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, APRIL 22, 2024 AT 5:30 PM MAYOR MARY J. BURRESS PRESIDING**

## Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member Hohimer.

## Call to Order

City Clerk, Ms. Sue McMillan, confirmed all Council Members were physically present and logged in. Mayor Burress declared a quorum.

| 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 |
| 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 |
| Chris Onken | City of Pekin | Council Member | Present | 5:30 PM |

## Approve Agenda

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (UNANIMOUS)** |
| **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 Hilst, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken |

## Approval of Minutes

### 4.1. City Council - Regular Meeting April 8, 2024

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (UNANIMOUS)** |
| **MOVER:** | Council Member Lloyd Orrick |

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| **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 |

**4.2. City Council - Special Meeting April 8, 2024**

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (UNANIMOUS)** |
| **MOVER:** | Council Member Lloyd Orrick |
| **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 |

**Public Input**

Mayor Burress expressed frustration with the current predicament facing Pekin, noting that despite the City's relative stability, previous administrations had left behind unresolved issues such as malpractice and precarious financial positions. The Mayor highlighted the challenge of honoring commitments made with imperfect information while also striving to do what is best for the City. Mayor Burress emphasized the necessity of making difficult but correct choices, especially when faced with changing circumstances, such as re-evaluating previous votes in light of new facts. She addressed ongoing legal and regulatory challenges, attributing them to past administrative failures in dealing with transparency and accountability. The Mayor stressed the importance of not sacrificing the City's prosperity and growth, committing to delivering high-quality services without compromising on standards or resorting to short-sighted solutions. She acknowledged the need for addressing the general fund deficit, which persists despite proposed adjustments by removing the Lutticken's property and the proposed utility tax from the budget. Mayor Burress underscored the responsibility of the Council to make tough decisions for the greater good, even if unpopular, and pledged to demand better from city staff and pursue more cost-effective solutions. She concluded by emphasizing the gravity of the situation and the imperative for the Council to act decisively in the City's best interests.

Tim Golden addressed the Council with concerns regarding the ADA lawsuit and the Transition Plan on the Agenda. He highlighted the need for clarity regarding certain edits to the plan, particularly regarding the definition of "undue burden" and the responsibility for determining it. Mr. Golden emphasized the importance of ensuring accessibility for all residents, pointing out discrepancies in sidewalk continuity and accessibility within his district.

Mayor Burress informed Mr. Golden that his time to speak had surpassed.

A motion was made by Council Member Hilst seconded by Council Member Nutter to allow Mr. Golden two more minutes to speak.

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (6 TO 1)** |
| **MOVER:** | Council Member Rick Hilst |
| **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 Onken |
| **NAYS:** | Council Member Hohimer |

Mr. Golden continued, reiterating the significance of the ADA lawsuit and the City's obligation to address accessibility issues outlined in the Transition Plan. He criticized past failures in addressing these concerns and called out specific instances of sidewalk discontinuity and neglect within the city, highlighting the need for accountability and action. Mr. Golden also expressed frustration with certain Council Members who, despite claiming to avoid tax increases, seemed to support measures that would ultimately burden taxpayers.

Ted Golden addressed the Council and stated he had some thoughts come to mind after Mayor Burress spoke of past failures of administrations and the need to resolve financial issues with increase solid waste and sewer user charges fees. He noted two of the present members had been on the Council for a long time and should step down. Mr. Golden next expressed concern of discontinued sidewalks throughout the City. He pointed out when zoning variances and improvements were permitted in particular for a recent pool installation that sidewalk should have been finished out. He raised the issue of non-connectivity of sidewalks at an assisted living property not required to complete surrounding sidewalks as it was constructed. Mr. Golden also expressed his frustration that property off Hanna Drive still had not been cleaned up.

Terri Gambetti expressed gratitude on behalf of various organizations for the dedication of Mayor Burress, the council, and the staff. She thanked them for their commitment and perseverance, acknowledging the challenges they face and expressing appreciation for their efforts.

