

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

7/12/2021 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. This meeting will also be conducted by audio and video conference without the requirement of 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 Josh Adams to call the roll.

Present: Alderman Moses Robinson, Alderman Randy Hurt, Alderwoman Judith Gilbert, Alderman Dylan Parker, Alderman Mark Poulos, Alderman Dave Geenen, and Mayor Mike Thoms.

Absent: Alderwoman Jenni Swanson.

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

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Thoms led in the reciting 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 anyone in the public wished to speak.

Rock Island resident Joan Wren addressed Council regarding a request for residential parking on 37th Street between 14th and 12th Avenues. She said a bar is opening in her neighborhood, and the owners had recommended entering the request. She then discussed difficulties regarding the alley near her home turning west, as employees at the nearby Domino's location block the entrance and exit. She noted it was difficult to get in and out of the alley as a result. City Manager Randy Tweet asked if the employees were parking illegally inside the alley or blocking it, as the Police may need to be involved. Ms. Wren asked if the first spot going into the alley could be labeled as no parking. Mr. Tweet directed her to speak with Public Works Director Mike Bartels regarding solutions.

Rock Island resident Thurgood Brooks addressed Council to follow up on the recent Study session regarding the Police Community Relations Committee. He said an amended document had been recently sent to members of Council for review. He requested that a Council member call for the commission measure to be moved onto the agenda for July 26, 2021. He applauded everyone for the work being done and appreciated Council's time.

Rock Island resident Laura Whitman joined via remote connection to address Council regarding an increase in water and sewer rates. She expressed concern regarding a plan to notify homeowners in a timely manner prior to the August deadline. She also asked if there was a way to contact homeowners who need information regarding this matter. Mr. Tweet requested clarification regarding the August deadline. Ms. Whitman said she was told there would be a deadline regarding a rate increase. Mr. Tweet replied there was a proposed increase for August, but that Council had yet to vote on the measure. Ms. Whitman asked how the public would be informed about the matter. Mr. Tweet discussed options for communicating the information. Ms. Whitman thanked him for the information.

7. Minutes of the June 28, 2021 City Council meeting.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

8. Minutes of the June 28, 2021 Executive Session.

MOTION:

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

Mr. Tweet said there was an error in the minutes regarding the two exceptions cited, and would be changed for the official record, but the minutes themselves were correct.

VOTE:

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

9. Update Rock Island

Music and Fun with Babaloo- Rock Island Public Library brings acclaimed family performer Babaloo to Rock Island's Lincoln Park bandshell for a free concert on Thursday, July 15th at 10:30 a.m. The event, which is part of the library's Reading Colors Your World summer activities, is free and open to all ages. Babaloo concerts are a blend of music and comedy, and usually run under an hour. Families should bring lawn chairs or other seating and social distance as needed. There is no rain date.

Black Hawk State Historic Site- The Black Hawk State Historic Site is offering a free event, Close-By Critters, on Saturday July 17th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at Watch Tower Lodge. Discover surprising facts about common animals native to Iowa and Illinois by examining furs and mounted specimens up close. Create a plaster cast of a track made by one of the animals to take home! Space is limited for this free event, so participants must call to preregister at 309-788-9536.

Tell on your Neighbor Awards- Each year, residents of Rock Island are encouraged to "Tell On Your Neighbor" by nominating the yards in their neighborhood that they find to be the most appealing or the most improved. The City of Rock Island's Beautification Commission will review all entries and awards will be announced at the August 23rd City Council meeting. Nominations can be made through August 6th. Digital photos of the nominated yards are required. Send the photo and address of the nominated property to the Community & Economic Development Department via e-mail at [douglass.kathryn@rigov.org](mailto:douglass.kathryn@rigov.org). For questions call (309) 732-2905.

10. Presentation of the Firefighters Pension Fund and Police Pension Fund Preliminary Actuarial Valuations results for January 1, 2021 and Assumption Discussion.

Interim Finance Director Linda Barnes introduced the presentation of the actuarial evaluation results to Council. She summarized the results, and said the presentation would focus on the first twelve pages of the evaluation results. She then introduced the representative from the actuarial firm Nyhart, Sue Simon. Ms. Simon began with an update on the planned consolidation of both the Fire and Police pension funds. She noted that after the consolidation an actuary would likely still be needed to evaluate individual pension plans.

