

November 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois, was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Room at the Pittsfield City Hall at 215 N Monroe Street. The following officers were present: Mayor Gary Mendenhall, City Clerk Ann Moffit, Alderperson Bill Grimsley, Kevin Ketchum, Paul Lennon, Chris Little, Robert Ritchart, Beth White, Robert Wilson, and Kevin Wombles.

Alderperson Ketchum moved to approve the November 04, 2025, city council minutes.

Alderperson Grimsley seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Yea:	Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Little, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (8)
	Nay:	NONE (0)
	Present:	NONE (0)

The motion carried.

Mayor's Announcements:

Our annual TIPS meeting was held with the FAA & IDOT Aeronautical Division. Discussion occurred concerning airport progress. New runway lights are on for a Spring letting, 2026 will start on a new hangar project, and there is a meeting scheduled with our airport engineer in regards to the equipment grant.

A letter was sent to an airport hangar tenant that does not have an operable aircraft stating that the lease would not be renewed in May 2026.

The gas safety meeting held last week was successful, with approximately 25 participants.

Mayor Mendenhall and Public Works Director Tom Reinhardt attended the CEO breakfast.

A meeting was held with the owners of Root Subdivision. There was a request for a sewer lift station for the west end of the subdivision.

The City of Pittsfield received a donation from a family in the amount of \$200,000.00 to construct two pickleball courts at Lowry Park. At this time, the donor would like to remain anonymous. We have purchased a short-term CD until construction begins in early 2026.

No Public Comments

Alderperson Ritchart moved to approve the October 2025 Monthly Treasurer's Report.

Alderperson Grimsley seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Yea:	Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Little, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (8)
	Nay:	NONE (0)
	Present:	NONE (0)

The motion carried.

Alderperson Ritchart stated that the Public Safety Committee met tonight. Sergeant Barton presented information from Chief Starman, who is on vacation. New pistols will be delivered within the next two weeks, and training is scheduled for early December. Two officers recently completed firearms instructor training. Rifle training is scheduled for late November with the new instructors. We will be using the Jacksonville PD range due to the ISP range not being long enough. We have purchased new

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range equipment to increase training. Firearms are one of the most common lawsuits regarding law enforcement; lack of training is usually cited in the suit, therefore, we are being proactive in our training procedures. Chief stated that the Halloween event was a big success; there were an estimated 500 kids that stopped by, and he wanted to thank Sgt. Weir and SRO Epperson for coordinating this event. The police department received an \$8,000 donation from Whitetail properties to start the S.T.A.R.T program, which is similar to D.A.R.E. We also received a \$5,000 donation from Mashoff's for S.T.A.R.T program and/or to start the Therapy Dog Program. Whitetail Properties pledged another \$4,000 donation toward the therapy dog program. He wanted to thank both businesses for their continued support. The committee discussed range needs.

Aldersperson Ritchart moved to accept the Zoning Committee's recommendation to approve the Variance request submitted by Bobby EnglaInd of 223 Liberty Street to construct an accessory building, which will leave a five-foot (5') side yard instead of the required six-foot (6') side yard.

Aldersperson Ketchum stated that the Ordinance Committee met and recommended that Ordinances be prepared for full council approval for the placement of Stop Signs northbound on Madison at Kellogg Street and Lowry Street at Clinton Street. There was also discussion about supervisor residency requirements; it was determined that the requirements are not set via ordinance, only the employee handbook. Mr. Reinhardt recommended that we add food and beverage establishments as a permitted use in B-2. Attorney Morris has prepared a proposed amendment for the solar ordinance.

Aldersperson Lennon moved to approve amending the Employee Handbook to allow for the Street and Alley Superintendent and the Utilities Superintendent to live five miles from City limits. Aldersperson Ketchum seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Yea:	Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Little, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (8)
	Nay:	NONE (0)
	Present:	NONE (0)

The motion carried.

Aldersperson White moved to approve Ordinance No. 1756 – An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a TIF Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Pittsfield and Legends Holdings, LLC and Andrew Tipsword on its first reading, by title only. Aldersperson Ketchum seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Yea:	Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Little, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (8)
	Nay:	NONE (0)
	Present:	NONE (0)

The motion carried.

Aldersperson White moved to suspend the rules and have the second reading of Ordinance No. 1756 by title only. Aldersperson Ketchum seconded the motion.

Roll Call:	Yea:	Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Little, Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (8)
	Nay:	NONE (0)

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Present: NONE (0)

The motion carried.

Aldersperson White moved to approve Ordinance No. 1756 – An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a TIF Redevelopment Agreement between the City of Pittsfield and Legends Holdings, LLC, and Andrew Tipsword on its second reading by title only.

Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon
Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (7)
Nay: Little (1)
Present: NONE(0)

The motion carried.

Aldersperson Little moved to approve the business incentive application as presented from Two Rivers Hardwood, LLC.

Aldersperson White seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Little,
Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (8)
Nay: NONE (0)
Present: NONE (0)

The motion carried.

Petition for Annexation – Parcel 53-033-11 – Postponed.

Mayor Mendenhall stated that Bill Booth has requested a one-year variance from his special use permit dated March 6, 2018 which allows him to plant a “grass cover crop” to the field south east of Walmart. He requests the approval to plant soybeans next year to improve soil health by maintaining nutrient levels, break pest and disease cycles and control weeds. He stated that after beans he would return to planting oats/alfalfa/orchard grass mixture. Attorney Morris stated that we would need to have a Public Hearing to amend the terms of the Special Use Permit previously issued.

Aldersperson Ritchart moved to pay bills as stated by City Clerk.

Aldersperson White seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yea: Grimsley, Ketchum, Lennon, Little,
Ritchart, White, Wilson, Wombles (8)
Nay: NONE (0)
Present: NONE (0)

The motion carried.

New Business:

Mayor Mendenhall stated that he met with Jan Gates from Golden Ruler about council room furniture. She is doing research for options.

Aldersperson Ritchart asked about the Industrial Park West farm lease. Mayor Mendenhall stated that Attorney Morris has researched the matter but it was not placed on the agenda for approval.

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Alderson Grimsley stated that he visited the new owners of the deer processing operation, and they indicated that they are doing very well.

Alderson Ketchum thanked the Street and Alley crew for the sidewalk repair at the Kepley House.

Alderson Little would like to note that we are investing funds that we plan to use for upcoming improvements and that we are using our resources wisely, and none of our upcoming projects will be funded with loans.

Public Works Director Tom Reinhardt stated that the campground will close on November 24, 2025.

Kenny Gwartney stated that the council chamber floors are being sanded and are coming along nicely.

Mayor Mendenhall thanked Kenny and his crews for quickly finding and repairing a water leak in front of City Hall.

Brittney Emerick stated that the Deer Santa Festival will be December 7, 4-6pm. There is also a Gingerbread house contest will be held at the Courtyard Café with judging being on December 6.

Brittney Emerick

Alderson White moved to adjourn this meeting at 6:37 p.m.
