



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF  
PEKIN, ILLINOIS,  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL  
111 S. CAPITOL ST  
ON MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025 AT 12:00 PM**

**Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee was called to order at 12:00 P.M. A quorum was declared by Chairperson Leman.

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Arrived</b>
John Campbell	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Danielle Owens	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Amy McCoy	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Absent	
Dennis Short	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Jack Steger	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Drew Leman	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Liridon Rrushaj	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Patrick Taphorn	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
D. Neal Hanley II	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Roy Bockler	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon
Earl Riley	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Absent	
Caty Campbell	Economic Development Advisory Committee	Member	Present	Noon

**Approve Agenda**

D. Short motioned to approve the agenda for today’s meeting as presented, with a second by D. Owens. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Approval of Minutes**

**3.1. Minutes of the Regular EDAC Meeting on Monday, June 9, 2025**

D. Short motioned to approve the meeting minutes from June 9, 2025, with a second by D. Owens. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Public Input**

None

**Reports**

### **5.1. Monthly Staff Report**

Mr. Wray presented the monthly staff report and answered questions from the Committee members.

### **5.2. Greater Peoria EDC Report**

No comments.

### **5.3. Quarterly Strategic Plan Scorecard**

Mr. Wray presented the quarterly strategic plan scorecard and answered questions from the Committee members.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **6.1. Branding Initiative: Logo Concepts**

McDaniels Marketing presented the rebranding concepts that they developed, which included logos and taglines. After the presentation, the committee members provided feedback. It was requested that an electronic survey be sent to the committee members following the meeting so they can share additional feedback and rank the concepts.

McDaniels Marketing then presented proposals for website section mapping for this committee's section on the City's website. They have asked the committee to review the ideas and provide feedback or additional thoughts for consideration.

## **New Business**

### **7.1. Recommendation for Continued Financial Support of Greater Peoria Economic Development Council**

Mr. Wray informed the committee that the upcoming City Council agenda includes an item to approve the City's annual support of the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (GPEDC). He requested the committee's support on the matter.

R. Bockler praised the work of the GPEDC across the five-county region and suggested requesting a summary report detailing the organization's impact specifically on the City of Pekin. J. Steger noted that some of this information is already included in the reports Mr. Wray provides regularly.

R. Bockler made a motion to recommend Council approval of the annual support, seconded by B. Hanley. The motion was approved by voice vote.

### **7.2. Recommendation for Project Priorities: Commercial Building Improvement Program**

Mr. Wray provided a high-level review of the applications received and how they ranked on the scorecard.

R. Bockler voiced concerns about the program, citing unclear requirements, insufficient marketing, and the short application window. He stated he would not support awarding TIF funds to properties with poor maintenance or management histories and requested a roll call vote if action was taken.

D. Owens noted that withholding all funds after promoting the program would be unfair to applicants who met the criteria. J. Campbell highlighted the Moose Lodge's contributions to the community.

Mr. Wray requested feedback on the total award amount. R. Bockler moved to table the discussion, but J. Steger moved to award \$10,000 to the top three applicants and \$5,000 to the bottom three, seconded by D. Short. The motion carried **7-1**, with Bockler voting no.

Bockler also requested a copy of the program document.

### **Any Other Business to Come Before the Commission**

R. Bockler requested that the next agenda include a discussion on vacant buildings in the City of Pekin, including whether they are insured and what actions the City is taking, as there could be public safety hazards.

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by J. Campbell at 1:31 P.M., with a second by L. Rrushaj. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 11, 2025 at Noon in the City Council Chambers.