

Village of Peoria Heights
Public Hearing
April 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

Everyone stood for a moment of silence and the Pledge to the Flag.

Upon calling roll, the following Trustees were present: Sarah DeVore, Jeff Goett, Elizabeth Khazzam, Jennifer Reichert, Matthew Wigginton, and Brandon Wisenburg. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Village Clerk Stephanie Turner, and Village Counsel Attorney Mark Walton.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2, 2024 meetings. Trustee Reichert seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 6-0.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment on agenda items.

Mr. Steven Cook, vice president of the Peoria Heights Chamber of Commerce, came forward to provide some detail about the Taste of the Heights event. He shared last year more than 6,000 people had attended. He noted the City of Peoria had cancelled their Taste event so he expected increased attendance. He noted the Chamber spent in excess of \$23,000 for the Taste of Heights event and Kris Kringle events. He stated the proposed budget had no funding for the Chamber, and he asked the Board to consider allocating \$20,000 to the Chamber of Commerce.

Hearing no additional comment, the Board moved on to old business.

Trustee Wigginton thanked Mr. Mike Bailey for his articles as well as his follow up after the last meeting. Trustee Wigginton shared he had spoken to the City of Morton about the process of building their treatment facility as well as the information he had learned. Trustee Khazzam thanked Trustee Wigginton for getting the correct information.

Hearing no additional old business, the Board moved on to new business.

Mayor Phelan asked for general comments from the audience. Hearing no comments, Mayor Phelan closed the meeting to public comment.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the FY 2024-2025 Budget for the Village of Peoria Heights and Peoria Heights Public Library. Trustee Wisenburg seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted that the Board had discussed the budget at length. Trustee Wigginton acknowledged the request made during comments. Chief Sutton noted the budget margins are very slim, and there would need to be cuts to accommodate the request. Trustee Wisenburg stated he wasn't in favor of an amendment noting business owners weren't interested in a sales tax increase. Trustee Reichert noted that the Board might consider funding for the Chamber in subsequent years. Chief Sutton noted there were funds in the current fiscal year. Trustee Khazzam expressed support for finding funding for the Chamber. Chief Sutton asked Director of Community Development, Mr. Wayne Aldrich, if there was any funding available in the grant funds for events. Director Aldrich noted there was approximately \$10,000 in funds pending. Mayor Phelan noted there were also substantial in kind services offered to the Chamber for

the events including services from public works and the police department for traffic control and security. The Board discussed the Chamber's events as well as the impact on Village in terms of revenues and branding. Trustee DeVore questioned Mr. Cook about what the Chamber was doing to become more self-sufficient. Mr. Cook spoke about efforts to increase revenues. Trustee DeVore asked about memberships and membership benefits with Mr. Cook providing information about how the Chamber is restructuring. Chief Sutton reemphasized there weren't funds in the next year, but the Board could elect to contribute some funds before the end of the fiscal year. Chief Sutton asked Attorney Walton if the Board could take action or if it would need to be addressed at a future meeting. Attorney Walton stated it could be approved at the next meeting retroactively. Mayor Phelan noted branding was important, but the Village would be operating on a very slim budget. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the FY 24-25 budget.

Trustee Wigginton made a motion to approve the street closure for Taste of the Heights on Thursday, September 19, 2024. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion. Trustee Wigginton noted it was a well attended event that grows more popular every year. The road closure will be the same as it has been in the past with officers patrolling the neighborhoods impacted by the detour. This will be the fourth year for the event. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the event.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-1728: Amendment to the Peoria Urban Enterprise Zoning Designating Ordinance and its Intergovernmental Agreement. Trustee Wigginton seconded the motion. Ms. Sally Hanley, Director of Business Assistance with the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, came forward. Ms. Hanley shared there are parcel additions in West Peoria and the unincorporated Peoria County including details about the development projects which prompted the additions. She noted there were also changes to the Enterprise Zone Act which are being incorporated into the ordinance as well. The Board approved Ordinance 2024-1728 by a vote of 6-0.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve 2024-1729: an Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of Property Located at 1201/1203 Kingman Avenue to Bradley University. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Attorney Walton shared the lease was similar to the previous lease at the location. The rent is \$6,000 annually with an initial 5 year lease term. There's the option to extend the lease, in 5 year periods, up to a total of 25 years. Mayor Phelan noted the Village is hoping to explore more options to partner with Bradley University on other projects. Mr. Jim Foley, representative of Bradley University, thanked the Board noting the Turner Center has had a lot of interest in the shared kitchen since word got out. He thanked Director Aldrich and Village staff for being so easy to work with. Mr. Foley noted they're working on getting the hood updated to meet zoning requirements and just waiting on the final proposal from their contractor. He noted that the success of the project hinges on partnerships, and they're excited to work with the Village going forward. Director Aldrich noted it was a wonderful project that would be a good fit for the neighborhood as well as supporting businesses. Attorney Walton noted the lease does include a commitment for the Village to spend up to \$10,000 on building improvements. Trustee Wisenburg questioned the clause. Director Aldrich noted it was similar to the BDD agreements the Village offers businesses in the Village. Trustee Wisenburg expressed frustration but concluded he was looking forward to the project. Trustee Wigginton thanked Trustee Khazzam for her work finding a tenant. The Board discussed the source of funding with Trustee Khazzam and Chief Sutton noting it would be funded by the BDD. The ordinance was approved 6-0.

Trustee Reichert made a motion to approve an icing pigging services agreement in the amount of \$213,915. Trustee Goett seconded the motion. Superintendent of Public Works, Mr. Chris Chandler, shared the service area would be south of Lake and including lines that transport water from the wells.

Trustee Khazzam asked how the area compared to the previous service. Mr. Chandler noted it was similar in size. The Board voted 6-0 to approve ice pigging services.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business.

Chief Sutton reminded the Board and residents that May 3 – 4, 2024 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm would be the annual clean up. G & O Disposal will be working with the Village to provide additional waste disposal services to residents. The Village website has more information about what items are accepted.

Director Aldrich shared the Village would be partnering with the Chamber of Commerce on May 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm to have a meeting regarding parking concerns. He noted he'd be listening to concerns, and the Village may consider a parking study which could be funded by grants. He also stated he expects the active transportation project will begin in early May.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment. Hearing no comment, the Board moved on to the finance reports.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. There were no questions on the bills. The Board voted 6-0 to approve payment of the bills.

Clerk Turner read the Treasurer's Report. At the end of March, there was \$8,113,118.37 in the Village controlled accounts and \$2,094,213.12 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee Goett made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Trustee DeVore seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Reichert seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to adjourn at 6:23 pm.

Michael Phelan, Mayor

Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk