



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, MAY 12, 2025 AT 5:30 PM
MAYOR MARY J. BURRESS PRESIDING**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Members Orrick and Onken.

Mayor Burress stated that “tonight is a bittersweet night,” noting the departure of two Council Members and the swearing in of two new members. She also acknowledged the significant loss of City Clerk Sue McMillan, who was first brought into City Hall in 1991 as secretary to Mayor Don Williams and became City Clerk four years later, serving the City faithfully for 30 years. Mayor Burress described her as a “beautiful lady inside and out.”

Pastor Michael Ritchason, a former City Council Member, was present to offer a few words in honor of Sue McMillan and to lead the Council and attendees in prayer.

Call to Order

City Attorney, Jim Vassellie, 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	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	5:30 PM
Dave Nutter	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
Chris Onken	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM

Approve Agenda

RESULT: PASSED (UNANIMOUS) MOVER: Council Member Chris Onken SECONDER: 1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel

AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Onken, Council Member Orrick
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Approval of Minutes

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	None
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Karen Hohimer
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Onken, Council Member Orrick

4.1. City Council - Regular Meeting - April 14, 2025

4.2. City Council - Special Meeting - April 21, 2025

Adjourn Sine Die

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

Mayor Burress began by thanking Council Member Orrick for his 24 years of dedicated service to the City of Pekin. In recognition of his long-standing commitment, the Mayor presented him with a crystal service award, a new City challenge coin, and a custom street sign reading "Orrick Way."

Council Member Orrick's daughter honored him with a heartfelt tribute, sharing a brief overview of his life and career.

Mayor Burress then extended her gratitude to Mr. Onken for his service, presenting him with a custom street sign that reads "Onken Drive," along with a new City challenge coin.

Council Members took turns expressing their gratitude and well wishes to the outgoing Council Members, Mr. Lloyd Orrick and Mr. Chris Onken.

Council Member Orrick thanked both current and former Council Members he had worked with over the years. He reflected that it felt fitting he chose not to run for re-election the same year City Clerk Sue McMillan, with whom he was close, passed. He stated he had always strived to do what was right for the residents and wished the City

of Pekin well, hoping future representatives continue to act in the community's best interest.

Mayor Burress concluded the remarks by presenting both outgoing Council Members with a framed Council picture and their oaths of office in honor of their years of service.

Oath of Office

Mayor Mary Burress administered the Oath of Office to Council Member Dave Nutter, Council Member Jimmie Fletcher, Jr. and Council Member Peg Phillips.

Call to Order

7.1. Roll Call

City Attorney Jim Vasselli, confirmed all Council Members were physically present. Mayor Burress declared a quorum and opened the meeting at 5:55 PM.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Rick Hilst	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:55 PM
Karen Hohimer	City of Pekin	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	5:55 PM
Dave Nutter	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:55 PM
Mary Burress	City of Pekin	Mayor	Present	5:55 PM
Peg Phillips	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:55 PM
John P Abel	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:55 PM
Jimmie Fletcher, Jr.	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:55 PM

Public Input

Nathan McCarthy of Solar on Earth discussed a state renewable energy program that could save the City \$44,000 to \$52,000 annually on electricity at no cost. He noted the City currently spends \$488,000 on electricity and emphasized the program would not affect the City's energy provider.

Matthew Johnson congratulated new Council Members and thanked the outgoing ones. He urged the Council to prioritize the pension crisis, avoid overuse of TIF districts, and consider adding pension funding to future agendas. He also praised the idea of renaming the Council Chambers in honor of Sue McMillan.

Ms. Amy McCoy, speaking for the Tourism Committee, highlighted upcoming sponsorships, including the Pekin Marigold Festival and Fourth of July fireworks in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. She noted the committee has a full calendar planned for 2025, with details available online.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Hilst read the 8 items listed on the Consent Agenda.

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, Council Member Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Phillips, Council Member Fletcher, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer

9.1. Accounts Payable Paid Proof List thru May 2, 2025

9.2. Fire Department Monthly Incident Report April 2025

9.3. Receive and File Electric Aggregation Results

9.4. Receive and File Mayor's Re-Appointment of Sara Lavin to the Pekin Police Pension Board for a Two-Year Term Ending May 12, 2027

9.5. Proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month

9.6. FY26 Budget Transfers for May 12, 2025

9.7. Police Department Monthly Statistics April 2025

9.8. Building Department Permit Report April 2025

New Business

10.1. Resolution No. 283-25/26 Approving a Recycling Grant Agreement with Tazewell County

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

Resolution No. 283-25/26, Council considered approval of a Recycling Grant Agreement with Tazewell County. Mr. Wray explained that this is an annual grant from Tazewell County and noted the amount has increased slightly this year.

Council Member Hilst inquired whether the \$30,000 increase over the budgeted amount would require a budget amendment. Finance Director Eric Dubrowski responded that it would not, as there are sufficient related expenses to absorb the revenue. Council Member Hilst also asked whether the grant, commencing in January 2025, would impact the previous budget. Public Works Director Simon Grimm clarified that the funds would only apply moving forward and would not be backdated.

