

POSITIVELY PECULIAR

July - August - September, 2014 Issue



www.cityofpeculiar.org



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CITY MEETINGS



Board of Alderman
1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
Each Month

Planning and Zoning
Commission
2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Each Month

Park Board
2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Each Month

All meetings are held at City Hall in the Council Chambers and are open to the public. City Hall is located at 250 S. Main Street.

Board of Aldermen meetings are video taped and are available on the City's website.

All agendas and minutes from city meetings are available on the City website at www.cityofpeculiar.org.



Peculiar Farmers' & Artists' Market

The FarMart Farmers' & Artists' Market started its first season on May 28th, 2014. FarMart is held every Wednesday from 4 pm – 7 pm from late May to mid October. Location is the Municipal Court Parking Lot at C Highway (Main Street) and West Center in Downtown Peculiar.

On any given Wednesday you will find fresh produce, from scratch breads/ cookies/ cinnamon rolls, fudge, live plants, pottery, items for your yard, furniture, homemade tamales, salsa, honey, jams, Peculiar items and jewelry.

The Downtown Peculiar Arts & Culture District hosts this weekly market. Those interested in being a vendor or customers can get more details at www.downtownpeculiar.com, on DPACD's Facebook page or at 816-806-3698.

Make it a part of your Wednesday routine to visit FarMart.

DISCOUNTED TICKETS



available at
City Hall



2 Day Adult - \$58
2 Day Child - \$48



1 Day Adult - \$37.50
1 Day Child/Senior - \$27.50



1 Park/1 Pass - \$42.00

Every Ticket Sold - a portion is given to
Peculiar Parks & Recreation
for Park Improvements



RUMORS VS FACTS

Rumor: The City will use the money collected for anything it wants regardless of what the ballot says.

Fact: The money collected can only be used for **construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, policing, signing, lighting, and cleaning of roads and/or streets; and for the payment of principal and interest on bonded indebtedness incurred for road and street purposes, the use thereof being subject to such other provisions and restrictions as provided by law.**

Each year the City is audited by an outside firm to insure that all monies are being spent according to law.

(The City currently has NO issued Street Bonds)

Rumor: The City spent its money for streets on the new police vehicles.

Fact: The City received over one million dollars from the Federal Government for the assistance that was provided several years ago in an FBI Investigation. This money came with almost 40 pages of rules and regulations that had to be followed when spending it, and it could only be spent on the Police Department. **None of the money allocated for streets was spent on the new police fleet.**

Rumor: The City used their money to put up signs all over town to vote for the 1 penny Fuel Tax.

Fact: The City has not spent any money for signs or handouts. All these signs were paid for by private citizens that have organized to ask people to vote for the Fuel Tax. They believe the City needs this revenue stream for our street maintenance and they are campaigning on that issue. The City is prohibited by law to campaign for any issue - we can only send out factual information on these issues.

Rumor: If the City didn't spend money so frivolously there would be more money for roads.

Fact: The City went through three (3) S&P Reviews in-which the City received in "A" in our Bond Rating. A City of our size would normally receive a "BB" Rating, however we were able to get higher at an A. This rating is based upon our strong financials and our clear management process; stated by the private bond market sector as "Excellent." One of the significant points identified in this review was our City Budget being cut by twenty-five percent (25%) over the past several years. They were amazed a City would cut that much - they rarely see that in performing their reviews. The City initiated these budget cuts during a recession and established healthy fund reserves without reducing City services. To say the City is spending out of control is completely fabricated, there is no Audit or Private sector reviews that even vaguely support that statement.

Rumor: The City spent all their money on the new City Hall

Fact: The new City Hall was purchased for \$48 a square foot, you cannot build a metal building that cheap! It had no major impact on our normal budget and is clearly shown as a line item of the budget.

Rumor: The City has all kinds of money they are secretly spending in other places and that is what they will do with the Fuel Tax (road) money.

Fact: Again, by law, the City cannot spend tax money passed by our voters in other areas or for other uses. Every budget, and the most current audit, is posted on the City's Website for anyone to review to verify where every dollar goes. We are not the Federal Government, we cannot print money and we cannot spend more than we have budget approval for.

