

CITY OF PERU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2025

A regular meeting of the Peru City Council was called to order by Mayor Ken Kolowski in the Peru City Council Chambers on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

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

PRESENTATION

Ms. Tara Backes, Athletic Director for Parkside Middle School spoke on the Parkside Boys Baseball team placing 2nd in state. Head Coach Christian Parry spoke on two months of non-stop baseball and the dedication of the boys and the parents.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Judy Terando stated her grandkids have outgrown the splash pad-stating she voted for the pool and knew what she was voting for.

Mr. George Marple stated the proposed pool does not make good economic sense.

Ms. Jennifer Ebner stated she is in favor of a pool and the city officials need to listen to their constituents.

Ms. Maureen Rebholz stated that although the proposed pool would only be open a short amount of time, 3 months to a child is forever. Ms. Rebholz stated we all have fond pool memories and encouraged the council to vote in favor of the pool.

Mr. Keto Matos spoke in favor of a pool and stated you cannot put a price on memories. Mr. Matos stated many of his childhood memories were at a pool.

Ms. Carrie Helmig reported on fond memories she had with her late brother at the old pool. Ms. Helmig stated former mayor Scott Harl closed the pool and scolded the Aldermen for letting it happen. Ms. Helmig stated that LP doesn't teach swimming lessons and parents cannot afford lessons at the YMCA.

Mr. Larry Huffman reported that the U of I research lab would say the question on the ballot was not a true vote of the community. Mr. Huffman stated that he has been on boards where we had to make an unpopular decision, however, the council knows more about city finances than the public does.

Mr. Michael Ladzinski stated we have grown wary of politicians, noting the State of IL is broke, but the city found money for new city hall and police station.

Ms. Crystal Dean addressed the council with her 7 yr old and 4 yr old and stated they learned how to swim by taking lessons at the LaSalle pool. Ms. Dean stated they would really like a pool.

Mr. Glen Flodstrom reported that in 2008, he purchased his home because it was in the vicinity of the pool, school and library. Mr. Flodstrom stated his children are grown now but still in support of a pool.

Mr. Martin Rue stated he lived on Plain Street his entire life. Mr. Rue stated the council had a special meeting before the vote and we knew what they were voting for.

CITY OF PERU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2025

Mr. Matt Rebholz reported he purchased his home because it was in close vicinity to the pool and stated he believes kids need to learn how to swim.

Mr. Eric Solderholm stated the city needs a pool and stated the council has financial knowledge but 70% of the vote (advisory referendum) said they were in favor of the pool. Mr. Solderholm stated the proposed pool wouldn't be for the past memories, but for future memories for more than just children.

Ms. Janet Mayszak stated she is a life-long resident of Peru and want future memories [of pool]. Ms. Mayszak stated the city needs a pool, the constituents voted in favor of it, and to please honor what the constituents voted for.

MINUTES/FINANCIAL REPORTS/ACTIVITY REPORTS

Mayor Kolowski presented the Regular Minutes of September 2, 2025, and Building Permits-Third Quarter Report 2025. Alderman Payton made a motion the minutes and reports be received and placed on file. Alderman Lukosus seconded the motion; motion carried.

FINANCE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Alderman Sapienza presented the following disbursements for payment on October 8, 2025:

<u>FUND NAME</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>
General Fund	\$440,954.22
Insurance Fund	150,519.43
Garbage Fund	81,145.28
MVP TIF	166.00
Utility Fund	1,025,760.59
Landfill Fund	4,514.20
Airport Fund	<u>4,833.50</u>
Total	\$1,707,893.72

Alderman Sapienza made a motion the disbursements be received, placed on file and bills paid in the usual manner. Alderman Tieman seconded the motion. Clerk Mertel called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, O'Sadnick, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye. Motion carried.

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

PSM/Fire Chief reported the burn ban is still in effect.

Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events reported on the Chicago Blue's night on Saturday, October 11th in Centennial Park. Mr. Thorson stated the Peru CSO will be serving food.

Alderman Edgcomb made motion to accept and proceed with the September 19, 2025, proposal from Kmetz Architects to the City of Peru to provide Full Architectural & Engineering services for a proposed

CITY OF PERU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2025

Municipal Swimming Pool to be located in the vicinity of Washington Park. (on an 8.75% percentage of the final construction cost). Alderman O'Sadnick seconded the motion.

Alderman Edgcomb stated he spent a lot of time thinking and the majority of emails he received were to vote no on the pool. Alderman Edgcomb stated that he said from the beginning that if the people voted for it, he would support it even though most people do not support it.

Alderman Payton stated that for 11 years he's shown the city cannot financially support a pool. Alderman Payton stated the hotel/motel tax doesn't create enough money to pay for a pool. Alderman Payton stated he asked Mayor Kolowski to wait on proceeding with the motion but here we are.

