

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

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

5/22/2023 - Minutes

**1. Call To Order**

- a. Oath of Office - Alderperson Randy Hurt.

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Clerk Gange administered the oath of office to Second Ward Alderperson Randy Hurt.

- b. Motion whether or not to allow Alderperson Dylan Parker to participate in the City Council Meeting via remote connection in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/7.

RC                      Roll Call vote is needed.

Mayor Thoms announced the removal of this item from the agenda.

**2. Roll Call**

Mayor Thoms asked City Clerk Samantha Gange to call the roll.

Present: Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderpersons Moses Robinson, Randy Hurt, Judith Gilbert, Jenni Swanson, Mark Poulos, and Bill Healy.

Absent: Alderperson Parker.

Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, Attorney Dave Morrison, City Clerk Samantha Gange, and other City Staff.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**4. Moment of Silence**

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

## 5. Public Comment

Ray Lind, resident of Rock Island, addressed the Council regarding the Black Hawk statue. He thanked Council members for taking a pause in deciding how to proceed with the statue. He said he contacted the group that wanted the statue destroyed and did not receive a response. He indicated he had contacted Mr. Chaney and Mr. Vallejo, who are in favor of the statue being restored and displayed in Rock Island for educational purposes. He opined that the City should honor their request as well as all of the other stakeholders who have called, messaged, and posted about restoring the statue in Rock Island.

Rudy Vallejo addressed the Council. He said he grew up in the Quad Cities and never felt degraded because he was an American Indian. He opined the Black Hawk statue should be restored and put back up somewhere in Rock Island where it belongs.

## 6. Minutes

- a. Minutes from the May 8, 2023 Study Session and City Council Meeting.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the minutes as printed.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to approve the minutes as printed; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

## 7. Awards and Honor Presentations, Officer Swearing in Ceremony, and Proclamations

- a. Awards Presentation from the Rock Island Preservation Society.

Linda Anderson of the Rock Island Preservation Society approached the podium to give an awards presentation. The first award was presented to the Rock Island Parks & Recreation Department for the restoration of the Helen Horst Memorial Bench at Longview Park. Parks and Recreation Director John Gripp and resident Tom Sparkman, who assisted with the project, accepted the award and a picture was taken with Mayor Thoms.

Ms. Anderson recognized Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church for restoration and protection of stained glass. She recognized the congregation of the church for taking on the restoration project. Christopher Mandel and Tim Smith, Trustees of Sacred Heart came forward to accept the award and take a picture with Mayor Thoms.

Next, Ms. Anderson recognized David and Karen Evans for the exterior restoration at 2613 13th Avenue. Jacob Evans, son of the owners, came forward to accept the award and take a picture with Mayor Thoms.

Ms. Anderson presented the final preservation award to Bryan Patschull and David Cordes for the restoration of the Smythe-Jackson House at 824 20th Street. A picture was taken with Mayor Thoms.

## **8. Update Rock Island**

### **Kick off your summer at the swimming pool**

Whitewater Junction opens this Saturday, May 27 for its 20th summer season! Grab your swimsuit and head out Memorial Day weekend with your family or friends to Rock Island's premier swimming pool to ride down the water slides or swim in the zero-depth to nine-foot-deep pool. Season passes and punch cards are available. Whitewater Junction has family fun for everyone.

### **Calling all book lovers**

The Rock Island Public Library will hold its monthly book sale this Friday, May 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the downtown branch, 401 19th Street. Stop by and grab some bargains while building up your personal reading stockpile.

### **Community Block Party**

Come meet your fellow neighbors at a community block party this Saturday, May 27th at 1 p.m. at 10th Avenue and 14th Street. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy music, food and fellowship. Contact Alderman Moses Robinson for more information at 309-737-1081.

## **9. Special Presentations**

### **a. Finance Department's Presentation of the 1st Quarter Financial Management Report**

Finance Director Linda Barnes presented the 2023 1st Quarter Financial Management Report. Ms. Barnes reported that the audit is underway and will be presented to City Council on June 26, 2023. She provided an overview of the revenues, expenditures, and net position as of March 31, 2023 for all funds, as well as an analysis of major state and local tax revenues. She noted the benchmark for revenues and expenditures for the 1st quarter is 25%. Additionally, Ms. Barnes provided detailed information about the General Fund, Gaming Revenues, Debt Service Fund, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Governmental Funds, Proprietary Funds, Fiduciary Funds, and Component Units.