Bailey Gambetti commended the positive direction in which the city is heading, noting the ongoing efforts in rebuilding and development, particularly during the budget planning process. She extended thanks to everyone involved for their contributions to the city's progress and improvement.

John McNish addressed longstanding budget issues, noting the repeated lack of action despite numerous presentations and discussions. He criticized the retention of a nonexistent attorney and paralegal position, highlighting the need for fiscal responsibility and more prudent spending. Mr. McNish emphasized the City's substantial debt, which he claimed to be closer to $90M rather than the reported $12M, and stressed the importance of addressing pension obligations, particularly for fire and police departments. Regarding the ADA Transition Plan, Mr. McNish expressed hope for its accuracy and stressed the importance of ensuring compliance. Mr. McNish supported the utility tax and fee adjustments but advocated for greater scrutiny of city attorney billings and suggested exploring alternatives to salary increases, such a hourly wages. He concluded by urging a re-evaluation of the budget and more decisive action to address financial challenges.

Council Member Hohimer explained the need for budget cuts across departments to address the financial challenges left by the previous city manager. Despite efforts to implement these cuts, the current finance director indicated they would not suffice, prompting the consideration of increasing taxes and fees, which have remained unchanged since 2018 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Council Member Hohimer emphasized the reluctance of the Council to make such decisions but asserted that they believe it to be necessary after a four-year delay. Council Member Hohimer defended the Council's actions as responsible, including the replacement of the Finance Director/City Manager, and deemed it the most reasonable and fiscally responsible course of action.

Mayor Burress echoed concerns raised during the campaign about the lack of audits in the city for three years. She expressed gratitude for the foresight of having a forensic auditor on board, indicating that their presence has been instrumental in identifying potential issues that might have gone unnoticed otherwise.

**5.1. Resolution in Support of the Completion of the Court Street Project**
Written support by resolution received from the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Consent Agenda**

Council Member Nutter requested to move consent agenda item 6.8 to New Business. Council Member Nutter read the remainder of the consent agenda items.

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (UNANIMOUS)** |
| **MOVER:** | Council Member Karen Hohimer |
| **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 |

**6.1. Accounts Payable To Be Paid Proof List thru March 25th**

**6.2. Financial Reports March 2024**

**6.3. Receive & File Illinois Department of Transportation Review #73 Motor Fuel Tax Funds January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023**

**6.4. Ordinance No. 4181-23/24 A variance request submitted by Andrew Mickle for the property located at 200 Cottage Grove Avenue to reduce the minimum setbacks for an accessory structure. (Case V 2024-05)**

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (UNANIMOUS)** |
| **MOVER:** | Council Member Karen Hohimer |
| **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 |

**6.5. Ordinance No. 4182-23/24 A variance request submitted by Kanieca Williams for the property located at 800 State Street to allow for two driveways on one parcel. (Case V 2024-06)**

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (UNANIMOUS)** |
| **MOVER:** | Council Member Karen Hohimer |
| **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 |

**6.6. Ordinance No. 4183-23/24 A variance request submitted by Raymond E. Whitaker and Kimberly D. Whitaker for the property located at 1709 Gingoteague Way to reduce property line setbacks. (Case V 2024-07)**

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (UNANIMOUS)** |
| **MOVER:** | Council Member Karen Hohimer |
| **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 |

**6.7. Ordinance No. 4184-23/24 A Rezoning request submitted by the City of Pekin from ED-1 Economic Development District to B-3 General Business District for the vacant property located at 121 South 2nd Street. (Case RZ 2024-03)**

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (UNANIMOUS)** |
| **MOVER:** | Council Member Karen Hohimer |
| **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 |

**New Business**

**7.1. Resolution No. 127-23/24 Annual Renewal of ESRI GIS Software**

Resolution No. 127-23/24 pertained to the annual renewal of the ESRI GIS Software for the City of Pekin. The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Enterprise LIcense Agreement for Geographic Information System (GIS) software was set to expire on May 14, 2024. The GIS software is essential for the city's operations as it is utilized by nearly all departments. The GIS system includes computer servers, informational databases housing city asset data, ESRI software utilizing these databases, and aerial imagery. Various applications of the GIS system include tracking sewers, road jurisdiction mapping, zoning information, street light and traffic sign locations, street maintenance history, and routing maps for solid waste and snow removal, among others. Additionally, ESRI software integrates with recently purchased work order software by the Street Department to enhance work tracking efficiency. Staff recommended the approval of the resolution.

