



City of Peru



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PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, April 15, 2024 TIME: 4:17 PM

PLACE OF MEETING: Peru Municipal Building
1901 4th Street, Peru, IL 61354

ROLL CALL: Aldermen Edgcomb, Payton, Tieman and O'Sadnick present. Also present, Aldermen Lukosus, Sapienza, Ballard and Moreno; Mayor Kolowski present.

MINUTES

Alderman Payton made a motion to approve the Public Services Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2024. Alderman O'Sadnick seconded the motion; motion carried.

PRESENTATION

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweickert initiated a discussion on potential code changes to Chapter 14-Animals. Atty Schweickert stated the subject is being addressed due to the city wishing to annex territory located west of Airport Road and north of Gunia Avenue. Atty Schweickert stated he met with one of the property owners as they voiced concerns of the annexation because they have chickens, all named after Disney Princesses, and they treat them like children. Atty Schweickert stated that our code, as currently written, chickens are essentially prohibited. Atty Schweickert reported we do have a provision in there that says the keeping of animals and birds may be permitted by applying for a special permit from the City Council. Atty Schweickert stated that such permits may be issued to permit circus performances or other public exhibitions or entertainment events. Atty Schweickert reported he didn't think we've ever had any special permits issued to my knowledge, and it also seems to only consider those special events like circus performances and petting zoos or something along those lines. Atty Schweickert provided a draft ordinance to essentially accommodate the property owner and potentially some other properties within the city that meet these requirements. Atty Schweickert stated it has been kind of a hot topic and looked at some other municipalities and how they handled it. Atty Schweickert reported on an ordinance from Plainfield requiring minimum land area. Atty Schweickert stated if you have 2 1/2 acres or more, you'd be able to apply, or you'd be

permitted to have chickens subject to these regulations if they were zoned R1 or agriculture. Atty Schweickert state looking across the city, there's not many properties that are zoned residential that are more than even an acre and less than ten properties zoned agricultural. Atty Schweickert stated a maximum of eight hens would be allowed with roosters being prohibited. Atty Schweickert stated the proposed code change talks about some of the requirements for shelter and fenced areas and where they're located. Atty Schweickert stated we want to keep them minimum distance away from any occupied residential structure set back from the property lines. Atty Schweickert reported currently the set back is only five feet as defined in the code and may look to increase. Atty Schweickert reported on provisions of property maintenance, no detectable odors, cleaning up accumulation of waste, keeping food for consumption that's stored and tightly fitted containers that are rodent proof. Atty Schweickert stated there's a procedure to get permitted with inspections to make sure they're complying with these regulations and then giving the City permission in the future to go and make sure they're maintaining compliance. Atty Schweickert also spoke on some other things that might be a little overly burdensome is that about the independent electric or heat source in the shelter that is probably require running of power out to that and says it shall not be maintained with use of extension cord and deferred the electric issue to PSM/Fire Chief Jeff King and Electric Operations Manager Kevin Minnick on some of that. Atty Schweickert stated allowing of keeping of chickens is going to really only pertain to maybe ten people in the entire city. Atty Schweickert asked the committee to review the proposed code changes.

Alderman O'Sadnick asked Police Chief Sarah Raymond if the police department that would handle complaints and if they have received any complaints. Chief Raymond stated they have received complaints, and the chickens were removed. Chief Raymond stated that although they would enforce the code, they do not actively look for chickens. Chief Raymond stated the Police Department just got through jumping through all kinds of hoops to take care of a chicken problem because three neighbors complained and brought it to her. Chief Raymond stated we finally got that problem solved. Chief Raymond stated the person had chickens just basically thumbed their nose at the Police Department and the regulations and said no, they tried all kinds of things. Chief Raymond stated she is leery about opening it up to anyone, either open it to everyone, don't open it at all, because that's a can of worms. Chief Raymond stated either put the law on the books and enforce them or don't put them on the books. Chief Raymond stated that is her theory on it because it's too hard to enforce that. Atty Schweickert stated that is what we're proposing here is there's a rational reasonable basis with the minimum lot size, which is uniformly applied, and it cuts down on these issues that chickens caused to neighboring properties like odor and noise with having no roosters. Atty Schweickert, in agreement with Chief Raymond, stated this is something where they'll have to come get permits, be inspected and you know who they are. Atty Schweickert reported meeting with a number of the other property owners that are involved in the annexation, and nobody had any complaints about their chickens.

