

## **COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING AUGUST 17, 2026**

A Committee Of A Whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Kolowski in the Peru City Council Chambers on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

Deputy City Clerk Stephanie Piscia called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Edgcomb, O'Sadnick, Lukosus, and Moreno present. Aldermen Sapienza absent. Mayor Kolowski present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **MINUTES**

Mayor Kolowski presented the Committee of A Whole Minutes of August 3, 2026. Alderman Lukosus made a motion that the minutes be received and placed on file. Alderman O'Sadnick 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**

Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning, initiated a discussion regarding testing options for unauthorized or improper connections to the sanitary sewer system noting the unusual amounts of rain has brought to light a number of issues that pre-date Mr. Carls employment with the city. Mr. Carls reported around 2013 the city had previously worked with Chamlin and Associates to identify issues and work with residents to separate their footing tiles and install ejector pits. Mr. Carls further recommended the city perform smoke and/or dye testing to locate to locate homes with illegal connections. Mr. Carls noted the city implemented a program around 2013, where the city assisted in funding of check valves, ejector pits, etc. Alderman Tieman asked how many homes there would be if we reintroduced the program. Mr. Carls stated that is currently unknown and the data could be obtained from the smoke and dye testing. Mr. Carls stated that sewers on 30<sup>th</sup> Street, for instance, are separated and the only way to get flooding is tied in illegally. Mr. Carls also noted that any new construction is being checked and within the permitting process.

Mr. Carls recommended investigative testing starting in areas where most flooding calls come in. Committee recommended the Public Works and the Engineering office work on the investigative testing.

PSM/Fire Chief King reported that a lot of people have been blowing grass clippings into the streets and going into the catch basins. Alderman Lukosus asked if can call or cite the homeowners that blow grass into the streets. Alderman Lukosus also suggested sending out a notice to residents. PSM/King reported yes, and to use social media to inform the residents as well. Alderman O'Sadnick asked if we can ask residents to clean out catch basins. Police Chief Sarah Raymond stated she had officers go out to ask residents to clean up grass calls.

##### **TEST**

Chris Perra, President of T.E.S.T. initiated a discussion regarding invoice from Metro-AG Inc. to transport

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sludge from the east wastewater treatment plant to the west wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Perra reported that occasionally a lot of solids need to be moved from the EWWTP to the WWTP due to there not being a lagoon at the EWWTP. Mr. Perra estimated that 20 loads would need to be moved for a cost of \$17,500. Mr. Perra noted that if we don't move the sludge, the plant may not work properly, resulting in other issues and possible violations.

### **AIRPORT**

Mr. Carls reported his office is pushing IDOT Division of Aeronautics to issue the notice to proceed for the T Hanger and Runway projects.

Alderman Lukosus inquired about airport fuel tank. Mr. Carls reported he would contact the Cody at Midwest Avtech to discuss their proposal.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

PSM/Chief King reported on the excessive amounts of trees and branches down and costs with tree services.

### **STREETS & ALLEYS**

PSM/Chief King reported alleys on the west end have been completed.

Mr. Carls initiated a discussion regarding culvert replacements to correct draining issues on Charter Street (recently annexed & previously LaSalle County zoned). Mr. Carls recommended the city review ordinances regarding road culverts under private driveways. Mr. Carls also noted a maintenance agreement with the City of LaSalle and his plan to meet with the City of LaSalle to review the current agreement.

### **ELECTRIC**

Kevin Minnick, Electric Operations Manager, reported on the following:

- Unit #2 is back at hydro and expected to be online in the next two weeks
- Expects all four units to be back online soon.
- Water Street breaker
- SCADA proceeding along
- Bids for controls upgrade
  - 1<sup>st</sup> option \$1.3million
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> option \$700,000-city crews doing work under supervision of their field engineers
    - Four electric department workers would be required to work 6-10 hour shifts
    - Good experience

Committee asked if the overtime would exceed the first option, but Mr. Minnick did not think it would.