City Manager Mr. John Dossey brought up the need to renew mapping software for tracking sewers and streets related to solid waste routing.

City Engineer, Ms. Josie Esker, provided further details, explaining that Cloudpoint manages GIS services for the city, with an employee coming in twice a week to work on-site.

Council Member Orrick inquired about cost, to which Ms. Esker responded that it was in the $70K range annually for two days of work per week.

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| **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 |

**7.2. Resolution No. 128-23/24 Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Alto Pekin, LLC for Grant Application**

Resolution No. 128-23/24 was proposed to approve a Memorandum of Udnerstanding (MOU) with Alto Pekin, LLC, regarding a grant application for the construction of a new barge terminal at their property located at 1301 Front Street on the Illinois River. The terminal would facilitate the transfer of commodities between truck, rail and barge, with Alto requesting that the City act as the Public Sponsor/Applicant for the PIDP Grant application. This grant would fund engineering, repairs, and equipment upgrades at the Alto site, with Alto covering all construction costs not covered by the grant and reimbursing the City for any administrative expenses related to managing the grant. Although the terminal would be situated on Alto's property, it would be publicly available and could potentially benefit other businesses in the Pekin area, potentially stimulating growth in the Riverway Business Park. The City and Alto had previously applied for the same grant in 2023 but were not selected. This resolution  aimed to renew the City's support for the project.

Council Member Nutter expressed agreement with the decision to pursue the barge terminal project once again and inquired about the timeline for the grant application process, as well as the outcome of the previous attempt.

City Engineer, Ms. Josie Esker, provided clarification, stating that the grant deadline is May 10th, with representatives providing feedback and suggestions for improving the application. Ms. Esker mentioned that Alto is primarily responsible for the grant writing, with the city assisting in making enhancements. Ms. Esker explained efforts to address certain issues highlighted in the previous application, such as ensuring repetitive language to emphasize benefits across all sections for reviewers. Regarding the approval timeline, she noted that it typically varies but could take anywhere from a few months to 4-6 months.

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| **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 |

**7.3. Resolution No. 129-23/24 Approve ADA Transition Plan**

Resolution No. 129-23/24 pertained to the approval of the ADA Transition Plan for the City of Pekin. The plan was required as part of a Consent Decree resulting from a class-action lawsuit filed in 2018 regarding the city's failure to maintain accessible pedestrian rights-of-way. The transition plan, prepared by Thouvenot, Wade & Moerchen, Inc. (TWM), aimed to address accessibility issues within the city. Staff recommended approval of the plan, which had been made available to the public and council for review. During the discussion, City Engineer, Ms. Josie Esker, provided clarifications and updates regarding the transition plan. She addressed concerns raised by Council Members and the public, including issues related to the definition of undue burden and discontinuous sidewalks. Ms. Esker explained that while some adjustments were made based on feedback, not all suggestions were incorporated into the plan. Additionally, there were discussions regarding the responsibilities of property owners regarding sidewalk maintenance and enforcement of accessibility standards.

Council Member Nutter expressed concerns about certain aspects not being included in the current transition plan, particularly regarding the issues raised by Mr. Golden. Ms. Esker clarified the city's stance on these matters and emphasized the need to prioritize fixing existing sidewalks over adding new ones. She also highlighted the possibility of amendments to the plan if required by the judge.
Council Member Onken inquired about potential repercussions from the judge, to which Ms. Esker explained that the city would not use the undue burden excuse lightly and would carefully consider budgetary constraints when addressing accessibility requests.

Council Member Abel asked about the cost of ADA ramps, to which Ms. Esker responded that they typically cost between $5,000 to $8,000 for flat areas.

