



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

Pledge of Allegiance led by Ashley Flynn owner - Peoria Area Resale Shop of the Year Award - Take Two Resale

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ashley Flynn, owner of Take Two Resale, which was recognized as the Peoria Area Resale Shop of the Year.

The Mayor noted that members of Scouts of America Troop 181 were present as part of earning an award and thanked them for their participation, calling it an exciting meeting for the Scouts.

Mayor Burress presented Ms. Flynn with a City coin and invited her to speak about the award. Ms. Flynn stated she was born and raised in Pekin, graduating in 2006, and shared her background as a nurse who felt called to serve the community. She spoke about her love for downtown Pekin and her desire to contribute to the City's growth, noting her involvement with two businesses, Sew Stitch and Take Two Resale, a consignment shop that has been open a little over a year. She highlighted raising over \$12,000 for Totes for Tatas, winning the 2025 Peoria Journal Star Community Choice Award after being nominated in June and selected by voters, and announced plans to temporarily close in January for renovations, with a ribbon cutting scheduled for January 16.

The Mayor also noted that representative Rich White from the Illinois Police Officers Investment Fund was present with pension updates.

Call to Order

City Clerk, Ms. Nicole Stewart, confirmed all Council Members were physically present and logged in.

City Attorney, Jim Vasselli was also present.

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 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

Approval of Minutes

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

4.1. City Council - Regular Meeting Minutes - November 24, 2025

4.2. City Council - Special Meeting Minutes - Q&A with Council Members Nutter and Fletcher - November 5, 2025

Public Input

Mr. David Horton, Supervisor of Groveland Township, addressed the Council regarding a certified letter the Township recently received concerning a proposed annexation of property within Groveland Township. Mr. Horton stated the notice was received less than a week prior and that the Township Board has not yet had an opportunity to meet and discuss the matter. He explained that numerous questions have arisen from Township trustees, the road commissioner, the assessor, and the Central Groveland Fire District, all of whom have received similar notices. Mr. Horton emphasized that he has received many inquiries from constituents but does not yet have sufficient factual information to respond accurately. He requested a coordination meeting between the City, Groveland Township, and the affected fire districts to allow questions to be addressed and facts clarified, particularly regarding the proposed data center, roadway extensions, and overall impacts. Mr. Horton further requested that consideration of the annexation be deferred until such a meeting can occur and due diligence, transparency,

and a clearer understanding of the impacts to Groveland Township and the broader community can be achieved.

John McNish addressed the Council with several questions and comments regarding City compensation and fiscal matters. He referenced the City Council's April 2, 2025 approval of a salary increase for the City Manager and asked whether there had been any progress on merit-based pay increases discussed during a special meeting in April, noting that staff had requested multiple spot salary increases throughout the year. He further inquired whether the Council had established and reviewed performance goals for the City Manager and their status toward completion. Mr. McNish also questioned the use of utility tax revenues, stating that earlier discussions referenced funding for ADA sidewalk improvements while more recent discussions referenced pension funding, and he requested clarification on amounts allocated or spent for each purpose, including funds set aside for upcoming ADA sidewalk projects. Regarding the proposed 4.9% tax levy increase, Mr. McNish questioned why the increase consistently remains at 4.9% rather than a higher percentage, suggesting that increases above that threshold would require additional public involvement. He concluded by asking whether the Mayor or any Council Members serve on any federal, state, county, or municipal pension boards. Mr. McNish also informed the Council and public of the Wreaths Across America event scheduled for the second Saturday of December at approximately 11:00 a.m. at the Veterans Cemetery.

Elaine Ritchey addressed the Council, speaking as a retired City employee receiving a municipal pension. Ms. Ritchey stated that she has no objection to pension amounts being public information and expressed that she believes the public has a right to know how tax dollars are spent, including pension benefits. She recalled that employee salaries and pensions were historically published publicly and indicated that she is proud of her service and the pension she earned. Ms. Ritchey expressed disappointment that disclosure of pension information had become a point of controversy, stating that City employees worked for and deserve their pensions. She emphasized that neither retirees nor elected officials should feel ashamed of receiving earned pension benefits.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Nutter read the 9 items listed on the Consent Agenda.