### **ENGINEERING**

Mr. Carls initiated a discussion regarding change order for Well #9. Mr. Carls noted the change order for approximately \$200,000 is due to having to submerge the pump lower needing a higher flow pump due to dropping water levels. Mr. Carls stated this change order will allow the city to delay construction on a new well for the time being. Mr. Perra stated the well was new in 2005 and pumping approximately 1200 gallons per minute and now it is down to 700-800 gallons per minute. Mr. Perra noted that it would be \$3 million for new well therefore would like to get the current well back to capacity. Mr. Perra noted Well #9 is the main well and can pump water directly to the water plant. Mr. Carls noted if the piping in Well #9 is good, there may be an opportunity for reduction in cost associated with the change order. Mr. Carls noted this is a critical infrastructure project for the city and recommended the change order be approved.

Mr. Carls reported that the city portion of the 138KV project is complete. Mr. Carls stated he met with Ameren and they were pleased with the condition of the site and work done by the city's contractor. Mr.

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Carls reported the closing date for the Ameren lot is tentatively projected for August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Mr. Carls also reported there could be a few project updates upcoming and that John Pohar & Sons will continue to work on the Peru substation site mass grading.

Alderman Moreno stated he received a call regarding the road conditions of Donlar Avenue. Mr. Carls acknowledged the issues but noted the road is on the outskirts of town and has no significant impact. Mr. Carls reported on the need to look at removing and resurfacing the pavement. Mr. Carls stated the city could use MFT funds but would like to use those funds for another project.

Mr. Carls also reported on the following projects:

- Deep Sewer project is underway
- General Fund Street project is underway
- Shooting Park Road Widening & Resurfacing project is near completion, waiting on pavement markings
- A preconstruction meeting for Pulaski Street (Area 2 Phase 2) Sewer Separation is scheduled for 8/21
- The bid opening for Main Street sewer project on 8/21

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Carls initiated a discussion regarding the proposed BDD (Business District Development) map and timeline updates. It was recommended by the committee to continue forward.

Mr. Carls initiated a discussion regarding STAR Bond Solicitation of Interest for a Master Developer. Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert reported there could be an issue with the STAR Bond qualifications stating that 50% of a STAR Bond district has to be in an underserved area. He explained that at the time the city submitted their letter of intent the property was within an underserved area and had been in the 2022 and 2024 DCEO map. In July, following the letter of intent submittal, DCEO changed the underserved map, removing all properties within the city's limits. Mr. Carls stated they have reach out to and are working with DCEO and representatives to understand the map changes and discuss option for continuing forward with the city's proposal.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

PSM/Chief King initiated a discussion regarding quote from Shearer Tree Service in the amount of \$10,080 for tree removal at 604 Calhoun Street. PSM/Chief King stated that only one company submitted a bid. PSM/King noted the tree is in the power lines and is splitting every day. Committee recommended approving the quote at the next regular meeting.

Mayor Kolowski reported that he met with OSF about the A/C unit. OSF stated it is set to go sometime in November.

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

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Police Chief Sarah Raymond reported there have been a lot of code violations, including a lot of grass, weed violations. Chief Raymond urged to get information out to the public. Chief Raymond stated the police department is giving out citation after citation and asked the committee for direction on what to do

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when the people don't comply. Alderman Edgcomb asked for a report of residents with multiple citations. Chief Raymond noted the multiple violations at the home located at 6<sup>th</sup> and Cleveland. Alderman Lukosus inquired about obtaining a demotion order. Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert stated the city could go after a demolition order or see if we could get the homeowner to go into an agreement to sell. Corporate Counsel also noted trying to get to the root of why the homeowner won't comply. Mayor Kolowski asked if we could turn off utilities or place a lien on the property. Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert reported suit was filed on the property two years ago. Chief Raymond also noted the frequent citations given to a property at the 1700 block of Shooting Park Road. Mayor Kolowski again noted the serious issues with grass in sewers and getting notification out to the public.