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| **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 |

**7.4. Ordinance No. 4185-23/24 Amending Chapter 7 of the Pekin City Code Establishing Utility Taxes**

Ordinance No. 4185-23/24 proposed amendments to Chapter 7 of the Pekin City Code, aiming to establish utility taxes on natural gas, electricity, and water. This ordinance was presented due to structural deficiencies highlighted during budget preparation, particularly stemming from mandated expenses such as the CSO project and the ADA transition plan. The city proposed utility taxes as a near-term solution to address the General Fund deficit.

During the discussion, Council Member Orrick raised concerns about potential confusion regarding the terminology used, particularly distinguishing between gas and gasoline. He also inquired about exemptions for certain entities and the consideration of telecommunication taxes, which were clarified by Economic Development Director, Mr. Josh Wray, based on state statutes.

Council Member Hilst questioned the inclusion of a water utility tax and the estimated impact on residents. He also sought clarification on the estimated financial impact on taxpayers and the rationale behind franchise fees in the proposal.

The discussion also touched on franchise fees, rebate money, exemptions, telecommunication tax, and electric aggregation. Mr. Wray also touched on the depletion of the TIFF and BDD funds for the following fiscal year.

Council Member Hilst questions teh exemption of the school districts in the proposed ordinance and the exclusion of the prison, hospital and churches.

Council Member Nutter expressed skepticism about the necessity of the utility taxes, emphasizing their impact on taxpayers and questioning the allocation of funds. He expressed his opposition to the proposal.

Council Member Abel expressed frustration with the budget deficit and indicated his reluctance to support the ordinance.

Council Member Onken sought clarification on why certain payments were frozen after the COVID-19 pandemic and how the city would be affected if they weren't.

City Manager, Mr. Dossey provided context on the solid waste issue, indicating potential future reviews.

Mayor Burress emphasized the need to run the city like a business, and Mr. Wray clarified the entities eligible for exemptions under the proposed ordinance.

Council Member Orrick calculated the potential extra payment he would incur, highlighting the financial impact on residents. Council Member Orrick felt that the City residents did their part on paying taxes and should not be penalized, therefore expressing his opposition for supporting the agenda item.

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (4 TO 3)** |
| **MOVER:** | 1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel |
| **SECONDER:** | Council Member Karen Hohimer |
| **AYES:** | 1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken |
| **NAYS:** | Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick |

**7.5. Ordinance No. 4186-23/24 Amending Chapter 3 of the Pekin City Code Regarding Garbage Collection Fees**

Ordinance No. 4186-23/24 was presented to Council which pertained to amending Chapter 3 of the City Code regarding garbage collection fees. The ordinance aims to address the current inadequacy of fees for garbage collection, which has led to negative cash balances in the Solid Waste Fund, amounting to over $1M owed to the General Fund. To remedy the situation, the proposed ordinance includes increases to the garbage collection fees. The current monthly rate of $20.00 is set to increase to $25.00 as of May 1, 2024, with subsequent yearly increases of $1 until May 1, 2029. Staff recommended approval of the ordinance citing the need to address the structural insufficiency in maintaining acceptable garbage and sewer services and to allocate funds for other projects. Additionally, staff intends to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for solid waste services in coordination with landfill contract negotiations and Teamster Union contract negotiations in 2025.

Council Member Orrick expressed concern about the allocation of funds from the solid waste for city services and stated opposition to the ordinance.

Council Member Hilst raised the issue of outstanding debts of the solid waste to the general fund and questioned the necessity of council action for forgiveness.

There was a discussion regarding the transfer of funds between different accounts and the implications of the auditors.

Council Member Nutter inquired about the official landfill contract expiration and raised concerns about operational changes and budgetary implications, including reductions in staff and recycling pickup frequency.

Mayor Burress and Council Member Abel provided insights based on their knowledge of other municipalities' practices, including Bloomington and Morton.

Council Member Nutter highlighted financial challenges within the solid waste budget and emphasized the need for efficiency measures and a study.

Council Member Orrick inquired about a late fee for garbage. Mr. Grogan clarified that it was not proposed to Council.