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

6.1. Accounts Payable Paid Proof List through November 26, 2025

6.2. Receive and File FY 2025-26 Budget Transfers through December 1,

2025

- 6.3. Receive and File Building Department Permit Report For November 2025**
- 6.4. Pekin Fire Department Monthly Incident Report November 2025**
- 6.5. 2026 Schedule of Council Meetings**
- 6.6. Receive and File Council Notice of Foreclosure on 215 Hamilton Street**
- 6.7. Receive and File Council Notice of Foreclosure on 219 Hamilton Street**
- 6.8. Receive and File Memorandum Outlining Purchase of Salt for the Street Department**
- 6.9. Ordinance No. 4365-25/26 Approving a Second Amendment to the Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Real Property with JPG Commercial Real Estate, LLC to Extend the Due Diligence Period**

Presentations

7.1. Presentation by Rich White of the Illinois Police Officers Investment Fund Regarding Pension Update

Mr. Richard White, Executive Director of the Police Officers' Pension Investment Fund, provided an overview and power point presentation to the Council regarding the consolidation and performance of the Illinois Police Officers' Pension Investment Fund. Mr. White introduced himself and summarized his professional background, including 34 years as a sworn law enforcement officer and more than 40 years in the criminal justice system, as well as his role as Executive Director since June 2020. He explained that the fund was created pursuant to Public Act 101-0619, signed by Governor Pritzker, and became effective in January 2020. Mr. White outlined the purpose of consolidation, emphasizing that assets remain owned by each individual municipal police pension fund and are invested solely for the benefit of that fund's members and beneficiaries. He reviewed the statutory fiduciary responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, the governance structure of the nine-member board, and the safeguards in place to ensure that no participating fund subsidizes another. Mr. White detailed the growth of the consolidated fund, noting that approximately \$10.6 billion in assets were transferred from 357 Article III funds and that the fund had grown to approximately \$14.5 billion as of the third quarter of 2025. He discussed investment strategy, asset allocation, the transition from passive to active management, performance

results exceeding actuarial assumptions, cost efficiencies achieved through consolidation, and administrative and investment management fees. Mr. White also discussed transparency measures, reporting practices, staffing, and recent recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association for excellence in financial reporting. He concluded by offering to answer questions and expressing appreciation for the opportunity to present.

Unfinished Business

8.1. Ordinance No. 4364-25/26 Making, Levying and Assessing Municipal Taxes in the City of Pekin, Tazewell and Peoria Counties, Illinois, for the Fiscal Year from May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026 and Known as the Annual Levy Ordinance

RESULT:	PASSED AS AMENDED (5 TO 2)
MOVER:	Council Member Peg Phillips
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem Karen Hohimer
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Council Member Nutter, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Phillips, Council Member Fletcher
NAYS:	Mayor Burress, Council Member Hilst

A motion was made by Council Member Fletcher seconded by Council Member Nutter to amend the ordinance to reduce the tax levy from a 4.9% increase to a 4% increase.

RESULT:	Passed (4 TO 3)
MOVER:	Council Member Jimmie Fletcher
SECONDER:	Council Member Dave Nutter
AYES:	Council Member Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Phillips, Council Member Fletcher
NAYS:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer

Mr. Dossey stated the ordinance had been tabled from the prior month (November 24, 2025 Council Meeting) and noted minor changes, then asked Finance Director Mr. Dubrowski to present the revisions.

Mr. Dubrowski explained the only narrative change involved adding additional home value examples beyond the median \$135,000 figure, while staff's recommendation remained a 4.9% increase. He outlined the proposed levy amounts and stated staff remained available for questions.

Council Member Fletcher opened discussion by noting he met again with staff and had heard varying preferences among Council Members, ranging from 0% to 3%. He stated his concern focused on the City's pension obligations and emphasized that anything less than approximately 4% would continue

deferring the pension problem. He expressed support for at least a 4% increase and recommended amending the levy accordingly.

Mayor Burress confirmed Council Member Fletcher was proposing an amendment to 4%, which was seconded by Council Member Nutter.

Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer and Council Member Abel stated their preference to leave the levy at 4.9%.

Council Member Hilst reiterated his position in favor of a 0% increase, suggesting utility tax revenues could be used instead.

Mr. Dossey clarified for context that each 1% equated to approximately \$50,000.

Council Member Nutter stated regardless of the percentage, significant work remained, but he supported the 4% amendment.

Council Member Phillips discussed her willingness to support a range between 4% and 4.9% and sought consensus.

City Attorney Mr. Vasselli clarified the amendment process and confirmed the amendment before the Council was to reduce the increase from 4.9% to 4% for both the City and library portions.

