COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2026

A Committee Of A Whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Kolowski in the Peru City Council Chambers on Monday, October 26, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

MINUTES
Mayor Kolowski presented the Committee of A Whole Minutes of September 19, 2026. Alderman Lukosus made a motion that the minutes be received and placed on file. Alderman Moreno seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION
None

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

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

IT
Stephen Rounds, Director of IT, reported the only 35% of city staff has completed the mandatory cyber security training.

WATER & SEWER
Alderman Tieman asked whether residents citywide were eligible for the sewer backup program. Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert clarified that the program applied only to the 10th and Church Street area.

Alderman Lukosus stated that the wording of the media report made the program's scope difficult to verify. Alderman Moreno reported receiving calls from residents in the 13th Street area. Alderman Sapienza questioned how far the program might extend if the city began expanding its scope.

Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning, reported widespread misunderstandings about the program. He clarified that it was intended for the 10th and Church Street area, where a separate issue occurred days after, rather than during a rain event.

Mr. Carls also noted that most of the issues were due to illegal connections to the sanitary sewer system.

Mr. Carls initiated a discussion regarding [Phase 1] smoke testing on 26th Street north and east of Marquette Road; with Phase 2 conducted west of Marquette Road. Alderman Payton asked if there are records on file from previous smoke testing. Mayor Kolowski asked if other areas had sanitary sewer or storm sewer water. Mr. Carls reported the water is coming up through the sanitary sewer and it is on the homeowner to rectify if connected illegally. Alderman Payton asked if new homes are required to install check valves or ejector pits. Mr. Carls reported his department is working code revisions and wants it specifically to be required that all new homes have ejector pits. Mr. Carls noted that all the new homes in Pohar Subdivision have them.

Alderman Lukosus made a motion to approve a quote in the amount of $12,500 from Illinois Valley Excavating for sanitary sewer smoke testing Phase I. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion. Clerk Mertel called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Sapienza, Lukosus, and Moreno voting aye. Motion carried.

Alderman Lukosus inquired about potholing and reported that residents are confused. Mr. Carls reported that notifications are sent out annually and a sheet will be included in the December utility bills to explain the program. Alderman Lukosus asked if lines from the buffalo box to the home is the responsibility of the homeowners. Mr. Carls reported yes, but the EPA requires the city to replace the main to the meter. Mr. Carls reported that once mapping is complete, we will have a master plan for replacements.

TEST
Chris Perra, President of T.E.S.T., reported the west waste water is fixed.

AIRPORT
Mr. Carls reported that runway resurfacing was progressing. Depending on weather conditions, the airport would be closed Thursday and Friday. A reopening date had not yet been determined.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
None

STREETS & ALLEYS
None.

ELECTRIC
Electric Operations Manager, Kevin Minnick, reported that Illinois law now requires certain electric cooperatives, municipal power agencies, municipalities, and distribution electric cooperatives to develop an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). *[The IRP is a comprehensive, forward-looking study that can be thought of as a compass with which to map future resource planning. It will combine stakeholder input with rigorous financial analysis and projections to help guide the IMEA Board in planning future resources to meet customer energy needs. The IRP will be refreshed every 5 years, providing a timely reevaluation of the right energy mix to enable IMEA to continue providing reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy]*. Mr. Minnick reported that since Peru is a member of the IMEA, they will conduct the IRP on our behalf. but there are three action items required by state law that the city must also do in conjunction with the IMEA. Mr. Minnick reported there will be a mailer to insert into the November utility bills along with a link to resource plan that is being developed which will be posted on the city website.

Mr. Minnick reported that only 19 of 32 municipalities in the IMEA generate power (hydroelectric plant) and he is working for us to be compensated accordingly. Mr. Minnick reported Ameren will be raising the wholesale distribution rate within the next year. Mr. Minnick noted that Peru has the cheapest electric rates for residents in Illinois, noting the hydroelectric plant solidifies our prices.

ENGINEERING
Mr. Carls reported the milling stockpile at Master Builder Way is getting large and that we need to have it milled down to finer product. Mr. Carls reported he will seek Request for Proposals.

Mr. Carls reported he is looking into STU Funding as an option to identify Phase II of Plank Road for 2028. Mayor Kolowski recommended looking at Wenzel Road being extended. Mr. Carls reported that Wenzel Road is a 4-year project but that we can get it started on.

Mr. Carls reported that a developer was considering a 250-foot sanitary sewer line extension onto Mahoney Drive, with an estimated cost of approximately $30,000.

Mr. Carls reported that curb and gutter work should begin soon.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
None

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
Mayor Kolowski reported the roof that houses jet building on Water Street was in need of replacement. Mr. Minnick reported that GAF donated the materials and labor to replace the roof.

Mr. Minnick reported that all five circuit breakers on Water Street have been changed and updated.

Mr. Minnick reported that repairs to the fuel system on Plank Road have been initiated.

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

Mayor Kolowski reported that due to Aldermen Edgcomb stepping down as Public Services Committee Chairman and appointed Alderman Moreno as chairman.

CODE ENFORCEMENT
None

POLICE
Police Chief Sarah Raymond opened a discussion about banning synthetic kratom in Peru. She stated that LaSalle County Coroner Richard Ploch was asking communities to adopt ordinances prohibiting its sale. Chief Raymond reported that synthetic kratom had caused 10 deaths in LaSalle County.

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert will prepare an ordinance banning synthetic kratom.

Chief Raymond reported on the proposal from Sapp Bros. for fuel onsite at the police department. Chief Raymond stated the city should save approximately $35,000 over the next 5 years. Chief Raymond reported on the need for a cement pad and electrical to house 1000-gallon tank.

FIRE
None

LANDFILL
None

CEMETERY
None

PARKS & RECREATION
Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events, reported the Little Blackhawks Winter Youth Hockey Program is at full capacity with 30 participants.

Mr. Thorson reported his department is looking to end the Christmas Parade at the skating rink this year.

COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2026

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
None

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Finance, Human Resources)

FINANCE
Cate Moulton of Mack & Associates presented the audit findings, reviewed assets, liabilities, controls, and deficiencies, and reported a clean audit.

Finance Officer Tracy Mitchell provided an update on the city's Operating Reserve. Ms. Mitchell stated the at the end of FY 26, total operating reserve had a deficit of $1.7 million [$1 million deficit in General Fund; $700,000 deficit in Utility Fund]

HUMAN RESOURCES
None

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
Mayor Kolowski noted that the Pistol Shrimp contract expires after the 2027 season. Alderman Tieman and Mr. Thorson are working on season tickets and the scoreboard with the goal of financial independence by 2028. Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert asked about the city's long-term plans and suggested improvements to facilities, including restrooms and the locker room.

Mayor Kolowski reported that Tracy will have 2nd Quarter budget numbers.

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
Presented a communication from Sports Clips requesting to incorporate a petting zoo into their "Help A Hero" fundraiser on November 7th from 12pm-4pm. Mr. Thorson reported he reached out to Sports Clips for further information but did not receive a return call.

Mayor Kolowski announced that he and Alderman Lukosus would meet Tuesday with west end residents affected by sewer backups.

Mayor Kolowski reported the ambulance would like to meet to discuss future of PVAS; asked for Committee of A Whole meeting on November 2nd prior to the Regular Meeting.

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert reported on a town hall meeting on Monday, November 16th at 5:00 p.m. regarding a proposed integrated healthcare campus in Peru.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING OCTOBER 26, 2026

CLOSED SESSION
None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.