



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, APRIL 8, 2024 AT 12:00 PM**

Call to Order - Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:02 PM. A quorum was declared by Vice Chairperson Amy McCoy.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
John Campbell	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Danielle Owens	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Absent	
Amy McCoy	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Dennis Short	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Jack Steger	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Drew Leman	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Absent	
Liridon Rrushaj	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	12:09
Keith Dunkelbarger	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Patrick Taphorn	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Absent	
D. Neal Hanley II	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Roy Bockler	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Earl Riley	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Caty Campbell	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon

Others in attendance:

Mayor Mary Burress, Josh Wray – Director of Economic Development, and Chris Setti – CEO, Greater Peoria Economic Development Council.

Approve Agenda

A. McCoy moved to approve the agenda, seconded by K. Dunkelbarger. Motion passed by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

3.1. Minutes of the EDAC Meeting on March 11, 2024

C. Campbell moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2024 meeting, seconded by E. Riley. Motion passed by voice vote.

Public Input

None

Consent Agenda

D. Short moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by J. Steger.

J. Wray noted that revenue is down this month, most likely just because it hasn't been booked by the accounting staff yet. He will follow up. J. Wray also provided an update on interest in the Riverway Business Park. There are still multiple parties interested including the international sustainable manufacturing company that intends to buy 10 acres to invest \$40 million.

There was discussion of the City's FY25 proposed budget after R. Bockler asked for clarity. The committee had discussion about the history of distilling and brew-making and drawing interest from that market back to Pekin. Comments included that it would be advantageous to have a brochure, both tangible and electronic. J. Wray explained that there is a GIS/marketing software project included in the budget that will be able to help with that.

The consent agenda was approved by voice vote.

Unfinished Business

6.1. Economic Development Strategic Plan - Strategy Development

The Committee worked toward developing 2-4 strategies per goal. Ideas included establishing standardized TIF incentive programs, participating in regional economic development efforts, identifying future land use for housing or commercial growth, and proactive zoning and code changes.

There was a request for J. Wray to report out monthly on his business visit activity so the Committee can get a general tone of the visits. He agreed to

provide more information. A reminder was made to notify J. Wray of new executive leaders at local businesses so he can reach out to them.

There was also discussion about the buildings on Court Street and the parking lots available is behind their buildings. A suggestion for a “reverse building façade” program was offered.

6.2. Marketing Plan Update

J. Wray noted there is money in the proposed budget, pending Council approval, for marketing efforts in FY25.

6.3. Airport / Port Opportunities

Federal grant options are available for airport improvement projects, but there are tens of millions of improvements needed to bring the Pekin airport up to the next "class" to larger planes can utilize it. Airport Manager Mike Cruce has been invited to May meeting to discuss what may need to be done to accommodate larger planes and, in turn, additional business use.

R. Bockler again mention adding an aviation museum to the City's land there. He believes it could be a good tourist destination.

6.4. Downtown Outdoor Dining

Allowing outdoor dining has been previously discussed by the City, and Council settled on allowing it on sidewalks, but it is challenging to have enough room and also comply with ADA requirements. R. Bockler mentioned replicating Peoria Heights and allowing restaurants to utilize parking spaces in front of their buildings. No businesses have inquired about it, and staffing challenges have made it difficult for businesses to do more. J. Wray will check into it more to see if any downtown businesses would be interested.

New Business

7.1. New Business Checklist

J. Wray provided the Committee with a draft new business checklist to help new and especially small businesses navigate regulations when they are getting started. The Committee reviewed and offered suggestions, including adding Distillery Labs in Peoria to the contacts page, adding utility information, and adding information about signage and parking.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Commission

R. Bockler requested to get recap from the Technical Working Group meeting and going forward to have ongoing communication of external economic development related meetings and other City meetings. He also suggested holding a joint meeting with Tourism, Beautification, and the Airport Commission.

The Committee agreed that the new Pekin Hometown Voice newspaper was a big hit. Suggestions for future topics included Pekin Insurance history and updates on economic development in the City.

Adjourn

J. Steger moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:27 PM, seconded by J. Campbell. Motion approved by voice vote.