



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, AUGUST 11, 2025 AT 5:30 PM
MAYOR MARY J. BURRESS PRESIDING**

Pledge of Allegiance - St. Jude Pekin to Peoria

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by St. Jude Pekin to Peoria Run.

Joanna Carroll, coordinator of the run since 2011, thanked the City and announced that the run has raised \$1.8M dollars over the years to provide kids with treatment. This year alone, the run has raised \$130K.

Mayor Burress presented the St. Jude Pekin to Peoria Run with a challenge coin.

Call to Order

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

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Council Member Jimmie Fletcher
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

Approval of Minutes

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

4.1. City Council - Regular Meeting Minutes - July 28, 2025

Public Input

Roger and Stephanie Brotherton provided a recap of the recent Cruise-In event held on the riverfront and gave many thanks to all staff and Council that contributed to the success of the event. They also recognized Ron and Mark Matthews for donating the stage for the live band and providing golf carts, Amy McCoy for her contributions, Brian Larson for his role with the band, and Randy from Schnucks for providing food samples. Additional appreciation was extended to the T-Shirt House, participating food trucks, and volunteers from surrounding communities.

Consent Agenda

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

6.1. Accounts Payable Paid Proof List through August 4, 2025

6.2. Pekin Fire Department Monthly Incident Report July 2025

6.3. Building Department Permit Report July 2025

6.4. 2025 Annual Report of the Pekin Public Library

6.5. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Transfers through August 6, 2025

Public Hearing

7.1. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Draft 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Review (CAPER)

RESULT:	OPENED PUBLIC HEARING (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

RESULT:	CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING (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

Mayor Burress opened the public hearing at 5:43 PM. Economic Development Director Josh Wray presented, noting that the public hearing on the draft CAPER was published, with the draft made available by written request and posted online earlier in the day. He explained that comments could be provided at the hearing or submitted in writing and that accommodations were available for individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Wray summarized the report, including the continuation of the Police Department's social worker program, which received \$70,000 in funding, demolition of three blighted properties, with two more approved for funding, and the completion of fire safety improvements using COVID relief dollars. In 2024, the City finalized a grant with the Pekin Outreach Initiative to assist individuals experiencing homelessness on Derby Street. A \$2,500 expenditure for code enforcement equipment was not completed during the prior program year but is expected to be finalized in the current year. Mr. Wray further noted that based on Council direction, CDBG funds are not being used for private investment but instead for public infrastructure and fire equipment.

No members of the public addressed the Council. Mayor Burress then opened the floor for Council comment, with none offered.

Mayor Burress declared the public hearing closed at 5:49 p.m.

New Business

8.1. Ordinance No. 4329-25/26 Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Pekin Court Street Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District Redevelopment Agreement with Steven Weibring

RESULT:	PASSED (6 TO 1)
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, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Phillips, Council Member Fletcher
NAYS:	Council Member Hilst

City Manager John Dossey read the request.

Council Member Fletcher explained that he frequently receives emails regarding TIFs and clarified that this residential TIF agreement is beneficial for the community. He emphasized that the homeowner will not receive any reimbursement until the house is completed and property taxes are paid, noting that this is often misunderstood by the public.

Council Member Phillips reiterated Council Member Fletcher's comments, stating that the agreement does not cost the City directly but instead provides a temporary tax rebate to encourage development, with ongoing property tax revenue generated after the rebate period.

Council Member Nutter asked whether information about the availability of TIF funding is provided to builders at the time of permit application. Economic Development Director Josh Wray explained that there is often a disconnect between builders and homebuyers, which can affect awareness of the program.

Council Member Abel added that the availability of residential TIF was a factor in a friend's decision to relocate to Pekin.

8.2. Ordinance No. 4330-25/26 Approving a Fourth Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Budget

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 and clarified that the amendment referred to a three-quarter ton truck rather than a tandem truck.

8.3. Resolution No. 331-25/26 Approving Annual Contract with Flock Safety for License Plate Reading Cameras

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
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Mayor Burress thanked Police Chief Ranney for providing a detailed email to Council regarding the contract.

City Manager John Dossey read the request, noting that a comprehensive memo had been distributed to Council addressing common misconceptions about the use of the cameras. He emphasized that the system has proven to be a valuable tool.