Economic Development Director Mr. Wray provided homeowner context, explaining the difference between 4.9% and 4% equated to approximately a \$7 annual decrease for the City portion and \$2.50 for the library portion on a \$250,000 home.

Mayor Burress spoke about long-term revenue growth and the importance of economic development while acknowledging the difficulty of adopting the levy ahead of the full budget process.

The Council voted on the amendment to reduce the levy to 4% for both the City and the library, and the amendment passed by a vote of 4–3. The Council then voted on the ordinance as amended, which passed by a vote of 5–2.

At the request of Mr. Vasselli, Finance Director Eric Dubrowski read the final levy amounts into the record: \$5,260,024 for the General Corporate Fund, \$1,388,672 for Pekin Public Library operations, and \$405,725 for the Pekin Public Library bond, for a total levy of \$7,054,421.

New Business

9.1. Ordinance No. 4366-25/26 Approving an Agreement for the Purchase

and Sale of Real Property with Jack Steger for Approximately 0.70 Acres of City-Owned Property

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

City Manager John Dossey read the request into the record and explained that Mr. Steger owns three vacant lots on the west end of Winged Foot Drive and requested to purchase adjacent City-owned property to the south, which was acquired as part of the Luticken property purchase. Mr. Dossey stated that while staff generally does not recommend selling small portions of the Luticken property, this request was unique due to development limitations caused by the narrow area between the existing lots and the pond, making it impractical for traditional residential development. Staff determined the proposed sale would maximize the use of this portion of the property. He outlined the terms of the agreement, including a purchase price of \$15,000 per acre, an estimated sale price of \$10,500 pending final plat approval, reimbursement by Mr. Steger for survey, title, and legal costs, and a closing deadline of June 8, 2026, allowing time to complete subdivision and loan-related requirements.

Council Member Nutter expressed appreciation to Mr. Steger for agreeing to reimburse the City for title and legal fees.

Staff recommended approval of the ordinance.

9.2. Ordinance No. 4367-25/26 Approving an Agreement for the Purchase and Sale of Real Property with Mark and Abigail Kemper for Approximately 5.18 Acres of City-Owned Property

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem Karen Hohimer
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 Mr. John Dossey read the request into the record and explained that the City owns a five-acre vacant, unincorporated parcel along Zion Oaks Road near the future I-474 interchange. He stated that staff was approached by Mr. Kemper regarding the purchase of the property to construct a new home and confirmed that Mr. Kemper was made aware of the City's long-term

development plans for the area and remained interested. Mr. Dossey further noted that the City's engineering consultants confirmed the property is not needed for the Veterans Drive extension project, and staff therefore saw no reason to retain the parcel.

Mr. Dossey summarized the key terms of the agreement, including a sale price of \$72,000, a 60-day due diligence period for the purchaser, and the City's responsibility for survey and title costs. He explained that the property will remain unincorporated in Tazewell County until such time as it becomes contiguous to the City of Pekin, at which point the purchasers must allow annexation to the City and may not annex to another municipality. He also stated that upon annexation, the City will not require immediate connection to public sewer, but the purchasers will be required to connect in the future rather than replace any private sewage disposal system. Additionally, the purchasers acknowledge the planned I-474 interchange and agreed not to object to future development activities in the surrounding area, including annexation, zoning, roadway, or utility improvements.

Economic Development Director Josh Wray noted a minor correction to the agreement regarding a typographical error, clarifying that the City and purchasers will split the title costs, which are expected to be only a few hundred dollars.

Staff recommended approval of the ordinance.

9.3. Ordinance No. 4368-25/26 Annexing Certain Real Property, Known as the Lutticken Property, in Groveland Township, Tazewell County, to the City of Pekin

RESULT:	PASSED (5 TO 2)
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, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Phillips
NAYS:	Council Member Hilst, Council Member Fletcher

A motion was made by Council Member Hilst seconded by Council Member Fletcher to layover the ordinance until the January 12, 2026 Council Meeting.

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

City Manager Mr. John Dossey read the request into the record and explained that the majority of the Luticken property is not yet annexed to the City. As the property owner and with no inhabitants on the land, the City may annex the property by ordinance. He noted that although Tazewell County tax records indicate some parcels are already annexed, the City could not locate documentation of that annexation and is therefore affirming annexation through this ordinance. Mr. Dossey further clarified that one parcel at 3501 Sheridan Road is excluded because it is currently inhabited by a renter and must be annexed through a petition and public hearing, which staff intends to pursue concurrently with zoning hearings. He stated that following annexation, staff will prepare zoning petitions for consideration by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Staff recommended approval.

