

City Council Minutes
May 6, 2025

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council
City Hall
Petersburg, Illinois

I. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Snyder.

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Mayor Snyder performed the swearing in of Aldermen Megan Loberg-Simmering, Alderman Sonnemaker, City Clerk Ramage, and Treasurer Riley.

B. Roll Call. Members present were Aldermen Megan Loberg-Simmering, Neil Conklin, Mike Allison, Rick Sonnemaker, and Bruce Gorman. Alderman Andrew Gain was absent. Also present were Mayor Snyder, Former Treasurer David Frick, Treasurer Melissa Riley, Attorney Jason Brokaw and City Clerk John Ramage.

C. Mayor Snyder led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

C. A motion was made by Alderman Gorman and seconded by Alderman Conklin to approve the agenda. VOTES: Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Allison, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

III. CITY CLERK

A. The City Clerk presented the Warrant List and Accounts Payable. After a review, a motion was made by Alderman Gorman and seconded by Alderman Conklin to approve payment of the bills as listed on the Warrant List and Accounts Payable. VOTES: Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

B. The minutes for April 15, 2025, were presented. A motion was made by Alderman Allison and seconded by Alderman Gorman to approve the April 15, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. VOTES: Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

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IV. HEARING OF CITIZENS

1.Laura Kuhl - Book Fair on the Square 8.23.25 with Street Closure. Laura wants to host the second annual book fair on the Square on Saturday August 23, 2025, and needs approval for a street closure of 7th Street between Douglas and Sheridan, including the alleys. The closure would be from 11:00 to 7:00. After discussion, a motion was made by Alderman Gorman and seconded by Alderman Conklin to approve the street closures associated with the book fair, as listed above. VOTES: Loberg-Simmering, yes; Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes, Conklin, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

2.Citizen Mike Caceres petitioned the city council to provide some relief for sewer repairs. After discussions members of the Water Committee, the Water Supervisor and others will meet with Mike to better understand the issue and bring back a recommendation.

V. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

A. Police

1.Police Department Monthly Report was given by Chief Mike Nichols. There were 141 calls for service last month. The calls for service were consistent with past months. Two officers are graduating from the Police Academy on the 25th.

2.A discussion and vote on Flock Cameras. Chief Nichols explained that Flock Cameras are cameras that are intended to identify vehicles that drive past a point along a road. They are usually located near city or county boundaries. Chief Nichols received a quote of \$21,750.00 for three Flock Camera's with a two-year contract. After the two-year period the cost would be around \$9000.00. The data produced would belong to the city and be purged after being kept for a month. A motion made by Alderman Gorman seconded by Alderman Lober-Simmering to approve the two-year contract for the Flock Camera's. VOTES: Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, no; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED.

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B. Fire

- 1.The Fire Department Monthly Report was given by Chief Eric Hubner. The department received thirty-four calls for service and a breakdown of the calls was provided.
2. Engine 1 was put back in service, but an oil leak was noticed from a gasket that had been replaced recently. The company that replaced the gasket earlier will replace it again at no cost and provide a backup Engine to be used by the city.
3. Deputy Chief Henderson and FF Andrew Nissen hosted about 20 homeschool children at the firehouse on May 2nd. The children learned about fire safety/prevention and received a tour of the firehouse.
4. An IDOL/OSHA inspection was completed on April 30th with Chief Heubner and Captain Price in attendance for the inspection. The inspection went well, and the department passed the inspection.
- 5.The paperwork for two grants has been submitted and the department is expecting notice soon.

C. Zoning

- 1.None.

VI. OFFICERS' REPORTS

A. Mayor's Report

- 1.The mayor provided an update on an asbestos litigation case the city had been following, which originated in Cook County. The judge dismissed the portion of the case that might have affected the city.
- 2.Tree Committee back payment. Because of an administrative 'glitch' the tree committee had not received a payment from the city for the

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last three years, which amounts to \$3000.00. This item is on the Warrant List approved at this meeting.

3. Alleyway closure. There had been a request to vacate a portion of a north-south running alley, which started at W. Douglas Street and ran northward for a third of a block. Streets parallel to the alley are 10th Street on the West, and 9th Street on the East. A motion made by Alderman Gorman seconded by Alderman Allison to vacate the alley in question, upon completion of necessary paperwork by the requestor. VOTES: Allison, yes; Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED. An ordinance will be drawn up and presented at the next city council meeting to do the actual transfer of property.

B. Treasurer

1. Treasurer Melissa Riley scheduled a budget meeting for May 20th at 7:05 in city hall.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEES' REPORT

None

A. Building and Grounds

B. Fire

C. Parks and Playgrounds

D. Personnel

E. Streets

F. Water/Sewer

G. Police

H. Finance

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VII. SPECIAL COMMITTEES' REPORT

None

X. Old Business

1.A citizen had a question regarding a TIF issue. The mayor brought the issue to the attention of the council and the city attorney. After discussion the issue was deemed unworkable by all.

2.Monday at Jaycee Park a check from Town & Country Women's Club and a check from the city was presented to Lonnie McAnnally to support the park. The mayor gave status on improvements to the park. There were discussions regarding how to manage the park in the future. No decisions were made.

3.There were discussions regarding the site of the old grade school at 7th and Jackson Street. Some citizens have asked about using the site for social functions. Most comments from the council were not in favor of allowing folks to use the site until it was cleaned up, for safety reasons. Per discussion, it was determined not to allow social functions on that site until it has been cleaned up.

X. NEW BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Alderman Conklin and seconded by Alderman Allison to adjourn the meeting. VOTES: Sonnemaker, yes; Gorman, yes; Conklin, yes; Loberg-Simmering, yes; Allison, yes. Mayor Snyder declared the MOTION CARRIED. Meeting Adjourned at 8:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Ramage, City Clerk

Approved: May 20, 2025