

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

2/10/2020 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:49 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Thoms asked the Deputy Clerk to call the roll.

Present: Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderman Dylan Parker, Alderman Mark Poulos, Alderman Dave Geenen, Alderman Randy Hurt, and Alderman James Spurgetis.

Absent: Alderwoman Jenni Swanson

Staff: City Manager Randy Tweet, City Attorney Dave Morrison, Deputy Clerk Josh Adams, and other City staff.

Alderman Ivory D. Clark notified the City through City Manager Randy Tweet that he would not be physically present for the meeting tonight due to health issues, and made a request to participate remotely per City ordinance.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to allow Alderman Clark to participate in the Council meeting remotely; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, and Spurgetis. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson

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. Public Comment

Mayor Thoms asked Jerry Schreiner, owner of Vander Vending to speak. Mr. Schreiner introduced himself and asked why Rock Island was inhospitable to businesses. He directed his comments to Alderman Parker, saying he felt singled out. He asked why Alderman Parker complained about pallets and parked cars outside of his business. He said he was fined \$650 for having employees parking on grass. He said as he drives in Rock Island, he sees pallets and debris in other places. He asked Alderman Parker if the complaints were personal due to his politics, and noted that he felt it was harassment. He said he will be building another facility, but it will be in Iowa due to these issues.

Alderman Parker apologized that Mr. Schreiner felt the way he did. He said he brings about a number of code violations with frequency that could be confirmed by City Manager Tweet and City Staff. Alderman Parker said he has not contacted the City about Mr. Schreiner's business since the previous year, and that his business was not the only one about which he contacted City staff for parking on the grass. Mr. Schreiner said he has given direction regarding these violations, but he cannot control all aspects of what his employees do. Mayor Thoms asked Mr. Schreiner to reconsider the plans to have another business in Iowa, and encouraged him to meet with City staff and himself to resolve these issues. Mr. Schreiner appreciated the Mayor's efforts in helping him find locations to take his business. He reiterated that he tries to control his employees.

Mr. Schreiner said he is trying to improve his property and would like to do more, but does not appreciate being fined after trying to fix the problems. Alderman Parker reiterated his apology and did not want Mr. Schreiner to feel harassed. Mr. Schreiner said he feels like he has done his part to make his business better. Mayor Thoms reminded Mr. Schreiner that the City does use his business for vending.

6. Minutes of the January 27, 2020 meeting.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 voice vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

7. Minutes of the Executive Session of January 27, 2020.

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to approve the Executive Session minutes; Alderman Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 voice vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

8. Update Rock Island by Mayor Thoms

Bi-State Regional Commission Kickoff Meeting - Local officials are working with Bi-State Regional Staff to prepare an update of the Quad Cities long-range transportation plan by early 2021. The Commission is conducting two public open houses to get residents' comments and opinions on what is needed to achieve progress, innovation, and connectivity to the Quad Cities, and to move people and goods safely and efficiently. It will include transportation and economic goals, proposed transportation projects, and other infrastructure/development strategies. The kickoff open house will take comments on what citizens want planned for transportation in 2050. The first meeting is taking place Wednesday, February 12, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Center Station located at 1200 River Drive in Moline. The second meeting is Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Eastern Iowa Community College, located at 101 West 3rd Street in Davenport.

Valentine Moonlight Walk and Indoor Music - Join us February 14, 2020 at Watchtower Lodge at Blackhawk State Historic Site for an event featuring a stroll outside on the luminary lit trail. If it is too cold outside to walk, come in to Watchtower Lodge and keep warm by the fire with fresh donuts and juice, cider, and hot cocoa. Music will be provided by Just For Fun. Drew Nagel will call the contra dancing. The event is free, and is singles, couples, and family friendly. You can call 309-788-9536 or www.blackhawkpark.org.

Tax Preparation Assistance - The MLK Center is a drop-off site for the United Way VITA program. The United Way is offering qualifying individuals and families free tax preparation assistance. Services will begin on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 and will finish on April 11, 2020. Hours are from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

Census - Mayor Thoms reminded that the Census is coming up this year. They are always looking for workers, and it pays twenty-two dollars an hour. You can go to www.census.gov/jobs to apply.

