

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

1/14/2019 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Thoms asked the City Clerk to call the roll.

Present: Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderman Dave Geenen, Alderman Ivory D. Clark, Alderman Virgil J. Mayberry, Alderman James Spurgetis, Alderman Stephen L. Tollenaer, and Alderman Dylan Parker

Absent: Alderman Joshua Schipp

Staff: City Manager Randy Tweet, City Attorney Dave Morrison, City Clerk Judith Gilbert, and other City staff

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Thoms led in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Moment of Silence

Mayor Thoms asked for a moment of silence. A moment of silence was observed.

5. Minutes of the December 17, 2018 meeting.

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to approve the minutes as printed; Alderman Clark seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 voice vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

6. State of the City Address by Mayor Mike Thoms

Mayor Thoms said he wanted to share his thoughts of 2018 and a few for 2019.

"It is my honor to deliver this State of the City address for the second year. We have had many accomplishments this past year, but also recognize that work continues to be done."

"I believe Citizens in a community can feel a few different ways about their city where they live. They can feel Proud, Discouraged, or Content, Involved, Forgotten or Excited. I understand there is a lot more than that, but I want Rock Island Citizens to feel Proud, Involved and Excited about our City. Pride in our Community, Involved in our Decisions and Excited about Living and the Future of Rock Island. Excitement is the goal, but if we have the first two, (Pride, Involved) we will always continue to move forward. Those in charge of moving us forward include hundreds of City employees, directors, the city manager, and your elected officials. I feel extremely confident that we have the right people in place to make the necessary changes the citizens of Rock Island deserve."

"First I'll go through what has transpired this past year in each department and the accomplishments they've made in 2018 and then conclude with a look into 2019."

"Our Community Economic Development Department has seen many accomplishments this year. The CED Department is responsible for many different aspects: Development, Inspections, Zoning, CIRLF loans, Façade Grants, Building Permits, HUD Grants, and Community Activities among other things. The department is more than just economic development."

"This past year, they had developments that have brought 300 jobs to the community; new investments topping \$27,000,000; handled 3,000 permits, 3,200 building inspections, 1,300 housing permits, 2,400 nuisance violations and over 700 health inspections; they oversaw the redevelopment of an urban park at 30th Street and 14th Avenue - the Pocket Park project; Garden Sites Program with an increased number of garden sites which were empty lots that are now productive and that produced food valued at over \$65,000; 11 façade grants for \$65,000; over \$1 million in HUD grants (including Douglas Park, Cameras, and Sidewalks projects); demolition of several blighted houses and demolition of the former Case and Norcross factory buildings which cost the City nothing; 37 housing rehab projects \$187,000 (loans or grants); and conducted a Summer Archaeology Program with MLK Center." Mayor Thoms spoke about how he saw firsthand how excited and involved the kids were on their archeological dig. "The department aided in the Douglas Park mural; translated Home Rehab Brochures and other City documents to four different languages; partnered with other Illinois cities for a Lead Based Paint Grant (received \$2.4 million over three years); got a new Enterprise Zone; two Opportunity Zones were awarded in Rock Island, the only city in the Quad Cities to receive them; updated the downtown streetscape plan; became more involved in the neighborhoods with activities with other departments like Police and Fire; held an open house for refugees and immigrants; and conducted ward meetings and a town hall meeting (Unplugged)." Mayor Thoms said they plan to repeat those meetings in 2019.

"These are all very positive for Rock Island, and I commend the work from every employee that made these things happen.

Before we move on, I want to take a moment to acknowledge a man this department and the entire City recently lost. Lt. Colonel (retired) Thomas Ayers passed away at his home December 25 after a tough battle with cancer. Tom's contributions to Rock Island the past 18 years as the Chief Building Official and his service to our country and to the community were extraordinary. Our condolences go out to Tom's wife, children, father, and family for their loss."

"In the Police Department, as of November 30th, 2018, a comparison of Part 1 Uniform Crime Reports Offenses (Murder, Criminal Sexual Assault, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglaries, Thefts, Motor Vehicle Thefts, and Arson) are 9% lower than 2017, while Part I crimes designated as Violent Offenses (Murder, Criminal Sexual Assault, and Aggravated Assault) are 35% lower than 2017." Mayor Thoms commented that there has been a downward trend in crime over the last few years. He said it was outstanding what the officers are doing out there.

