

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING SESSION**

**June 18, 2018
MINUTES**

The Rock Island City Council met at 5:00 p.m. in the Dennis E. Pauley Community Room at the Rock Island Police Station at 1212 5th Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois for the second meeting of their annual Goal Setting session. Present were Mayor Mike Thoms presiding, and Aldermen Joshua Schipp, Dave Geenen, Ivory D. Clark, Virgil J. Mayberry, James Spurgetis, Stephen L. Tollenaer, and Dylan Parker. Also present were City Manager Randy Tweet, Human Resources Director John Thorson, and City Clerk Judith Gilbert.

City Manager Randy Tweet distributed an information sheet with research on the plastic bag fee. He said staff were still researching the amusement tax.

Council reviewed forty-three staff revenue suggestions: business licenses; review of all fees and services; real estate transfer fee or tax; vacant building registration fee; parking permit rates; late payment penalty fee increase; comprehensive business license function with software to be central hub of information; small cell wireless fee; storage facility door tax; vehicle license fee for street repairs; expansion of fiber optic lease (City's excess capacity); meter charge on irrigation meters, charges for meter tests, and checks for leaks; freezing senior discounts, increasing late charges and reconnect fees or increasing disconnect fees; non-refundable administrative fee for setting up new utility accounts; strategic Business District tax; increase permitting fees to be on par with neighboring communities; eliminating merit increases paid to sworn fire personnel; elimination of longevity pay; high-deductible health insurance plan and health savings accounts for employees; sharing Wellness Center with other agencies; annual general wage increases tied to inflation; eliminate contract language of fully funding merit increases to 3%; review alternative staffing models for police and fire departments; review health care plans and alternative options for employees and retirees; review of educational incentives; increase grading and drainage permit fees; increase curb cut fees; increase driveway permit fees; engineering fees charged internally to CIP maintenance projects until deficit is made up; increase lot clean-up minimum fee; increase lot mowing minimum fee; eliminate free special pickups; charge fee for meter test no-shows; fees for private hydrant full service program; flow test fee; sell ad space on garbage cans and vehicles; expedited surcharges for fast permitting; convenience fee for government concierge; a variety of sin taxes (plastic bags, soda, tobacco, alcohol, etc.); and an increase in late fees at the library.

Council discussed golf course fees, deterioration of Lincoln Park, and a recreational vehicle park at Sunset Park. Mr. Tweet will check if Lincoln Park is eligible for CDGB funds.

Mr. Tweet noted the document that had the four City goals with department action steps is a compilation of what staff is doing to work towards the four City goals. Mr. Tweet said if they have any questions regarding the document, they should contact him. The action steps will remain in work.

Mr. Tweet asked for guidance on community infrastructure after last week's study session presentation. Council discussed what infrastructure the city has; laying conduit when street reconstruction is done; what can be done in the newly designated opportunity zones; and wireless versus fiber.

Council reviewed the Council New Action Steps, ideas suggested by aldermen: STAR certification (environmental sustainability review); Firefighters Explorer program; downtown

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Rock Island National Register of Historic Places listing; Rock Island Heritage Tourism plan; neighborhood housing rehabilitation incentives (not tied to income); vacant property registry; absentee landlord ordinance; employees buy-out succession program for businesses; DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) program (disparity study); public participatory budgeting/community enfranchisement; contractor operated passenger ferry or excursion boat; zero interest economic development revolving loan program; economic mobility; Census 2020 fair and accurate count; and renewable energy (community and City infrastructure).

Council also discussed the H.O.M.E. Program; the sprinkler mandate, and the housing task force. Mr. Tweet will bring recommendations for housing incentives. Council discussed a moratorium on title and payday loan businesses and pawn shops; branding the City's water towers; solar energy; and the ESG preliminary study.

The consensus of Council was for the City to go ahead with the engineering study of the replacement of City infrastructure (ex. LED lighting, water meters, HVAC systems, and solar, etc.). Mr. Ermin Arslanagic from Johnson Controls offered his opinion on solar options for the City. He stated community solar is the most attractive option with the most incentives. Johnson Controls would act as a consultant for the City to get bids for solar; they could help with the design and bid. Mr. Arslanagic recommended the City act quickly.

Additional topics discussed were review of/consolidation/expansion of liquor licenses; review of gaming machine license fees; early retirement budget options; potential 5% personnel reduction in departments, the impact on City services, and contractual issues; potential of a Parks district with Moline; and payment of property taxes on Augustana's student rental housing. Mr. Tweet said the budget savings need to be in the General Fund. Mr. Tweet will get more information on a combined Rock Island-Moline Parks district.

Mr. Tweet asked for budget direction from Council. Council discussed the impact of the loss of positions. Mr. Tweet explained service levels would be affected; eliminated positions should not be refilled or there would be no savings. He said staff would make the decisions where positions should be cut. Council discussed the first goal: Financially Sound City Providing High Quality Service and Infrastructure. Mr. Tweet said a 5% reduction in personnel would provide savings of over \$1 million. Council suggested a pie chart with recommendations of various options of fee increases, staff reductions, and property tax increases; Council would choose from the options. The deficit for 2019 is approximately \$4 million. Mr. Tweet said there cannot be a temporary fix; permanent staff reductions are needed for the long-term or an increase in revenue. Council discussed selling off City assets to reduce the City's debt. Mr. Tweet said he would not recommend the 5% reduction, but he will come up with a dollar amount for department directors to come up with whether through staff cuts, other services, and fees.

Mr. Tweet said he will provide a Goal Setting Summary. Budget recommendations won't be ready for awhile.

Note: Alderman Mayberry left at 6:46 p.m. and returned at 7:08 p.m.

The meeting concluded at 9:44 p.m.

Judith H. Gilbert, City Clerk