Next, Ms. Barnes discussed the State and Local Tax Revenue and noted the City's revenue was below target due to pending property taxes anticipated to be received by the county in June. She explained the analysis of tax revenues including income, replacement, sales, local option sales, use, municipal utility, telecommunications, food and beverage, and gaming taxes. She provided information about general expenditures by City departments. Ms. Barnes followed with the management report showing monthly investment totals as of March 31, 2023. She noted the distribution of investments in the City, as well as the percentage of investments in financial institutions. She provided an overview of the personal property tax replacement revenue, which is expected to decline in CY 2023 by 28%. However, revenue is expected to

continue to be higher than the five-year average.

In response to questions by Alderperson Gilbert regarding when the tax rebate first started for the Garden District and how many years remain on it as well as how many more years the City has left to pay for the \$570,000 in debt for the hydroelectric plant; Ms. Barnes responded she would research the information and report back.

## 10. Consent Agenda

All items under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by a single motion and subsequent roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless an Alderperson so requests, in which case, the item will be moved from the Consent Agenda and considered as the first item after approval of the Consent Agenda.

- a. Claims for the week of April 28 through May 5, 2023 in the amount of \$1,293,357.05; for the week of May 6 through May 11, 2023 in the amount of \$2,550,252.03; and payroll for the weeks of April 17 through April 30, 2023 in the amount of \$1,657,528.00.
- b. International City/County Management Association (ICMA) claims for the week of April 28 through May 5, 2023 in the amount of \$33,983.77.
- c. ACH payments for the month of April 2023 in the amount of \$804,490.21.
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$13,034.00 to CDM Smith, Chicago, IL for the Mill Street Plant Anaerobic Digester Maintenance Project.
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$51,609.00 to Johnson Controls, Inc., Moline, IL for measurement and verification services provided from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023.
- f. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department recommending approval of the Bayne Subdivision No. 4 final plat.
- g. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding an update on the Strong Communities Grant.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve Consent Agenda items a through g.  
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Swanson moved to approve consent agenda items a through g; Alderperson Healy seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Robinson asked why the motions did not appear on the new agenda system.

Clerk Gange indicated she would ensure the motions appeared on the agenda for the next meeting.

Aldersperson Gilbert referenced item e regarding Johnson Controls. She noted they started the measurement and verification services in September 2022 and asked how often Johnson Controls will provide the City with a report. Public Works Director Mike Bartels responded that the contract indicates an annual report for a three-year period. In response to a question from Aldersperson Gilbert about whether or not a quarterly report could be provided, Mr. Bartels said the contract requires Johnson Controls to provide the City with an annual report within 60 days of each anniversary. He said he would be meeting with them soon and would ask if a report before the one-year is a possibility. Aldersperson Swanson asked if Johnson Controls would be presenting the annual report to City Council. Mr. Bartels responded affirmatively.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

## 11. Claims

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #4 in the amount of \$71,959.32 to Langman Construction, Inc, Rock Island, IL for services provided during the period of March 4 through March 31, 2023 as part of the Downtown Parking Garage and Parking Lot (Project 2847).
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 in the amount of \$128,120.15 to Langman Construction, Rock Island, IL for services provided for the period of March 20 to April 18, 2023 as part of the 11th Street Water Main Replacement (Project CRI #2736).
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 in the amount of \$105,153.78 to Five Cities Construction, Coal Valley, IL for services provided during the period of March 24 through April 15, 2023 as part of the 37th Avenue & 46th Street Reconstruction (Project 2606).
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 and final in the amount of \$134,910.88 to Denler, Inc, Joliet, IL for construction services on the 2023 Street Joint & Crack Program (Project 2376).

