the look? Do we want to take on the responsibility to police them?

If so, what is the proper fee? Currently we charge vendors \$25.00 for a month.

If so, do we limit it to novelties only as we know we nor no other community that we know issues permit for the consumer grade fireworks?

Economic Development Director Bob Vickery reported he and Mayor Harl had a meeting with representatives from GK Development (Peru Mall). Economic Development Director Bob Vickery stated GK Development has proposed redevelopment of the mall to include a mix of housing, shopping and dining with the first \$27 million will be put to work next year. Economic Development Director Bob Vickery stated the mall will no longer be called Peru Mall, it will just be The Mall. Economic Development Director Bob Vickery stated GK Development plans to invest \$70 million over a three-year span beginning with converting some space into what high-end apartments. Economic Development Director Bob Vickery stated these are one- and two-bedroom units with many amenities and targeting part-time residents who spend their winters in sunny destinations such as Florida. Alderman Sapienza asked about what rents GK Development might command given the size of its investment and what kind of market there is for high-end apartments. Economic Development Director Bob Vickery advised the committee that GK Development had commissioned a study demonstrating such a market. Economic Development Director Bob Vickery specifically noted GK Development was steering clear of three-bedroom units and that a projection showed just 11 new students to be enrolled in local school districts. Economic Development Director Bob Vickery stated the residential component comprises \$27 million of GK's investment and begins next year, followed by redevelopment of the theater and select retail. Thereafter, GK will conduct an expanded redevelopment of the mall over two years – entertainment, dining and some retail – along with a complete remodeling of the exterior, which will include landscaping, new signage and lighting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Radtke made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Payton seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.