Council Member Nutter expressed concern about the City's approach to budget amendments, questioning why they are considered for some items and not others. Mr. Dubrowski agreed in principle but explained that the additional \$30,000 is revenue, not an added expense. Council Member Nutter also asked whether the City must spend the full \$90,000 grant amount, to which Mr. Grimm confirmed that any unspent funds would be forfeited.

Council Member Hohimer noted that the budget is fluid and stated that if any funds are not used in one area, they can be applied to address other needs, such as ongoing sewer issues.

10.2. Resolution No. 284-25/26 Approving a Construction Reimbursement Agreement with Illinois American Water for the Court Street Project

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

Resolution No. 284-25/26, the Council considered approval of a Construction Reimbursement Agreement with Illinois American Water for the Court Street Project.

Economic Development Director Josh Wray explained that auditors advised the City to report the full expenses and revenues separately rather than netting them out. Public Works Director Simon Grimm added that Illinois American Water's portion of the Court Street project work will be completed through the City's contractor, and the City will reimburse Illinois American Water for those costs.

Finance Director Eric Dubrowski noted that this method provides the cleanest accounting on the City's books, which Mayor Burress agreed also promotes greater transparency.

Council Member Nutter asked a question regarding the reimbursement breakdown, noting that two line items shared the same General Ledger (GL) code. Mr. Wray acknowledged it was a typo and clarified that the correct GL

code should be 270, corresponding to the Central Business District TIF.

10.3. Resolution No. 285-25/26 Approving the Fiscal Year 2026 Tourism Event Sponsorships

RESULT:	PASSED (5 TO 0) TO 1
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Karen Hohimer
SECONDER:	Council Member Dave Nutter
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Phillips, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	Council Member Fletcher

Resolution No. 285-25/26, the Council considered approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Tourism Event Sponsorships. Economic Development Director Josh Wray provided a brief overview of the sponsorships.

Council Member Nutter asked why the Balloon Festival was not included, questioning whether it was sponsored by Tourism or funded through other sources. Mr. Wray explained that the Balloon Festival is one of four events managed directly by the City rather than sponsored through the Tourism Committee.

Council Member Nutter expressed concerns about transparency and whether funding levels were appropriate. Mr. Wray responded that City code requires events to submit financial reports within 30 days for review.

Council Member Fletcher announced he would abstain from voting as he had not yet reviewed the information and wished to consult with citizens first.

10.4. Resolution No. 286-25/26 Approving Annual Contract with DACRA Technology

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

Resolution No. 286-25/26, the Council considered approval of the annual contract with DACRA Technology.

Police Chief Ranney explained that the program is used daily by officers and code enforcement staff to adjudicate traffic citations and city code violations. He noted that the purchase was budgeted for Fiscal Year 2026.

10.5. Resolution No. 287-25/26 Approving Purchase of Technology for Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Compliance

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

Resolution No. 287-25/26, the Council considered approval of the purchase of technology required for Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliance. Economic Development Director Josh Wray noted that Mr. Hess could answer any detailed questions. He added that some information had been shared confidentially with the Council earlier due to security concerns.

Any Other Business To Come Before The Council

Economic Development Director Josh Wray reported that the electric aggregation program results are included in the packet, noting that Ameren rates are increasing by about 50%, while the City secured a favorable rate 10-12% lower.

Police Chief Seth Ranney announced that Officer Ingles will retire this Wednesday after 20 years of service and wished her well. Mayor Burress echoed these sentiments.

City Attorney Jim Vasseli confirmed receipt of the official election results, with the top three vote-getters being Mr. Nutter, Mr. Fletcher, and Ms. Phillips, fulfilling statutory obligations.

Finance Director Eric Dubrowski provided an audit update, stating auditors were on site last week and about 75% of requested information has been completed, with grant writing and fixed assets expected to be more time-consuming. He plans to bring ideas to the Council.

Mayor Burress thanked staff for their teamwork.

Council Member Hilst congratulated Jake Fletcher, Peg Phillips, and Dave Nutter on their election to the Council. Council Member Nutter congratulated Officer Ingles on her retirement and reminded the public of the City cleanup event on Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Koch Street.

Council Member Phillips expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and looks forward to working with the Council.

Council Member Fletcher committed to representing Pekin's citizens and congratulated Officer Ingles.

Council Member Abel welcomed the new members and wished Officer Ingles well.

Council Member Hohimer extended belated Mother's Day wishes and congratulated the new Council members, urging forward progress for the City.

Mayor Burress shared that Pekin was recognized by the Historical Society in Springfield for the bicentennial book, with Olar and Ryneerson awarded a certificate. She also thanked police officers and firefighters for their service, noting May 4th was Firefighter's Recognition Day. The Mayor mentioned positive comments about Pekin at a recent conference, including praise for the City's website, which is being updated for greater transparency. She also noted that Senators Turner and Anderson invited her to host a coffee connection event, and she thanked everyone for their dedication.

Executive Session 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)

Adjourn

There being no further business to come to the Council a motion was made by Council Member Nutter seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried viva voce vote. Mayor Burress adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM.