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, JUNE 9, 2025 AT 5:30 PM
MAYOR MARY J. BURRESS PRESIDING**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Burress.

Call to Order

Chief Deputy City Clerk, Ms. Nicole Stewart, 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
Jimmie Fletcher, Jr.	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM
John P Abel	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM
Peg Phillips	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM

Approve Agenda

Council Member Nutter requested that New Business Item 8.4 Ordinance No. 4309-25/26 Approving Second Amendment to the FY26 Annual Budget and New Business Item 8.11 Resolution No. 304-25/26 Approving Final Invoice for Polymer with Hawkins, Inc. be swapped under New Business.

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Council Member Dave Nutter
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 Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

Approval of Minutes

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

4.1. City Council - Regular Meeting Minutes - May 27, 2025

Public Input

Shane Goble spoke on behalf of Rick Goble regarding the condition of the property at 909 Court Street. He reported that the front of the house was torn down on March 1st and has been left in a hazardous and incomplete state for over 80 days. He described unsafe conditions including exposed porch framing, a significant drop where a sidewalk once existed, unsafe stairs, and a large hole in the side of the home now occupied by birds. Mr. Goble requested the city remedy the situation quickly.

Ms. Amy McCoy, representing the Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Committee, thanked City staff for their ongoing support during the summer event season. She shared details about several upcoming events: the Hot Air Balloon event on June 27–28, the 77th annual Fourth of July celebration at the stadium, a downtown street party on August 23rd, and the Marigold Festival the week after Labor Day. She also asked for volunteers for the hot air balloon event.

Elaine Ritchey spoke in support of residential solar energy, noting that her 48 rooftop panels do not create glare and have significantly reduced her electric bill from $300–$400 per month to around $58. She also inquired about the status of Derby Street and the former Sav-A-Lot store, expressing that the store was a valued asset to the neighborhood. Ms. Ritchey voiced support for rotating the role of Mayor Pro Tem and encouraged Council to consider a system allowing all members to experience it. She also addressed concerns about homelessness in the community, urging the City to explore partnerships or incentives with local hotels to provide temporary shelter solutions, noting that some individuals may need structured support or enforcement to seek employment.

Greg Hanson expressed frustration over the growing homelessness issue, particularly on the south and now the north sides of Pekin. He cited theft, safety concerns, littering, and noise disturbances caused by homeless individuals on electric bikes. He urged the City to develop a more effective, conclusive plan and suggested relocating individuals to Peoria, where treatment facilities are more accessible. He emphasized that those unwilling to seek treatment are often the ones causing crime. In response, Mayor Burress acknowledged the concern and stated that the Police Chief is actively working on related issues.

Consent Agenda

RESULT:	**PASSED (6 TO 1)**
MOVER:	Council Member Dave Nutter
SECONDER:	Council Member Peg Phillips
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Nutter, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Phillips, Council Member Fletcher
NAYS:	Council Member Hilst

Council Member Hilst questioned several items in the Accounts Payable report. He inquired why the City paid for asbestos testing at the corner of Court and Washington when the property owner had agreed to handle the demolition. Mr. Dossey responded that Chief Building Official Nic Maquet was not present to provide clarification. Council Member Hilst also asked about the City's continued purchase of plywood despite having a supply of plywood at the bus department. Police Chief Seth Ranney explained that while the City does use its plywood stock when possible, certain properties require specific materials that necessitate additional purchases.

Council Member Hilst then raised concern over a series of payments totaling nearly $89,000 to Merck Construction for sidewalk improvements. He noted that although the original resolution approving the project listed BDD and Capital Projects funds as the source, the actual payments were made from the Court Street TIF Fund. He asked whether staff had the authority to change funding sources after Council approval without a budget amendment. Mr. Wray responded that the resolution did not explicitly specify the fund and the expenses were eligible under Court Street TIF, but staff could reallocate the payment if Council desired. Finance Director Eric Dubrowski added that while such changes are legal, staff generally aims to stay consistent with the financial impact statements presented to Council.

Council Member Nutter questioned whether the payment fell under FY25 or FY26, and Mr. Dubrowski confirmed it was analyzed and coded as FY25 since the work occurred then, though additional work in FY26 will be coded accordingly.