### **POLICE**

Police Chief Sarah Raymond initiated a discussion regarding the purchase of 2027 Ford Utility Interceptor for \$46,271.83 less possible trades. Committee asked for formal approval at the next regular meeting.

Chief Raymond reported using Drug Enforcement Funds for a K-9 drug sniffing/tracking dog.

### **FIRE**

PSM/Chief King reported on obtaining a 500-gallon fuel tank for the Fire Department. PSM/Chief King noted the tank and pump would be at no cost.

### **LANDFILL**

None

### **CEMETERY**

PSM/Chief King reported crews are struggling with keeping up with grass cutting and will be sending all Public Works employees to get it cleaned up.

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events, initiated a discussion regarding the following:

- Proposal from Ladzinski Cement Finishing for the continuation of Washington Park sidewalk in the amount of \$33,269
- Proposal from Ladzinski Cement Finishing for Washington Park ice skating rink in the amount of \$23,625
- Proposal from Ladzinski Cement Finishing for Washington Park Splash Pad playground curbing in the amount of \$17,970
- Proposal from Ladzinski Cement Finishing, in the amount of \$36,034, for sidewalk work at McKinley Park

Alderman Lukosus asked Mr. Thorson if he sought bids for the Washington Park and McKinley projects. Mr. Thorson stated that he did not, stating he reached out and received bid(s) from a Peru company. Mr. Carls reported that projects over \$20,000 require a bidding process. Alderman Edgcomb urged Mr. Thorson to work with the Engineering Department for future projects that require bid submittals. Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert also noted the bid submittal process must include prevailing wage requirements.

Mayor Kolowski reported that he talked to Mr. Thorson and Finance Officer Tracy Mitchell regarding the sidewalk work at McKinley Park for an additional \$36,034 to make it handicap accessible.

Alderman Tieman asked how much it is to redo McKinley Park. Mr. Thorson reported on the \$30,000 grant but all in, Mr. Thorson estimated \$120,000.

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Committee asked for the above proposals be on the next regular meeting agenda for approval.

Mr. Thorson discussed the proposed Little Blackhawks Ice Hockey team, a six- to eight-week learn-to-skate and learn-to-play program affiliated with the Chicago Blackhawks. Participants would pay \$298, including all equipment. The Chicago Blackhawks would retain half of the fee, while the city would receive the other half to refund participants or support rink maintenance. A Blackhawks player would attend the final session. The City would provide an instructor and rink time but incur no other costs. Alderman Edgcomb asked Mr. Thorson to communicate with Mike Bima of The Locker Room to make sure there would be no conflicts. Mayor Kolowski asked if the team could be scheduled during the day. Mr. Thorson stated yes, but not while kids are in school.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE (Finance, Human Resources)**

### **FINANCE**

Finance Officer Tracy Mitchell initiated a discussion 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr FY27 Budget to Actual Financials Distribution and noted the main thing to focus on spending summary per department. Finance Officer Tracy Mitchell stated she expects departments should at about 25%. Mayor Kolowski stated the handout is a good tool to monitor budget.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

None

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert discussed inaccuracies in the ward boundaries shown on the ward maps noting some of the most recent developments are not shown. Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert reported on the need to have the maps redrawn. Mr. Carls stated his office has been working with Chamlin and Associates on updating various maps to make them more accurate. Corporate Counsel noted an ordinance could be drafted to bring the ward maps up to date.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Raymond reminded the committee/department heads to RSVP to the retirement party for Lt. Doug Bernabei

Mayor Kolowski initiated a discussion regarding the upcoming expiration of the sales tax payment to Peru Elementary School and asked how the committee would like to proceed.

Mayor Kolowski initiated a discussion regarding the future of the Peru Volunteer Ambulance Service with OSF's intention of contracting Stark County Ambulance for patient transfers. Mayor Kolowski

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reported a large portion of PVAS' revenue is from transfers and asked the committee for input on how to move forward with saving PVAS.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **CLOSED SESSION**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.