Alderman Tieman stated that he received numerous calls regarding the proposed pool and noted the \$185 million in water treatment upgrades coming in the next 10 years and right now is not the right time to spend this amount of money. Alderman Tieman stated he asked Alderman O'Sadnick to delay this vote but here we are.

Alderman Ballard stated he voted for a pool 3 years ago but since then, things in the city have changed. Alderman Ballard also noted the 13% reduction request in budget a few months ago.

Alderman Sapienza reported on the collaboration with the YMCA to provide swim lessons free of charge to Peru residents. (Fee paid up front and reimbursed upon completion of course). Alderman Sapienza also stated that he promised to do his best for the City of Peru.

Alderman Lukosus stated he cannot support the proposed pool as our finances are not in shape. Alderman Lukosus noted the street program was scaled back, to which only 2 blocks in the 4th Ward will be addressed.

Alderman O'Sadnick stated he would be voting yes but asked everyone to be respectful of the vote no matter how it turned out.

Alderman Moreno asked that after tonight's vote, please leave the police station in the past,

Mayor Kolowski provided the following thoughts:

- The public said to do it
- The city can afford it
- If done in 2015, we would be finishing up the payments on it
- I cut the budget, aldermen voted on it. Cut waste from budget
- If pool was approved in 2015, there's a chance he would not have run for mayor, but kicking the project down the curb only makes the project more expensive
- Appreciated all opinions
- Millions of dollars spent upgrading parks

Aldermen Edgcomb and O'Sadnick voting aye; Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Sapienza, O'Sadnick, and Moreno voting nay. Motion denied

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Alderman Ballard made a motion to approve a bid from John Pohar & Sons for the EAKAS watermain extension in the amount of \$\$679,383.08. Alderman Lukosus seconded the motion. Clerk Mertel called the

CITY OF PERU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2025

roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, O'Sadnick, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye. Motion carried.

Alderman Sapienza made a motion to approve a design-build proposal from John Pohar & Sons for the mass grading of the 138kv Substation development. Alderman Moreno seconded the motion. Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning, reported the city added a reserve account for this project be needs to start immediately. Mr. Carls reported this project is in conjunction with the Ameren open houses and noted his has been talked about for a long time. Alderman Sapienza stated the city has been working on this project for 30 years. Mr. Carls noted the new substation will double our megawatts and the city is at capacity. Mr. Carls stated that it is not in the budget but that is why we have reserves. Mr. Carls also noted we have turned down development because we don't have the capacity. Mr. Carls also stated the 138kv will also cut down our cost of power. Alderman Edgcomb stated that Electric Operations Manager Kevin Minnick also noted this will reduce the cost to the customers going forward. Clerk Mertel called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, O'Sadnick, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye. Motion carried.

Alderman Moreno made a motion to approve a change order with Performance Pipelining, Inc. for the Interceptor Sewer Cleaning & TV Inspection in the amount of \$68,421.00. Alderman Lukosus seconded the motion. Alderman Edgcomb noted the company has the relining capabilities if needed. Clerk Mertel called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, O'Sadnick, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye. Motion carried.

Alderman Lukosus made a motion to approve a repair and maintenance invoice for \$22,798.81 payable to Continental Blower to replace a blower that failed. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion. Chris Perra, President of T.E.S.T. reported this blower is located at the WWTP. Clerk Mertel called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, O'Sadnick, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye. Motion carried.

REPORT OF CITY ATTOREY/ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert presented a proposed ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 6984

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 22 – BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF PERU CODE OF ORDINANCES AS IT RELATES TO THE REGISTRATION OF RENTAL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Alderman Tieman made a motion the ordinance be adopted as written and read. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion. Clerk Mertel called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, O'Sadnick, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye. Motion carried.

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert presented a proposed ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 6985

AN ORDINANCE EXECUTING A RE-DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH POJO LIMITED PARTNERSHIP FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1840 MAY ROAD

CITY OF PERU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2025

Alderman Edgcomb made a motion the ordinance be adopted as written and read. Alderman S seconded the motion. Clerk Mertel called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, O'Sadnick, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Mertel presented a communication from Insanity Haunted House requesting permission to place temporary signage until November 8th, 2025. Alderman Tieman made a motion the communication be received, placed on file and permission granted. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk Mertel presented a communication Merry Noonan requesting permission to close off 5th Street in front of Lou's LaGratto, on October 11th, for a "Trick or Treat" event co-hosted with Dreamwave Wrestling. Alderman Lukosus made a motion the communication be received, placed on file and permission granted. Alderman Moreno seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Clerk Mertel presented a communication from Alicia Farmer requesting permission to hold the annual Better Fishing Association Kids Fishing Expo at Baker Lake on May 9, 2026. Alderman Tieman made a motion the communication be received, placed on file, and permission granted. Alderman Ballard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S NOTES

PUBLIC COMMENT

CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Lukosus made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Alderman Payton seconded the motion and motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.