"The Police Department installed additional intersection cameras at four locations that can be used for traffic and criminal investigations; and revamped their recruitment program, being able to increase the number of new police applicants for 2018 to 317, compared to 196 in 2016." Mayor Thoms added people are looking to work in Rock Island. "The Police Department was awarded re-accreditation in 2018, being certified as a Tier II Accredited Police Agency through the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. Rock Island is the only police agency within the Illinois Quad Cities to be accredited and has been since 2013 which is a great accomplishment. They reorganized the structure of the department to create the Tactical Operations Division, whose focus is the investigation of violent and firearms related crime which continues to help reduce the crime rate. Police Officer Doug Williams was honored as the 2018 Police Officer of the Year at the Knights of Columbus Civic Awards ceremony."

"The Fire Department conducted the Operation Prom program at Rock Island High School; and was designated as a Five-Star Fire Safe Community by the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board. Mayor Thoms stated the Fire Department took a controversial issue and was recognized for it. The Fire Department also partnered with Red Cross Quad Cities for the "Sound the Alarm" campaign, as well as the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance, to install free smoke alarms; five probationary members successfully completed Basic Firefighter Academy training; firefighter Cody Bower was honored as the 2018 Firefighter of the Year at the Knights of Columbus Civic Awards ceremony; the department upgraded fire reporting software to be more user-friendly and to streamline the submission of reports to FEMA; they continued community outreach to train citizens in CPR; they received the 2018 EMS Bronze Award from the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline Program for outstanding care of patients suffering from cardiac arrest, stroke, and heart attack; and all Fire Department Paramedics successfully recertified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support." Mayor Thoms said continuing education ensures the Fire Department is the best out there and well trained.

"The Public Works Department City staff implemented the flood strategy plan as the river rose, which included installing pumps and closing gatewalls." Mayor Thoms said this had to be done three times in 2018. "The Municipal Services Division partnered with the Rock Island - Milan School District to replace sidewalks in front of the Math and Science Academy and Frances Willard schools; and LED light conversions were completed to City owned lights in the Southwest Industrial Park and several other locations." Mayor Thoms added the City also partnered with MidAmerican Energy to get their streetlights converted too. "The work on the Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) continued and was completed in 2018; construction of the new Water Filtration Facility, which is replacing the 109-year-old filtration building, is now over 50% complete; the Engineering Division is managing two major resurfacing projects on 18th Avenue from 17th Street to the Moline Border and 38th Street from 7th Avenue to Blackhawk Road; the Engineering Division also assisted and managed several Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects for CED, which included: fiber optic lines and security camera installation and sidewalk repairs near Longfellow School; there is a new management group running Sunset Marina (F3) which will improve the quality of service at Sunset Marina."

"The Information Technology Department worked closely with the Rock Island Public Library to install a new time management system and self-service printing system for public use; worked with the Police Department and CED to install 34 new public safety cameras at four busy intersections in Rock Island along 11th Street and at the Arsenal Bridge entryway; upgraded the Finance Department's utility billing system to meet current security standards; and implemented

new communications technologies for both waste water and water filtration systems for Public Works. IT continues to explore and implement technology solutions that address open data, transparency in local government, smart city initiatives, the Internet of Things, cloud computing, and community engagement."

"In the Finance Department, the City's bond rating was updated in November and the negative outlook was removed. The rating is A2 (stable), which is in middle of the Investment Grade category. The City's CY 2019 budget was approved with a mix of expenditure reductions, revenue increases and use of reserves." Mayor Thoms said these were not easy decisions to be made. "The City received the General Finance Officers Association (GFOA) award for its audit and budget documents. The Finance Department made it easier for businesses to remit its local taxes and reports to the City; they can now do so through the website."

"The Human Resources Department held its eighth annual Benefit Fair in April 2018. This event is in partnership with Rock Island County. There were 68 vendors, 170 City employees and 173 County employees in attendance this year. Human Resources maintained a flat renewal for the Commercial Insurance program which helped control costs. Key staff hires this past year include: Development Program Manager, Fleet Manager, Utilities Superintendent, (7) Police Officers and (8) Firefighters. Human Resources introduced 360-degree reviews for non-affiliated employees and managers, which was a City Council management objective."

"The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center received a new \$121,000 State grant to serve youth ages 11 – 17, an often forgotten age group; improved youth literacy rates in Summer Day Camp and Afterschool Program, partnering with Spring Forward; revitalized Family Fun Day and reintroduced The Drill Team Showdown with the Metropolitan Youth Program, and served over 2,000 youth in 2018."