Ms. Simon discussed assumption updates. She noted the recommendation is for the City to continue following the step-down approach. She said the goal of that approach was to eventually be at the 6.5% rate that the Department of Insurance uses to value the tax levy. She then discussed a study conducted by the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems and Cobalt Community Research, which involved data from 138 state and local government pension funds, as well as the key findings from the study. Ms. Simon next

discussed additional aspects of the assumption review, beginning with mortality assumptions, and provided the recommended City contribution of \$4,079,988. She then summarized the 2021 valuation results for the Firefighters Pension Fund in detail.

Alderman Parker asked if the presented results reflected the goal of 31.8 percent funding for the Firefighter Pension Fund. Ms. Simon replied it was 31.8 percent funded now, and when the new contributions are added, the City would reach 90 percent funded in 20 years.

Ms. Simon discussed the Police Pension Fund in detail, and provided the recommended City contribution of \$4,440,359. She explained the difference between active and non-active participants to both funds, and summarized the statistics behind both groups. Alderwoman Gilbert asked for the definition of average plan compensation. Ms. Simon replied it was a salary average of everyone in the plan who is actively working. Alderwoman Gilbert asked how the funds could be sustainable when there are more non-active beneficiaries drawing from the plan than active members putting funds in to the plan. Ms. Simon replied it was offset by the City's contribution.

Ms. Simon discussed the market value versus actuarial value of the plan assets, and the methods at which Nyhart arrived at the recommended contributions. She noted both funds had a good year in 2020 with asset value, with the return on the Firefighters Fund market value at 9.7 percent, and an 8.4 percent return on the Police Fund. She said there were two valuations, the funding valuation to determine a recommended contribution, and the accounting valuation under GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board). She explained the need for an actuarial solvency test as part of the review in order to project when a fund may run out. She then discussed financial details on both the funding and GASB valuations.

Alderwoman Gilbert said there are present value liabilities, funding liabilities, accrued liabilities, and unfunded liabilities. She pointed to page five in the actuarial report regarding funded ratios, and said the City is contributing more each year, but the funded ratio is decreasing. Ms. Simon agreed, and said part of the reason is due to the step-down approach in assumptions. Alderwoman Gilbert noted the City is woefully underfunded compared to municipalities mentioned in the report's surveys. Ms. Simon said depending on the size of the fund, there may be varying funding policies. Alderwoman Gilbert said the recommended City contribution has gone up significantly in the past five years, and asked if the contributions would eventually reach 100 percent or more of the payroll. Ms. Simon replied she did not think that would happen, and explained the payroll number will be smaller due to having fewer active contributions. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if there was a difference in survivor or beneficiary benefits versus the active contributor. Ms. Simon directed her to page 21 of the plan provisions for the death benefits of participant beneficiaries. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if employees need to pay more to have a beneficiary option. Ms. Simon replied no, and confirmed it was the same whether there was a beneficiary or not.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked what the impact of consolidation would be on the funds, and how it would impact the City. Ms. Simon said she has understood that the consolidated fund may be at a seven percent interest rate, and there may be a larger pool of assets managed together to save costs. Alderwoman Gilbert said it would not impact the City's unfunded liabilities or the City's contributions. Ms. Simon concurred. Alderman Poulos also answered Alderwoman Gilbert's earlier questions regarding age for retirement and years of service as it pertained to ability to draw a pension. He added there were many cities who did not appropriately fund the plans, and some that funded ahead of the curve. He said the City has been responsible over the past decade attempting to catch up, and it will affect revenue going forward. He said he is part of current discussions to have a more accurate assumption. Alderwoman Gilbert noted that between debt payments and public safety pensions, it costs the City over \$20 million each budget year.

Alderman Geenen said he wanted more clarity regarding how much motor fuel tax funds are allocated for roads. Mr. Tweet replied all of those funds are for roads. Alderman Geenen said when looking to factor in road repairs, the City automatically must add \$8.4 million to the budget to contribute to public safety pensions, which is a large portion of the budget each year. Mayor Thoms noted that fluctuating market situations could also affect the valuations and thus the City contribution. Alderman Geenen said the conversation is shifting from pointing fingers about past decisions, but rather what solutions can be maintained to get the funds full by the goal year. Alderman Poulos said the hope is to have the consolidation be a larger investment pool, which could bring some relief to citizens while maintaining responsibility to employees.

