City of Pekin

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL
111 S. CAPITOL ST
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024 AT 5:30 PM
MAYOR MARY J. BURRESS PRESIDING**

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Women of the Moose Chapter 673 Pekin, Illinois

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Women of the Moose Chapter 673 Pekin, Illinois.
Women of the Moose presented a check in the amount of $1,006.94 to Carole's House of Hope as a result of their fundraiser dedicated to the future of Pekin.
Carol Merna, Chief Executive Officer of the Center for Prevention of Abuse, thanked the Women of the Moose for their donation.

Call to Order

City Clerk, Ms. Sue McMillan, confirmed all Council Members were physically present and logged in.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Rick Hilst	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM
Karen Hohimer	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM
Dave Nutter	City of Pekin	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	5:30 PM
Becky Cloyd	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM
Mary Burress	City of Pekin	Mayor	Present	5:30 PM
Lloyd Orrick	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM
John P Abel	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM

Approve Agenda

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Council Member Karen Hohimer
SECONDER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer

New Business

4.1. Resolution No. 84-23/24 Appointment of Fred Christopher Onken to fill a vacancy in the office of City Council Member

RESULT:	**PASSED (5-0-1)**
MOVER:	Council Member Karen Hohimer
SECONDER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer

ABSTAIN:	Council Member Hilst

Oath of Office

City Clerk Sue McMillan conducted the Oath of Office and swore in Fred Christopher Onken as Council Member. Council Member Onken took his seat on the Dias.

Approval of Minutes

RESULT:	**PASSED (6-0-1)**
MOVER:	Council Member Karen Hohimer
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Nutter
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	Council Member Onken

6.1. City Council - Regular Meeting - December 11, 2023 - 5:30 PM

6.2. City Council - Special Meeting - December 27, 2023 - 8:00 AM

Public Input

Matthew Johnson raised a challenge regarding generating revenue ideas for the city's future. He proposed three potential avenues for revenue. Firstly, he suggested reopening Memorial Stadium to the public, which was previously available for activities like running and stair climbing. To generate revenue, he proposed installing turnstiles and RFID tag readers, selling seasonal passes at a rate of $25 per month or $200 per year. Mr. Johnson believed that citizens would be interested in such an offer. Secondly, he discussed the city's recent acquisition of property on Route 98 to extend Veteran's Drive. He suggested that instead of demolishing a home on the acquired property, the city could sell it for a quick profit, as the home was not in the right of way. The third point raised by Mr. Johnson involved the liquor code and the restriction on gas stations selling alcohol. He mentioned the interest from companies like Casey's or Thornton's to build a facility on Veteran's and Broadway. He advised caution and recommended obtaining a letter of intent from the businesses before moving forward. Additionally, he proposed selling a property to the Center of Prevention and Abuse at fair market value, expressing concern about selling it for $1 and not generating real estate taxes. In closing, Mr. Johnson urged the Council to be good stewards during the upcoming budget season, paying close attention to luxury items. He congratulated the new council member and expressed gratitude to Mayor Burress for the opportunity to be considered.

Ted Golden addressed several points. Firstly, he discussed the property being sold and raised concerns about the site investigation not including lot lines in the site plan. He emphasized the importance of considering lot lines in relation to a federal ADA lawsuit and suggested that if the site investigation doesn't include this, the process should not move forward. Mr. Golden then turned his attention to the demolition of 827 Catherine, expressing uncertainty about the inclusion of attachment details in the agenda packet, particularly regarding slopes. He sought clarification on whether the attached sketch indicated that there would be no need for returned curbs after leveling the lot. Moving on to the Pekin bicycle plan, Mr. Golden questioned how thoroughly the Council had reviewed the document. He highlighted maintenance costs as a key concern, citing a specific sidewalk on Highwood covered in mud for two years. He inquired about measures to prevent mud from washing onto the sidewalk. Mr. Golden also raised questions about specific items in the bike plan, including the installation of sidewalks and the completion of sidewalks in areas like cul-de-sacs.