Rumor: If the City was more business friendly we would have more business that would pay for our roads.

Fact: The City is business friendly as pointed out from the recent metro review and our ordinances are very clear and very open to any business coming into town. Recently the Planning Commission and Board of Alderman passed a Matrix of allowable business uses for every Zoning Business District of our community.

Rumor: The City has too many staff and they pay them too much.

Fact: Seven (7) years ago the City went through a comprehensive review of staff and their classifications. Every staff position has a job description, and a minimum to maximum pay range. Every position is eligible to receive a raise based on performance. At the beginning of the fiscal year, every staff member meets with their supervisor and the supervisor sets goals for the year that the employee must meet. At the end of the fiscal year, the employee is rated per their goals as well as the normal day to day quality of work and employee reliability. If they exceed their performance goals they are eligible for a 4% raise, if they meet their goals a 3% raise and if they do not perform they do not get a raise. In addition, those who do not perform are placed on a 90 day probation with goals; if they do not improve during this period they are terminated.

As far as too many staff; over the past five (5) years the City reduced staff from 37 employees to 30 employees City wide. Yes, that number includes every staff person, we only have 30. That represents a 19% reduction in staff while providing the same level in services.

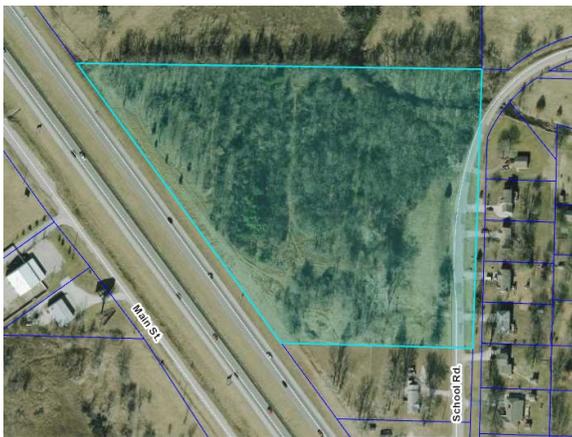
PLEASE VOTE ON AUGUST 5th

THE MONEY GENERATED CAN AND WILL ONLY BE USED FOR ROADS!

Annexation Information

The City of Peculiar has proposed to annex four (4) Tracts of property into our City Limits; this will be presented for voter approval on election day, Tuesday August 5th, 2014. The annexation is shown on the ballot as Question 2, which will list each Tract and a lengthy legal description. The annexation of these properties would ensure orderly development, growth and secure a southern boundary for future expansion. To provide clarification, each Tract of property proposed for annexation is shown on the maps below and listed by its street address for your information.

Tract 1: 21604 S. School Road



Tract 2: 9707 E. State Route YY (KCP&L Substation)

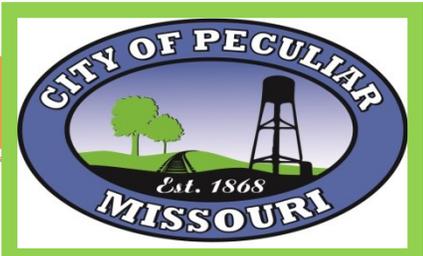


Tract 3: E. 227th Street & Harper Road (Harper Farm)



Tract 4: 24110 S. Peculiar Drive (Sioux Chief Manufacturing)





PUBLIC NOTICE: OPEN HOUSE!!

The **City of Peculiar** is happy to announce an Open House meeting! Come join us for a personal experience with your City to get information. The open house will have booths to inform and discuss the following topics:

Bank Card Fees.

In order to supplement costs inquired from the use of Credit and Debit cards to pay bills, the city will be issuing a per transaction fee. There will be no added fees to cash, check or direct withdrawal.

Utilities.

Utility rate changes are in place between the 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 years. The City is looking at having our own connection to KCMO. It will cost more up front but will save costs years out.

Trash days are being moved to Town and Country Recycling and Waste Management. This will save the City thousands of dollars.

Property Tax.

In the coming year, a 2009 a voter approved, \$7,000,000 Bond will be issued to fund the construction of an interchange at I-49 and 211th St.