Council Member Fletcher asked whether the ordinance related to the comments raised during public input and questioned whether there was a reason not to lay the matter over.

Economic Development Director Josh Wray responded that there is no specific deadline but staff is working to move forward due to obligations with property to the north. He stated that he had spoken with the Groveland Township Supervisor a few days prior and that the Mayor committed to continued coordination with all taxing bodies. Mr. Wray emphasized that annexation into the City does not remove the property from Groveland Township, noting that the Township would remain intact and that the estimated property tax impact was approximately \$145 annually.

Council Member Fletcher reiterated concerns about transparency and the request from a member of the public for more information.

Mayor Burress explained that the City of Pekin spans four townships and expressed disappointment that some township trustees had been told the property would be removed from Groveland Township, which she stated was incorrect.

Council Member Nutter commented that much of the concern appeared to be based on rumors.

Council Member Phillips stated that while she understood the request for discussion, she did not believe delaying the ordinance would change the outcome or address any additional issues and supported moving forward.

Council Member Hilst made a motion to lay the ordinance over to the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting on January 12, 2026 seconded by Council Member Fletcher. The motion to lay over failed.

Council Member Nutter stated that he still believed a meeting with Groveland Township would be beneficial.

Mr. Dossey noted for the record that he and Mr. Wray both attempted to contact one of the township trustees who was present but did not receive a return call, and reiterated staff's willingness to meet. He added that discussions are being driven by potential data center development in the area and that no detailed information is available yet, including following conversations with the township's attorney.

9.4. Ordinance No. 4369-25/26 Amending Chapter 5 Creating Division 18 & Amending Chapter 6 of the Pekin City Code Prohibiting the Possession, Sale, Delivery, or Distribution of Kratom or Synthetic Alternative Drugs

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

City Manager Mr. John Dossey advised that informational emails had been sent to the Council and noted that Ms. Megan Hanley was present to answer questions. He acknowledged receipt of an email from a healthcare professional that had been distributed broadly to municipalities considering similar ordinances. Mr. Dossey read the request and summarized that, at the prior Council meeting, Laurie Schopp presented information on increasing public-health concerns related to Kratom and similar substances, which have been linked to severe health effects and fatalities in Tazewell County. He cited data from the Tazewell County Health Department showing a more than 50 percent increase in drug-related deaths over five years, with synthetic and non-traditional substances contributing to the rise, and noted increased emergency department calls related to unregulated products. He stated that staff had already identified the need for regulation, which was reinforced as neighboring communities adopted bans or restrictions, and clarified that the ordinance is not intended to impact state-licensed cannabis dispensaries or infusers. Mr. Dossey acknowledged that Kratom is sometimes used by individuals as an opioid replacement but emphasized that addiction has been a longstanding issue in Pekin. He referenced prior synthetic cannabis-related deaths in Pekin in 2018 and explained that the City has previously updated its ordinance to address emerging substances, noting that Morton's ordinance language was derived from Pekin's existing list.

Ms. Hanley presented mortality and public-health data, explaining that overdose data is delayed and that in 2023 there were six overdose deaths in Tazewell County, with more than half occurring in Pekin. She described

Kratom as a substance that binds to opioid receptors and can cause dependence, with some response to Narcan. She reported that in 2024 approximately 10 percent of overdoses were related to Kratom, and in 2025 through August approximately 25 percent were related to Kratom countywide, noting that in 2025 some deaths listed Kratom as the sole substance in toxicology reports. She stated that the rest of the state experienced peaks earlier, while Tazewell County's peak occurred in 2023. She also discussed a countywide coalition focused on preventing avoidable deaths and an environmental scan conducted by school resource officers and sheriff's deputies, thanking Pekin for participating. She reported that six of six gas stations or smoke shops visited in Pekin sold highly concentrated products, none of which were natural leaf Kratom, and that two establishments were within 1,000 feet of schools. She raised concerns about marketing practices and underage sales, noting the county's high failure rate for alcohol compliance checks.

Police Chief Seth Ranney stated that the information presented reflected the challenges Pekin faces with addiction, emphasized that even one death is too many, particularly among younger residents, and expressed support for taking proactive steps through the ordinance while recognizing that regulated alternatives exist.

