

CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

4/26/2021 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. 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

3. Roll Call

Mayor Thoms asked Interim City Clerk Linda Mohr to call the roll.

Present: Mayor Mike Thoms and Alderman Mark Poulos.

Alderman Randy Hurt, Alderman James Spurgetis, Alderwoman Jenni Swanson, and Alderman Dylan Parker were present via remote connection in accordance with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order.

Absent: Alderman Ivory D. Clark and Alderman Dave Geenen.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

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

5. Moment of Silence

Mayor Thoms requested a moment of silence. A moment of silence was observed.

6. Public Comment

Mayor Thoms asked if any residents wished to speak via remote connection. No residents volunteered to speak.

7. Minutes of the April 12th, 2021 City Council Meeting.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

8. Update Rock Island by Mayor Thoms

Grow a Reader this Spring at the Rock Island Public Library – The Rock Island Public Library’s “Grow a Reader” giving campaign is still going on with donation “trees” on display at the Downtown and Southwest Libraries. This drive is designed to help crowd-fund young people between the ages of 6 and 18 with an account balance a new start back to the library. The donation drive lasts until May 29.

The Downtown and Southwest Libraries are open for inside browsing and borrowing with a properly-worn mask. Public computers and inside Wi-Fi tables are available for one hour with an appointment. Library hours are 9:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday-Friday, and 9:00 am to Noon on Saturday. Cardholders with expired accounts can renew online or in person.

For more information about Rock Island Public Library events and services, visit the Rock Island Library website, www.rockislandlibrary.org, or call 309-732-READ. Rock Island Library events are also listed on Facebook and at Burbio.com.

Summer Sports Camps – Get your kids active this summer and sign up for sports camps for all skill levels. Registration will be limited to help ensure quality experience the camps. For complete information you will find the Parks and Recreation Summer Activity Guide online at www.rigov.org or pick up a copy at the Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center at 4303 24th Street.

Free Leaf Collection Program – As a reminder, this will be the last week for the Spring Free Leaf Collection Program. The program ends April 30th. If you are interested in continuing this service throughout the year, please contact our Public Works Department or check our website www.rigov.org for more information on the City’s Yard Waste Collection Program.

9. Proclamation declaring April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day in the City of Rock Island.

Interim City Clerk Linda Mohr read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration.

10. Proclamation declaring April, 2021 as Fair Housing Month in the City of Rock Island.

Interim City Clerk Linda Mohr read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration.

11. Finance Department's Presentation of the 4th Quarter Financial Management Report.

Interim Finance Director Linda Barnes presented the 2020 4th Quarter Financial Management Report. She began with the revenues, expenditures, and net position as of December 31, 2020. She discussed were Governmental Funds, Proprietary Funds, Fiduciary Funds, and Component Units.

Ms. Barnes next discussed the State and Local Tax Revenue. She noted the City had a revenue loss of \$3.4 million in 2020 in part due to the pandemic. She explained the analysis of tax revenues including income, replacement, sales, local option sales, use, telecommunications, food and beverage, and gaming taxes. She then discussed general expenditures by department in the City. She noted the budget reductions from personnel, supplies, and services. She followed with the management report showing monthly investment totals as of December 31, 2020. She noted the distribution of investments in the City, as well as and percentage of investments with financial institutions.

Mayor Thoms asked if Council had questions, and there were none.

12. A Special Ordinance establishing a No Parking Zone on the east and west side of 33rd Street, 50 feet North of 17th Avenue and 50 feet South of 17th Avenue - Second Reading (amended).

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to pass the ordinance; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

13. A Special Ordinance establishing a Handicapped Parking Space at 2049 46th Street, Rock Island - Second Reading.

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to pass the ordinance; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

14. A Special Ordinance establishing a Handicapped Parking Space at 1024 22nd Street, Rock Island - Second Reading.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to approve the ordinance; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

15. A Special Ordinance limiting the parking on the North side of 25th Avenue by Rock Island High School and establishing pick up and drop off lanes - Second Reading.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the ordinance; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

16. A Special Ordinance authorizing the sale of City-owned property described as 3110 10th Street, Rock Island, IL, Parcel 102639, PIN # 1611301043, to Deborah Neely for \$800.00 plus closing costs - Second Reading.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to approve the ordinance; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

17. A Special Ordinance authorizing the sale of City-owned properties described as 1419 11th Street, Parcel 094294, PIN # 1602128004 and 1425-1427 11th Street, Parcel 094296, PIN #1602128025, to Othea Stevenson of Shiloh, IL for \$2,531.00 plus closing costs - Second Reading.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the ordinance; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

18. Claims

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Langman Construction, Inc., Rock Island, IL, in the amount of \$13,299.59 for an emergency water main repair at 1717 31st Street.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to allow the claims; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 4-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

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

19. Claims for the week of April 2 through April 8, 2021 in the amount of \$520,220.68; April 9th through April 15th, 2021 in the amount of \$755,099.60; and payroll for the weeks of March 22 through April 4, 2021 in the amount of \$1,527,336.28.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

20. ACH report for the month of March, 2021 in the amount of \$866,607.65.

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to approve the ACH payments; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

21. Purchase Card Claims for the period of February 27th through March 26th, 2021 in the amount of \$45,484.75.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to approve the purchase card claims; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

22. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the bid for the 2021 Weed and Grass Compliance Contract, recommending the bid be awarded to Finer Finish Grounds Care LLC, Newark, IL for the amount of \$47.00 per hour.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to award the bid as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

23. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the bid for the 2021 Tree Trimming and Removal Contract, recommending the bid be awarded to Advantage Tree Services LLC, Davenport, IA, in the amount of \$80,301.88.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to award the bid as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