6.1. Accounts Payable Paid Proof List thru May 30, 2025

6.2. Investment Report April 2025

6.3. Receive and File FY 2025-26 Budget Transfers for June 9, 2025

6.4. Pekin Fire Department Monthly Incident Report May 2025

6.5. Building Department Permit Report May 2025

6.6. Receive and File Bid Results for Airport Aviation Fuel Tank Replacement

Public Hearing

7.1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Draft 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and Draft 2025 Annual Action Plan

Mayor Burress opened the public hearing at 6:00 PM.

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Council Member Peg Phillips
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 Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

Economic Development Director Josh Wray provided a detailed presentation. He explained that this was the first of two required public hearings, and the plans guide how the City utilizes its annual CDBG allocations, which average around $430,000. Pekin qualifies as an entitlement community and receives funds directly from HUD.

Mr. Wray explained the difference between the five-year Consolidated Plan, which identifies broad goals and needs, and the Annual Action Plan, which outlines how specific dollars will be used each year. He reviewed eligibility criteria—primarily benefiting low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents, preventing slum and blight, or addressing urgent needs. He noted that the majority of funds are used for LMI benefit.

Public input efforts included a 30-question survey with 78 responses and three community input meetings. Common themes identified were homelessness, sidewalk and street improvements, and workforce training. Mr. Wray presented demographic and socioeconomic trends supporting the identified needs, including declining population, increasing poverty, and rising homelessness across the tri-county area.

Planned goals include:

- Continuing and expanding the social worker program and homelessness services.
- Infrastructure improvements (particularly sidewalks and ADA compliance).
- Emergency response support, including partial funding of a future fire apparatus for Station 3.
- A one-year workforce development grant initiative.

- Program administration costs, capped by HUD, were also included.

Elaine Ritchey asked about the possibility of a residential rehab program, specifically for home improvements like siding. Mr. Wray acknowledged such programs are eligible but not currently offered; if Council directed, one could be created.

Mr. Greg Hanson asked whether the public is sufficiently informed about such opportunities. Mr. Wray acknowledged that awareness may be limited but emphasized the City's efforts to engage through hearings, surveys, and social media.

Council Members expressed support for the current goals, with Council Member Phillips emphasizing the importance of transparency, fiscal responsibility, and the social worker program.

Council Member Hilst confirmed that ADA improvements can be done outside LMI areas with proper documentation. Mr. Wray clarified that project selection would prioritize areas identified in the City's recent ADA consent decree and could be further guided by Council.

Council Member Hohimer praised the presentation and asked that the Police Chief's social worker Missy be thanked for her efforts.

The draft plans will continue through the public comment period before final Council approval and HUD submission.

The public hearing was closed by the Mayor at 6:29 p.m.

New Business

8.1. Resolution No. 297-25/26 Approving Change Order with River City Demolition, Inc. for Restoration of 909 Court Street

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

Council Member Nutter seconded by Council Member Phillips moved to amend the resolution to include a not-to-exceed amount of $25,000 for restoration work, in anticipation of further unforeseen issues.

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**

MOVER:	Council Member Dave Nutter
SECONDER:	Council Member Peg Phillips
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

Mr. Dossey read the request. The Mayor referenced public comment made earlier in the evening by Mr. Shane Goble on behalf of his father, Mr. Rick Goble, who resides at the property. The Mayor asked whether the proposed change order would fully address the concerns presented. Mr. Dossey stated the plan had been prepared by the City's engineering consultant in coordination with Public Works Director Simon Grimm and intended to restore the property to an acceptable condition.

Mr. Grimm explained that the original demolition left an exposed wall and foundation issues not included in River City Demolition's original scope of work. The proposed change order would address those issues, including siding replacement on both sides of the house, restoration of the exposed framing, a power meter relocation, and matching siding as closely as possible.

Mr. Shane Goble stated the damage was more extensive than the proposal indicated, noting that demolition had damaged multiple sides of the house, stairs, siding, windows, and doors, and he believed not all of the sewer lines were properly capped. He estimated repairs closer to $20,000 and expressed concern about incomplete restoration. He added the contractor, Bishop Brothers, had quoted over $20,000. Mr. Grimm clarified Bishop Brothers is a subcontractor for River City.

Council Member Phillips referenced the change order, which did include the replacement of two sided 10x14 walls. Mr. Goble confirmed that aligned with what was discussed but reiterated additional work may still be required.

