



**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, JUNE 8, 2026 AT 5:30 PM
MAYOR MARY J. BURRESS PRESIDING**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Mary Burress.

Call to Order

City Clerk, Ms. Nicole Stewart, confirmed all Council Members were physically present and logged in. Mayor Burress declared a quorum and opened the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Rick Hilst	City of Pekin	Council Member	Present	5:30 PM
Karen Hohimer	City of Pekin	Council Member	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	Mayor Pro Tem	Present	5:30 PM

Approve Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

4.1. City Council - Regular Meeting Minutes - May 26, 2026

RESULT: PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER: Council Member Jimmie Fletcher
SECONDER: Mayor Pro Tem Peg Phillips

AYES: 1st Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Abel, Mayor Burress, Council Member Nutter, Council Member Hilst, Council Member Hohimer, Mayor Pro Tem Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

Public Input

Mayor Burress introduced a new segment titled “Mayor Mary’s Moment – Pekin Positive,” which she indicated would be used for positive news and accomplishments within the City. She reported that while the City did not receive either the City or County of the Year award, being recognized as a finalist was an honor at a recent real estate awards event. Mayor Burress also noted that the City had recently received a CoStar award and stated that she looks forward to continuing to share positive developments and community successes during future Council meetings.

Harlan Shields raised neighborhood traffic/scooter concerns near Highwood. Staff and Police Chief were asked to follow up.

John McNish retracted his statement at a previous Council Meeting regarding the sale of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He encouraged the City to be transparent about the financial implications and any replacement revenue sources that may be needed before making a decision.

Consent Agenda

6.1. Accounts Payable Paid Proof List through May 29, 2026

6.2. Receive and File Building Department Permit Report for May 2026

Presentations, Communications, Petitions, and Reports

7.1. Presentation - Downtown Apartment Development Opportunity

Presenters were unable to attend the Council meeting. No presentation took place.

Unfinished Business

8.1. Ordinance No. 4405-26/27 Approving and Authorizing a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Redevelopment Agreement with Rustic Roots Studio for Rehabilitation of 513 Court Street

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

Economic Development Director Joshua Wray presented the proposed TIF Redevelopment Agreement for Rustic Roots Studio.

Council Member Nutter expressed concerns regarding the timing of the request and discussed drainage issues affecting the property, noting the need for additional information regarding planned alley improvements. Council Member Hilst inquired about compliance requirements related to dumpster enclosures. Staff indicated they would review the matter with the City Engineer and provide additional information.

New Business

9.1. Resolution No. 438-26/27 Approving Contract with Image Trend for Fire Department Reporting Software

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

City Manager John Dossey presented the request to renew the Fire Department's reporting software contract. Fire Chief Reeise explained the software is essential for required reporting and data collection.

9.2. Resolution No. 439-26/27 Approving Purchase of Laptop Computers to Replace City Council Tablets

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

City Manager John Dossey presented a proposal to replace City Council tablets with laptop/tablet devices and repurpose the existing tablets for use by the Solid Waste Department.

Council members discussed the benefits of the new devices and staff confirmed all data would be transferred to the replacement units.

Any Other Business To Come Before The Council

City Manager John Dossey congratulated the City on being recognized at the Real Estate Journal Awards, noting that while Pekin did not receive an award, the recognition increased the City's visibility among developers and economic development professionals. He reminded the public that Illinois American Water would host an informational open house on June 11 regarding its wastewater proposal and emphasized that it was not a City-sponsored event. Mr. Dossey also reported that the FY24 audit would be presented at the June 22 meeting, provided an update on the ongoing CSO project, discussed fleet adjustments related to District 303 transportation services, and reminded residents about the upcoming

time capsule project, encouraging the public to submit items for inclusion.

Mayor Burress reported that delivery of the larger recycling bins was still underway and asked residents for patience while distribution continued.

Public Works Director Simon Grimm reported that the recent electronic recycling event was successful and that approximately 42 tons of waste had been collected during the most recent Pekin Clean-Up event. He stated that staff was working with Tazewell County on planning another event. Mr. Dossey added that grant funding covered the cost associated with recycling televisions. Mr. Grimm also provided an update on the Court Street construction project, noting traffic had shifted to the north side of the roadway and that staff was coordinating with contractors to minimize impacts during the Fourth of July and Marigold Festival events.

Mayor Burress noted that Carle Health was reinvesting approximately \$5.8 million into its Pekin facility.

Police Chief Ranney announced the start of the Cops for Kids event series, including mini golf, paddle boat activities, boating events, and a community picnic. Mr. Dossey also reminded residents that the Special Olympics Torch Run would take place on Friday.

Council Member Nutter thanked organizers of the recent Concert in the Park and commented on the strong attendance and entertainment. He also confirmed that the Illinois American Water open house would not be broadcast. Mr. Dossey stated that the event would not be televised but that City Hall lobby space would be available. Council Member Nutter also inquired about obtaining additional microphones for Council meetings.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips reiterated that the proposed data center project was no longer under consideration and encouraged interested parties to submit redevelopment proposals for the Luticken property.

Council Member Abel reported receiving questions regarding the removal of green arrow traffic signals at Fifth Street and Margaret Street. Mr. Grimm stated that the signal was under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Transportation and that staff had contacted IDOT regarding the issue. Council Member Abel also thanked the personnel at Fire Station No. 3 for their service.

Council Member Hohimer commented on attending Pekin Night at the Chiefs game and recognized Mayor Pro Tem Phillips for throwing out the ceremonial first pitch.

Mayor Burress thanked everyone who participated in and supported Pekin Night.

Executive Session 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)

A motion was made by Council Member Hohimer seconded by Council Member Abel to move into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) at 6:12 PM. On roll call vote all present voted Aye.

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

Council returned to open session at 12:00 AM.

11.1. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees

A motion was made by Council Member Hohimer seconded by Council Member Abel to move into Executive Session to discuss 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees at 6:12 PM. On roll call vote all present voted Aye.

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Council Member 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, Council Member Hohimer, Mayor Pro Tem Phillips, Council Member Fletcher

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

Council returned to open session at 7:18 PM.

Adjourn

There being no further business to come to the Council a motion was made by Council Member Council Member Hohimer seconded by Council Member Abel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried viva voce vote. Mayor Burress adjourned the meeting at 7:18 PM.