"Library programs drew a record of nearly 19,000 people in 2018 - which is a 10% increase from prior years. The Library refreshed furnishings in the Children's Room at the Downtown Library, thanks to a grant from the Library Foundation; launched #RockTownReads initiative with community partners such as the MLK Center, Spring Forward Learning Center, and the Rock Island-Milan School District; implemented "Rocket into Reading", a new literacy program for children ages 6-10; staff attended nearly 150 outreach programs in 2018, many of which promoted library card registration; expanding upon their collections, the library now circulates Wi-Fi Hot Spots and board games and has also implemented the first Seed Library in the area to encourage community gardening and the sharing of seeds. Community-based strategic planning for the library was a success! The plan is complete and will be implemented beginning in January 2019."

"The Parks and Recreation Department completed Phase 1 of Douglas Park improvements; the big diamond, parking lot, concession stand/press box, batting cage and community playground were all completed." Mayor Thoms stated the Douglas Park improvements were a huge investment by the City and private individuals, similar to the success at the Hauberg Civic Center. "The First Tee Learning Center / Short Course / Driving Range project was completed at Highland Springs. There were 36,891 visits to White Water Junction, over 200,000 visits to RIFAC, over 45,000 visits to Saukie & Highland Springs Golf Courses, over 15,000 at Red, White & Boom, and the 62nd Annual Starlight Revue Concert series was held." Mayor Thoms said the Parks facilities like RIFAC and the golf courses are self-sustaining; they pay for themselves. "Over \$30,000 was raised through local sponsorships to the Parks Programs. The department completed a reorganization of the Park Maintenance Division into Public Works. This resulted in Public Works being able to fill vacant positions at no increased expense to the general fund and it has given the Parks & Recreation Department more maintenance resources. The department completed the installation of a new ADA shelter and playground at Hodge Park; completed Phase 1 of tuckpointing at the Hauberg Civic Center and repaired all plumbing in the mansion; renovated the bathrooms and concession stand at the Alan Campbell Sports

Complex; and new ADA bleachers were installed at Ben Williamson Park. Douglas Park and the Rock Island Independents football team were designated into the NFL Hall of Fame traveling museum. Mayor Thoms announced that Rock Island will be hosting part of the NFL draft with the NFL coming on April 27 for several draft picks on Day Three. Mayor Thoms said the first NFL game was played at Douglas Park.

"As you've just heard, a lot of work has been done this past year and I'm honored to work next to so many good people, elected officials, City staff, and citizens."

"It's easy to talk about accomplishments, now let's look at some of the hard realities. We need more development. Whether it is for the Watchtower location, our downtown or beyond, we need more. We need to find ways to stabilize our budget. As of right now our financial position is solid, but that will not continue if we don't commit to making difficult decisions. Expenses are rising, and revenues are flat. Everyone knows that's a recipe for financial failure and we cannot go on without expense cuts that might affect core services. We've been asking departments to do more with less and we're going to have to continue this to produce a balanced budget each year, without using reserve funds. It will not happen if we continue to handle our business as normal." Mayor Thoms stated the City should not be using its reserve funds. He added in 2019, the City will have to really dig deep; projected revenues and expenditures could mean more core services might have to change. Mayor Thoms gave examples of core services: snow plowing, street repair, garbage collection, and leaf collection to name some. Mayor Thoms said the City offers premium quality services to our residents, but he asked if the City can still continue to do that in 2019. He added the City will have to start looking at those things.

"There are many positives on the horizon. We just need to keep collecting wins. The number of wins will outweigh the one big score and we are in a great position to do that. There will be more community outreach for ideas. We started a new task force called Technology and Sustainability on how to be more efficient and sustainable. We will continue to grow and foster partnerships and will always look for new opportunities that benefit this City. The resilience of Rock Island's residents is great and our community pride is strong."

"Thank you all for your time. I look forward to bringing excitement to Rock Island in 2019."

"This Town Rocks! - that's for sure."

7. Proclamation declaring January 2019 as National Mentoring Month.

City Clerk Gilbert read the proclamation. Big Sister Jackie Zachmeyer and Little Sister Harmony accepted the proclamation. Harmony and Ms. Zachmeyer thanked Council for the proclamation. Ms. Zachmeyer said they enjoy being in Big Brothers Big Sisters. They said they have been together for three years. Mayor Thoms announced Big Brothers Big Sisters annual fundraising Putt-Around event at the River Center from January 30 through February 1. Pictures were taken of Mayor Thoms with Ms. Zachmeyer and Harmony.