Housing Needs Assessment - The City of Rock Island is completing a housing needs assessment, and is asking Rock Island residents to complete the survey. The survey can be accessed by calling Colleen Small-Vollman at 309-732-2904. There will also be a housing needs assessment public meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Rock Island Township Hall. For more information, call Colleen.

9. Claims

- a. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding payment in the amount of \$18,120.79 to David Morrison of Rock Island, IL for legal services rendered for the month of January 2020.
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding purchase in the amount of \$35,575.00 to G.E.T. Industries Inc. of Caledon, Ontario, Canada, for replacement comminutors for the Southwest Treatment Plant.
- c. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding payment in the amount of \$47,804.23 to Harris Computer System of Chicago, IL for the annual maintenance contract for the Northstar System utility billing software for the year from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.
- d. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding payment in the amount of \$64,082.27 to Harris Computer System of Chicago, IL for the annual maintenance contract for GEMS-FMS/HRMS financial and human resources software for the year from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to accept the reports and authorize payment as recommended for Claims items a through d; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Clark. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

10. Claims for the week of January 24 through January 30, 2020 in the amount of \$471,373.49, for January 31 through February 6, 2020 in the amount of \$579,225.24; and payroll for the week of January 13, 2020 through January 26, 2020 in the amount of \$1,637,858.80.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

11. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the allocation of CY 2020 Gaming Grant funds on December 10, 2019.

Citizen's Advisory Committee Chairman Bill Anderson presented the CY 2020 Gaming Grant fund awards to Council. Mr. Anderson said on December 10, 2019, the CAC made its' final award decision for the 2020 gaming funding in the amount of \$50,000. He said nineteen applications were received. Of the nineteen, there were eight new applications, and one had not applied for several years. All but one applicant received some grant funding. He thanked his committee for their hard work. He thanked Budget and Grants Manager Colleen Small-Vollman for keeping the committee on the straight and narrow. He asked for any questions. Mayor Thoms said it sounds like the committee did a great job and are ready to go. Mr. Anderson thanked Council.

He also said it is rewarding to listen to the non-profit organizations that help the citizens of Rock Island. He said not many people are aware what is available to help others.

(Ms. Small-Vollman later reminded Council that a motion is needed to accept the agreement and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement subject to minor attorney modifications.)

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to authorize the City Manager to execute the funding agreements subject to minor attorney modifications; Alderman Spurgetis seconded; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

12. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a request from the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 to purchase City-owned Parcel 11192-3.

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to table until the meeting on February 24, 2020 so an Executive Session can take place to discuss the matter after the regular session tonight; Alderman Poulos seconded.

Alderman Parker clarified Council could table the vote until after Executive Session at the end of the current meeting, then exit the Executive Session to vote on this report before adjournment. City Attorney Dave Morrison said he was not certain about that possibility, but was not aware of anything to prohibit it. City Manager Randy Tweet said Council could take action on an item outside of Executive Session. Alderman Parker suggested instead of tabling the vote, a motion could be made to place the item at the end of the agenda. Mr. Morrison confirmed this was possible, and a motion could be made to place it after the Executive Session. Alderman Spurgetis said he had no objection to the suggestion. Alderman Poulos withdrew his second, and Alderman Spurgetis withdrew his motion. Alderman Parker recommended the motion be to move item twelve to the end of the agenda before adjournment. He motioned to move item 12 between items 18 and 19. Alderman Geenen seconded that motion. Alderman Parker explained the changes to the public. Mr. Morrison said the measure qualifies for Executive Session as it pertains to land sale or purchase.

Subsequent to the Executive Session, this item was brought back to the regular meeting for vote.

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to offer the sale to the above party and authorize the City Manager to execute the Letter of Intent, and direct Staff to draft a purchase agreement for future Council action; Alderman Parker seconded.

Alderman Spurgetis asked if this party was the only one interested in purchasing this parcel. Mayor Thoms said yes, as another previously interested party with first right of refusal opted out.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

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

13. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the 2020 through 2022 Economic Development Services Agreement with the Development Association of Rock Island.

