

## **COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING JUNE 8, 2026**

A Committee Of A Whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Kolowski in the Peru City Council Chambers on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

City Clerk Jamey Mertel called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, O'Sadnick, Lukosus, and Moreno present. Alderman Tieman absent. Mayor Kolowski present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Committee initiated a discussion on what department is responsible for the lake at Baker Lake. Committee reported the lake falls under the engineering department.

Brennan Caputo of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources reported that the IDNR is responsible for the fish population per co-op contract. Mr. Caputo reported that the fish population is good, but the weed and vegetation overgrowth needs to be controlled. Committee reported they will decide about adding fish or not. Mr. Caputo reported that 200 channel fish are caught each year at Baker Lake.

### **MINUTES**

Mayor Kolowski presented the Committee of A Whole Minutes of May 26, 2026. Alderman Payton made a motion that the minutes be received and placed on file. Alderman Lukosus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **PRESENTATION**

None

### **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

#### **PUBLIC WORKS (IT, Water & Sewer, TEST, Airport, Buildings and Grounds, Streets & Alleys, Electric, Engineering)**

##### **IT**

None

##### **WATER & SEWER**

None

##### **TEST**

None

##### **AIRPORT**

Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning reported the old parking lot needs to be sealcoated/marked at some point. Mr. Carls stated he estimates the cost to be under \$10,000.

PSM/Fire Chief Jeff King reported the corporate hangar has broken windows and estimated the cost would be \$8,800 and asked for approval at the next regular meeting. \$23,500 for new screws in the building.

##### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

None

##### **STREETS & ALLEYS**

None

## **COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING JUNE 8, 2026**

### **ELECTRIC**

Kevin Minnick, Electric Operations Manager, reported on the Liquid Networks proposal in the amount of \$16,500 to assess and buildout the OT network and asked for approval at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Minnick provided an update on the generation equipment and repairs.

### **ENGINEERING**

Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning, reported on the following:

- Deep Sewer Project
  - Moving along with 100-150 feet installed
  - First time working with contractor; great experience
- Shooting Park Road Extension
  - Should be complete before school begins
- Pulaski Street Sewer Separation
  - Out for bid with August start date
- Well #9 Relocation
  - Relocation and temporary work is underway

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Carls initiated a discussion regarding STAR bonds, which are an incentive that use the state's incremental sales tax and local incremental sales tax within a STAR bond district to encourage a developer to transform the area into a retail and entertainment destination. Mr. Carls noted the need for a master developer and RFP. Alderman Lukosus, Moreno, Sapienza and Payton expressed support for the program. Mayor Kolowski agreed that the reward is worth the risk.

Mr. Carls reported there have been several complaints regarding the fiber installation process and stated the engineering department has created more oversight to hold Connexus to higher standards.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

PSM/Chief King initiated a discussion regarding new mower for T.E.S.T. PSM/Chief King reported a new mower would cost \$14,739 and we are currently pay \$600 per cut from TNT. PSM/Chief King asked for approval at the next regular meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Resident Eric Soderholm reported that damage do his yard (from years past) has never been corrected. Mr. Soderholm stated weeds have taken over and asked the city to make his yard the way it was before the project.

Mayor Kolowski reported that crews cleaned up along the former Platform 21 property.

Mr. Minnick reported on rail substation issue that caused a 30-minute power outage. Mr. Minnick reported the issue was fixed.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE (Code Enforcement, Police, Fire, Landfill, Cemetery, Parks & Recreation)**

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

None

## COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING JUNE 8, 2026

### POLICE

None

### FIRE

PSM/Fire Chief King reported on meeting with grant writer for SAFER Grant.

### LANDFILL

None

### CEMETERY

Alderman Edgcomb asked about dead trees at the cemetery.

### PARKS & RECREATION

Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events, initiated a discussion regarding proposal from J&M Displays in the amount of \$50,000 for this year's fireworks display. Mr. Thorson noted the show would be approximately eight minutes longer. Mr. Thorson asked for approval at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Thorson initiated a discussion regarding McKinley Park playground. Mr. Thorson reported he estimates the project to cost \$115,000 and is looking for \$15,000-\$20,000 to be paid from grant.

Mr. Thorson reported that summer recreation camps have started.

Mr. Thorson reported that sectional baseball begins tomorrow at Veterans Park.

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

None

## FINANCE COMMITTEE (Finance, Human Resources)

### FINANCE

None

### HUMAN RESOURCES

None

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Kolowski reported he had a meeting with EAKAS and noted they are concerned with staffing; noting they need 200 employees. Mayor Kolowski stated that IVCC is helping with staffing issues.

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert reported the IV Reliability study is due by the end of the month and so far the primary route is still preferred.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

**COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING JUNE 8, 2026**

**CLOSED SESSION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Edgcomb made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Alderman Payton seconded the motion and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.