



**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, FEBRUARY 9, 2026 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.

Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Roy Bockler	Present	Noon
Caty Campbell	Present	Noon
John Campbell	Present	Noon
Buster Hanley	Present	Noon
Drew Leman	Present	Noon
Amy McCoy	Absent	
Danielle Owens	Present	Noon
Liridon Rrushaj	Present	Noon
Dennis Short	Present	12:10 PM
Jack Steger	Present	Noon

Also present were Mayor Mary Burress and Chris Setti from Greater Peoria Economic Development Council.

Approve Agenda

B. Hanley motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by D. Owens. Motion approved by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

3.1. Minutes from the Regular EDAC Meeting on December 8, 2025

B. Hanley motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by D. Owens.

R. Bockler noted one error that he should be reflected as absent from the December meeting.

Motion approved by voice vote with the one requested change.

Public Input

None

Reports

5.1. Monthly Staff Report

Mr. Wray reviewed the monthly staff report included in the meeting packet and noted that the quarterly business report from Retail Strategies is included in the packet as well, for review.

New Business

6.1. Discussion on the Proposed Data Center Development (No Action)

Mr. Wray provided an overview of the proposed data center project, including background, timeline, and key topics of public interest. Supporting information was included in the meeting packet. He also noted that a meeting was held with Groveland Township the prior week to discuss items such as fire response.

Mr. Bockler inquired about the absence of a conceptual site plan or rendering and asked about the long - term, "10 - year" outlook. He also raised questions regarding the developer's identity and project funding. Mr. Wray responded that a detailed conceptual plan is not available at this stage, though a general vision outlining potential residential, commercial, and infrastructure elements has been prepared.

The Mayor shared observations from a recent visit to a data center in DeKalb, noting that wildlife remains present in the area.

Mr. Short asked about upcoming town hall meetings. Mr. Wray stated that project information is available on the City's website and outlined two scheduled meetings: a general development overview on February 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the Pekin Public Library, and a data center - specific meeting on March 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Pekin Community High School Theater.

Mr. Setti provided insight based on similar data center projects, including common feedback and challenges, and noted the importance of establishing a clear timeline and key milestones, which Mr. Wray has begun to outline.

Mr. Leman encouraged the City to continue its current approach of research and community education, acknowledging that public concerns may persist but emphasizing the importance of remaining focused if the project is determined to be beneficial.

Mr. Steger asked whether alternative locations are being considered. The Mayor stated that Riverway Business Park lacks sufficient acreage, though

other opportunities could be explored. Mr. Wray added that any viable site would need proximity to transmission lines.

Dr. Owens raised questions about housing impacts, specifically whether the data center project would influence residential development, noting declining student enrollment. Mayor Burress commented that an influx of jobs could highlight the current shortage of available housing.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Commission

7.1. Reminder of Expiring Terms

All terms expire the first Monday in May, at which time committee membership decreases to seven members in accordance with an ordinance passed last year. Mr. Riley has resigned from the Committee due to scheduling conflicts and has recommended Ron Harlan to fill the remainder of his term.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by D. Short at 1:16 P.M., with a second by R. Bockler. The motion passed by voice vote.