

COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING JANUARY 20, 2026

A Committee Of A Whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Kolowski in the Peru City Council Chambers on Tuesday, January 20, 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

MINUTES

Mayor Kolowski presented the Committee of A Whole Minutes of January 5, 2026. Alderman Lukosus made a motion that the minutes be received and placed on file. Alderman Payton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

None

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

IT

None

WATER & SEWER

PSM/Fire Chief Jeff King reported on water main break at Shooting Park Road and West Street.

TEST

None

AIRPORT

Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning, reported paving bids are in.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

None

STREETS & ALLEYS

None

ELECTRIC

Electric Operations Manager Kevin Minnick reported on generator fire at the hydro and noted more testing is needed before putting it back in service. Mr. Minnick reported on the need to submit to insurance.

ENGINEERING

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

- North Trunk Sewer
 - EDA approval
 - Late March/April start date
 - Expected to conclude in April 2027
- 138kv Substation
 - Bids are in and need to be awarded soon
- Pulaski Street & Main Street Sewer Separation
 - Will be done this summer

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OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Lukosus reported that Lou's Lagratto would like to close 5th Street in front of business (for a band) to celebrate their 50th Anniversary on July 25th.

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT

None

POLICE

None

FIRE

PSM/Fire Chief Jeff King reported on fire at Fire on Fifth in Westclox. PSM/Chief King reported there was more fire than smoke and that the fire didn't spread past the one room.

PSM/Chief King reported he will be applying for the SAFER Grant again, He also asked for approval to hire 2 firefighters be placed on the next regular agenda.

LANDFILL

None

CEMETERY

None

PARKS & RECREATION

Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events reported he is working on summer events and should have them completed over the next few weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

FINANCE COMMITTEE (*Finance, Human Resources*)

FINANCE

Alderman Payton initiated a discussion regarding revenue streams.

Mayor Kolowski reported on looking at bonds for the 138kv and the need for a rate study.

Alderman Lukosus and Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning requested seeking approval for rate study be on the next regular agenda.

Council asked Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert to create ordinance for 1% Home Rule Tax with BDD restrictions.

Mr. Carls reported the goal is to grow the city and need to devise a way to pay for it, along with relieving other city funds from being used up.

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Finance Officer Tracy Mitchell reported her office is working on W-2's and the complicated process with employees who received overtime in 2025. Ms. Mitchell reported that according to the BBB, overtime is not taxable. Ms. Mitchell reported a letter will be going out with W-2's helping to explain the process.

Ms. Mitchell reported on the 16% increase for the 3-year renewal with Mack and Associates for audit services. Ms. Mitchell reported some proposals have been higher and some have been less.

After discussion Alderman Payton asked for approval of continuing audit services with Mack and Associates be placed on the next regular agenda.

HUMAN RESOURCES

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CLOSED SESSION

Alderman Ballard made a motion to go into closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee or legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity; meetings where the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body is considered, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; meetings held to discuss litigation "when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. Alderman Lukosus seconded the motion. Clerk Mertel called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Sapienza, Lukosus, and Moreno voting aye; Aldermen Edgcomb and O'Sadnick absent. Motion carried.

Closed session began at 4:54 p.m. and ended at 5:32 p.m.

Alderman Lukosus made a motion to reopen the meeting. Alderman Payton seconded the motion. Clerk Mertel called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Tieman, Payton, Sapienza, Lukosus, and Moreno present. Aldermen Edgcomb and O'Sadnick absent. Mayor Kolowski present.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned 5:33 p.m.