

CHAPTER 14

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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2-14-1: **HISTORIC PRESERVATION:** The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of improvements or special character or historical interest in the interest of the health, prosperity, safety and welfare of the City of Pekin by:

- A. Providing a mechanism to identify and preserve the historic and architectural characteristics of Pekin which represents elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history;
- B. To promote civic pride in the beauty and noble accomplishments of the past as represented in Pekin's landmarks and historic areas;
- C. Stabilizing and improving the economic vitality and value of Pekin's landmarks and historic areas;
- D. Protecting and enhancing the attractiveness of the City to buyers, visitors and shoppers and, thereby, supporting business, commerce, industry and providing economic benefit to the City;
- E. Fostering and encouraging preservation and restoration of structures, areas and neighborhoods and, thereby, preventing future urban blight.

2-14-2: **COMPOSITION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:**
The Pekin Historic Preservation Commission shall consist of seven (7) voting members, residents of the City of Pekin, appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council.

2-14-3: **QUALIFICATIONS:** One (1) of the members shall be a member of the Main Street Design Committee. The remaining members shall be appointed on the basis of expertise, experience or interest in the area of architectural history,

building construction or engineering, historical and architectural preservation, neighborhood organizing or real estate.

2-14-4: **TERMS:** Members of the Commission shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years. Of those members first taking office, two (2) shall be appointed for one (1) year, three (3) for two (2) years and two (2) for three (3) years. No members shall serve more than two (2) successive 3-year terms. Alternate members shall be appointed to serve in the absence of or disqualification of the regular members. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only. Members shall serve without compensation.

2-14-5: **OFFICERS:** Officers shall consist of a chairman, vice chairman and a secretary elected by the Preservation Commission who shall serve a term of one (1) year and shall be eligible for reelection, but no members shall serve as an officer for more than two (2) consecutive years. The chairman shall preside over meetings. In the absence of the chairman, the vice chairman shall perform the duties of the chairman. If both are absent, a temporary chairman shall be elected by those present. The secretary to the Preservation Commission shall have the following duties:

- A. Take minutes of each Preservation Commission meeting;
- B. Be responsible for publication and distribution of copies of the minutes, reports, and decisions of the Preservation Commission to the members of the Preservation Commission;
- C. Give notice as provided herein or by law for all public hearings conducted by the Preservation Commission;
- D. Advise the Mayor of vacancies on the Preservation Commission and expiring terms of members; and
- E. Prepare and submit to the City Council a complete record of the proceedings before the Preservation Commission on any matter requiring Council consideration.

2-14-6: **MEETINGS:** A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members. All decisions or actions of the Historic Preservation Commission shall be made by a majority vote of those members present and voting at any meeting where a quorum exists. Meetings shall be held at regularly scheduled times to be established by resolution of the Commission at the beginning of each calendar year or at any time upon the call of the Chairman. There shall be a minimum of four (4) meetings per year.

All meetings of the Preservation Commission shall be open to the public. The Preservation Commission shall keep minutes of its proceedings, showing the

vote, indicating such fact, and shall keep records of its examinations and other official actions, all of which shall be immediately filed in the office of the Preservation Commission and shall be a public record.

2-14-7: **POWERS AND DUTIES:** The Historic Preservation Commission shall undertake an ongoing survey and research effort on the City of Pekin to identify neighborhoods, areas, sites, structures and objects that have historic, community, architectural or aesthetic importance, interest or value. As part of the survey, the Historic Preservation Commission shall review and evaluate any prior surveys and studies by any government or private organization and compile appropriate descriptions, facts and photographs. The Historic Preservation Commission shall identify significant structures based upon the following criteria:

- A. Architecturally or historically significant properties in one identifiable neighborhood or distinct geographical area of the City of Pekin;
- B. Association with a particular person, event or historical period;
- C. Representation of a particular architectural style or school of design, or of a particular architect, engineer, builder, designer or craftsman;
- D. Such other criteria as may be adopted by the Preservation Commission to assure systematic survey of all significant properties within the City of Pekin.