Sales Tax.

This August, Missouri voters will be asked to decide on Constitutional Amendment 7 to temporarily raise the sales tax by ¾ of a cent with all proceeds going toward needed transportation improvements statewide

Gas Tax.

The City of Peculiar is proposing a \$0.01 fuel tax increase to fund citywide street projects.

When?

Tuesday, July 15th

6:30-8 PM

Where?

Lions Hall

500 Schug Avenue



RATE CHANGES:

<u>Water:</u>	2013/2014	2014/2015
City:		
Minimum 0-1000	\$ 17.21	\$ 19.71
1001+	\$ 12.77	\$ 15.27
Rural:		
Minimum 0-1000	\$ 19.95	\$ 22.45
1001+	\$ 13.77	\$ 16.27
Trash:		
Residential	\$ 14.80	\$ 14.80
Senior (55+)	\$ 13.80	\$ 13.80
Sewer:		
City:		
Minimum 0-1000	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.55
1001+	\$ 6.85	\$ 7.40
Business Government:		
minimum 0-1000	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.55
1001+	\$ 8.35	\$ 8.90
Rural:		
minimum 0-1000	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.55
1001+	\$ 9.35	\$ 9.90
2011 Bond:	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00
Primacy:		
5/8x3/4 inch meter	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25
1"<meter<2"	\$ 0.62	\$ 0.62
2"<meter<4"	\$ 3.43	\$ 3.43



The Peculiar Parks & Recreation Department will be offering youth Coed Soccer and Girls Youth Volleyball this fall. Registration opens on July 1st for both leagues. Online Registration is available.

Volunteer Coaches: These leagues are dependent upon volunteer coaches. If you would like to be a coach, please contact the Parks & Rec Office at 779-2225 or log onto our website for more information

Log onto our website at www.cityofpeculiar.org for league and registration information



PPR Recreation Soccer League is offered for boys and girls ages 4 to 11 each spring and fall. For more information, log onto our website at www.cityofpeculiar.org or call our office at 816-779-2225.

League Information

- Coed Divisions: Ages 4 -11; Divisions are U5 (four-years-old by August 1, 2014), U6, U8, U10, and U12.
- 8 game Season, games shared with teams from the Raymore Parks & Recreation Soccer league
- Games played on Saturdays (all day) & Sunday (afternoons) at Recreation Park in Raymore
- Practices on weeknights in Peculiar
- We provide shirts & team equipment

Registration Information

- Individual Registrations only accepted.
- Register in person at City Hall or online at www.cityofpeculiar.org
- Fee per player: \$65 for U5/U6 - \$85 for U8-U12
- Deadline to Register – July 25
- A late fee of \$10 will be applied 7/26 – 8/1



PPR Youth Volleyball League is offered each spring and fall through Peculiar Parks & Recreation. League games & practices will be held at Ray-Pec Facilities and games will be shared with teams from the Raymore Parks & Recreation Youth Volleyball League.

League Information

- Girls in 4th - 8th grades.
- 6 games with a post season single elimination tournament.
- Games played on Saturdays / Practices on weeknights
- We provide shirts, volleyballs, nets, officials.

Registration Information

- Individual Registrations only accepted.
- Register in person at City Hall or online at www.cityofpeculiar.org
- Fee: \$65 per player
- Deadline to Register - August 15
- A late fee of \$10 will be applied 8/16 – 8/22



L CK FENCE

Located under the historic, three legged water tower in Downtown (W. Broadway and W. First Street) on what will soon be the trail head for the rail bed walking trail, there is a new, interactive, public art piece. The lock fence is a place where you lock up your commitment to a loved one, lock out pain, health issues or sorrow, lock in your fondest dream. The keys are thrown into the middle leg of the water tower symbolizing the enduring nature of the lock's message. Decorate your lock, lock it on the fence and throw your key in the slot.

Please Vote!

Calendar of Events
July 15th - Open House Meeting
at Lions Club 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
July 25th - Soccer Registration
ends.
August 5th - Primary Election
August 15th - Volleyball
registration ends.

CURRENT RESIDENT



City of Peculiar
250 S. Main Street
Peculiar, MO 64078

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