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (4 TO 3)** |
| **MOVER:** | Council Member Chris Onken |
| **SECONDER:** | Council Member Karen Hohimer |
| **AYES:** | 1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken |
| **NAYS:** | Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick |

**7.6. Ordinance No. 4187-23/24 Amending Chapter 3 of the Pekin City Code Regarding Sewer Charges**

Ordinance No. 4187-23/24 was presented, focusing on amending Chapter 3 of the Pekin City Code concerning sewer charges. The ordinance addresses the inadequacy of current fees for wastewater and stormwater collection and treatment, resulting in negative cash balances in the Sewer Fund, totaling over $11 million owed to the General Fund. To rectify this, the proposed ordinance includes increases to these fees in the FY2025 budget. The volumetric rate for wastewater is set to increase from $7.66 per 1,000 gallons to $10.70 per 1,000 gallons as of May 1, 2024, with a yearly 5% increase thereafter. Similarly, the capital improvement fee is set to increase.

Council Member Orrick expressed support for the ordinance, emphasizing its fairness and compliance with state and EPA mandates.

Council Member Hilst raised concerns about the impact of fee increases on employees' pay and questioned the lack of cost-cutting measures.

There was discussion about including North Pekin in the fee increases and negotiating higher rates with them.

Council Member Orrick suggested creating a todo list for clarity on actions being taken, while Council Member Nutter emphasized the need to review winter averaging.

Staff recommended approval of the ordinance, citing the necessity to address the structural insufficiency in maintaining acceptable sewer services and allocating funds for other projects. Further details were provided in a memo included in the packet for Council review.

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (5 TO 2)** |
| **MOVER:** | Council Member Chris Onken |
| **SECONDER:** | Council Member Lloyd Orrick |
| **AYES:** | 1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken |
| **NAYS:** | Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst |

**7.7. Resolution No. 130-23/24 Approving a Cost of Living Adjustment for Non-Union Employees in the FY25 Budget**

Resolution No. 130-23/24 was discussed, which pertains to approving a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for non-union employees in the FY25 Budget. The resolution proposes a 3% COLA increase for the upcoming fiscal year. City Manager, Mr. John Dossey read the request.

Council Member Abel raised concerns about inflation.

Council Member Hohimer emphasized the importance of offering competitive wages to retain skilled employees, expressing worry about a potential turnover if living wages are not provided.

Council Member Orrick voiced support for the resolution, highlighting the negative impact on morale if raises were withheld.

Council Member Hilst took an opposing stance, citing concerns about affordability and the implementation of utility fee increases, advocating for equal treatment of all employees.

Council Member Nutter echoed Hilst's concerns, emphasizing the need for accountability and substantial merit increases rather than COLAs.

Mayor Burress echoed support for providing raises to non-union employees to maintain equality and acknowledge their contributions to the city.

Council Member Onken referenced similar situations in education regarding turnover due to lack of incentives.

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (5 TO 2)** |
| **MOVER:** | None |
| **SECONDER:** | None |
| **AYES:** | 1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Orrick, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken |
| **NAYS:** | Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst |

**7.8. Ordinance No. 4188-23/24 Approving the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Budget**

Ordinance No. 4188-23/24 was discussed, which approves the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Budget for the City of Pekin. The budget establishes projected revenues and spending limits across various categories and funds, including personnel, contractual, commodities, capital outlay, transfers, debt service, contingency, grants/economic assistance, and others. The budget also includes the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Plan, outlining intended capital projects and funding sources.

Council Member Orrick expressed concerns about the impact of utility taxes and inflation on businesses and highlighted the need to address systemic problems such as pensions.

Council Member Nutter raised questions about revenue sources and expenditures, including the bulk waste fee, a loan for the CSO project, and funding for railroad-related projects.

Council Member Hilst motioned to remove two street department employees and to eliminate street department vehicles from the budget, seconded by Council Member Orrick.

