

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
February 22, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3rd Floor
1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL**

2/22/2021 - Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY AUDIO AND VIDEO CONFERENCE WITHOUT A PHYSICALLY PRESENT QUORUM OF THE ROCK ISLAND CITY COUNCIL DUE TO THE DISASTER DECLARATION ISSUED BY GOVERNOR PRITZKER

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tem Randy Hurt asked Interim City Clerk Linda Mohr to call the roll.

Present: Alderman Randy Hurt, Alderwoman Jenni Swanson, and Alderman Mark Poulos.

Alderman Ivory D. Clark, Alderman James Spurgetis, Alderman Dylan Parker, and Alderman Dave Geenen were present via remote connection in accordance with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order.

Absent: Mayor Mike Thoms.

Staff: City Manager Randy Tweet, Interim City Clerk Linda Mohr, Library Director Angela Campbell, Public Works Director Mike Bartels, Utilities Superintendent Jason Upton, and other City staff.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Library Director Angela Campbell began discussing an update on the Library. She presented the 4-10 Report, which is required in writing from the Board of Trustees by State statute. The Board approved the full report at their February 16, 2021 regular meeting, and in accordance with the statute, it was submitted within 60 days after the close of the calendar year to the City Manager, City Clerk, and Finance Director.

Ms. Campbell discussed revenues and expenditures for the Library in CY 2020. She noted a variance in projected numbers and actual numbers due to the performance project bond. She showed a graph that detailed how the Library receives and spends funding. She noted the Library is 88 percent tax-funded from local and state taxes. Seven percent is from the sales of an asset to the 30/31 location.

Ms. Campbell next discussed expenditures. She noted the personnel cost is kept low, which includes benefits, but does make up 65 percent of expenditures. Other expenditures include services, supplies, transfers, and encumbrances. She provided financial stats for the past six years with personnel, including full and part-time staff. She detailed the past six years of supplies, including office materials, computers, and ground supplies. She discussed the past six years of service costs, including maintenance contracts, electronic library materials, databases, licensing, and certifications. She concluded expenditures with other costs, including

physical library materials, continuing education dues, and promotional items. She said comparisons to 2020 would not be applicable due to the pandemic. She concluded by discussing circulation stats at the Library and extensions of services. She listed a sample of current partners for the Library.

Ms. Campbell continued by discussing fund requirements for CY 2022. She said the Board determined the fund requirement as \$2,866,007, which is \$269,726 higher than the expected CY 2021 revenues. She said the levy would be dependent upon the Equalized Assessed Value, and it is currently unknown what the levy would need to be to have revenues increased. She explained some reasons for the increase, and noted the difference in property tax revenue for 2021. She discussed what the 2021 deficit is reflective of, including flat funding and the bond repayment for HVAC improvements. She added the Library had previously managed budget constraints through downsizing staff, bulk ordering, and other methods.

Ms. Campbell discussed what the Library would request for CY 2022. The total funding requested is \$269,726, which includes increases to negate 2021 and previous year's deficits, and to offset cost-of-living increases. She explained what the Library would do with the additional funding, specifically equitable access.

Ms. Campbell introduced the statement of accumulations and liabilities. She said there is a 90-day working cash reserve per the City's financial policy, and an assigned reserve fund for building projects. She added that the liabilities are the 2020 bonds for revitalizing the HVAC and wiring for the Downtown Library.

Ms. Campbell discussed what was new for 2020 and the responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted the success of the Library2Go Mobile Library program, which allowed for Census outreach and hosting special events. She explained the newer methods developed as a result of the pandemic, including eCards, curbside delivery, online card application and renewal, and ROCKFi accessibility for RIMSD students. Ms. Campbell concluded by summarizing the benefits of the Library as an essential City service.

Alderwoman Swanson thanked the Library and staff for adapting to the pandemic and new situations. She said the City is fortunate to have the Library and they deserve an increase each year. Ms. Campbell thanked Council for their time.

PUBLIC WORKS PRESENTATION ON PFAS IN DRINKING WATER

Public Works Director Mike Bartels came up to introduce Utilities Superintendent Jason Upton for a discussion on PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) and involvement with drinking water. He said Mr. Upton oversees both the water and wastewater facilities. He also introduced Travis Matlick, Plant Manager at the City's new water plant. Mr. Upton noted that the State examined the issue and has begun to draft guidelines and regulations regarding limits and treatment. He provided definitions and properties for what PFAS is and labeled it as an emerging contaminant. He noted that the State examined the issue and has begun to draft guidelines and regulations regarding limits and treatment.

Mr. Upton discussed the health effects of PFAS. Once they are absorbed, they are slow to be expunged, and researchers are continuing to work at understanding the effects on human health. Current studies have suggested a number of negative effects resulting from PFAS exposure. He explained the sources of these materials, which originate in facilities such as airports, oil refineries, landfill leachates, and wastewater. He discussed the distribution of PFAS from the original sources to human exposure.

Mr. Upton then explained the timeline of the production and regulation of PFAS and related

chemicals. He said there was a public push for more stringent levels of chemicals in the drinking water, which pushed the Illinois EPA to perform testing around the state. He noted this was a nationwide push as well, not just for Illinois. He added the next step for the State to set a regulatory amount is to go through the pollution control board, who would then present the science as to why they recommend the limits as a health advisory. He said the results of Rock Island's testing were received in late January 2021, and showed the City over the minimum amount of 2 parts per trillion.

Mr. Upton discussed the EPA recommendations on how to proceed after the report. He said neither the Illinois or US EPA have developed enforceable drinking water standards for PFAS as of yet. In the interim, the Illinois EPA developed health-based Draft Guidance Levels for the small number of PFAS for which there is appropriate information. He explained the Draft Guidance Levels are intended to be protective of all people consuming the water over a lifetime of exposure. He noted Draft Guidance Levels are not regulatory limits for drinking water. He added PFAS in drinking water is not only a Rock Island or regional concern, as water systems nationwide could be impacted by PFAS.

Mr. Upton said the point of the presentation was to provide current information to Council. He noted a press statement is in the works, but is meant to be a collaborative effort with neighboring municipalities. He summarized that the City plans to follow IEPA recommendations to communicate the testing information to the community, continue to work collaboratively with neighboring water systems, and to conduct monitoring of the Mississippi River water and finished water, as well as look into treatment alternatives to reduce concentrations of the aforementioned chemicals in the public water supply. He pointed out a link to the IEPA for additional information.

Alderman Poulos asked how often the City planned to test. Mr. Upton said the City has always tested for the chemicals in question, but one recommendation is to do quarterly sampling done through an outside source. He noted Staff was working with the cities of Moline and East Moline to develop testing to defray costs. Alderwoman Swanson asked if neighboring cities had similar testing results. Mr. Upton pointed to the Drinking Water Watch website to see other municipalities' information on testing levels. Alderman Parker asked what the current abatement was for PFAS. Mr. Upton replied it was an added process, and might be possible by putting in a different carbon filter, but there was a limited lifespan for them. He noted there are remediation measures for PFAS that could be added to the water plant, but he was not sure how effective they would be, and the science agreed. Mr. Upton concluded his presentation.

Josh Adams, Deputy City Clerk