He sought clarification on the requirements for a pool project that had variances and expressed concerns about sidewalk gaps and discontinuations. Additionally, Mr. Golden brought up issues with bike trail crossings, requesting attention to areas that were deemed awful and in need of improvement. He delved into the topic of traffic-calming measures, referencing the need for speed humps and drawing a comparison with Grandview Drive in Peoria. He questioned whether businesses were notified about snow removal responsibilities and highlighted the need for preventative measures, such as putting straw down on Derby to prevent muddy conditions. Council Member Hilst inquired about the source of mud on Sunset Hills, and Mr. Golden provided details about the specific property at 1823 and shared information about ADA training conducted by the Great Lakes ADA Center, including concerns about tripping hazards related to returned curbs.

Zoe Carter, a longtime resident of Pekin, expressed her connection to the city, with her family having lived there for 198 years. While she was not initially involved in city matters, she has become more engaged over time. Ms. Carter acknowledged the positive aspects of the city but also voiced concerns about what she perceives as childish games within the council and government. She congratulated Council Member Onken and expressed hope for effective leadership and direction for the city.

Consent Agenda

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Nutter
SECONDER:	Council Member Karen Hohimer
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken

Council Member Hilst requested Consent Agenda Item No. 8.1 Accounts Payable To Be Paid Proof List thru December 8, 2023 be moved to New Business.

8.2. Financial Reports November 2023

8.3. Pekin Fire Department Monthly Incidents Report December 2023

8.4. Ordinance No. 4138-23/24 A Special Use request submitted by Sean Rogers for the Operation of an Automobile Repair/Sales Business at 209 Derby Street

8.5. Resolution No. 85-23/24 Mayor's Appointment of Shawn Powers to fill the unexpired term of Dori Smith to the Tourism Committee as member of the Pekin Park District for a term until the first Monday in May 2025

Unfinished Business

9.1. Ordinance No. 4133-23/24 Amending Chapter 5, Article II, Division 4, Section 6-3 of the City Code to Limit the Number of Establishments Licensed to Operate Video Gaming Terminals

RESULT:	**FAILED (0 TO 7)**
MOVER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Nutter
SECONDER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
AYES:	None

NAYS:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken

City Manager, Mr. John Dossey addressed Ordinance No. 4133-23/24, which involved amending the City Code to limit the number of establishments licensed to operate video gaming terminals. Mr. Dossey mentioned that this item was previously discussed in November, and the Council had tabled it for further investigation. He noted that, based on discussions with Council Member Hohimer, there was a decision to no longer proceed with the ordinance.

New Business

10.1. Ordinance No. 4139-23/24 An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a First Amendment to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District Redevelopment Agreement by and Between the City of Pekin and The Center for Prevention of Abuse

RESULT:	**PASSED (6 TO 1)**
MOVER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Nutter
SECONDER:	Council Member Lloyd Orrick
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken
NAYS:	Council Member Hilst

City Manager, Mr. John Dossey discussed Ordinance No. 4139-23/24, which involved approving a First Amendment to the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Pekin and The Center for Prevention of Abuse. Mr. Dossey explained that the original agreement, dated June 13, 2022, aimed to provide reimbursement for TIF-eligible costs on a property at 121 South 2nd Street. However, delays in the project prevented the sale of the property, causing the agreement to expire. Mr. Dossey proposed extending the agreement for completion and eligibility for reimbursement, with a provision to return the property to the city if the project fails, capped at $10,000.
Council Member Hilst raised concerns about amending an expired agreement and inquired about the presence of a site plan.

Chief Building Official, Mr. Nic Maquet, mentioned that there was no site plan at this time and clarified that the original agreement was contingent on the purchase of the property. Carol Merna, representing The Center for Prevention of Abuse, explained that site control was now established, and Council Member Hislt questioned if the T-shirt house received a letter from the city about the proposal. Mr. Maquet clarified that no letter was sent to the T-shirt house for this agreement.
Council Member Orrick inquired about the timing of TIF money distribution, and Mr. Maquet explained that reimbursement would occur once costs were incurred, with the submission of bills, paid invoices, and canceled checks.

Council Member Nutter sought clarification on the financial impact, and Finance Consultant, Mr. Bob Grogan confirmed that there would be no change, as the budgeted amount was $10,000, resulting in a net impact of $0.