Motion: Motion whether or not to allow claims a through d.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to allow claim items a through d; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Healy remarked on the great job Five Cities Construction is doing on the 37th Avenue and 46th

Street reconstruction project.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

## 12. Contracts / Agreements

- a. Report from the Public Works Department recommending city staff negotiate a contract with Ferguson Waterworks, DeKalb, IL for Automated Water Meter Reading (AMR), Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI), and Residential Water Meters RFQ.

Motion: Motion whether or not to authorize city staff to negotiate a contract with Ferguson Waterworks.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to authorize City staff to negotiate a contract with Ferguson Waterworks; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Gilbert asked Mr. Bartels to discuss the timeline, scope and funding for the project. Mr. Bartels said this project is phased over five (5) years and there is an estimated 14,000 meters total that needs to be replaced throughout the City, which equates to replacing approximately 1,500 to 2,000 meters per year over the five-year period. The funding includes \$1.5M in ARPA funds for the first phase of the project and then, for the subsequent years, they will budget for the remaining cost of the project in the water fund. Aldersperson Gilbert remarked that moving towards monthly billing would be a tremendous help to the residents. She asked if the City planned to implement monthly billing as the water meters are replaced or wait until the entire project is complete. Mr. Bartels responded that this project is also tied with the overall software project, which is at least two years away from full implementation. Because the monthly billing will be tied to the new software, it is best to wait until all the meters have been updated.

VOTE:

Motion Passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

- b. Report from General Administration regarding a three-month contract extension with David Morrison for legal services.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the contract extension as recommended.  
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the contract extension as recommended; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

City Manager Todd Thompson clarified that the contract extension is for four months, not three months as the agenda indicates.

VOTE:

Motion Passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

- c. Report from General Administration regarding an agreement with Streamline Architects for architectural services and the conceptual design phase for City Hall not to exceed \$9,680.00.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the agreement as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents.  
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the agreement as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion Passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

- d. Report from the Parks and Recreation Department regarding bids for the Sunset Park Campground Feasibility Study RFP recommending the bid be awarded to Campground Consulting Group, Meredith, NH in the amount of \$31,800.00 plus travel expenses.

Motion: Motion whether or not to award the contract and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents.  
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to award the contract as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

Aldersperson Gilbert remarked the amount is actually \$31,800 plus a four percent administrative fee as well as travel expenses. Parks and Recreation Director John Gripp responded that was correct and the agenda item should have reflected the administrative fee. He said the travel expenses would be minimal and the total additional fees equate to approximately \$3,500.

Aldersperson Gilbert asked what funds would be used for this project. Mr. Gripp and Mr. Thompson responded that either ARPA funds (Sunset Marina \$1M allocation) or reserve funds would be used.

VOTE:

Motion Passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

- e. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding a Resolution approving an amended employment agreement with City Manager Todd Thompson.

Motion: Motion whether or not to adopt the resolution and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the Resolution and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

Motion Passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

### 13. Ordinances with Reports from Departments

- a. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 906 7th Avenue (PIN 0734453002) to Christopher Rice for \$642.50 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the sale as recommended; authorize the City Manager to execute the sales agreements, and consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to approve the sale as recommended, authorize the City Manager to execute the sales agreements, suspend the rules, consider and pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

- b. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 3916 6th Street (PIN 1615202039) to the Phoenix Housing Group, LLC of 618 Boston Drive, Davenport, IA for \$1.00 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion whether or not approve the sale as recommended; authorize the City whether or not Manager to execute the sales agreement, and consider the ordinance (First Reading)

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to approve the sale as recommended; authorize the City Manager to execute the sales agreements, suspend the rules, consider and pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion Passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

- c. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the consolidation of the six boards of appeal into a single Inspections Commission. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the consolidation and consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to approve the consolidation and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Healy asked Mr. Brainard if the members serving on the various boards have been contacted. Mr. Brainard responded that several of these boards have never met and some of the members have forgotten about their appointment to a board. The intention of this consolidation is to get a more meaningful panel of citizen experts and business experts. All members will be invited to complete an application and have the opportunity to determine if they would like to continue serving.