Mayor Thoms expressed concern that the return on the investments will not be able to maintain the current levels, and that the City will need to compensate for that. Alderman Poulos noted that IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund) will make their own actuarial assumptions, and when compared to the City's own actuarial assumption, it may leave the City vulnerable to owing more than expected. Mayor Thoms said it would be a relief if the funding goal date was stretched to 2050. Alderwoman Gilbert echoed Poulos' statement regarding IMRF expectations, but with public safety pensions, it is up to each individual city to decide what the assumptions would be. Alderman Poulos said after the consolidation, the City would save money due to not needing an actuary. Mayor Thoms said in order to keep burdens off current property tax holders, the City needs economic growth.

Alderman Parker asked Ms. Simon if historical perspective was utilized when making recommendations. Ms. Simon replied each year they analyze how the assets have grown, which incorporates past contributions and investment return, as well as what the liabilities are. Alderman Parker asked if there was concern that 14 years in the future the City is still only at 40 percent funded. Ms. Simon said if the City is making the recommended contributions and assets do what is assumed, the City will be at 90 percent funded in 2040. Alderman Geenen asked how the City was doing with regards to the funds. Ms. Simon said in terms of investments, somewhere in the middle of the pack. Alderman Parker asked if any other customers have utilized a pension obligation bond. Ms. Simon replied she is working with one municipality who has done so in order to have predictability regarding payments. She added there are options to consider, including a possible pension obligation bond. Alderman Poulos noted obligation bonds are being used in many Illinois cities.

Ms. Simon thanked Council for their time.

11. Mayor Thoms will close the regular meeting and open a Public Hearing regarding the amended HUD CDBG Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan.

Mayor Thoms closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing. Community and Economic Development Director Nathan Parch addressed Council. He asked if anyone in the public wished to speak on the item. No one came up or joined to speak. Mayor Thoms closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular meeting.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked how the first round of the COVID-19 relief funds was spent. Mayor Thoms reminded that a motion was needed to begin discussion.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to accept and approve the Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan as amended; Alderman Poulos seconded.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked if the plan was being amended due to receiving the second round of funding. Community and Economic Development Director Nathan Parch confirmed yes, and also confirmed the amount received as \$230,580. He added the City would usually receive an annual allotment from HUD [Housing and Urban Development] due to the City's status as an entitlement community, staff would know the amount beforehand, and an annual action plan with a series of stipulations would be needed. He said HUD notified the City of various changes to the rules and procedures in 2020 due to the pandemic, and the annual action plan was approved in May of that year for the first allotment of the relief funds. He said the second allotment of \$230,580 was unexpected, and the City was informed of it in September of 2020, bringing the total relief fund amount to \$879,699. He added the action plan has been amended to account for the additional funds received.

Alderman Geenen asked for confirmation that the funds were added to those already in the plan, and not additional organizations. Mr. Parch confirmed yes, and reminded Council of budget adjustment measures brought before them in 2020. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if there was a detailed financial report regarding the relief funds. Mr. Tweet said a report from a December 2020 Council meeting was sent to her that has a detail of expenditures for the entire amount of funds. Alderwoman Gilbert said she was attempting to review which organizations received the funds. Mr. Parch said he was unable to provide specifics regarding that question, but was able to share numbers for categories in which the funding was allocated. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if the unspent funds were rolled over to the following year. Mr. Parch said staff is exploring options for how to spend the remaining funds. He added Budget and Grants Manager Colleen Small-Vollman and Economic Development Manager Tarah Sipes were available to comment. Alderman Robinson requested that Mr. Parch send the aforementioned numbers to Council, and Mr. Parch confirmed he would. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if businesses received funds as well as non-profits. Mr. Tweet confirmed yes.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked about the retooled economic development revolving loan fund in the HUD report, and if it would replace the City's CRLF [Commercial Revolving Loan Fund]. Ms. Small-Vollman responded that it would not, but hoped there would be a retooled CRLF through HUD, but due to the pandemic, it did not happen. She said staff attempted to keep up with the relief funds coming in, and they are working to tie up loose ends. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if there was money left in the CRLF. Ms. Small-Vollman replied it continues to be sustainable, and people are continuing to make payments. She noted in the Annual Action Plan draft for 2021 it showed nearly \$400,000 remaining to be spent. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if there would be new funds added to that balance. Ms. Small-Vollman said there would not. She said for the first round of relief funds, grants were up to \$2,500, but when HUD provided additional guidance, grants could be increased up to \$10,000. She added that the relief fund expenditures had to address the pandemic in some way, and will continue to be the case.

