



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, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 AT 5:30 PM
MAYOR MARY J. BURRESS PRESIDING**

Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce and Knights of Columbus

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce and Knights of Columbus.

Mayor Burress presented a proclamation to Steve Sutton of Knights of Columbus to recognize Knights of Columbus Intellectual Disabilities Week. Mr. Sutton spoke about the organization and what it does as well as his involvement in the organization. Members will be out passing out treats and collecting donations. Other volunteers will be out helping as well.

Mayor Burress also presented a proclamation to Amy McCoy, Executive Director of Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce to recognize Chamber of Commerce Week.

Amy McCoy spoke about the Marigold Festival this past weekend and how well it went.

Call to Order

City Attorney, Mr. James Vasselli, confirmed all Council Members were physically present and logged in. City Clerk, Ms. Nicole Stewart was absent.

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:	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 - August 25, 2025

Public Input

Matthew Johnson inquired about a motor home at the airport, questioning its ownership and when it was approved for purchase. City Manager John Dossey clarified it is owned by a tenant, not the City. Mr. Johnson also raised concerns about New Business Item 7.1, describing it as moving money between taxing districts, and expressed appreciation for Suicide Awareness recognition, sharing his family's experience.

Roger Greer echoed comments on Suicide Awareness and spoke about the challenges faced by military members, referencing his son's combat experience.

Elaine Ritchey asked about construction behind Dollar General and the 4-H building. It was clarified that the 4-H solar project belongs to the Park District and Dollar General is a staging area for Court Street work. She thanked Police, Fire, and Street Departments for their assistance with family and neighborhood issues.

John McNish praised new development at East Court Village but raised concerns about workplace safety, legal expenses, audit delays, and the City Manager's authority to contract legal services. He suggested a public safety commission and asked whether employees tied to New Business Item 7.1 would perform work for District 303 on City time.

Roxie Dwyer shared concerns about fines on corner lots and the City's ability to lien property, stating she is pursuing a petition to remove Home Rule. She also expressed concern that the Veterans Drive extension could harm local business traffic.

Mayor Burress and Mr. Dubrowski addressed audit questions, with Mr. Dubrowski noting that FY23 is close to completion and FY22 has been submitted to the Illinois

Comptroller. Council Member Hilst confirmed details of the audits.

Consent Agenda

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
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

- 6.1. Accounts Payable Paid Proof List through August 29, 2025**
- 6.2. Building Department Permit Report August 2025**
- 6.3. Pekin Fire Department Monthly Incident Report August 2025**
- 6.4. Receive and File Emergency Procurement for Emergency Demolition of 219 Hamilton Street Following a Structure Fire**
- 6.5. Proclamation Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce Week**
- 6.6. Proclamation Knights of Columbus Intellectual Disabilities Week**
- 6.7. Proclamation Suicide Awareness Month**

New Business

- 7.1. Resolution No. 339-25/26 Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Pekin and Pekin Community High School District 303**

RESULT:	PASSED (4 TO 3)
MOVER:	Council Member Peg Phillips
SECONDER:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem John Abel
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 explained the transition plan for two employees, noting that while most of the work is currently handled by the City, the positions will transfer to the high school by summer 2026. He clarified that retention bonuses are modeled after the Teamsters agreement to ensure staff

remain until the transition.

Council Member Fletcher asked how the bonus figures were determined, and Finance Consultant Bob Grogan compared the incentive to an insurance policy to avoid staffing shortages.

Council Member Hilst voiced concerns about the arrangement being “double dipping,” while Council Member Nutter sought clarification on start dates and benefit payouts, which Mr. Dossey confirmed would follow standard practice.

Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer related the retention approach to similar practices in high-turnover jobs, and Council Members Abel and Phillips both expressed support, with Council Member Phillips emphasizing the mutual benefits to the City and school.

Any Other Business To Come Before The Council

City Manager John Dossey shared opening dates for three new businesses. Chipotle is scheduled to open on September 23, Marshall's is scheduled for September 25, and Ross is tentatively scheduled for October 10.

Joshua Wray announced that a TIF Joint Review Board meeting will be held at City Hall in the Council Chambers on Wednesday, September 11 at 3:00 PM. The review board meetings are held after the annual audit is complete, then there is a TIF audit for review before submitting to the state.

Council Member Nutter recognized members of the FFA for the hard work they put in this past weekend during the Marigold Festival.

Council Member Phillips expressed appreciation to all who spoke during Public Input. She acknowledged the tragic impact on soldiers and emphasized the overwhelming trauma many veterans face upon returning home, noting that we should all be grateful for their sacrifices. She also addressed the Greer family's concerns regarding property and code enforcement issues, distinguishing between enforcing existing laws and advocating for the elimination of Home Rule. She stated for the record that eliminating Home Rule would be a "horrible idea."

Council Member Abel noted it was a good weekend for Pekin, highlighting that two Pekin High School class reunions took place in town. He shared that it was enjoyable to hear their perspectives and commented on the great weather throughout the weekend.

Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer commented that the Taste of Pekin event was very successful, with a strong turnout that made her feel proud. She noted that many attendees were from out of town and shared a story of a young woman that she met in line.

Mayor Burrell extended sincere gratitude to the Chamber of Commerce for their efforts

in driving the success of the Marigold Festival, as well as to everyone involved. She commended the event, noting that despite the rain on Wednesday, the Taste of Pekin went on seamlessly, and the performances, including singing, storytelling, and other acts, continued without missing a beat. She expressed that the parade was flawless and remarked that it had been a long time since she had seen such a large crowd. The ski show was also a highlight, and she noted that many vendors sold out, which was an incredible accomplishment. She estimated that thousands of people attended the festival.

Mayor Burress reported speaking with individuals regarding the 1972 Richard Griener case and highlighted the significant progress made in the city over the past two years. She credited current leadership and the City Manager for guiding growth and attracting new businesses that increase revenue and support long-term development. She noted that many residents have expressed pride in living in Pekin and encouraged continued efforts to move the city forward. Mayor Burress extended an apology to Mr. Greer for not fully recognizing the extent of his family's loss and asked for prayers for veterans and active service members who continue to fight for freedom.

Executive Session 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)

- 9.1.** Executive Session 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 11. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer seconded by Council Member Abel to move into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 11. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal at 6:40 PM.

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

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

Council returned to open session at 7:05 PM.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come to the Council a motion was made by Council Member Hilst seconded by Council Member Abel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. Mayor Burress adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
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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