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to accept the agreement and direct the City Manager to execute the contract subject to minor attorney modifications; Alderman Poulos seconded.

Alderman Parker asked for a summary on this measure. Economic Development Manager

Tarah Sipes and a representative of DARI. Ms. Sipes said Staff has worked with DARI staff to discuss ways to partner in order to meet goals from Council. She said the agreement is still pending to work on some finer points to ensure everything is agreeable. Ms. Sipes said Staff would work in closer collaboration with DARI to ensure everyone is providing proper services to businesses in Rock Island, to enhance those services, and to gather data to implement programs or assistance. DARI CFO Cindy Berg said the collaboration is meant to give businesses one place to go for assistance. Ms. Berg said there will be positions available once the collaboration begins. Mayor Thoms commended both organizations for working together. Alderman Spurgetis said he read the proposal draft and is excited about the prospects. He thanked both for their work. Alderman Parker asked for clarification on the finances behind the agreement. Mr. Tweet said the collaboration is a reallocation of existing funds for DARI or other economic development. Alderman Parker said the agreement listed specific reporting requirements, and would like to be certain tax dollars are spent well. He said a development services agreement is already in place with Quad City First, and when the renewal comes up, the reporting criteria for DARI should be the same for Quad City First. Ms. Sipes said she receives some reporting documents, but would share what she has. Alderman Parker said DARI has an exhaustive report compared to the quarterly report received from Quad City First. Ms. Sipes asked for more patience, and said there should be a back and forth with information. Ms. Berg reiterated that the intent is to provide seamless service.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

14. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding an update to the Community Garden Program.

MOTION:

Alderman Clark moved to approve changes; Alderman Hurt seconded.

Alderman Parker asked Planning and Redevelopment Administrator Miles Brainard to explain the changes. Mr. Brainard said it was the Council's responsibility to move things in parcels of land in and out of the Garden Program as a control, so they have knowledge of what is and what is not part of the program. He showed on a slide the plans for changing the total parcels from 24 to 25. Alderman Parker asked if there was a way for private property owners to enroll in the Program. Mr. Brainard said property is already being used as garden space, and does not recommend any additional action, as the citizens do this on their own. Alderman Geenen asked how unique the Program is to the Quad Cities. Mr. Brainard said the scale is unprecedented in the area. Alderman Parker said he was blown away by the amount of produce being grown. Mr. Brainard said the amount shown on the slide data is not representative of the amount actually grown due to a counting of seeds as opposed to greens of amaranth, as an example. He said 74.2 tons of food were produced on the 24 sites in the Program, at a value of \$517,000, which gives perspective on the scale of activity. Alderman Geenen said the food grown means expendable money in the pockets of the citizens who use it.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

15. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a request to install residential parking on 42nd Avenue between 9th Street and 11th Street from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. during school

days.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

16. Report from the Mayor regarding the appointment of Tionn Fambro Carter to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the appointment as recommended; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 voice vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

17. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Kavanaugh's Hilltop Tavern for an outdoor tented event with live music for the Saint Patrick's Day Parade weekend on Friday, March 13, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 14, 2020 from noon until 11:30 p.m. at 1228 30th Street.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the requests, subject to complying with all liquor license regulations, contacting the Fire Department for fire and safety considerations, and subject to being closed down early if complaints are received; Alderman Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

18. Other Business

Alderman Clark thanked the Council, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board, and the citizens of the 1st Ward for their support and understanding as he deals with cancer. He said he could not attend Council meetings due to his health, but appreciated the support that Council has shown. He specifically thanked Mayor Thoms for checking on him and his support. He thanked Alderman Spurgetis for the tomatoes, and reiterated his appreciation to Council for their support.

Alderman Parker thanked Deputy Clerk Josh Adams for his contribution on an interim basis functioning as City Clerk.

19. Executive Session:

(Added per the request of the City Attorney)

5 ILCD 120/2 (6) The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the City.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 voice vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis.
Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

20. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to adjourn: Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 voice vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt, and Spurgetis.
Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Josh Adams, Deputy Clerk