8. Proclamation declaring January 21, 2019 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

City Clerk Gilbert read the proclamation. Martin Luther King Center Director Jerry Jones accepted the proclamation. He invited Council and the community to attend the celebration/memorial service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the MLK Center on Monday, January 21 at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Jones said it is a wonderful tribute to Dr. King, an award and scholarship will be presented, and everyone is welcome to attend. Pictures were taken of Mayor Thoms and Mr. Jones.

9. Proclamation declaring January 22, 2019 as National Day of Racial Healing.

City Clerk Gilbert read the proclamation. Alderman Clark and Frank Samuelson of the Rock Island County NAACP accepted the proclamation. Mr. Samuelson said he looks forward to the City Council implementing the goals stated in the proclamation where the City can take action to improve race relations and justice and equality for all. Pictures were taken of Mayor Thoms with Alderman Clark and Mr. Samuelson.

10. Proclamation recognizing the years of service Doug Vroman gave to the Rock Island Fire Department and the Firefighters Pension Board.

City Clerk Gilbert read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms thanked Mr. Vroman for his dedication. Mr. Vroman thanked the members of the Fire Pension Board for their support, dedication, and commitment: Finance Director Stephanie Masson and Linda Barnes in the Finance Department, and active members Chad Jacobs and Paul Hoffeditz. He also thanked City Council, past and present, for working with the Fire Pension Board to meet the challenges and funding the pensions. He thanked them for the support through the past 30 years. Pictures were taken of Mayor Thoms with Mr. Vroman.

11. Mayor Thoms will close the regular meeting and open a Public Hearing regarding the HUD CDBG Program Year 2017 Consolidated Annual Performance Report.

Mayor Thoms closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 7:38 p.m. He asked twice if there was anyone present who wished to speak on the Program Year 2017 Consolidated Annual Performance Report. No one came forward to speak.

Mayor Thoms closed the Public Hearing at 7:39 p.m. after a MOTION by Alderman Tollenaer; seconded by Alderman Geenen with a unanimous voice vote (6-0-1).

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to accept and approve the Program Year 2017 Consolidated Annual Performance Report as submitted and recommended; Alderman Geenen seconded.

Alderman Parker thanked staff for all of their hard work; he appreciates their plans. Mayor Thoms and Alderman Tollenaer agreed.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

12. A Special Ordinance amending Chapter 16, Article III, Section 16-85 of the Code of Ordinances establishing a waste water rate increase of 3% effective February 1, 2019.

Alderman Tollenaer moved to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

13. A Special Ordinance amending Chapter 16, Article V, Section 16-905 of the Code of Ordinances

establishing a storm water rate increase of 2% effective February 1, 2019.

Alderman Tollenaer moved to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderman Mayberry seconded.

Alderman Tollenaer commented that clean water is expensive, but it's the right thing to do. Alderman Parker added that the EPA is making the City do improvements.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

#### 14. Claims

- a. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding payment in the amount of \$13,106.91 to David Morrison of Rock Island, IL for legal services rendered from November 29, 2018 through December 28, 2018.
- b. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding payment in the amount of \$15,000.00 to the Law Offices of Michael P Schmiede PC of Chicago, IL for General Liability claim.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #3 in the amount of \$73,970.49 to Crafton Railroad Company of Andalusia, IL for the SW Railroad Spur Repairs Project for services provided from September 22, 2018 through November 28, 2018.

MOTION:

Alderman Tollenaer moved to accept the reports and authorize payment as recommended for Claims items a through c; Alderman Geenen seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #15 in the amount of \$341,068.95 to Civil Constructors, Inc. of East Moline, IL for the Water Filtration Facility Project for services provided from November 22, 2018 through December 20, 2018.
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #12 in the amount of \$69,156.60 to General Constructors, Inc. of Bettendorf, IA for the 007 Outfall Relocation Project for services provided from September 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018.
- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 and final in the amount of \$36,141.50 to Centennial Contractors of the Quad Cities of Moline, IL for the 2018 Brick Street Repair Program for services provided from November 12, 2018 through December 7, 2018.
- g. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #2 and final in the amount of \$241,781.35 to Michels Pipe Service of Brownsville, WI for the 2017/2018 Joint Sewer Lining Program for services provided from March 3, 2018 through December 7, 2018.