VOTE:

Motion Passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

#### 14. Resolutions with Reports from Departments

- a. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding a Resolution adopting the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) -Funded Economic Development Programs

Motion:

Motion whether or not to authorize the use of unrestricted ARPA funding towards the proposed programs, approve the proposed business assistance programs, authorize the City Manager to execute qualified development agreements, and adopt the Resolution.

RC

Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to authorize the use of unrestricted ARPA funding towards the proposed programs, approve the proposed business assistance programs, authorize the City Manager to execute qualified development agreements, and adopt the Resolution; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Brainard addressed the Council and remarked they have a current waiting list of approximately 54 businesses interested in applying for these programs. The department would like to make the application available as quickly as possible with June 1, 2023 as the target date. Economic Development Manager Tarah Sipes said she has been communicating the status of the programs to all businesses on the waiting list and will update them following the conclusion of the Council meeting. She said the economic development team has been encouraging prospective applicants to begin gathering information relevant to their projects, such as bids, impacts on their business, job creation, etc. Once the application is launched, the economic development team will hold workshops to assist with the application process and share the new digital business platform. She noted paper applications would also be available.

In response to a question from Aldersperson Healy about how the new programs will be communicated and advertised, Ms. Sipes said she would be working with Community Engagement Manager Sarah Hayden.

VOTE:

Motion Passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

- b. A Resolution approving an amended employment agreement with the City Manager and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract documents.

Motion: Motion whether or not to adopt the resolution and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract documents.  
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to adopt the Resolution and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract documents; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

**15. Budget/Finance Items**

- a. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment increasing the Community and Economic Development Fund (207) revenue and expenditure budgets for CY 2023 by \$300,000.
  
- b. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment (line of credit drawdown) increasing the Parks and Recreation Fund (555) revenue and expenditures budgets for CY 2023 by \$300,000 for the Highland Springs Clubhouse Project.
  
- c. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment increasing the Sunset Marina Fund (541) revenue and expense and decreasing the General Fund (101) expense budgets for CY 2023 by \$249,800 for engineering services.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve budget adjustment items a through c.  
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve budget adjustment items a through c; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Gilbert asked if the Sunset Marina engineering contract would be on the next Council agenda to be voted on. Mr. Thompson responded affirmatively.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None.

Absent: Parker.

## 16. Department Reports

- a. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding a request to approve \$320,000.00 in budgeted American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for Broadband Fiber Optic Infrastructure Expansion (\$150,000.00), a Video Recording System (\$45,000.00), and a City Camera Network System (\$125,000.00).

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the expenditure of ARPA funds in the amount of \$320,000.00.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the expenditure of ARPA funds in the amount of \$320,000; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

## 17. Traffic Engineering Requests

- a. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding a request from Mary Haynes to install a handicapped parking space in front of her home at 3410 9<sup>th</sup> Street. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the request and consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the request and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

- b. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding a request to remove the handicapped parking space in front of 2923 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the request and consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the request and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

**18. Events**

- a. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Aldersperson Moses Robinson to close 10th Avenue between 14th and 14 1/2 Street on Saturday, May 27, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a block party.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the request as recommended.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the request as recommended; Aldersperson Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

**19. Other Business/New Business**

Aldersperson Gllbert announced that a Third Ward meeting is scheduled to be held on June 19, 2023 in City Council Chambers from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and more details are forthcoming. Residents can also check her blog for more information.

Aldersperson Poulos thanked the inspections department for their efforts in getting some issues fixed with rental properties in the Sixth Ward.

Aldersperson Robinson announced the First Ward block party is being held this Saturday in partnership with the Community Caring Conference and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He invited everyone to attend.

Mayor Thoms remarked the Public Works Department is still finishing up pickup of debris from the storm. Aldersperson Poulos clarified that residents should place debris in the public easement right of way.

Aldersperson Poulos invited everyone to attend the free Backwater Gamblers Ski Shows this coming weekend on Sunday and Monday starting at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Thoms commended Fire Chief Graff for the wonderful memorial service held this past Sunday for the firefighters that have passed away over the years.

**20. Adjourn**

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to Adjourn; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

- a. Motion to Adjourn.

Motion: Motion to adjourn to June 12, 2023.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

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Samantha Gange, City Clerk