Council Member Hilst asked when the ordinance would take effect and whether a compliance plan was in place. Chief Ranney responded that the ordinance would take effect ten days after passage and that staff would immediately prepare and hand-deliver notification letters to affected businesses.

9.5. Ordinance No. 4370-25/26 Approving a Settlement Agreement for and the Acquisition of Real Property at 822 Catherine Street

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Council Member Rick Hilst
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 presented request to Council and provided background, explaining that a fire occurred at the vacant residence on July 11, 2024, and that the City's Chief Building Official, with assistance from the City Engineer, determined the structure was a total loss and an imminent public safety hazard. An emergency demolition was ordered, with Jimax contracted to perform the demolition on July 11–12, 2024, at a cost of \$19,184.67 paid by the City. He outlined subsequent code enforcement actions, including two citations issued to the then-owner, ReDeed, LLC, related to remaining accessory structures, later default judgments entered in

January 2025, the recording of a demolition lien, and the filing of appeals by ReDeed, LLC, which remain pending in the Circuit Court of Tazewell County. Mr. Dossey summarized the proposed settlement agreement, noting that KNUJ CORP would convey the property to the City by quit claim deed, the City would release judgments and liens upon payment of minimum fines and court costs, pending litigation would be dismissed with prejudice, settlement documents would be held in escrow pending payment, and all parties would mutually release claims related to the property.

Council Member Hilst asked whether any structures remained on the property. Chief Building Official Nic Maquet responded that the site is now an empty lot. Council Member Hilst also inquired whether notice would be issued to sell the property. Economic Development Director Josh Wray stated that staff intends to pursue opportunities for redevelopment of the property.

9.6. Resolution No. 367-25/26 Approving a Fuel Value Study with Schooley Mitchell for the Purchase of Diesel and Gasoline for the City

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

Public Works Director Simon Grimm explained that the resolution authorizes the City Manager to approve the attached Schooley Mitchell Fuel Value Report and to subsequently enter into a contract with Lozier Oil of Farmington, Illinois. He stated that Schooley Mitchell contacted multiple fuel vendors and completed the value report included in the Council packet, with Lozier Oil identified as offering the best overall value. Mr. Grimm reported an estimated total fuel cost reduction of approximately \$36,000 annually and reminded the Council that Schooley Mitchell will receive half of the realized savings as a service fee over the three-year term of the agreement with the City. He further explained that the vendor would not agree to a five-year fixed fuel price, resulting in year-to-year contracts, and that the majority of the savings stem from reduced delivery fees and adjustments to diesel fuel additives. Mr. Grimm noted that the initial contract term is 15 months, allowing coverage for the remainder of the current fiscal year and all of the next fiscal year, which will assist departments in planning and budgeting fuel costs for FY27. He concluded by stating that staff reviewed the packet and recommends approval, and he offered to answer any questions along with Mr. Hitchcock from Schooley Mitchell.

9.7. Resolution No. 368-25/26 Approving the Hiring of a Temporary Administrative Assistant for the Bus Department

RESULT:	PASSED (4 TO 3)
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MOVER:	Council Member Jimmie Fletcher
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 that the resolution authorizes the hiring of a temporary Administrative Assistant for the Bus Department following the resignation of a non-union administrative employee. He stated that the temporary position is intended to maintain service levels through the end of the school transportation contract and would provide payroll data entry and general clerical support. Mr. Dossey noted that candidates have been identified through Trillium Staffing and Absolute Staffing, with anticipated hourly pay ranging from \$20 to \$22, and that the assignment could extend through June 2026 if necessary. He emphasized that the position would not include benefits and could be terminated at any time, providing the City with flexibility, and staff recommends approval.

Council Member Fletcher asked who covered the duties when the previous employee was on vacation. Mr. Dossey responded that office staff assisted where possible, but many employees were also driving bus routes, limiting capacity. Human Resources Director Shelly Costa added that the primary duties involve payroll data entry and auditing for approximately 120 employees and constitute a full-time workload.

Council Member Nutter questioned whether existing administrative assistants could absorb the work, how many hours the payroll duties require, whether other departments handle payroll, and who would train the temporary employee. Ms. Costa responded that payroll is completed weekly, the temporary assignment may be ended at any time without cause, and using a staffing agency allows flexibility.

