



City of Pekin

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF
PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL
111 S. CAPITOL ST
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024 AT 12:00 PM**

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order - Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:00 PM. A quorum was declared by Chairperson Drew Leman.

Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
John Campbell	Present	Noon
Danielle Owens	Present	Noon
Amy McCoy	Present	Noon
Dennis Short	Present	Noon
Jack Steger	Present	Noon
Drew Leman	Present	Noon
Liridon Rrushaj	Absent	
Keith Dunkelbarger	Absent	
Patrick Taphorn	Absent	
D. Neal Hanley II	Present	Noon
Roy Bockler	Present	Noon
Earl Riley	Absent	
Caty Campbell	Present	Noon

Also present were:

Mary Burress, Mayor

Josh Wray, Director of Economic Development

Jeffery Inman, Director of Workforce Solutions, GPEDC

Approve Agenda

RESULT: PASSED (UNANIMOUS)

MOVER: Short

SECONDER: McCoy

AYES:	Committee Members J. Campbell, Owens, McCoy, Short, Steger, Leman, Hanley, C. Campbell, and Bockler
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Approval of Minutes

4.1. Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting on January 8, 2024

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Short
SECONDER:	McCoy
AYES:	Committee Members J. Campbell, Owens, McCoy, Short, Steger, Leman, Hanley, C. Campbell, and Bockler

Public Input

No members of the public spoke.

Consent Agenda

6.1. Receive Monthly Staff Report

Mr. Wray presented updates on City business and economic metrics.

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	McCoy
SECONDER:	D. Ownes
AYES:	Committee Members J. Campbell, Owens, McCoy, Short, Steger, Leman, Hanley, C. Campbell, and Bockler

New Business

7.1. Economic Development Strategic Plan - Structure and SWOT Analysis

The Committee members discussed the City's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the economic development goals of the Committee. Discussion was held for approximately 45 minutes, and topics included housing, parks and recreation, schools, City processes, City staffing, TIFs and other development tools, City-owned property, and more.

Staff will compile a summary of the SWOT analysis for review next meeting.

7.2. Conceptual Budgets for Development District Funds

Mr. Wray provided the Committee an overview of the conceptual budgets to be presented to the City Council regarding the Economic Development and TIF funds. The Committee was supportive of a more structured approach to spending economic development dollars.

7.3. Discussion of Marketing Plans

Mr. Wray noted that staff has started meeting with marketing firms to

investigate marketing activities the City could engage in. Staff plans to request funding for a marketing campaign and/or rebranding in the FY25 budget, and, if approved, an RFP for marketing services will likely go out in May.

The Committee expressed agreement in creating a stronger marketing presence in all sectors.

7.4. Airport / Port Opportunities

Mr. Wray noted that Alto is applying for a grant to fund the construction of a port on the Illinois River, and multiple new business prospects for the industrial park have been interested in that.

Mr. Bockler expressed his desire to see a long-term plan for the Pekin Municipal Airport noting that it could be a strong amenity to attract businesses.

7.5. Downtown Outdoor Dining

Mr. Bockler inquired about allowing outdoor seating downtown noting that Peoria Heights has a very nice area for it that could be a model for doing it in Pekin. The Committee discussed that it had been looked into before but that the proximity to the railroad tracks for certain businesses as well as the narrow width of Court Street has been a deterrent. Staff will check into the current code requirements to see if anything can be updated.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Committee

There was no other business discussed.

Adjourn

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Hanley
SECONDER:	Steger
AYES:	Committee Members J. Campbell, Owens, McCoy, Short, Steger, Leman, Hanley, C. Campbell, and Bockler