

**CITY OF PERU REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 4, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Peru City Council was called to order by Mayor Ken Kolowski in the Peru City Council Chambers on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:03 p.m.

City Clerk Dave Bartley called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, Lukosus and Moreno present; Alderman Tieman and O’Sadnick absent; Mayor Kolowski present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**PRESENTATION**

Police Chief Sarah Raymond introduced newly hired Officer/School Resource Officer Brian Zebron and provided the following biography. SRO Zebron graduated from the North Central Technical College Police Academy in Wausau, Wisconsin in 1996. He started his career working as a Law Enforcement Park Ranger in Marathon County Wisconsin. He later worked for the LaSalle County Sheriff’s Department before accepting a job at LaSalle Police Department. He worked for LaSalle Police for over 26 years before retiring as an Administrative Sergeant in 2023. Twenty three of those 26 years at LaSalle Police Department, he was assigned to Narcotics and has investigated well over 3,000 documented narcotic cases in his career resulting in the seizure of multi-millions of dollars’ worth of drugs. He has extensive working experience on several specialized multijurisdictional assignments holding titles such as : K-9 Officer, Interstate Highway Drug Interdiction Officer , Drug Task Force Officer and Undercover Operations. Brian has testified at the local, state, and federal level on Narcotic cases and now teaches classes on Courtroom Testimony for Police Officers. Brian is a qualified expert in court in the areas of Police Dogs and Narcotics and is brought in for many cases for his expert opinion. Brian enjoys talking to and teaching at schools and civic organizations in the area of Drug Prevention and has been a guest speaker for numerous business organizations across the country. Brian is a certified Police Instructor and has taught at the Police Academy as well as In Service training for police officers. He enjoys his time off with his family and loves to fish. as well as boating and water skiing. Chief Raymond stated she has worked with SRO Zebron closely throughout her career in different areas and believes he will excel in the position. Chief Raymond conducted the swearing in of Officer/SRO Zebron.

*Officer Zebron will be the SRO for the La Salle/Putnam County Educational Alliance for Special Education (LEASE) and the La Salle, Marshall, Putnam Regional Office of Education 35. LEASE and ROE 35 will be responsible for 75% of the officer’s pay, while the city will pay the other 25%.*

**MINUTES/FINANCIAL REPORTS/ACTIVITY REPORTS**

Mayor Kolowski presented the Regular Minutes of November 20, 2023 and the Treasurer’s Report for October 2023. Alderman Edgcomb made a motion the minutes and report be received and placed on file. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion; motion carried.

**FINANCE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Alderman Sapienza presented the following disbursements for payment on December 6, 2023:

<b><u>FUND NAME</u></b>	<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u></b>
General Fund	\$474,753.35
Garbage Fund	75,791.10
Utility Fund	353,444.52

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Airport Fund	<u>510.00</u>
Total	\$904,498.97

Alderman Sapienza made a motion the disbursements be received, placed on file and the bills be paid in the usual manner. Alderman Ballard seconded the motion. Clerk Bartley called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye; Aldermen Tieman and O'Sadnick absent; motion carried.

Alderman Ballard made a motion to approve \$2,500 donation to Blue and Red Christmas for Kids. Alderman Moreno seconded the motion. Clerk Bartley called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye; Aldermen Tieman and O'Sadnick absent; motion carried.

Alderman Ballard made a motion to approve \$500.00 donation to Illinois Valley Food Pantry. Alderman Payton seconded the motion. Clerk Bartley called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye; Aldermen Tieman and O'Sadnick absent; motion carried.

Alderman Ballard made a motion to approve a Christmas Bonus for City employees: \$100.00 for full-time and \$50.00 for part-time. Alderman Payton seconded the motion. Clerk Bartley called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye; Aldermen Tieman and O'Sadnick absent; motion carried.

The Council discussed utility deposit for the new-acquired OSF facilities. The Council recommended a one-month deposit.

**PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Alderman Edgcomb made a motion to authorize the City of Peru Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to hire the selected candidate from the lateral entry applications to fill vacancy created by retirement of a patrol officer. Alderman Payton seconded the motion. Clerk Bartley called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye; Aldermen Tieman and O'Sadnick absent; motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Alderman Lukosus made a motion to approve the purchase of two padmount transformers from T&R Electric, in the amount of \$29,000. Alderman Sapienza seconded the motion. Clerk Bartley called the roll with Aldermen Ballard, Payton, Edgcomb, Sapienza, Lukosus and Moreno voting aye; Aldermen Tieman and O'Sadnick absent; motion carried.

Alderman Moreno asked for an update on the buildout of Master Builder Way. Eric Carls, Director of Engineering and Zoning reported the city received an EDP matching funds grant through IDOT in the amount of \$1.5 million and will meet the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Mr. Carls also reported the 3000 ft, all concrete road was built in three months and recognized Chamlin & Associates and Advanced Asphalt for their efforts. Mr. Carls stated there are some punch list items remaining such as lighting and restoration.

Alderman Moreno asked about plans for chillers at the ice rink. Mr. Carls stated the goal is to have chillers. Mr. Carls reported his department has submitted an OSLAD Grant application for funding and looking into other grant programs.

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PSM/Fire Chief Jeff King reported the leaf collection crews will be back out for the next two weeks.

Alderman Moreno recognized Bob Ghighi and his team regarding the holiday lighting throughout the city and in city hall.

Kevin Minnick, Electric Operations Manager reported on a pending directional boring invoice and noted adding an upgrade to our equipment.

### REPORT OF CITY ATTORNEY/ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

### PROCLAMATIONS

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TABLED: *Motion to hire selected candidate for Staff Accountant*

### NEW BUSINESS

### PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Bartley presented a petition from the City of Peru seeking annexation and zoning of territory located north of May Road, east of Peru Walmart, and south of the former right-of-way of the LaSalle and Bureau County Railway. Alderman Moreno made a motion the petition be received, placed on file and referred to the Planning/Zoning Commission for review and recommendation. Alderman Payton seconded the motion; motion carried.

Clerk Bartley presented a petition from the City of Peru seeking annexation and zoning of territory located at 215 LaSalle Road, LaSalle, IL. Alderman Payton made a motion the petition be received, placed on file and referred to the Planning/Zoning Commission for review and recommendation. Alderman Lukosus seconded the motion; motion carried.

### MAYOR'S NOTES

Mayor Kolowski recognized the passing of Parks and Recreation Board member Linda Dzierzynski.

Mayor Kolowski recognized Stephanie Piscia for her efforts regarding the city calendar and website.

Mayor Kolowski reported on attending the Pearl Harbor Parade and Memorial on December 2<sup>nd</sup> on Water Street at 11:30 a.m.

Mayor Kolowski also recognized the holiday decoration crews consisting of the Peru CSO, Bob Ghighi and parks crew, Country Kids Produce and Boy Scouts for placing crosses and wreaths at the cemetery.

Adam Thorson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Special Events, also recognized Parks and Recreation Board member Linda Dzierzynski and stated she was very passionate regarding city parks, especially 28<sup>th</sup> Street Park.

Mr. Thorson reported on the Light up the Night Christmas parade and activities at city hall. Mr. Thorson stated there were approximately 40 entries in the parade as opposed to 15 last year. Mr. Thorson stated 150 children received gifts and thanked the volunteers, Stephanie Piscia, Crystal Smith, Bob Ghighi etc.

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Mayor Kolowski also thanked the volunteers and parade entries and especially thanked Mr. Thorson on the phenomenal event. Mayor Kolowski also thanked the public works department for their efforts.

PSM/Fire Chief Jeff King reported on the upcoming Breakfast with Santa on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 8am-12pm.

Police Chief Sarah Raymond reported gift wrapping for the Blue and Red Christmas Program will be on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the Police Department.

Alderman Edgcomb noted that Stuart Tree Service for volunteering their time and vehicles each year to put up the CSO Christmas decorations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Lukosus made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Alderman Ballard seconded the motion and motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45