A broader discussion followed regarding contractor accountability. Council Members Hilst and Fletcher strongly objected to the City covering restoration costs when River City was responsible for the damage.

Council Member Hilst cited the original demolition agreement, which states that the contractor—not the City—is responsible for any damage caused. He questioned why Bishop Brothers was being used without a separate RFP process and noted the City had already sold the property "as-is."

Council Member Fletcher agreed, noting River City had not been paid and the City could pursue recourse. Mr. Dossey and Corporation Counsel Mr. Vasselli acknowledged that this conversation regarding liability and payment would occur separately. Mr. Vasselli stated the City may initiate that process immediately.

To address immediate needs, Council Member Phillips proposed an additional amendment to add Section 3, allocating $6,125 for contingency expenses to ensure the property is restored to the homeowner's satisfaction, with oversight by Public Works staff. This amendment was accepted within the previous not-to-exceed cap.

Council Members expressed frustration with the situation but supported moving forward to resolve the matter for the homeowner while pursuing accountability with the contractor afterward. Mr. Grimm confirmed Public Works will oversee the project closely.

8.2. Resolution No. 298-25/26 Approving a Partnership with Discover Peoria for Fiscal Year 2026

RESULT:	**PASSED (4 TO 3)**
MOVER:	Council Member Rick Hilst
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Karen Hohimer
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Phillips
NAYS:	Council Member Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Fletcher

Economic Development Director Josh Wray read the request, noting that this resolution would formalize a $25,000 partnership with Discover Peoria for FY26, as previously recommended by the Tourism Committee.

Mayor Burress commented that during the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) meeting earlier that day, it was emphasized that the City must view regional partnerships—such as with Discover Peoria—as an investment in the entire community and regional growth, not just within Pekin.

Council Member Phillips stated that after hearing Ms. McCoy's presentation at the previous Council meeting and following additional discussion with members of the Tourism Committee, she believes the committee members see this as a worthwhile investment and supports approval.

Mayor Burress concurred, expressing support for the partnership.

8.3. Resolution No. 299-25/26 Approving Joint Funding Agreement for FY26 with Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

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

	Hohimer, Council Member Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

City Manager John Dossey read the request. Council discussed the City's participation in the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) and how projects are selected for funding.

Council Member Hilst asked how TCRPC determines which projects to fund and whether an application is required. Mr. Dossey explained that staff participate on both the technical and governing boards of the Commission, which includes representation from Woodford, Tazewell, and Peoria counties. He stated that TCRPC evaluates projects regionally to assess their economic impact and connectivity.

Ecfonomic Development Director Josh Wray added that TCRPC is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and receives a state allocation similar to the CDBG program. City staff submit potential projects for consideration, which are scored and voted on by the Commission.

Council Member Hilst inquired who submits the projects. Mr. Wray confirmed that staff—specifically referencing the former engineer, Josie Esker—submitted Broadway, Derby, and a portion of Court Street in the last round. Hilst noted that he has consistently supported this agreement and believes it provides value, but questioned why Derby Street was not selected for funding. He expressed that he does not see Broadway as a regional priority.

Mayor Burress responded that project scoring is based on multiple factors, including regional facilities such as the Health Department and public housing located along Broadway, which helped increase its score. The Mayor emphasized that regional impact and community-wide benefit play significant roles in the scoring process.

Council Member Abel affirmed that this agreement delivers one of the highest returns for the City, citing past successful projects and funding received.

8.11. Resolution No. 304-25/26 Approving Final Invoice for Polymer with Hawkins, Inc.

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
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 Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

City Manager John Dossey read the request, explaining that this resolution approves the final invoice for polymer from Hawkins, Inc. for the wastewater treatment plant.

Council Member Nutter expressed appreciation that staff reviewed chemical procurement at the plant and commended them for identifying a more cost-effective supplier.

Mr. Dossey credited Chris Schaefer for his diligence and expertise.

Council Member Abel added that this was the second time in recent months that staff had achieved significant cost savings in this area.

Public Works Director Simon Grimm noted that the polymer now being used costs approximately $0.80 less per pound, and its higher efficiency results in volumetric savings, as less product is needed to achieve effective treatment.

