

COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING NOVEMBER 24, 2025

A Committee Of A Whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Kolowski in the Peru City Council Chambers on Monday, November 24, 2025, at 3:33 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

MINUTES

Mayor Kolowski presented the Committee of A Whole Minutes of November 10, 2025. Alderman Lukosus made a motion that the minutes be received and placed on file. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

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

IT

IT Director Stephen Rounds reported on annual security email.

WATER & SEWER

PSM/Fire Chief Jeff King reported on curb and road restoration on Marquette Road.

TEST

None

AIRPORT

None

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

None

STREETS & ALLEYS

Mr. Carls reported that Shooting Park Road shoulder improvements at the intersection of Sycamore Street should be under \$10,000.

ELECTRIC

Electric Operations Manager, Kevin Minnick, initiated a discussion regarding the purchase of 8 class 1 65' and 9 class 1 40' DCOI treated utility poles from Thomasson Company for a total of \$20,736.00 and asked to be placed on the next regular agenda for approval.

ENGINEERING

Mr. Carls provided an update on the following projects:

- 2025 General Fund Street Program
 - Wrapping up
- Plank Road Phase I
 - Compete
- Area 2 Phase 1 Sewer Separation
- Baker Lake Path Replacement
 - Last pour completed on Friday
 - 120'-150' need to be redone

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- Landscaping in spring
- Well #8 Rehab
 - Moving along as planned
- 138kv Substation Mass Grading
 - Moving along well
- Eakas Water Main
- North Trunk Sewer
 - Working with EPA
- Sports Complex
 - Study due next week
 - Presentation to follow

Mr. Carls initiated a discussion on Design/2026 Construction:

- Project planning and budgeting
 - Working toward master plan timeline with Finance Officer Tracy Mitchell and Electric Operations Manager Kevin Minink
- Plank Road Phase II
 - Next year and 2027
- Plank Road Phase III
 - Fall 2028 & Spring 2029
- Area 2 Phase 2 Sewer Separation
- N. 31st Roadway Improvements
 - Dependent on development

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT

None

POLICE

None

FIRE

None

LANDFILL

None

CEMETERY

None

PARKS & RECREATION

Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events reported the ice rink will hopefully open Wednesday night.

OLD BUSINESS

None

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NEW BUSINESS

None

FINANCE COMMITTEE *(Finance, Human Resources)*

FINANCE

Mayor Kolowski provided a handout of area city/villages 2026 tax rates that included 2024 sales tax and property tax. Mayor Kolowski noted the City of Ottawa is increasing their sales tax rate by ½ percent to 8% on January 1st. Mayor Kolowski also noted the City of Ottawa collects \$9.4 million in property taxes and the City of Peru collects \$900,000 in property taxes. Mayor Kolowski stated a new sales tax would need to be restricted.

Mayor Kolowski reported he met with Aldermen Payton and Finance Officer Tracy Mitchell regarding Business District Development (BDD) and noted he prefers Home Rule over BDD and suggested taking off the grocery tax.

Alderman Sapienza reported he is in favor of a new sales tax to grow the city instead of maintaining it.

Alderman Tieman reported both TIF's should leave us funds for economic development.

Alderman Moreno reported he prefers BDD as it used for economic development.

Alderman Sapienza reported the BDD is needed for economic development.

Finance Officer Tracy Mitchell provided an update on 2026 budget through October.

HUMAN RESOURCES

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned 4:39 p.m.