Police Chief Seth Ranney explained that the cameras are utilized daily and are among the most valuable resources available to the department. He stated that they greatly improve efficiency, allowing officers to locate vehicles quickly rather than assigning multiple officers to search manually. He further noted that the system is networked with neighboring communities, enhancing regional effectiveness. Chief Ranney addressed concerns regarding privacy, clarifying that the cameras capture only the rear side of vehicles, similar to what an officer would see when driving on the street. He reported that the system averages approximately 5.5 million plate reads per month.

Council Member Hohimer stated that the technology serves as a deterrent, sending a strong message to individuals who come into Pekin with the intent to engage in unlawful behavior.

Council Member Abel remarked that approving the contract was an obvious and beneficial decision for the community.

8.4. Resolution No. 332-25/26 Approving Purchase of Rotary Lift System for Vehicle Maintenance Section

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Council Member Rick Hilst
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

City Manager John Dossey read the request.

No Council discussion took place.

Any Other Business To Come Before The Council

Mr. Dossey reminded Council that the Council portion of strategic planning will take place on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall. He noted that while one Council Member had a scheduling conflict, the session would proceed as planned. He reported that the

staff portion of the process went very well, and he anticipates Council will be pleased with the results. Mr. Dossey further referenced calendar notifications previously distributed by Amy, discussed upcoming ribbon cuttings and open houses, and announced that on August 25th, beginning at 3:00 p.m., individual headshots and group photos would be taken for the City website. He also noted that Mr. Dubrowski would be distributing the budget calendar later in the evening, with work sessions beginning in September. Mr. Dossey recognized Roger and his daughter for organizing the Cruise-In event he attended, noting it was very impressive.

Human Resources Director Shelly Costa reported that the City's wage study had been completed, and a draft report was shared with department heads last week. She stated that work is now moving into the job description phase, with the goal of completing it by the end of the month.

Police Chief Ranney recognized Deputy Chief Courtney Hutchison, who is retiring after 20 years of service. He praised his intelligence, professionalism, and wealth of knowledge, expressing appreciation for his long service to the City. Mr. Dossey added that although Deputy Chief Hutchison was initially reluctant to take the role, he successfully elevated Pekin's standing as a leader in the field.

Council Member Nutter inquired about the status of the FY23 audit. Mr. Dubrowski explained that the main delay is related to grants, due in part to staff turnover. He stated that a significant portion of the issue involves federal and state funding for streets and public works. He reported that staff are working to resolve these matters and aim to upload the necessary information to auditors within the next few weeks.

Council Member Nutter also inquired about the stoplight at 5th and Court. Public Works Director Simon Grimm responded that the signal was part of a study and is currently placed in flash mode, operating as a four-way stop. He noted the associated costs of changes and stated that, for now, the plan is to leave it in flash while simultaneously addressing ADA sidewalk improvements. He offered to reassess the intersection in the future. Council Member Nutter suggested checking back in six months, noting that while there have been no accidents, vehicles often move through the area at high speeds. Mayor Burress added that speeding is also a concern at Park Avenue approaching Court Street.

Council Member Phillips expressed gratitude to all who dedicate their time to the City and specifically thanked citizens involved in events such as the St. Jude Run, stating they exemplify the best of the community.

Council Member Abel recognized City staff, noting that although the City employs fewer people than it did a year ago, employees continue to excel. He commended staff for their dedication, adding that the public called for budget reductions and the City delivered while maintaining quality services.

Council Member Hohimer expressed appreciation to the Information Technology

Department for improvements that have made City Council meetings easier to follow. Mayor Burress thanked all involved with the St. Jude event for their contributions.

Executive Session 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)

A motion was made by Council Member Nutter seconded by Council Member Phillips to move into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 6. The setting of a price for sale of property owned by the public body at 6:19 PM. On roll call vote all present voted Aye. Motion carried.

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

Council returned to open session at 6:41 PM.

Mayor Burress announced that no action would be taken after Executive Session.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come to the Council a motion was made by Council Member Hilst seconded by Council Member Nutter to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried viva voce vote. Mayor Burress adjourned the meeting at 6:41 PM.