



## Peoria council to hear more about stormwater utility tax

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PEORIA — Tuesday's Peoria City Council meeting is expected to cover a lot of ground — from approving the demolition of the Riverfront Village platform and acknowledging a report on city garbage service to offering a presentation on Peoria's newest tax, the stormwater utility.

“We plan to let council members know what our plans are moving forward,” said Public Works Director Scott Reeise, referring to a stormwater fee that will be assessed homeowners and businesses starting in June designed to fund a backlog of stormwater projects with an estimated cost of \$17 million.

A city resident with an average-sized home can expect to pay \$8 a month, he said. The utility tax will also lay the groundwork for financing the Combined Sewer Overflow project. The CSO project is Peoria's proposed response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that has charged the city with keeping sewage out of the Illinois River. During periods of heavy rainfall, overloaded sewer lines empty directly into the river instead of going to the sewage treatment plant.

Reeise said on Tuesday he will lay out his department's outreach plans to inform the public about the utility tax. At the March 27 council meeting, Reeise said he hopes to alleviate business concerns by detailing how credits could be earned that could reduce the monthly fee.

Also on the council agenda is the approval of a committee report on waste collection services. Garbage collection represents the largest single contract for the city at over \$6 million a year. The current contract with PDC expires June 30, 2019.

Council members received information regarding that contract at a policy session held last month. City Manager Patrick Urich noted that submitting proposals for next year’s garbage contract are Advanced Disposal, the city’s public works department, PDC Services and Waste Management.

A number of area restaurants look to get city approval Tuesday on upcoming moves. Rumberger’s Wings & More seeks to open its third Peoria outlet at 500 Main St., a site at the corner of Main and Madison Avenue that’s seen plenty of turnover in recent years. Among the corner’s last tenants was Club Purple, a nightclub that’s been closed about a year. Before that it was home to Shifters Pub, the Whammy Bar, Babe’s, Eurojack’s and the Fifth Amendment.

Also looking for class B license (50 percent food) is the Double A sports bar that looks to relocate from its location off Willow Knolls Drive to the building on Illinois Route 91 that formerly housed the Titled Kilt and First & Home. Also seeking a class B license is Cyd’s Gourmet Kitchen, a longtime fixture at the Junction City shopping center, that’s relocating to the clubhouse in Donovan Park.

All three outlets had applications approved by the Peoria Liquor Commission.

If U-Haul receives council approval to make a storage facility out of the Travelodge Hotel, 4400 N. Brandywine Drive, it will mark the end of a longtime hotel site in Peoria. Construction of a Holiday Inn at the location across from Northwoods Mall was expected to begin in 1974 but a lack of financing delayed the hotel’s opening until 1980.

With its 260 rooms, the Holiday Inn Holidome later became Peoria’s third largest hotel and one of its most popular in the 1980s with heated pool, sauna and game room. When Holiday Inn later discarded the Holidome concept, the hotel became the Brandywine Inn & Conference Center. In 2004, it became a Ramada Inn property and in 2009 it was rechristened the Grand Hotel. The hotel closed last year bearing the Travelodge flag.

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