10.2. Ordinance No. 4140-23/24 An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing The Sale of Real Property Located at 121 South 2nd Street to The Center for Prevention of

Abuse (required 3/4 vote of Council)

RESULT:	**PASSED (6 TO 1)**
MOVER:	Council Member Lloyd Orrick
SECONDER:	Council Member Karen Hohimer
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken
NAYS:	Council Member Hilst

City Manager, Mr. John Dossey, presented Ordinance No. 4140-23/24, which pertained to approving and authorizing the sale of real property located at 121 South 2nd Street to The Center for Prevention of Abuse. Mr. Dossey informed the Council that a request for proposals was issued, and the sole response was submitted by the Center for Prevention of Abuse. The details of the response and purchase agreement were included in the packet, and the proposed sale of the property was for $1.

10.3. Ordinance No. 4141-23/24 An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a TIF District Redevelopment Agreement by and between the City of Pekin and Todd Erwin

RESULT:	**PASSED (5-1-1)**
MOVER:	Council Member Lloyd Orrick
SECONDER:	Council Member Karen Hohimer
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer
NAYS:	Council Member Hilst
ABSTAIN:	Council Member Onken

City Manager Mr. John Dossey presented Ordinance No. 4141-23/24, which involved approving and authorizing the execution of a TIF District Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Pekin and Todd Erwin. Mr. Dossey provided background information on the approval of a TIF resolution on March 28, 2022, for the development of a property in the East residential TIF district to construct a new single-family home with up to $40,000 in eligible expenses.

Council Member Orrick expressed concern about a specific provision on page 3 of 13. He noted that for a $30,000 home in the TIF, with no home built on the property, lead to confusion and that the provision should be removed if no home was built. Economic Development Director, Mr. Josh Wray, clarified that the home was already built, and the purpose of the program was to reimburse tax increment, but if there's no home, there's no reimbursement. Council Member Orrick found this inconsistent and questioned if the document was prepared by Jacob and Klein, to which Mr. Wray confirmed.

Council Member Nutter raised concerns about future TIF reimbursements and asked about the guarantor of the spreadsheet to ensure timely payments. Mr. Wray explained that Jacob and Klein's services cover tracking reimbursements, and finance will also monitor and address it through audits.

Finance Consultant, Mr. Bob Grogan clarified that the reimbursement would be for land acquisition costs, and vertical construction costs were not included. Mr. Dossey emphasized that the property owner must request reimbursement, and the process involves multiple checks, including through Jacob and Klein.

10.4. Ordinance No. 4142-23/24 An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a TIF District Redevelopment Agreement by and between the City of Pekin and Heidi Edwards

RESULT:	**PASSED (6 TO 1)**
MOVER:	Council Member Lloyd Orrick
SECONDER:	None
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken
NAYS:	Council Member Hilst

City Manager, Mr. John Dossey explained that on July 11, 2022, the council approved a TIF (Tax Increment Financing) inducement, an official declaration of intent to provide future TIF incentives to Heidi Edwards for the development of property at 170 South California Road in the East residential TIF District. The planned project involves constructing a new single-family home with a total investment of $2,155,000 in TIF eligible expenses.
According to the existing incentive policy, the total incentive given from the fund will be up to $70,000 in property tax increment rebates over a period not to exceed 10 years. The actual incentive provided will be based on the eligible expenses incurred and the new property assessment after the completion of the project.
Council Member Orrick confirmed that the property was on a septic.

10.5. Resolution No. 86-23/24 Adopting a Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Council Member Rick Hilst
SECONDER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken

City Manager Mr. John Dossey explained that the City of Pekin received a grant through the Tri-County Regional Planning to develop a Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan at no cost to the city. The Lochmueller Group was hired to create this plan, which is separate from the ADA transition plan. The focus of this plan is less on ADA compliance for existing sidewalks and more on future bicycle and pedestrian routes. The plan aims to be helpful when applying for future grants, and staff recommended the adoption of this plan.
City Engineer, Ms. Josie Esker introduced Kevin Miel from Lochmueller Group to provide a short power point presentation on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.
Mr. Miel shared that the plan's vision is to make walking and biking safe, accessible, and convenient, connecting people to places, fostering development opportunities, supporting healthy living, and improving the quality of life. The plan includes goals and objectives focusing on safety, network design, policy, and programs.
The planning process involved community engagement, including a steering committee, public meetings, an online survey, and an online mapping tool. The Bicycle Network was highlighted, consisting of on-street bikeways and separated facilities, totaling over 65 miles. Spot improvements, such as crossing improvements, were also identified.
The Pedestrian Network included trails, side paths, and pedestrian priority corridors, focusing on arterial and collector roads. The plan identified Citywide improvements, programming opportunities, and prioritized physical recommendations into long-term, short-term, low priority, and opportunity improvements.

