Questions Compiled March 13-18 (responses to post on March 23)

1) The CEO Council states that IAWC’s water rates are twice the national average. Where go they get their numbers that support this? Do they say a City owned water company will lower the rates?

2) The CEO Council states that income that is left over after paying the bond debt could be used to fund other projects? How do we know there will be money left over after the City pays the bond debt? Would this be legal? Wouldn’t it be prudent for the City’s water department have to reinvest any excess revenue, if available, back into the water fund for investments into the water system or would the water system then start to fail as our roads have when investment in the road system was taken away?

3) If the City purchases the Water Company, how would this be set up? Would it be a department within the City? Would they hire someone like ILAW to run the water system?

4) Using the City’s current bond rating, and using just the number from the last appraisal ($220,000,000), how does the CEO Council think that the bonds can be paid off prior to 30 years with all the debt the City already has? Will the City have to raise rates just to meet these bond payments?

5) How was the CEO Council Objective Study truly objective if there are members of PAAG, who are due to get a pay out from the City when the PAAG lawsuit is settled, that lead “sub-committee groups” of their study?

6) Where will the City make up the amount that they receive currently from the water bills (5% utility tax)? Where will the other entities that get the benefit of IAWC’s real estate taxes make this up?

7) The CEO Council insists that a City owned water company would be better for development and growth but doesn’t the City and IAWC already work together on development and growth?
8) The water company has a call center that takes our calls, schedules our appointments etc. Who will do this if the City owns the water system? Will the City have to hire additional staff to handle this adding to the current City pension debt?

9) Why doesn’t the CEO Council tell us what this is really about? Isn’t this just about the same two developers – Rita Kress and Diane Oberhelman - who want to control water so they can control developments? Can they please answer to the real reason we continue to revisit this?

10) Are the CEO Council or Rita Kress/Diane Oberhelman willing to donate funds to the road repairs or a grocery co-op or the CSO repairs, things that really need attention right now?

11) Why does the City have an option every five years to buy the Water System owned by Illinois American Water?

12) Has the City ever exercised its right to purchase the Water System?

13) What did the City contend the System was worth in the 2005 valuation hearing?

14) Was the 2005 valuation of $220 million a "fluke"?

15) Has the Water System increased in value since 2005?

16) What are the "Rules of the Commission" and why are they important to the buyout issue?

17) How long did it take to negotiate the Rules of the Commission in 2003?

18) What do the Rules of the Commission say?
19) Do the Rules of the Commission apply today if the City Council passes a resolution to buy the System?

20) In 2013, when the last buy out option occurred, how were the Rules of the Commission treated?

21) If the City decides to not follow the Rules of the Commission and then passes a resolution to purchase the System under the buyout option, what will happen?

22) How was the 2003 value of $220 million reached? What would it be if it was purely a Government Owned Utility (GOU) as buyout backers argue?

23) How much did the City spend on the last takeover attempt?

24) What is PAAG?

25) What happened after the City voted to not purchase the Water System in 2005 for $220 million?

26) What did PAAG contend the City should have done in terms of "due diligence" in 2005 to avoid having to repay the $1 million loan?

27) What was the result of the PAAG lawsuit?

28) Can the city use revenue from the water system for other projects?

29) How is rate-making different under municipal ownership and private ownership?

30) Are there any conditions that the City has to agree to in accepting the $400,000?

31) Can the City use the $400,000 to pay for an appraisal of the Water System before it votes to purchase the system and start the official commission appraisal process?

32) Will $400,000 be enough to pay for the entire commission appraisal process?
33) Where will additional funds come from?

34) Are the same people who control the PAAG Million Dollar Judgment also the ones who are the largest contributors to funding the $400,000 offered by the CEO Council?

35) Does the CEO Council offer say anything about what influence the people funding the $400,000 will have on the "due diligence" process?

36) Have Diane Oberhelman and Rita Kress offered to forgive the PAAG Million Dollar judgment, if the City agrees to the CEO Council Offer?

37) The City can back out of a buyout at any time, so what’s the harm?

38) Who is paying Shelley Epstein for his work on the CEO Council related to the CEO Council 2016 Report and the current offer?

39) How is the proposed CEO Council oversight committee set up? Does this reduce the power of our City council?

40) What if the $400,000 isn’t enough? And if the CEO Council cannot raise any more money?

41) What happens to the $2 million the City owes the PAAG group if the City takes this additional $400,000?

42) When and where will a policy session be held?

43) Will the City of Peoria put the water buyout decision to a referendum?

44) How much have IAWC rates increased in Peoria since 2005, the last time an appraisal was conducted? How does that compare with the Midwest CPI?

45) How do Peoria's water rates compare with neighboring communities - East Peoria, Morton, Washington, Peoria Heights -- that have public systems, and other communities Peoria's size, like Springfield, Moline and Bloomington-Normal.
46) Under a publicly owned system, are there savings from closer cooperation with city public works services?

47) Can the city use a public water system to encourage planned growth and annexation? Is that possible with a private system?

48) Has IAWC made campaign contributions to current members of the City Council or to organizations on which they are officers?

49) How will the non residents have a say in the proposed purchase? (Guess the Illinois Commerce Commission will weigh in on the sale eventually) West Peoria, Bartonville, and so on.

50) Non residents that purchase water in bulk? Hanna City, T-L Rural Water and so on? Once sold and the City of Peoria manages it the ICC is out of the picture and the outsiders at truly outsiders.

51) Then if purchased How will the non-residents have a say in say rates, expansion of the current system outside of the city?

52) New non city expansion? The non city residents can't vote in a city election, lobby council persons as to rates, improvements, expansions etc..

53) Will the non residents be "left out" of the process?