- h. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #3 and final in the amount of \$58,677.19 to Tri-City Blacktop Co., Inc. of Bettendorf, IA for the 2017/2018 Asphalt Street Milling and Patching Program for services provided from October 4, 2018 through December 11, 2018.

MOTION:

Alderman Tollenaer moved to accept the reports and authorize payment as recommended for Claims items d through h; Alderman Clark seconded.

Alderman Parker recused himself from the vote due to the nature of his employment.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, and Tollenaer. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

15. Claims for the weeks of December 14 through December 20 in the amount of \$1,242,710.56, December 21 through January 3 in the amount of \$343,434.85, January 4 through January 10 in the amount of \$327,426.23, and manual checks in the amount of \$405.09; and payroll for the weeks of December 3 through December 16 in the amount of \$1,486,321.77 and December 17 through December 30 in the amount of \$1,458,285.13.

MOTION:

Alderman Tollenaer moved to allow the claims and payroll; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

Alderman Mayberry asked about the manual checks. Finance Director Stephanie Masson responded that manual checks don't happen often with weekly AP runs. Due to the holidays and the need to pay the Sheriff's Department for serving civil process for the Electoral Board, manual checks were written. The Sheriff's Department accepts only cash or check and Ms. Masson said checks were preferable to cash.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

16. ACH payments for the month of November 2018 in the amount of \$7,800,588.21 and for the month of December 2018 in the amount of \$3,414,685.38.

MOTION:

Alderman Tollenaer moved to approve the ACH payments; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

17. Purchase Card Claims for the period of October 27, 2018 through November 26, 2018 in the amount of \$70,512.40 and for the period of November 27, 2018 through December 26, 2018 in the amount of \$55,558.56.



MOTION:

Alderman Tollenaer moved to approve the purchase card claims; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

Alderman Geenen encouraged staff that before placing an Amazon order to see if they can find the item locally.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

18. Report from the Parks and Recreation Department regarding bids for the purchase and financing of maintenance equipment, recommending approval of the purchase of equipment in Package #1 by Toro (MTI) and financing the purchase with BMO at an annual cost of \$52,525.59 for five years.

MOTION:

Alderman Tollenaer moved to award the bid and approve the financing of the maintenance equipment as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Alderman Clark seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

19. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the Bi-State Regional Commission Joint Purchasing Council bids for water/wastewater treatment chemicals, recommending the bids be awarded as noted in the report in the amounts of \$456,669.00 for water and \$73,632.00 for sewer.

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to accept the bids for the items as recommended and authorize the purchases; Alderman Tollenaer seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

20. Report from the Martin Luther King Center regarding an Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article I, Section 2-15, approving membership changes to the Martin Luther King Center Board.

MOTION:

Alderman Clark moved to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderman Geenen seconded.

## VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

21. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from Kate Price for the removal of the handicapped parking space at 716 30th Street.

## MOTION:

Alderman Tollenaer moved to approve the request as recommended and refer to the City Attorney for an ordinance; Alderman Parker seconded.

## VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

22. Other Business / Public Comment

Alderman Tollenaer suggested the City should look at a policy of staff purchasing locally in Rock Island. Alderman Geenen said we ask residents to shop locally. Alderman Clark said he agrees, but the law needs to be followed. City Attorney Dave Morrison said he has done research on that with regard to open bidding, but he would have to look at the issue further. He will get them a report.

Alderman Clark said more people are being discriminated against in the country. He wishes people could come to Rock Island High School. Alderman Clark said the future is bright; youth see things differently and the youth are taking us to a new place. He is happy with what he sees.

Alderman Geenen received a call from the Denkman PTA because they received a check for \$5,000 from Mr. Kadish, the former owner of the Kmart building. Mr. David Levin made Mr. Kadish aware of the need at Denkman. It is going to be used for the new playground at Denkman.

Mayor Thoms made a few announcements. The Dr. Martin Luther King memorial service and celebration will be held on Monday, January 21, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the MLK center. The Hot Rod and Custom Car Show will be held at the QCCA Expo Center from Friday, January 25 through Sunday, January 27. Mayor Thoms encouraged citizens to participate with POLCO, the City's new citizen software/engagement tool.