Mr. Miel emphasized the plan's flexibility and opportunities for incremental implementation. Early actions include short-term improvement projects, focusing on bicycle boulevards and improving the Pekin bike path. The plan envisions building incrementally and phasing in projects over time.
Overall, the plan aims to enhance the community's walking and biking environment, supporting various initiatives and creating a comprehensive network.
During the discussion on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, Council Member Abel expressed concern about the fact that 35% of the streets in the city only have one sidewalk on each side. He suggested considering a requirement for new subdivisions to include two sidewalks on each side of the street. Council Member Hohimer raised a question about motorized bikes and whether there would be signage to prohibit them. City Manager Mr. Dossey explained that certain CC's of motorized bikes need to be licensed, and he didn't foresee a significant push for change. Council Member Onken sought clarification on the mention of "stadium," and City Engineer Esker explained that there is a multi-use path designed to enhance pedestrian safety connecting Court Street, Stadium Drive, and the existing path.
Council Member Nutter inquired about the progress of engineering by TMW and whether there are separate grants. Ms. Esker provided information that engineering plans have been submitted to IDOT, and there are indeed two separate grants involved.
Council Member Nutter emphasized that the plan doesn't impose financial responsibility on the city, and Ms. Esker confirmed that the plan is covered entirely by the grant, helping to foster long-term planning. Council Member Nutter also asked if the plan had been presented to the Park District, to which Ms. Esker mentioned that while the Park District is aware, they were involved in the process.
Council Member Abel shared his impression that the closure of the stadium was due to upgrades and expressed surprise that it would be closed indefinitely. Council Member Orrick inquired about Kevin Miel's background and learned about his experience in city and regional planning with a focus on biking. Council Member Orrick also sought clarification that adopting the plan doesn't obligate the city, expressing concerns about the current condition of the city's roads.

10.6. Resolution No. 87-23/24 Awarding Bid for Contract for a Demolition of Residential Structures at 827 Catherine Street with Wayne Litwiller Excavating LLC

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Council Member Rick Hilst
SECONDER:	Council Member Karen Hohimer
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken

City Manager Mr. John Dossey read the request, and Council Member Hohimer inquired about the ownership of the property.
Police Chief Seth Ranney explained that Morton Community Bank had turned the deed over to the city in October. Mr. Dossey provided context, mentioning that the property had been a problematic house involved in criminal activities, qualifying for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
Council member Abel questioned the high price compared to others, and Mr. Maquet explained that the substantial size of the house and garage, along with necessary sidewalk work, contributed to the cost.
Council Member Nutter raised a point that once demolished, the property would belong to the city, which Mr. Dossey confirmed. Ms. Esker clarified that the involvement of sidewalks was due to a retaining wall, and she outlined plans to ensure compliance,

emphasizing the need to level and clean up the area. Council Member Nutter expressed support for the demolition as a positive step for the neighborhood.

Council Member Orrick discussed an addendum related to sidewalk construction standards, commending its detail and adherence to IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) standards. Ms. Esker explained that they refer to IDOT specifications to maintain clarity and avoid excessive wording, with Council Member Orrick expressing satisfaction with the approach.

10.7. Resolution No. 88-23/24 Amending the 2023 Community Development Block Grant Program Annual Action Plan

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Council Member Rick Hilst
SECONDER:	Council Member Lloyd Orrick
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken

CDBG Program Manager Ms. Tina Hauk presented a request for council approval to submit the revision of the 2023 Annual Action Plan to HUD. The proposal sought the reallocation of $75,000 from the public facilities line item to a new line item named Homeless Facilities. The purpose of these funds was to renovate the basement of an existing building into a day shelter for homeless individuals. The 30-day comment period for this proposal began on December 8, 2023 and concluded on January 8, 2024. Ms. Hauk provided a summary of the comments received, noting that there were nine speakers, with eight supporting the amendment and one opposing it. All comments were accepted. She invited questions from the council, and when asked about the amount, she confirmed it was $75,000.