Alderman Tieman stated his is in favor of the code change as long as there are no issues or nuisances.

Alderman Payton asked that the property within the proposed annexation be grandfathered in but if they sell the property, it will not be transferred to future owner. Atty Schweickert reported there is a difference between our zoning code and our code of ordinances, and this is an ordinance, not a zoning thing. Atty Schweickert state that usually when a property is annexed, there are some existing non-conforming uses that get grandfathered in, it's a legal non-conforming use which is allowable until there is an expansion or a destruction or a discontinuance of that use and this is a separate situation where we have a separate code. Atty Schweickert stated the whole reason that prompted the

annexation to begin with was because they were in an unincorporated area and LaSalle County zoning ordinance allowed in the zoning district are, too for agriculture use and agriculture as a use, as defined in the in the county zoning ordinance, was very broad and allowed for all kinds of animal husbandry of all kinds of nature.

Mayor Kolowski asked everyone to take some time and review the proposed changes and contact Atty Schweickert if there are any questions.

POLICE

Police Chief Sarah Raymond explained the need to hire a new officer. Chief Raymond stated the additional officer with ensure there are four officers on each shift and a cover shift officer (2:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.) for each of those shifts as well. Chief Raymond reported that between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., it is very busy especially with the increase of retail. Chief Raymond reported as internal needs are increased, officers are taken off the road. Chief Raymond noted how the city has grown in the last ten years, including 75 new lots within two new subdivisions, to which adding to the population and increasing call volume. Chief Raymond reported the shift minimum is three and there are a lot of different things that take more of a police response. Chief Raymond stated that having an extra person to create those cover shifts would also alleviate some of the burnout.

Alderman Edgcomb asked how many accidents the police department responds to. Chief Raymond stated we are responding to accidents quite often. Chief Raymond stated in the last ten years there are approximately 500-700 per year. Chief Raymond also stated they are not just major accidents; they are also private property accidents.

FIRE

PSM/Fire Chief Jeff King initiated a discussion regarding tuition reimbursement for Firefighter Ryan Frank to obtain master's degree in emergency management. PSM/Fire Chief King stated Firefighter Frank could also train which would be a great benefit to the department. Human Resource Director Kim Reese reported on the five-year commitment that is required for tuition reimbursement and the percentage of what would be owed back to the city should he leave before the five years. PSM/Fire Chief King reported that Firefighter Frank purchased a lot in the new Pohar Crossing Subdivision and fully expects him to stay in Peru for the foreseeable future. Alderman O'Sadnick asked if the degree will affect his salary. PSM/Fire Chief King stated no.

Alderman Edgcomb initiated a discussion for evaluating the future fire needs of the city and safety of the team. Alderman Payton expressed his support but asked all to be mindful of the budget long term.

LANDFILL

None

CEMETERY

PSM/Fire Chief King reported there are three guys mowing at cemetery.

PARKS & RECREATION

Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events reported on a request from the Illinois Valley Pickleball Club requesting to hold a tournament at Washington Park on June 1st.

Director Thorson reported the wall, along the walking path, to the west of the parking lot at McKinley Park has disintegrated and is a safety concern. Director Thorson reported he received a quote from Ladzinski Cement Finishing in the amount of \$18,035 to restore the wall. Director Thorson stated the project would be done by May 1st.

Mayor Kolowski initiated a discussion regarding the Peru Girls Little League's plan to hold their opening ceremony at McKinley Park. Mayor Kolowski voiced his concern with holding the event at McKinley Park due to the ongoing construction and lack of parking. Mayor Kolowski stated the league does not see a safety concern.

Director Thorson reported that concrete has been poured for the batting cages at McKinley Park and framing to go up soon.

Mayor Kolowski reported there is an upcoming meeting with the IL Valley Pistol Shrimp on April 27th.

Director Thorson along with Mayor Kolowski reported on plans to reach out to OSF to see if they would be willing to sponsor Fitness in the Park.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Tieman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman O'Sadnick seconded the motion; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.