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, JANUARY 12, 2026 AT 5:30 PM
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 and logged in. Mayor Burress declared a quorum.

City Manager John Dossey was absent. Also present was James Vasselli, City Attorney.

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 Jimmie Fletcher
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

4.1. City Council - Regular Meeting Minutes - December 8, 2025

4.2. City Council - Special Town Hall Code Enforcement Meeting Minutes - December 9, 2025

4.3. City Council - Special Town Hall Residential TIF Meeting Minutes - December 17, 2025

Public Input

Ms. Zoey Carter addressed the Council during public input and stated she was looking forward to the new year and upcoming city improvements. She requested that the City review and potentially clarify the fire code related to residential bonfires, citing an ongoing issue with a neighbor. Ms. Carter explained that she maintains a contained fire pit in compliance with current regulations, but noted that if the Fire Department responds three times in a year, the homeowner may be fined.

Matthew Johnson expressed concerns about the proposed data center's impact on the electrical grid, questioned the lack of discussion regarding prime power, and stated that allowing the facility to tap into the grid could negatively affect the community.

John McNish addressed the Council alleging inappropriate comments by Council Member Hohimer at a prior meeting involving private citizen emails, questioned how those emails were obtained, requested apologies and revisions to the meeting minutes, and raised concerns regarding unresolved ADA violations and a recently filed federal lawsuit.

Consent Agenda

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

Council Member Abel read the 8 items listed on the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Nutter raised questions regarding Consent Agenda Item 6.8, noting that this was the first time an issue related to federal government shutdowns had been brought to Council for approval. He asked whether the provision applied only to the most recent shutdown or to all future shutdowns, and inquired whether payments from FCI Pekin are made monthly or quarterly and whether any late-payment penalties apply.

Finance Director Eric Dubrowski explained that the matter was brought before Council due to the dollar amount involved and that it related specifically to payment issues arising from a prior shutdown; he stated he would need to confirm the payment schedule and research the applicability of late penalties.

Mayor Burress asked whether the City was providing any leeway to the federal government in these circumstances, to which Mr. Dubrowski responded that past practices would need to be reviewed.

City Attorney Jim Vasselli clarified that the resolution language limits the provision to a specific, discrete shutdown period and read the relevant portion into the record.

Economic Development Director Josh Wray added that City staff had been advised by prison officials that Council approval was necessary because payment could not be remitted without a formal contract in place.

6.1. Financial Reports through November 30, 2025

6.2. Accounts Payable Paid Proof List through January 5, 2026

6.3. Receive and File FY 2025-26 Budget Transfers through January 12, 2026

6.4. Receive and File Building Department Permit Report For December 2025

6.5. 2026 Meetings of Public Bodies

6.6. Resolution No. 370-25/26 Mayor's Re-Appointment of Jill Davis to the Pekin Housing Authority Board to a term until January 14, 2031

6.7. Resolution No. 371-25/26 Re-Appointment of Josh Wray to Tri-County River Valley Development Authority (TRVDA)

6.8. Resolution No. 372-25/26 Approving a Contract with Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Pekin for Wastewater Services

New Business

7.1. **Resolution No. 373-25/26 Approving an Agreement with HOI Vending to Provide Vending Machines in City Hall**

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

During consideration of Resolution No. 373-25/26, Economic Development Director Josh Wray explained that the agreement with HOI Vending would allow the City to add vending machines in City Hall, with machines located in staff areas and some placed in the public lobby. He noted the agreement term is for 36 months with an optional 36-month renewal, and that 10 percent of vending profits would be remitted to the City's General Fund. Mayor Burress asked whether revenues would continue to go to the General Fund if vending machines were no longer operating at the bus barn, to which Mr. Wray responded affirmatively. The Mayor also asked how many machines would be installed, and Mr. Wray confirmed there would be four machines total and that there are currently no vending machines in City Hall.

7.2. **Resolution No. 374-25/26 Approving Police Vehicle Lease Agreements with Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc.**

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

Chief Ranney presented the resolution as part of the Police Department's ongoing fleet management program, explaining that staff meets annually to evaluate vehicle condition and rotation needs. Five vehicles were identified for rotation, and the request is to lease three new squad vehicles, including Ford F-150 trucks, through Enterprise.

Council Member Nutter questioned whether the vehicles were part of a 2020 lease and whether a five-year rotation schedule was being followed. Chief Ranney clarified that the vehicles were not all from 2020, that staff is exploring ways to maximize vehicle life, and that squad cars are often kept longer than non-squad vehicles due to favorable purchase pricing and resale values determined by Enterprise.

Further discussion addressed trade-in values, lease costs, and accessory pricing, with Chief Ranney noting that trade-in values are estimates until vehicles are sold and that accessory and equipment costs are built into the quoted amounts. He added that the figures presented would be used for budget forecasting.

7.3. Resolution No. 375-25/26 Approving Repairs for the Street Department Vactor Truck

RESULT:	**PASSED (6 TO 0) TO 1**
MOVER:	Council Member Dave Nutter
SECONDER:	Council Member Peg Phillips
AYES:	1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Hilst, Mayor Pro Tem Hohimer, Council Member Phillips, Council Member Fletcher
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	Council Member Dave Nutter

Public Works Director Simon Grimm explained that the resolution authorizes approximately $31,000 in repairs to the newer Vactor truck, including replacement of the rodder line. He noted that the truck is currently down for service and that completing the repairs now would be efficient. The expense will be charged to the sewer repair line and may require a budget transfer of approximately $68. Council Member Nutter abstained from the vote.

7.4. Discussion on Town Hall Policy

Economic Development Director Josh Wray presented a framework to clarify the distinction between City-sponsored town hall meetings and private events, explaining that proposed guidelines would limit City-sponsored town halls to no more than six per year and no more than one per month. He emphasized that the intent is not to restrict individual council members from meeting with constituents, but to ensure compliance with the Open Meetings Act (OMA).

Mayor Burress suggested council members review the proposal and provide feedback.

City Attorney Vasselli explained that when a quorum of council members is present and public business is discussed, OMA requirements apply, including posting notice and ensuring public access.

Council members discussed scenarios involving debates, activist-hosted meetings, ADA compliance, and the role of the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem. Mr. Wray and Mr. Vasselli emphasized the need for clear parameters so City resources, staffing, police presence, and ADA responsibilities are properly assigned only to official City events.

Several council members indicated they would review the proposal further and provide comments.

Any Other Business To Come Before The Council

Fire Chief Reeise reported that their tower truck arrived from Las Vegas and the trip took six days round trip.

Finance Director, Mr. Dubrowski, reported that final ARPA expenses have been submitted and are awaiting final closeout from the U.S. Treasury.

Council Member Abel asked about revenue from the grocery tax, with Mr. Wray estimating approximately $1 million annually and Mr. Dubrowski clarifying the range is closer to $1.5 to $1.7 million.

Mayor Pro Hohimer shared that she received a call from a resident offering to organize a litter cleanup effort in Pekin.

The Mayor concluded by expressing hope for a prosperous year ahead.

Executive Session 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)

A motion was made by Council Member Hilst seconded by Council Member Nutter to move into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 5. The purchase of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired and 6. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body at 6:30 PM.

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

Council returned to open session at 7:34 PM.

9.1. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 5. The purchase of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired

9.2. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) 6. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body

Adjourn

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

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 7:34 PM.