10.8. Resolution No. 89-23/24 Wastewater Treatment Plant Turbolex Blowers

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
SECONDER:	Council Member Karen Hohimer
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken

City Manager Mr. John Dossey presented the agenda item seeking approval for the 10-year service requirement of turbo blowers at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. These blowers play a vital role in the treatment plant process. Staff had obtained two quotes for the necessary maintenance. The first quote was $18,956 to rebuild only one blower that was currently not working, and the second quote was $55,853.40 to service all three blowers. The recommended service involved a complete rebuild of the blower components and controls, bringing all three blowers up to standard compliance.

It was highlighted that Dryden Equipment, the original vendor, no longer provided this service, and the recommendation was to utilize Howden for the maintenance. Public Works Director Mr. Dean Schneider answered questions from the Council, explaining that the three blowers were meant to be set up in sequence to distribute usage. One blower had been down for quite some time and was in need of major repair. The Council discussed the cost of a new blower, and it was mentioned that the expense for the service would come out of the sludge removal line item due to it being an option not included in the budget.

10.9. Resolution No. 90-23/24 Approving GFL Recycling Agreement Extension

RESULT:	**PASSED (4 TO 2)**
MOVER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
SECONDER:	Council Member Karen Hohimer
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hohimer
NAYS:	Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick
ABSTAIN:	Council Member Onken

City Manager, Mr. Dossey explained that the original agreement with GFL, signed in December 2019, allowed for three years with options for one-year extensions. The proposed extension aims to align with the contracts for solid waste and leachate services, facilitating simultaneous negotiations. The agreement would also lock in tipping and recycling fees until May 2025.
During the discussion, Council Member Hilst raised concerns about the extended five months beyond the original agreement's terms.
City Attorney, Ms. Kate Swise, clarified that the extension involves amending the underlying agreement rather than exercising yearly extensions.
Council Members Nutter and Hilst expressed reservations about the overall benefits and costs of recycling, suggesting a thorough examination of expenses and potential alternatives.
Council Member Hilst stated he was not a supporter of the recycling program.
Council Member Orrick highlighted the need to make a collective decision on recycling during the upcoming contract negotiations, encompassing solid waste, leachate, and recycling services. The discussion touched upon issues such as the fluctuating costs of recycling and the perceived lack of revenue from recycling activities.
Council Member Nutter inquired about the revenue from recycling, pointing out the budgeted amount of $288 and the cardboard credit.
Council Member Hilst echoed the need for a comprehensive review of the recycling program's financial aspects.
Mayor Burress emphasized the importance of addressing these concerns during the contract negotiations.

8.1. Accounts Payable To Be Paid Proof List thru December 8, 2023

Any Other Business To Come Before The Council

Council Member Hilst sought information about the receipt of three lease agreements from Cullinan. City Manager Mr. John Dossey responded, confirming that the city has seen the lease agreements, with one fully executed and the others under legal review. An amendment to the agreement is expected on the 22nd, and the construction timeline is not anticipated to be affected.
Council Member Hilst emphasized that the city only possesses one fully executed agreement, and this will be presented to the council for an amendment. Mr. Dossey acknowledged challenges with legal processes, expressing understanding of the complexity. Despite legal delays, he noted Cullinan's active investment in the project.
Council Member Hilst raised concerns about conflicting language in the contract, indicating potential disagreements.
Mr. Dossey then transitioned to the introduction of the new HR director, Shelly Costa, who began last week. He expressed confidence in Ms. Costa's experience and mentioned ongoing collaboration with the outgoing HR director, Joanna, until the 22nd.

11.1. Presentation - Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Police, Fire, Tourism

During the presentation on the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for the Police Department, Finance Consultant, Mr. Bob Grogran addressed IT expenses, emphasizing the transfer of software-related costs to departments with individual capabilities, such as the police department. He proposed the creation of a new department under the police chief for a social worker, aiming to enhance transparency in investigations.