8.5. Resolution No. 300-25/26 Mayor's Re-Appointment of Karen Hohimer as Mayor Pro-Tem and John Abel as 1st Alternate Mayor Pro-Tem

RESULT:	**PASSED (4 TO 3)**
MOVER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
SECONDER:	Council Member Peg Phillips
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Phillips
NAYS:	Council Member Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Fletcher

City Manager John Dossey introduced the request. Corporation Counsel Jim Vasselli provided legal context, referencing the City's action on September 11, 2023, which aligned with state case law affirming that appointments of Mayor Pro-Tem positions must be made by the Mayor.

Mayor Burress explained the reasoning behind her appointments. She shared that upon becoming Mayor, she intended to provide each Council Member the opportunity to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem. She noted that Council Member Nutter previously held the position and assumed the responsibility of acting on her behalf during absences, including attending meetings and representing the City publicly.

Mayor Burress stated that she had originally planned to appoint Chris Onken next; however, he was not re-elected. After conversations with the newly elected Council Members, she expressed the desire to allow them more time to acclimate before considering leadership roles. She emphasized that the Mayor Pro-Tem position requires commitment, leadership, and the ability to collaborate on Council agendas and attend civic events.

8.6. Ordinance No. 4310-25/26 Approving a First Amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Epic Pharma Solutions to Allow a 90-Day Extension for Development Milestones

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
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 Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

Economic Development Director Josh Wray presented the request. He explained that Epic Pharma Solutions requested a 90-day extension to the development milestone deadlines outlined in their purchase and sale agreement with the City, due to concerns about meeting the original timeline for site plan approval. The ordinance would amend the agreement to allow this extension.

Council Member Nutter inquired whether the extension would affect the company's deal with the State. Mr. Wray clarified that the City's agreement is independent of any state incentives and expressed no concern regarding the company's hiring commitments.

Council Member Hohimer asked how soon construction could begin. Mr. Wray responded that Epic Pharma intends to submit their site plan by early October, and that approval typically takes 45 to 60 days once submitted.

8.7. Ordinance No. 4311-25/26 Approving an Option and Lease Agreement for a Solar Development at the Pekin Municipal Airport with Pekin Airport Solar, LLC (Alder Energy)

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Council Member Jimmie Fletcher
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 Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

City Manager John Dossey introduced the request. A representative from Alder Energy joined by phone to discuss the proposed solar development at the Pekin Municipal Airport. The agreement would allow Alder Energy to install a solar array and lease property at the airport to support a community solar project.

Council Member Hilst asked if Pekin residents would have the opportunity to subscribe to the solar program. The Alder representative, Craig, explained that power generated would go to the Ameren grid and Alder would then recruit local subscribers, targeting community members with a virtual billing credit system. Subscribers would enter into individual agreements with the solar operator, and there would be no long-term commitment. Participation would be first come, first served, and a waiting list would be maintained.

Council Member Hilst compared the program to electric aggregation. Craig noted that while he wasn't familiar with aggregation, community solar is a structured, state-regulated subscription model administered through the Illinois Power Agency. A portion of subscribers must be low-to-moderate income (LMI) residents.

Council Member Abel inquired how residents would know to sign up. Craig stated there would be a community outreach campaign once the project moves forward, including appearances at events like farmers markets and church gatherings.

Council Member Nutter asked whether Alder had contacted Ameren and whether they were in the due diligence period. Craig confirmed that a pre-application had been submitted to Ameren, and preliminary feedback showed the grid could handle the load without requiring upgrades. If the Council approved the lease, Alder would proceed with the next steps of the application process.
Airport Manager Mike Cruce noted that the project would benefit the airport, and reiterated that the rest of the power not used on site would be available for LMI subscribers.

8.8. Resolution No. 301-25/26 Approving Axon AI Era Plan Addendum to Existing 10-Year Contract

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Council Member Jimmie Fletcher
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 Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

City Manager John Dossey introduced the resolution, noting that Axon has been incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) into their services, particularly for tasks like video redaction, which saves a significant amount of time for Police Department staff.

Police Chief Ranney explained the financial details, noting that the department had already budgeted funds in anticipation of Axon's upcoming AI offerings. Once pricing became available, the City negotiated a reduced rate—$10,000 this year, with subsequent years locked in at $50,000 annually. The agreement secures the rate over a 10-year term, with projected savings of approximately $1.5 million. Chief Ranney emphasized the importance of locking in the rate given the increasing costs of advanced technology.