Mayor Burress commented that many City departments are currently stretched thin.

Council Member Fletcher suggested exploring assistance from ICC for data entry in the future. Finance Consultant Bob Grogan stated that using a temporary employee is appropriate given the defined end date of the work, avoids long-term obligations such as pension and health insurance, and would be difficult to fill as a permanent position for a short duration. He added that while coverage was managed for one week during a vacation, sustaining that arrangement for several months would be challenging.

Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer shared that staffing agencies commonly place

individuals in administrative roles and stated that training should not present a significant issue.

Council Member Phillips observed that payroll data entry is time-consuming and detailed work and supported assigning it to a dedicated temporary position.

Mayor Burress concluded that the temporary hire allows the City to complete the necessary work efficiently while remaining focused on core bus operations.

9.8. Resolution No. 369-25/26 Approving a City of Pekin Logo

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

Council Member Phillips thanked everyone for the new logo design.

Any Other Business To Come Before The Council

City Manager Dossey announced that a town hall on code enforcement is scheduled for Wednesday the 17th, along with a ribbon cutting for 8th Street that same day. He also noted that the staff holiday party will be held on the 19th and that City Hall will be closed for the Christmas holiday and on January 1.

Public Works Director Simon Grimm presented a summary of the Pekin Road Plan Overview for 2025–2030, explaining that the information provided was a primer and that more detailed one-on-one or small group meetings would be scheduled with Council Members to review the plan and gather feedback. He stated that the plan is based on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI), with Pekin’s current overall PCI at 57, placing the City in the “fair” category. Mr. Grimm outlined three modeled scenarios using decision optimization technology: maintaining the current Motor Fuel Tax funding level of approximately \$1.4 million per year, achieving a PCI of 65 within five years, and achieving a PCI of 70 within five years with a longer ten-year outlook. He explained that the \$1.4 million scenario would result in an initial improvement followed by degradation and relies heavily on preventative maintenance, while the higher-investment scenarios involve increased rehabilitation, mill-and-overlay work, and foundational repairs at higher annual costs. He further reviewed maps and charts showing projected road conditions by 2030, the balance of good, fair, and poor roads, and the types of maintenance anticipated over time. Mr. Grimm noted that for 2026, approximately 191 blocks are identified for treatment, primarily through chip sealing, with West Shore and Second Street currently slated for mill and overlay work, and emphasized that the data is broken down by specific road segments rather than entire streets. He concluded by

stating that no decisions are being made at this time, the plan will ultimately depend on the budgeted funding level, and the information is intended to help guide Council during the upcoming budget process.

Council Member Phillips referenced an upcoming December 17 TIF-related event that will be broadcast and available on YouTube, with questions to be submitted in advance, and expressed anticipation for the holidays.

Mayor Burress clarified that the event must be facilitated by the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Member Fletcher thanked Mr. Dubrowski and City staff for meeting with him multiple times regarding the levy and thanked Mr. Maquet for his explanation of the Kratom ordinance and post-notification process, and wished everyone happy holidays.

Council Member Abel encouraged residents to shop local and support Pekin businesses, citing the high return rate of online purchases, and extended Christmas greetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer mentioned the recent Insight Mental Health ribbon cutting as a welcome and much-needed community resource and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Burress expressed appreciation to Police Chief Ranney for the work completed on the ordinance addressing kratom, acknowledging that it required significant effort from staff and thanking him for helping bring the matter to completion. Chief Ranney responded that the ordinance was truly a team effort, crediting Chief Building Official Nic Maquet, City Clerk Nicole Stewart, City Manager Dossey, and the City Attorney for their extensive collaboration and revisions, and emphasizing that the outcome was the result of collective staff work rather than his alone. Mayor Burress reiterated her appreciation and stated her belief in giving credit where it is due, specifically thanking all for their contributions. City Manager Dossey added that staff worked collaboratively in support of the effort, noting that Ms. Stewart was especially thorough in her review and preparation, and explained that while portions of the ordinance already existed, the process required careful revisions and updates, resulting in a well-prepared final product.

Mayor Burress concluded by expressing hope for a prosperous new year for the City.

Executive Session 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)

11.1. 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, and when

the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent

A motion was made by Council Member Abel and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer 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, and when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent at 7:37 pm. On roll call vote all presented voted Aye. Motion carried.

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

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

Council returned to open session at 8:00 pm.

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 8:00 PM.