

COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING JULY 20, 2026

A Committee Of A Whole meeting was called to order by Mayor Ken Kolowski in the Peru City Council Chambers on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

Mayor Kolowski presented the Committee of A Whole Minutes of July 6, 2026. Alderman Lukosus made a motion that the minutes be received and placed on file. Alderman Edgcomb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

None

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

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

IT

None

WATER & SEWER

PSM/Fire Chief Jeff King and Water Department Foreman Justin Nambo presented a sewer cleaning and inspection report performed by Performance Pipelining, Inc. regarding the sewer issues in the 10th Street & Church Street area. PSM/Chief King reported that based on the inspections conducted, no definitive evidence was identified to determine the cause of the sewer backups. PSM/Chief King reported that workers removed an array of foreign objects that shouldn't have been in the main and reminded residents to be mindful of what gets flushed. PSM/Chief King reported workers will be testing additional lines on North Peoria Street and Shooting Park Road, as well as sewer lines that stretch into fields west of the city. PSM/Chief King encouraged affected homeowners to invest in ejector pits to avoid sewer backups should there be another significant rain incident. Alderman Moreno reported he was among the residents who had backup and stated the lack of communication from the city left a lot of homeowners frustrated. Alderman Moreno stated would like to see a better response from the city. PSM/Chief King reported he wished he had gone door-to-door with an explanation but didn't have the answers. PSM/King reported the last page of the presentation has a QR code with links to view videos of the lines inspected. The Committee discussed ejector pit costs and reinstating the reimbursement program. In addition, they would like to look into making ejector pits required for all new homes with basements.

TEST

None

AIRPORT

Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning, reported the T Hangar pavement is ready to begin.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

PSM/Fire Chief King reported the boat launch is open.

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STREETS & ALLEYS

PSM/Fire Chief Jeff King reported crews are preparing to resurface alleys.

ELECTRIC

Kevin Minnick, Electric Operations Manager, reported the utility pole damaged by Republic Services has been fixed and stated the driver lifted bucket in wrong area.

Mr. Minnick reported on GGE turbine jet inspection in the amount of \$12,850, asked for formal approval at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Minnick reported he is looking to sell the spare GGE turbine in the amount of \$131,800. Alderman Moreno asked about credits for turbine from IMEA approximately \$32,000 a month.

ENGINEERING

Alderman Sapienza motion to recommend the award of the Shooting Park Road Shoulder Widening and Resurfacing to Advanced Asphalt Co. in the amount of \$233,926.02. Alderman Moreno seconded the motion and asked for formal approval at the next regular meeting.

Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning, reported that the ITEP project begins this month. Mike Perry of Chamlin & Associates gave an overview of the project and reported trusses will arrive in the spring of 2027.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Alderman Edgcomb spoke on the need for a building inspector.

POLICE

None

FIRE

PSM/Fire Chief King reported on meeting with grant writer for SAFER Grant.

LANDFILL

None

CEMETERY

None

PARKS & RECREATION

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Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events, initiated a discussion regarding the Kids Fun Zone for the Taste of the Illinois Valley. Mr. Thorson reported the cost for this year's fun zone is \$29,857.50. Mr. Thorson reported the city received \$25,000 in sponsors and the 50/50 should cover the cost. Committee asked for formal approval at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Thorson reported the restroom repairs at Centennial Park may be completed in time for the Taste of the Illinois Valley.

Mr. Thorson reported the grant for McKinley Park should be in soon.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Finance, Human Resources)

FINANCE

Alderman Sapienza reported the Peru Historical Society will be donating two additional display cabinets for the Ron Wren Community Room.

Finance Officer Tracy Mitchell reported the audit process is going well.

HUMAN RESOURCES

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Kolowski reported signup is open for the upcoming IML Conference on September 17-19, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

Alderman Edgcomb made a motion to approve \$5,000 contribution to Central States District 20 Baseball. Alderman Ballard seconded the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Moreno initiated a discussion regarding soliciting at intersections on August 1st to benefit the annual St. Jude Run in memory of Guiliana Koehler. PSM/Chief King to coordinate with Alderman Moreno.

Mayor Kolowski recommended the appointment of Art Smith to the Illinois Valley Regional Dispatch (IVRD) Board. Alderman Edgcomb made a motion to concur with the recommendation. Alderman Ballard seconded the motion.

Mayor Kolowski recommended the appointment of Art Smith to the Joint Emergency Telephone Systems (JETS) Board. Alderman Edgcomb made a motion to concur with the recommendation. Alderman Moreno seconded the motion.

Mayor Kolowski reported that PVAS will meet with the city to work on path forward.

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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. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion. Clerk Mertel called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Edgcomb, Sapienza, O'Sadnick, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye; Aldermen Tieman and Payton absent. Motion carried.

Closed session began at 5:08 p.m. and ended at 5:22 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Edgcomb made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Alderman Ballard seconded the motion and motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.