Alderman Spurgetis said the Argus Dispatch recognized Mayor Thoms' speech in the Viewpoints column from January 12; he said they were complimentary of the Mayor's address. Alderman Spurgetis was glad to see the recognition by the newspaper.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Williams, Moline resident, asked the City for a temporary permit for three months to operate a flea market at the 11th Street property. Mayor Thoms told Mr. Williams to contact Chandler Poole for assistance. Alderman Spurgetis told Mr. Williams a proposal must come forward through the Community and Economic Development Department.

Rock Island resident Robert Minard spoke about the lack of snow plowing and the difficulty he

had over the weekend on his street which is a hill. He was referred by the Police Department non-emergency number to the Public Works Department where no one was answering the phone. He said there were a lot of stranded cars including the tow truck driver on his street. He asked for more timely snow removal on the street especially since it is a hill. Alderman Geenen encouraged Mr. Minard in the future to reach out to his alderman. Mayor Thoms told Mr. Minard that Public Works Director Mike Bartels could address his concern.

Alderman Spurgetis said there is a strategy and priority for street plowing of snow. Mr. Bartels said they start on the primary routes as soon as the snow starts. They have nine routes. The secondary routes (residential) are done after the main routes are completed. Hills are a priority so residents can get out. He said after the snow stops, they go back and re-do the primary and secondary streets. Alderman Geenen asked if the first round for secondary streets is troubleshooting. Mr. Bartels said they generally go to the steepest hill, but it depends too where they are in their route area. Alderman Spurgetis asked about the priority of certain facilities such as schools, fire stations, and downtown. Mr. Bartels said schools are a first priority if school is in session. He said City facilities have a dedicated crew to do those separately from the nine routes along with the downtown area. The library does their own plowing as do the fire stations with a borrowed Public Works truck.

Alderman Parker questioned the Police Department referring Mr. Minard to Public Works when there was no one there to take calls. He wanted to know what the communications plan is. Mr. Bartels said there used to be a dedicated snow desk with an administrative person to take calls and dispatch the information to the snow routes. However, it cost a lot of money and was eliminated years ago. Alderman Parker asked if there was a supervisor. Mr. Bartels replied there is a crew leader and when Mr. Bartels receives information on areas needing attention, he forwards them to the crew leader. Alderman Tollenaer said residents call him and it works. He said sometimes spots are missed. Alderman Geenen said some cities create an app for potholes; there should be an app for snow removal. Mr. Bartels explained that every snow route driver has a map of their route with streets to be plowed and when. He also said they received a lot of compliments on the snow removal job.

Alderman Tollenaer asked if the pre-treatment really worked. Mr. Bartels said yes, it does. He said it helps with the bond and gives them more time before the cars compact the snow. He explained it gives the snow plow drivers lead time.

Alderman Parker asked that the Police Department give out the correct phone number. Mr. Bartels said the PD staff can give the information to RICOM and they have the supervisor's number; then the problem can be taken care of by Public Works. Alderman Geenen asked if Public Works wants to hear about snow removal problems; Mr. Bartels replied yes. Alderman Parker said people were getting on Facebook and Next Door to complain. City Manager Randy Tweet said the information has to be sent to the City; it can't just be posted on someone's Facebook or Next Door account. Alderman Geenen said he looks forward to the solution so residents will know they have been heard.

Italo Milani, Rock Island resident, asked that the City not issue a demolition permit for the Rock Island County courthouse. Mr. Tweet explained that on the advice of the City Attorney, the City will not issue a demolition permit until the state provides their approval and then the City will review. Mr. Tweet said he would let Council members know when that happens since they want more input in this matter. Alderman Spurgetis said it is an unusual case and he wants Council to be kept informed.

Alderman Geenen said due to the appearance of a potential conflict of interest, he will not be involved in the matter at all. Alderman Parker said many of his constituents have been very vocal about the matter and the County needs to follow the law. He asked for Council to be kept informed. Alderman Parker thanked the City Attorney for his wise advice to the City and the City

for listening to it. Mayor Thoms said they plan on following the law and he thanked Mr. Milano for coming to speak.

23. Executive Session:

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to go into Executive Session for the exception cited; Alderman Clark seconded.

5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

24. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to adjourn; Alderman Clark seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 voice vote. Aye: Geenen, Clark, Mayberry, Spurgetis, Tollenaer, and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Schipp.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

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Judith H. Gilbert, City Clerk