Alderman Spurgetis asked if the City had a working definition of what a dangerous or dead tree was. Mr. Tweet said there is an expert in the Parks and Recreation Department that could offer a review. Planning and Redevelopment Administrator Miles Brainard came to the front and noted Advantage Tree Service is led by a licensed arborist that could make the determination. Alderman Spurgetis said there were many dying or dead trees in the City, and would like an ordinance to be considered in the future, as they can cause significant damage. Mr. Brainard added planning for tree management had been carefully considered by Staff, but the opportunity to focus on a measure addressing the issue had not yet come to pass.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

24. Report from the Public Works Department requesting a one year contract extension without bid to Utility Equipment Co., Bettendorf, IA with the same pricing and specifications as in 2020 and authorization to purchase the Cutting-In Water Valves for 2021 at a cost not to exceed \$36,008.00.

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to approve the 1 year contract extension and the purchase as recommended; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

25. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the bid for two-bolt wide range couplings recommending the bid be awarded to Utility Equipment Company, Bettendorf, IA for \$19,938.00.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to award the bid as recommended; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

26. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the bid for the Motor Fuel Tax funded Blackhawk Hills Dr and River Heights Road Reconstruction project, recommending the bid be awarded to Langman Construction, Rock Island, IL in the amount of \$679,835.74.

MOTION:

Alderman Swanson moved to award the bid as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

Alderman Swanson asked why the engineering estimates were higher than the awarded bid, and if more of the road in question could be finished. Public Works Director Mike Bartels joined via remote connection and said the department is looking to extend the project, and have been in contact with the State. He said they are allowed to extend the contract or increase the price by 25 percent, and there are plans to extend the project eastward from Blackhawk Hills to Valley View Drive. He noted the department would like to increase the project by as much as \$170,000.

Alderman Swanson asked if necessary markers such as stop signs and speed limit signs would also be replaced. Mr. Bartels replied the contract does not include that, but Public Works would replace anything where necessary following the project.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 4-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

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

27. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the Andalusia Road City-owned property farm lease agreement with Andrew Kordik.

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to approve the lease agreement as recommended, subject to minor City Attorney modifications, and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

28. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the Big Island City-owned property farm lease agreement with Scot Doxstader.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the lease agreement as recommended, subject to minor City Attorney modifications, and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

29. Report from the City Attorney's office regarding an amendment of ordinance entitled Commencement of Terms of Office.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

30. Report from the Parks Department regarding a Highway Resolution for the closure of 1st Avenue between 17th Street and 20th Street on Saturday, July 3rd, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., along with a rain date of Sunday, July 4th, 2021, for a Fireworks Display and Concert at Schwiebert Riverfront Park.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to adopt the resolution as recommended; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

31. Report from the Finance Department recommending the transfer of lockbox processing services from Promotional Support Services to First Midwest Bank.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to approve the transfer of the lockbox services to First Midwest Bank; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

32. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment, transferring the HUD CDBG grant balances from Pre-2015, PY 2018 and PY 2019 to the Community Development Block Grant Fund (242) budget for CY 21 increasing it by \$428,187.85.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

33. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment, increasing the Community Development Block Grant Fund (242) budget for CY 21 by \$67,182.75 to cover project costs for the Fire Engine House #5 Rehabilitation.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

34. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding a request for a handicapped parking space at 2022 43rd Street, Rock Island - First Reading.

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to approve the request as recommended and consider the ordinance; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

35. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding the appointment of a new Interim City Clerk.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to approve the appointment as recommended; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

Alderman Parker asked for the name of the incoming Interim City Clerk for the public. Mayor Thoms replied current Deputy City Clerk Josh Adams would be taking the position.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

36. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Greater Antioch Baptist Church, 929 - 14th Street, for sound amplification and to close off 10th Avenue between 14th Street and 14th 1/2 Street on Sunday, May 9th and Sunday, May 23rd, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for outdoor church services on those days.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the street closing and sound amplifications requests as recommended; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

37. Report from the City Clerk's Office regarding a request from the Augustana College Office of Public Safety to close off the 3400 block of 9th Avenue and 3400 block of 9th 1/2 Avenue on Wednesday, May 19th, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for an Employee Block Party.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to approve the street closings as recommended; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

38. Other Business

Mayor Thoms thanked volunteers for their work in helping with downtown cleaning through the Beautification Commission. He encouraged citizens to contact Council if they wished to help in those efforts in the future. He then noted the reopening of Billy Bob's downtown over the previous weekend, and said there was increased activity in the area. He summarized the first meeting of the downtown task force under the leadership of Director Jack Cullen, and said it consisted of a meet and greet as well as a discussion of items they wished to accomplish in the near future. Alderman Poulos asked if Mr. Cullen's email was on the City's website. Mr. Tweet said he would make sure it was placed there.

Alderman Parker added the Chamber of Commerce was in the process of taking over the Downtown Rock Island Partnership website from DARI, and Mr. Cullen's contact information would be listed there.

Mayor Thoms said the law office of John Callas has provided office space for Mr. Cullen to use until there is open space elsewhere.

Alderman Hurt thanked outgoing Aldermen Clark and Spurgetis for their service to the City and their help. Mayor Thoms noted the May 10, 2021 Council meeting would include welcoming of new Council members and farewell to outgoing members.

Alderman Spurgetis thanked Mr. Hurt for his kind words, and said he planned to have additional comments at the May 10, 2021 meeting.

39. Executive Session:

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to go into Executive Session for the reasons cited; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay:

None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

40. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to adjourn; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay:
None. Absent: Clark and Geenen.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Josh Adams, Deputy City Clerk