Deputy Chief Brian Willmert delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining how the existing 10-year Axon contract, approved in 2024, covers body-worn cameras, evidence tools, a records system, and digital evidence management. He highlighted how the new AI tools would further enhance efficiency and transparency, while also empowering officers.

Council Member Phillips expressed appreciation for the presentation and stated support for the resolution, particularly noting that the addendum prohibits the use of facial recognition—a key concern for privacy and civil liberties.

Mayor Burress and Council Member Hohimer agreed with the support, with Council Member Hohimer noting she had been asked whether the AI could be used with ill intent. She stated that it would not, and any future controversial developments should be brought back before Council.

Chief Ranney affirmed that if any such issues arise, they will be presented for Council input.

8.9. Resolution No. 302-25/26 Amending the City Clerk License Fee Schedule Regarding Refuse Hauler License Fees

RESULT:	**PASSED (6 TO 1)**
MOVER:	Council Member Jimmie Fletcher
SECONDER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Nutter, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Phillips, Council Member Fletcher
NAYS:	Council Member Hilst

City Manager John Dossey read the request, which proposed reducing the Refuse Hauler License Fee from $1,000 to $500 and making the amendment retroactive to May 1, 2025.

Council Member Nutter asked whether any haulers had already paid the full $1,000 fee. Josh Wray confirmed that some had and some had not, and that reimbursements of $500 would be issued to those who overpaid.

Council Member Hohimer suggested that credits could also be considered as an alternative to reimbursements.

Economic Development Director Josh Wray added that a review of licensing practices in other municipalities found that while it is not common, some cities such as Peoria County, Quincy, and Bartonville do license haulers. Quincy also charges a $1,000 fee, and Normal uses a temporary right-of-way permit system, indicating the City's original $1,000 fee was not unreasonable in comparison.

Mayor Burress stated support for reducing the fee, noting that when the original fee was approved, the City was unaware of new requirements from the State related to sales tax on temporary rentals, which impacted haulers.

Council Member Hilst expressed some hesitation, referencing a past situation involving increased gaming fees where businesses were similarly burdened but the Council did not later lower those fees. He suggested the Council may need to revisit that issue as well.

8.10. Resolution No. 303-25/26 Awarding Aviation Fuel Tank Replacement Contract to Brandt Construction Co.

RESULT:	**PASSED (6 TO 1)**
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Karen Hohimer
SECONDER:	Council Member Peg Phillips
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Nutter, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Phillips, Council Member Fletcher
NAYS:	Council Member Hilst

City Manager John Dossey presented the request for Council to approve awarding the aviation fuel tank replacement contract to Brandt Construction Co.

Council Member Nutter inquired whether the current underground tanks would be replaced with above-ground tanks and whether fuel services would remain operational during the installation.

Airport Manager Mike Cruce confirmed both: the tanks will be above ground, allowing continuous aircraft fueling during the transition. He also noted that above-ground tanks do not carry the same inspection requirements as underground tanks.

Council Member Abel complimented the negotiations that led to this project and the solar development agreement, noting both as positive developments for the airport.

Council Member Hilst expressed concern about discrepancies between the two bids submitted, asking whether the tanks specified by both contractors were equivalent. Mr. Cruce confirmed that while the suppliers were different, all tanks met required specifications. He explained that cost variations between bids could result from how different contractors categorize items—some may distribute costs for tasks such as excavation or grading differently.

Council Member Hilst specifically questioned the significant difference in the “Other Site Work” line item—Brandt listed $110,000, while the other bidder listed $15,000—and also raised concerns about differences in traffic maintenance costs. Mr. Cruce explained those items could include mobilization, barricades, or other delivery and setup costs, but noted that the airport engineer would be better suited to answer detailed questions about specific line items.

8.4. Ordinance No. 4309-25/26 Approving Second Amendment to the FY26 Annual Budget

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
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, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

City Manager John Dossey presented the request.

Council Member Hilst raised concerns about the apparent deficit reflected in the budget amendment and asked if the shortfall would be covered by a transfer from the General Fund.

Finance Director Eric Dubrowski clarified that the deficit would be drawn from the airport's existing cash balance and not from the General Fund.

