

COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING FEBRUARY 2, 2026

A Committee Of A Whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Kolowski in the Peru City Council Chambers on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 3:35 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

Mayor Kolowski presented the Committee of A Whole Minutes of January 26, 2026. Alderman Lukosus made a motion that the minutes be received and placed on file. Alderman O'Sadnick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

Matt Klein with reelCreative made a presentation on how his company could help Peru with marketing.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

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

IT

Director Rounds reported on a new contract for printers will save 14%. They will also provide the Police Department and HR with new printers.

Mr. Rounds reported that spam phishing has been on the rise and he asked department heads to please be careful when opening attachments.

WATER & SEWER

Eric Carls recommended approving a proposal from Great Lakes Water Resource Group in the amount of \$105,052.00 for Well #5 emergency work be placed on the agenda for Monday night.

Baker Tilly has been engaged to prepare a proposal for the water/sewer rate study. Should have proposal back by next committee of a whole.

TEST

Chris Perra, President of T.E.S.T. reported routine maintenance on the screens at the east and west treatment plants have been replaced and now the spares need to be restocked and asked that it be on the agenda for Monday.

AIRPORT

None

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Corporate Counsel Scott Schweikert reported the 1-acre parcel purchase for the land north of May Road near the I-80 overpass from Carus has been completed and asked that the city's petition for annexation and zoning be referred to the Planning/Zoning Commission.

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STREETS & ALLEYS

PSM/Fire Chief Jeff King reported crews have been busy with water main breaks across the city.

ELECTRIC

Electric Operations Manager Kevin Minnick reported on the need to have breakers looked at and asked for approval of a field services contract with Siemens service for an amount not to exceed \$13,470.00 on the agenda for Monday.

Mr. Minnick reported on 20-year-old bucket truck that can be sold as surplus equipment and will have proposal prepared for next week.

Mr. Minnick reported that a couple local business wants to buy MRETs (credits).

ENGINEERING

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

- 2026 General Fund Street Program Budget
 - Need to decide on budget
- PASER report & 5-year Street Maintenance Capital Improvement Plan
- Discuss 2026 Water & Sewer capital improvement project budgets
 - Main Street Water Main
 - Area 2 Phase 2 Sewer Separation
 - Need to decide on budget
- Discuss Sports Facilities Companies Feasibility Study
 - SSG Hotel Group to present on 2/9/26; asked if we are still moving forward. Mayor Kolowski stated yes.

OLD BUSINESS

Alderman Moreno inquired about electric rate study in with water/sewer.

NEW BUSINESS

None

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT

None

POLICE

None

FIRE

Alderman Edgcomb reported meetings are taking place on how to better staff the department.

Alderman Payton reported he is in talks with U.S. Representative Lauren Underwood's office about Safer Grant. PSM/Fire Chief King reported he is resubmitting application for Safer Grant and working on other grants for brush truck equipment.

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LANDFILL

None

CEMETERY

None

PARKS & RECREATION

Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events, initiated a discussion regarding donations to local baseball and softball leagues. Mr. Thorson noted the change in the boys (Little League) structure and donation level is still at \$4,000.

Mr. Thorson reported the Taste of the IL Valley will be cut back to two days (Friday/Saturday) in order to cut expenses.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Finance, Human Resources)

FINANCE

Alderman Payton initiated a discussion regarding revenues noting the BDD (Business Development District) needs to be done, and poled the aldermen as follows:

- Lukosus-in favor of BDD, better suits our needs
- Ballard-in favor of BDD
- Sapienza-in favor of BDD
- O'Sadnick-in favor of BDD, noting it is the path of least resistance
- Moreno-in favor of BDD
- Edgcomb-in favor of BDD
- Tieman-in favor of BDD

Alderman Payton asked to be placed on the agenda for Monday, Engage with Special Counsel Herb Klein to approve professional services agreement for the establishment of the Business Development District.

Mayor Kolowski noted he preferred to use Home Rule powers but believes in democracy and the need to do something to increase revenue.

Finance Officer Tracy Mitchell provided an update on the FY26 budget and where we are at.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Kim Reese, Director of Human Resources reported on wage ordinance update on Monday's agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Kolowski asked Department Heads to check inventory of vehicles.

Mayor Kolowski reported he has more revenue ideas and would like to discuss them at the next Committee of A Whole meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fire Fighter Matt McLaughlin stated the fire staff is not asking for more money, they are asking for more help as the fire department are the ones protecting the city.

CLOSED SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.