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| **RESULT:** | **FAILED (2-3-2)** |
| **MOVER:** | Council Member Rick Hilst |
| **SECONDER:** | Council Member Lloyd Orrick |
| **AYES:** | Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick |
| **NAYS:** | Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Abel and Mayor Burress |
| **ABSTAIN:** | Council Member Nutter and Council Member Onken |

A motion was made by Council Member Hilst seconded by Council Member Nutter to remove $14M land purchase from the Budget. Concerns were raised about its impact on future land acquisitions and funding for other projects. Utlimately, it was clarified that the $14M expense line includes a $12M anticipated loan, leaving a net of $2M from the general fund for the land purchase.

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| **RESULT:** | **FAILED (2-4-1)** |

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| **MOVER:** | Council Member Hilst |
| **SECONDER:** | Council Member Nutter |
| **AYES:** | Council Member Hilst and Council Member Orrick |
| **NAYS:** | 1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Nutter |
| **ABSTAIN:** | Council Member Onken |

**Motion to Approve Ordinance No. 4188-23/24 Approving the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Budget**

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| **RESULT:** | **PASSED (4 TO 3)** |
| **MOVER:** | Mayor Pro-Tem Dave Nutter |
| **SECONDER:** | Council Member Karen Hohimer |
| **AYES:** | 1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Hohimer, Council Member Onken |
| **NAYS:** | Mayor Pro-Tem Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Orrick |

**6.8. Resolution No. ~~126~~ 131-23/24 Approving the Mayor's Re-appointments to the City of Pekin Economic Development Advisory Committee**

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| **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 |

Economic Development Director, Mr. Joshua Wray, provided clarification regarding the integration of the Economic Development Advisory Committee in the city code. He explained that part of the ordinance involved reducing the committee's size from 13 to 7 members by May 1, 2026. To ensure compliance, members were given the option to leave at the end of their terms, while others expressed a desire to remain. The Mayor was tasked with reappointing members to staggered terms, with no more than 7 members by May 2026. The Mayor noted that she had initially been uncertain about these appointments until consulting the bylaws. Additionally, she addressed concerns about a citizen questioning why someone served on two committees, clarifying that the individual in question's role in the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism justified her presence on both the EDAC and Tourism Committees.

**Any Other Business To Come Before The Council**

Public Works Director, Mr. Dean Schneider, spoke regarding the GFL Recycling Agreement regarding the frequency of services outlined in the agreement. He referenced a section pertaining to weekly services, particularly regarding the sampling of recycling composition conducted by GFL. He was uncertain whether the sampling must occur every week or if it was simply during the weekly routes. Mr. Schenider mentioned that he waits until his recycling bin is nearly full before placing it out for collection often exceeding the weekly timefram mentioned in the agremeent.

Council Member Hilst requested to add to the next agenda to earmark revenue from the Utility Tax for ADA Transisition work and to streets and infrastructure that the City currently owns. The request was seconded by Council Member Nutter.

Council Member Hohimer addressed the public and staff acknowledging the gravity of the budget deliberations and assuring that the Council has not taken their responsibilities lightly. She recognized the collective struggle of the Council Member in crafting the budget, recognizing that there will be both satisfied and dissatisfied constituents.

Council Member Orrick shared his perspective on the budget vote, expressing his belief that he voted in the best interests of the city's residents given the prevailing economic circumstances. He acknowledged the economic challenges faced by the city but voiced concern over the burden placed on citizens to sustain city operations through increased taxes or fees. Council Member Orrick advocated for a more restrained approach to city spending, particularly in light of what he perceived as the worsening impact of inflation.

Council Member Onken expressed gratitude towards individuals that participated in the meeting regardless of whether their opinions aligned with council's. He emphasized the value of public engagement and dialogue. He acknowledged the city's challenges and the need for solutions, viewing proposed fees as a small step towards addressing them, albeit recognizing that it may not provide an immediate remedy.

Council Member Nutter emphasized the importance of the finance team staying vigilant with the budget, despite personal disagreements, and supported decisions made by the Council.

Mayor Burress recognized the city's recent accolades and echoed Nutter's sentiments regarding the finance committee's necessity.

Council Member Dossey requested participation from two council members for an upcoming matter, prompting discussion about logistics and scheduling.

**Executive Session 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)**

## Adjourn

There being no further business to come to the Council Mayor Burress adjourned the meeting at 9:32 PM.