The floor was then passed to Police Chief Seth Ranney, who presented the current financial pressures, including unfunded mandates for safety training and under performing revenue line items. Chief Ranney requested approval for a second social worker, citing the challenges of hiring qualified personnel in the current environment.
Chief Ranney discussed the difficulties in obtaining squad cars and the need for a proactive approach to address increasing equipment and vehicle costs. He highlighted the hiring of Misty, a social worker with specific training and expertise, and proposed a salary increase for hiring a second social worker. Chief Ranney addressed the delays in receiving squad cars, explaining that the manufacturer's production schedule impacts the timeline. Council Member Orrick raised concerns about the status of the agreement with Enterprise and questioned potential penalties for exceeding mileage limits.

Chief Ranney clarified that there is no mileage limit in the current program and elaborated on the challenges posed by the manufacturing process and delays in parts delivery. The discussion touched on the benefits of considering local vendors for repairs, with Council Member Hilst emphasizing the need for clear language in leases to avoid penalties associated with repairs.
Mr. Dossey and Council Member Hilst contributed to the discussion, highlighting the importance of exploring alternatives and addressing potential issues in future agreements. The presentation covered various aspects, including funding for the flock program, remodeling of bathrooms, and the proactive grants and partnerships valued by the police department.

Amy McCoy, the Executive Director of the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce, presented a thorough overview of the city's tourism initiatives and upcoming plans. In her role, Ms. McCoy highlighted successful collaborations with regional organizations such as the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council. She detailed the Chamber's involvement in hosting events like Downtown street parties and Christmas on Court, as well as providing support to other community initiatives such as the Pekin Pride Soccer Tournament. Ms. McCoy also discussed the significant bicentennial year in 2025, unveiling plans for various celebratory events and a dedicated website, pekinbicentennial.com. Additionally, she addressed upcoming events like the state bowling championship and a fishing tournament, emphasizing the need for funding support for the Pekin fireworks and exploring alternative venues due to the closure of the high school stadium. Ms. McCoy expressed the Chamber's commitment to supporting ongoing events and outlined the development of a budget with Finance Consultatn Bob Grogan to accommodate known and anticipated events, allowing flexibility for unforeseen requests throughout the year. In response to a query, she indicated the potential for funding requests related to the bicentennial celebrations through the Tourism Committee.

Finance Director Mr. Bob Grogan discussed a housekeeping matter related to overtime reimbursement. He mentioned Chief Ranney's concern about operational overtime being affected by large DEA reimbursements. In the upcoming budget, Mr. Grogan proposed creating a separate line item for reimbursed overtime to provide more flexibility and clarity. This would allow the police department to better manage regular overtime without being impacted by unexpected reimbursements. The goal is to enhance control and separation between operational overtime and reimbursed overtime. The discussion also touched on addressing similar issues in the fire department, with further details to be covered later.

Fire Chief Trent Reeise provided a comprehensive overview of the Fire Department's needs assessment during his power point presentation. He outlined strengths such as a dedicated workforce and strong labor relations, while identifying weaknesses like aging fire stations and the need for improved training and technology. Chief Reeise discussed opportunities, including partnerships, grants, and a regional training program, as well as threats related to increased costs and rising service demand.

Chief Reeise highlighted notable achievements, such as the success of the Community CPR program, fire inspections, and the acquisition of a rescue boat and new engine. Training efforts, totaling over 7,600 in-house hours, were emphasized, with specific mention of the impact of the EMS coordinator's vehicle on timely responses to 122 emergencies. Chief Reeise reported a total of 6,971 calls for service.

Acknowledging the EMS department's success in cardiac arrest cases, the Chief commended their 39.2% average pulse recovery rate compared to the national average of 27%. Expressing gratitude for equipment, training, and opportunities, Chief Reeise moved on to discuss the Fire Department's budget priorities. Emphasis was placed on maintaining operations, refurbishing engines and aerial devices, continuing cardiac monitor replacement, and addressing training needs.

The Chief addressed challenges with Ladder 3, its bent frame, and the increasing cost and wait time for new engines. Proposing the consideration of refurbishing the 2000 tower truck at an estimated cost of under $800,000, Chief Reeise presented it as a cost-effective option with a one-year turnaround and an upfront payment of $10,000 to secure a spot in line. The Council was encouraged to contemplate this approach for budget planning.

Executive Session 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 11. Pending Litigation

No Executive Session took place.

Adjourn

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Council Member Lloyd Orrick
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Nutter
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken

There being no further business to come to the Council a motion was made by Council Member Orrick seconded by Council Member Nutter to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried viva voice vote. Mayor Burress adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.