Council Member Hilst further inquired about the grant line items included in the amendment, specifically whether the City had actually been awarded those funds. Airport Manager Mike Cruce responded that while the grant funds are secured, some of the formal paperwork had not yet been completed. He stated that he had recently finalized the necessary documentation to ensure the grants would be processed.

Council Member Hilst noted that a portion of the funding includes ARPA money. Mr. Cruce confirmed this, explaining that the ARPA funds are being used to reimburse previously expended items at the airport, and that the application paperwork had now been submitted to secure those funds.

8.12. Resolution No. 305-25/26 Approving Purchase of a Cardiac Monitor for the Pekin Fire Department from Stryker Medical

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

City Manager Dossey read the request.

Fire Chief Reeise emphasized the importance of investing in equipment such as the cardiac monitor, particularly as the department continues to secure grant funding. He noted that the department's efforts in obtaining grant money have improved each year, helping to support essential purchases like this one.

8.13. Resolution No. 306-25/26 Approving Purchase of Monitoring Software for the Information Technology Department

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Council Member Peg Phillips
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 Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

Any Other Business To Come Before The Council

City Manager John Dossey shared several updates, including an upcoming ribbon cutting at the Pekin Country Club and the Miller Center business breakfast. He noted that work has begun on Derby Street with spray patching and manhole repairs. He clarified misinformation from a recent social media post stating the project was canceled, emphasizing that this is not true. The City has applied for a $10 million grant from a $400 million state fund, with IDOT and a lobbyist actively supporting the request.

Chief Ranney announced the launch of the Cops for Kids summer program, with the first event—mini golf—scheduled for the following day from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the golf course next to DragonLand.

Airport Manager Mike Cruce stated that ramp painting around the T-hangars has begun and a ribbon cutting is planned for later in the month, after which the hangars can be occupied.

Council Member Nutter remarked that the City must improve its contract oversight and encouraged staff and Council Members to thoroughly review contracts to ensure accountability and progress.

Council Member Abel asked about the tall grass at the vacant motel on Court Street. Council Member Nutter noted that grass in front of the old Bob Evans has been mowed. Chief Ranney added that the motel's exterior grass has been cut and the City is working to address conditions behind the fence. City Manager Dossey explained that ongoing litigation is delaying full action. Corporation Counsel Vasselli shared that the property is under expedited foreclosure and demolition proceedings. While the current owner has made a proposal to address the property, Vasselli objected due to a lack of confidence in the owner’s ability to maintain it. A follow-up court date is scheduled in 30 days.

Council Member Hilst asked if the proposal involved refurbishment, to which City Manager Dossey replied that the owners have presented no substantial plans, drawings, or progress despite years of opportunity.

Council Member Abel inquired about the possibility of replacing the microphones in the council chamber. Mayor Burress and Mr. Dossey agreed there are issues, which are partially due to the i3 internet service. Mr. Dossey reported the City recently signed with Bluebird and Stratus, which may help resolve connectivity problems.

Council Member Hohimer thanked City Hall staff, praising their dedication and hard work.

Mayor Burress echoed the appreciation, expressing optimism about the City's direction, with new restaurants and businesses opening and activity growing along Court Street and downtown. She also acknowledged the energy and support from the marketing team.

Executive Session 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)

10.1. Executive Session 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, 5. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, 8. Security Procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property, and 14. Informant sources, the hiring or assignment of undercover personnel or equipment, or ongoing, prior or future criminal investigations

A motion was made by Council Member Phillips seconded by Council Member Nutter to move into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, 5. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, 8. Security Procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property, and 14. Informant sources, the hiring or assignment of undercover personnel or equipment, or ongoing, prior or future criminal investigations at 8:35 PM.

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

Mayor Burress announced that action would be taken concluding closed session.

Council returned to open session at 9:52 PM.

New Business Continued

11.1. Resolution No. 307-25/26 Approving the Equipment Upfitting of a Departmental Surveillance/Covert Police Vehicle that was Seized via State Asset Forfeiture to Storm Offroad LLC

RESULT:	**PASSED (UNANIMOUS)**
MOVER:	Council Member Peg Phillips
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 Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

Adjourn

There being no further business to come to the Council a motion was made by Council Member Nutter seconded by 1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried viva voce vote. Mayor Burress adjourned the meeting at 9:55 PM.