



City of Pekin

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL
111 S. CAPITOL ST
ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 AT 9:00 AM
MAYOR MARY J. BURRESS PRESIDING**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Burress.

Call to Order

City Clerk, Ms. Nicole Stewart, confirmed all Council Members were physically present except for Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer who was absent.

Also present Chief Building Official Nic Maquet, Police Chief Seth Ranney, HR Director Shelly Costa, Finance Director Eric Dubrowski, City Manager John Dossey, Economic Development Director Josh Wray, Public Works Director Simon Grimm, City Clerk Nicole Stewart, Fire Chief Trent Reeise, Deputy Fire Chief Tony Rendlemen, Finance Clerk Crystal Hornback and one citizen.

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

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Karen Hohimer
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Public Input

No public input was received.

Communications, Petitions, Reports

5.1. Presentations by Departments for FY27 Budget

Budget Overview

City Manager John Dossey opened discussion on the FY27 budget process, reviewing important dates. Mayor Burrress expressed appreciation for the work completed so far, noting the challenge of absorbing so much information in a short timeframe.

Mr. Dubrowski provided an overview of FY26 all-fund financials, including revenues, expenditures, and net gains or losses. He highlighted fund revenues, expenditures, and the investment report, which showed the general fund is owed \$16.5 million. He also noted City Clerk revenues may be moved from a fiscal to a calendar year basis.

Revenues and Taxes

Mr. Dubrowski reviewed sales tax trends from FY23–FY26, along with personal property replacement tax (including state diversions), income tax, Local Government Distributive Fund, food and beverage tax, personal property tax, sewer fees, solid waste fees, and utility tax collections.

Council Member Nutter inquired about budget adjustments for Alto's payment, and Economic Development Director Wray confirmed funds had been budgeted for reimbursements.

Council Member Hilst asked about property tax reassessments, and Mr. Wray responded that staff was addressing Cullinan, La Fiesta, and new construction parcels.

Pensions

Mr. Dubrowski reported that \$8.3 million was paid into pensions last year, with \$1 million contributed by members. Employer contributions for fire and police pension funds were reviewed, along with historical trends.

Council Member Nutter noted that pension costs are based on actuarial requirements and outside local control. When asked about total debt, Mr. Dubrowski did not have exact numbers, but Deputy Chief Rendleman estimated approximately \$50 million owed to fire pensions and \$30 million to police pensions.

Capital Projects – Public Works

Public Works Director Simon Grimm reported on Court Street improvements from 10th to Stadium, including sewer, roadway, and sidewalk work. To date, \$2.5 million has been spent, with about half on sewer work and \$926,000 billed to Illinois American Water. Due to the late start, IDOT will only complete water main work this year, with construction resuming in spring and completion expected by the end of next year.

Mayor Burress noted positive public feedback on Court Street.

Mr. Grimm also provided updates on the CSO project, which was delayed due to conflicts with an Ameren power tower. Engineering solutions are being developed, and costs will be covered by the IEPA loan.

Council Member Nutter asked if the loan agreement had been signed, and City Manager Dossey confirmed it had been finalized months earlier.

Capital Projects

Mr. Simon noted delays in delivery of a single-axle dump truck, though a $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton truck is in service and quotes are being gathered for a 1-ton dump truck.

Council Member Fletcher raised concerns about trucks sitting unused, which Mr. Wray clarified were engineering vehicles.

Fire Chief Trent Reeise reported on equipment purchases and capital spending, including refurbishment of the tower truck, purchase of cardiac monitors, and ongoing vehicle replacement planning. ARPA funds are being applied, and the fire station project continues with Dewberry for FY27. Deputy Chief Tony Rendleman reported current construction costs at about \$550 per sq. ft., similar to previous estimates.

Long-Term Capital Planning

Mr. Wray presented the updated capital plan, noting a potential earlier start on Derby Street (2028 rather than 2029) and progress on the fire station project at Derby Street.

Council Member Hilst requested that Broadway be prioritized. Mr. Wray suggested the riverfront project could be adjusted. He also discussed the Motel 6 redevelopment, property sales at Lutticken Farm to help with Derby Street, and potential non-TIF/BDD funding sources.

Break and Roll Call

Council took a break from 10:32 AM and resumed at 10:50 AM.

City Clerk Ms. Nicole Stewart took roll call and confirmed all Council Members were present except Council Member Hohimer who was absent.

Library Director Jeff Brooks joined the work session.

Road Maintenance

Mr. Grimm reviewed the road maintenance plan, which uses advanced software to prioritize repairs, with seal coating targeted every 7–10 years.

Economic Development

Mr. Wray reviewed economic development projects including Cullinan's new stores, sale of Graves property, Epic construction, a data center project, residential developer interest in Luticken property, and Ambient Fuels' option agreement. He also reported on airport funding efforts, Avanti's Dome discussions, and hotel engagement with Hampton Inn.

Compensation Study

HR Director Shelly Costa presented results of a compensation study, identifying five positions below the minimum range and recommending \$60,000 in annual adjustments.

Council Members Hilst and Fletcher, along with Mayor Burress, supported a combination of COLA and merit increases.

Staffing and Operations

City Manager Dossey discussed the bus transition, dispatch center, assistant city manager position, FOIA officer for police, code enforcement staffing, garbage department needs, and sewer plant staffing. He also referenced a similar position in Freeport for road maintenance.

Mr. Dubrowski reviewed tax levy projections, clerk revenues moving to a calendar year, and capital priorities.

Mayor Burress emphasized the importance of keeping fire stations on track, with Council Member Abel agreeing.

Department Head Priorities

Council Member Nutter asked department heads about capital priorities.

Police Chief Seth cited needs for trucks, forensic equipment, a UTV, and planning for Flock camera systems.

Mr. Wray recommended updating the 20-year-old comprehensive land use plan.

Closing Remarks

Mayor Burress suggested exploring stained or etched glass memorials in City Hall to honor the late Sue McMillan. She thanked staff and attendees for their work and participation.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come to the Council a motion was made by Council Member Nutter seconded by Council Member Hilst to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried viva voce vote. Mayor Burress adjourned the meeting at 12:46 PM.

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