



: OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS :

: OF THE TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS :

The Annual Town Meeting of the Town of the City of Peoria, Illinois, was called to order at 6:11 P.M., on April 9, 2024, by Town Clerk Stefanie Tarr, in Room 400, City Hall Building, 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois, with proper notice having been posted.

Present: Town Clerk Stefanie Tarr, Town Supervisor LaTrina Leary, Town Assessor Max Schlafley, Dr. Rita Ali, Mr. Andre Allen, Mr. Denis Cyr, Mr. Charles Grayeb, Ms. Denise Jackson, Dr. Bernice Gordon-Young, Mr. John Kelly, Mr. Zachary Oyler, Mr. Timothy Riggerbach, Mr. Mike Vespa, Town Attorney John Redlingshafer, Town Assistant Ian Munk, Police Chief Eric Echevarria, Township Electors, and members of the media.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Town Clerk Stefanie Tarr requested a moment of silent prayer or reflection and then she led the pledge of allegiance. She explained to citizens that if they resided within the boundaries of Peoria Township and were a registered voter, they were Peoria Town electors and they could participate in making motions or voting on items on the agenda.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR

Town Clerk Tarr opened the floor for nomination of a Moderator. Township citizen Ryan Hilde nominated Dr. Rita Ali to be elected Moderator; seconded by Township citizen Lewis Stein.

After the third call for nominations, Town Clerk Tarr determined there were no other nominations, and she closed the nominations.

Motion to elect Dr. Rita Ali as Moderator was approved by viva voce vote.

Dr. Rita Ali was sworn in as Moderator by the Town Clerk. Moderator Ali gave an overview of the rules and preservation of order.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE TOWN OF THE CITY OF PEORIA

Mr. Andre Allen moved to approve the Statement of Financial Affairs of the Town of the City of Peoria; seconded by Mr. Denis Cyr.

Motion to approve the Statement of Financial Affairs of the Town of the City of Peoria was approved unanimously by viva voce vote.

SHALL THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY QUESTION OF PUBLIC POLICY BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, ELECTION:

SHOULD THE STATE OF ILLINOIS ADOPT RANKED CHOICE VOTING—A SYSTEM WHICH GIVES VOTERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RANK MULTIPLE CHOICES IN A PROCESS THAT ENSURES THE WINNER HAS GAINED APPROVAL BY THE MAJORITY OF VOTERS, ALLOWS VOTERS TO VOTE THEIR TRUE PREFERENCE, GETS RID OF THE “SPOILER EFFECT” AND ENCOURAGES MORE POSITIVE CAMPAIGNING—FOR STATE WIDE AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS

Township citizen Sheldon Schafer gave an overview of ranked choice voting and cited he worked with various organizations to have brought the advisory question to the Annual Town Meeting. At the conclusion of his remarks, Township citizen Schafer moved to approve the advisory question; seconded by Township citizen Constance Torry Romanus.

Discussions were held regarding the advisory question. Four citizens spoke in favor of the advisory question and named its value as a method of democracy and diminished partisanship as reasons for support.

Three citizens spoke against placing the advisory question on the ballot and named inefficiency of the ranked choice voting system and lack of changed electoral outcomes as reasons to oppose.

Motion to allow the following advisory question of public policy be placed on the ballot for submission to the voters for the November 5, 2024, election: *Should the State of Illinois adopt ranked choice voting—a system which gives voters the opportunity to rank multiple choices in a process that ensures the winner has gained approval by the majority of voters, allows voters to vote their true preference, gets rid of the “spoiler effect” and encourages more positive campaigning—for Statewide and Federal elections* was approved by a vote of 99 Yeas; 56 Nays.

SHALL THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY QUESTION OF PUBLIC POLICY BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, ELECTION:

SHALL THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND SUBORDINATE DIVISION STOP GIVING MILITARY FUNDING TO ISRAEL WHICH CURRENTLY COSTS TAXPAYERS 3.8 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR, GIVEN ISRAEL'S GLOBAL RECOGNITION AS AN APARTHEID REGIME WITH A TRACK RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Township citizen Lawrence Maushard repeated the wording of the advisory question and spoke on his view of the need to bring this question to the ballot. At the conclusion of his remarks, Township citizen Maushard moved to approve the advisory question; seconded by Township citizen Youssef Bourdjarane.

Discussions were held regarding the advisory question. Eleven citizens spoke in favor of the issue and named giving the voters of the Township an opportunity to vote on the issue on a ballot and showing support to the higher government entities, as reasons for support.

Eleven citizens spoke against the issue and named concerns about the wording of the advisory question and concerns about the issue not being an action local government can act on as reasons for opposition.

Motion to allow the following advisory of public policy be placed on the ballot for submission to the voters for the November 5, 2024, election: *Shall the United States Federal government and subordinate division stop giving military funding to Israel which currently costs taxpayers 2.8 billion dollars a year, given Israel's global recognition as an apartheid regime with a track record of human rights violations* was DEFEATED by a vote of 67 Yeas; 93 Nays.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON APRIL 11, 2023

Supervisor Leary moved to approve the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on April 11, 2023; seconded by Mr. Kelly.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on April 11, 2023, was approved by viva voce vote.

CITIZENS' OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE ELECTORS

Moderator Ali stated no more items could be considered for the agenda as the agenda must be determined in advance.

Youssef Bourdjarane, Township citizen, was grateful for the opportunity to bring the advisory question to the Town Meeting. He stated his agreements and disagreements with other electors' statements and votes.


Sheldon Schafer, Township citizen, spoke in favor of township process as a tool for citizens to approach legislators.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Charles Grayeb moved to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting; seconded by Dr. Bernice Gordon-Young.

Motion to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting was approved by viva voce vote.

The Annual Town Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 P.M.



Stefanie Tarr, RMC, MMC, Town Clerk
Town of the City of Peoria, Illinois

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