

CITY OF PERU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 7, 2021

A regular meeting of the Peru City Council was called to order by Mayor Ken Kolowski in the Peru City Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 6, 21, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Piscia called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Waldorf, Sapienza, Lukosus and Buffo present; Mayor Kolowski present.

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

PUBLIC COMMENT

PRESENTATION

Mayor Kolowski reported on the commemorative flag program initiated by former Mayor Scott Harl and introduced La Salle-Peru Township High School Art Teacher Julie Jenkins. Ms. Jenkins stated that in November of 2020, then-Mayor Scott Harl reached out to her and asked to have local art students design a commemorative flag for the city. Ms. Jenkins stated they submitted 60 designs for the city that fit the required criteria. The students were asked to design flags that took into account some of the landmarks located in Peru and stick with a basic color scheme of green, white and blue. Ms. Jenkins stated that when we had the election and the new mayor was instated, he decided that these would be great commemorative flags for the city for the next couple of years. Ms. Jenkins stated that after the flags were submitted, the designs were narrowed to three and the three finalists' designs were then taken to a graphic designer and put together as a complete thought. Ms. Jenkins then introduced the three finalist and asked them to describe their design.

L-P graduate Chloe Bruce's flag featured an outline of the Route 251 Bridge in Peru on a green background with two blue stripes waving below, with the wave representing the river.

Student Brianna Strehl's design included a green background with the iconic clock located at city hall with a banner including the date the city was established in 1835.

Student Danica Scoma's included a white background with an outline of the Peru bridge and the words "Peru, Illinois" written in bold lettering across the bottom.

Ms. Jenkins said the elements of the flags were similar in nature because of the guidelines given as the students created what they believed best represented Peru.

Ms. Jenkins thanked the mayor and the council for allowing us to participate and to have our students' art work be on display around the city. Ms. Jenkins stated that she hopes that if you have any other art projects that you would consider asking L-P, our art club or our students for that.

Mayor Kolowski stated the three flags have been randomly placed by the city's welcome signs with others displayed in various locations around town, such as Washington Park, the splash pad and Centennial Park.

MINUTES/FINANCIAL REPORTS/ACTIVITY REPORTS

Mayor Kolowski presented the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2021; Peru Volunteer Ambulance Service Inc. Activity Summary for May 2021 and Peru Police Department Report for May 2021. Alderman Waldorf made a motion the minutes and reports be received and placed on file. Alderman Payton seconded the motion; motion carried.

FINANCE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

CITY OF PERU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 7, 2021

Alderman Buffo presented the following disbursements for payment on July 8, 2021:

<u>FUND NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>
General Fund	\$1,680,096.09
Insurance Fund	72,952.04
Utility Fund	541,469.41
Airport Fund	<u>119.99</u>
Total	\$2,294,637.53

Alderman Buffo made a motion the minutes and reports be received, placed on file and the bills be paid in the usual manner. Alderman Payton seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Waldorf, Sapienza, Lukosus and Buffo voting aye; motion carried.

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE

Alderman Buffo made a motion to approve the execution of an Employment Agreement for the position of Police Lieutenant. Alderman Tieman seconded the motion. Alderman Sapienza shared his thoughts regarding the motion. Alderman Sapienza stated he had something to say. Alderman Sapienza read a statement-The City of Peru has most argueably the finest, toughest, most disciplined police force in the area and the council has shown their very strong support of them. Enforcement of the law and the safe living environment of the city has always been our goal throughout the years. Most recently you have seen a huge investment of one of Illinois finest, most advanced public safety facility ever constructed. Our officers and their chief have received praise for their work from numerous sources locally, statewide and through federal agencies as noted this past month. I wonder what put Peru so far ahead of others? All this can be traced directly back to our leadership, leadership to hire the right candidates, the leadership to mold these candidates into strong, disciplined police officers, also leading through experience, to work with and guide other cities in the same direction, developing area wide cooperation through this same leadership. Peru has become the leader in this area due in part to the efforts of the one man you are wanting to replace tonight and voting on the decision to replace him has been an absolute hardest decision I've had to make since becoming an alderman. My pledge or promise to the citizens of Peru was to always do what I feel is in the best interest of the city and the citizens of the 3rd ward. I cannot abandon this pledge, and my honest beliefs of what is right and wrong simply because someone else feels different than I do. I took an oath and I am going to live by it and I am going to vote for what I feel is right for the law and order of our city. Mr. Mayor the gravity of your appointment tonight deserves a detailed explanation to the citizens. I certainly hope you will explain your actions to them tonight before this vote. This will be your appointment, which you have the legal right to do. It's your appointment and it's my vote. Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Waldorf, Lukosus and Buffo voting aye; Alderman Sapienza voting nay; motion carried.

Mayor Kolowski recommended the appointment of Bob Pyszka to Police Chief effective September 1st 2021. Alderman Buffo made a motion to concur with the recommendation. Alderman Tieman seconded the motion. Alderman Payton stated change is never easy, with that being said, Alderman Payton recognized Chief Bernabei's 30 years as a police chief, 15 years in Spring Valley and 15 years here. Alderman Payton stated what a record, what great accomplishments you have brought to our city. Alderman Payton stated we have asked you to do many, many things and you have stepped right up to the

CITY OF PERU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 7, 2021

plate and wished him nothing but the best in his future endeavors as lieutenant. Alderman Payton then addressed Deputy Chief Bob Pyszka and noted his 30 years as a police officer in the City of Peru, stating that's a track record also; 15 years as deputy chief, trained by the best chief in the area. Alderman Payton stated he knows Deputy Chief Pyszka will approach this with the same dedication and determination as your predecessors. Alderman Payton stated his wishes him great success in his new position. Alderman Lukosus concurred with Alderman Payton and recognized Chief Bernabei's exemplary job will not go unnoticed. Alderman Waldorf stated he was sick about hearing of replacing Chief Bernabei. Alderman Waldorf stated he will be missed. Alderman Waldorf wished to welcome Chief Pyszka and wishes him the best. Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Waldorf, Lukosus and Buffo voting aye; Alderman Sapienza voting nay; motion carried.

REPORT OF CITY ATTORNEY/ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert presented the minutes of Planning/Zoning Commission meeting held on June 23, 2021 concerning the petition of Target Corporation. Alderman Payton made a motion the minutes be received, placed on file and concur with the recommendation. Alderman Lukosus seconded the motion; motion carried.

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert presented a proposed ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 6564

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING VARIANCES AS SOUGHT BY THE PEITION OF TARGET CORPORATION CONCERNING PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATE4D AT 4370 VENTURE DRIVE, PERU, IL

Alderman Sapienza made a motion the ordinance be adopted as written and read. Alderman Lukosus seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Waldorf, Sapienza, Lukosus and Buffo voting aye; motion carried.

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert presented a proposed ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 6565

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 110-93(a) FO THE CITY OF PERU CODE OFORDINANCES CONCERNING STOP SIGNS

Alderman Buffo made a motion the ordinance be adopted as written and read. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Waldorf, Sapienza, Lukosus and Buffo voting aye; motion carried.

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert presented a proposed ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 6566

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 6559 ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE FIXING WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF PERU, ILLINOIS COMMENCING MAY 1, 2021 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2022"

CITY OF PERU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 7, 2021

Alderman Payton made a motion the ordinance be adopted as written and read. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Waldorf, Sapienza, Lukosus and Buffo voting aye; motion carried.

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert presented a proposed resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-12

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING VACATION TIME INCENTIVE FOR THE NEWLY HIRED CITY OF PERU TELECOMMUNICATOR / RECORDS CLERK

Alderman Buffo made a motion the resolution be adopted as written and read. Alderman Edgcomb seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Waldorf, Sapienza, Lukosus and Buffo voting aye; motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman announced the motion to approve the \$21,806.50 for the family fun zone would be tabled. Alderman Lukosus commented that he thought we would approve subject to final legal review. Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert recommended passing the motion now and cleaning up the language. Alderman Payton made a motion to approve quote from “The Fun Ones” for Taste of the Illinois Valley family fun zone for \$21,806.50 (zip line, obstacle course, rock wall, euro-bung, dry slide) Alderman Lukosus seconded the motion. Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Waldorf, Sapienza, Lukosus and Buffo voting aye; motion carried.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia presented a communication from Stage 212 extending their gratitude for the use of Centennial Park for their production of “Spoon River Anthology”. Alderman Waldorf made a motion the communication be received, placed on file and permission granted. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion; motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia presented a communication from Rita Studzinski of the River Valley Chapter of The Compassionate Friends requesting permission to hold their annual memory walk on September 26th at Baker Lake. Alderman Edgcomb made a motion the communication be received, placed on file and permission granted. Alderman Buffo seconded the motion; motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia presented a communication from Peggy Arter requesting permission to hold a family friendly memorial concert (in honor of her late husband Don Arter) at Centennial Park (band shell) on Sunday, September 12th from 3pm to 6pm. Alderman Ballard made a motion the communication be received, placed on file and permission granted. Alderman Buffo seconded the motion; motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia presented a communication from Stone Jug requesting a partial street closing on July 11, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for an outside special event hosted by Stone Jug Barbeque. This request is for Schuyler Street from 4th Street and to the South property line, not to

CITY OF PERU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 7, 2021

interfere with either neighbors' home entrances. Alderman Ballard made a motion the communication be received, placed on file and permission granted. Alderman Buffo seconded the motion; motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Stephanie Piscia presented a communication from Kimberly Jane asking permission to hold a baby shower at Baker Lake on July 17th at 2pm for about 20 people right by the kids park, and also asked about having a taco truck. Alderman Ballard made a motion the communication be received, placed on file and permission granted. Alderman Buffo seconded the motion; motion carried.

MAYOR'S NOTES

Mayor Kolowski addressed the July 3rd Rock the River event and thanked Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events, PSM Jeff King, Electric Department Jeff King and the Police Department for all their efforts; it was a very nice event.

Mayor Kolowski reported on less fireworks related complaints this year. Mayor Kolowski stated there were 29 complaints as opposed to 69 complaints last year.

Mayor Kolowski reported on the addition of three speed bumps by the splash pad for safety.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Buffo made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion and motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.