Ms. Small-Vollman said staff was able to be creative and assist the public in ways they generally were not able to do. She noted \$175,000 was given to Project NOW for rental assistance, which will all be spent. She said the money needs to be spent by 2023, but should be spent by this year or next. Alderwoman Gilbert asked how the money was spent, as it was not in the report. Ms. Small-Vollman said the detail should be in the 2020 CAFR, and would be itemized. Alderwoman Gilbert inquired about the housing developer mentioned in the action plan who is looking to add 50 affordable units on vacant lots in the City. Ms. Small-Vollman replied yes, but was not a part of the relief funds. Ms. Sipes joined via remote connection and explained that the Solomon site was made of 15 individual lots which are near one another.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked about the home program regarding 27 lots, which was also not a part of the relief funds. Ms. Sipes confirmed there were roughly 30 lots. Alderwoman Gilbert asked how many had been sold in the previous five years. Ms. Sipes replied two have been sold, three had serious inquiries, and two fell through at the financing stage. Alderman Robinson asked if that was a program to build a new home on an empty lot. Ms. Small-Vollman confirmed yes.

Alderwoman Gilbert noted the public meetings in May, saying there was no public participation. She asked how to increase public participation in those meetings. Ms. Small-Vollman said virtual meetings seem to encourage participation, but in-person meetings generally have none. Alderwoman Gilbert agreed. Alderman Geenen thanked Ms. Small-Vollman for having Council participate in those meetings. Ms. Small-Vollman said there are now more stakeholders involved in the process.

Alderman Parker observed that it was curious that staff has had conversations regarding remaining CDBG funds, and Council has had similar discussions regarding ARPA funds. He added if the City has until 2023 to spend the funds, it should be held and added to the ARPA funds until input from the public is received, and until Council decides how to implement a long-term recovery process. He urged staff to not allocate funds to an aforementioned advertising campaign, as the process is still ongoing. Ms. Small-Vollman said staff would bring any spending proposal to Council for approval. She cautioned that the funds were from HUD and have many rules for spending and reporting. Alderman Parker said the City could utilize the infrastructure being developed to generate public input into how the pandemic recovery should occur. Alderman Geenen added there are CDBG funds that could be leveraged with ARPA funds to maximize recovery.

VOTE:

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

12. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 1923 9th Street (Parcel 103536, PIN #1602304006) to Ms. Ruby Perkins for \$815.00 plus closing costs. (Second Reading)

MOTION:

Alderwoman Gilbert moved to pass the ordinance; Alderman Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

### 13. Claims

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$29,407.79 to McClintock Trucking & Excavating, Inc., Silvis, IL for services provided at 2607 31st Avenue, 4005 4th Street, 4502 8th Avenue, and 2400 29 1/2 Street as part of the Sewer Lateral Repair Program (Project 2564).
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$13,563.90 to McClintock Trucking & Excavating, Inc., Silvis, IL for services provided at 2132 23rd Avenue as part of the Water Service Repair Program (Project 2526).

MOTION:

Alderman Robinson moved to approve Claims Items A and B; Alderman Poulos seconded.

Alderwoman Gilbert mentioned the specific dates of service were neither on the invoices nor the memo. Mr. Bartels replied that the dates for completion of the work were on the force account section on the backside of the invoice, noting when the work began and ended. He described what work would have been done during the specified dates of service.

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

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding payment in the amount of \$20,586.84 to David G. Morrison, City Attorney, for services rendered during the month of June, 2021.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve Claims Item C; Alderman Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

14. Claims for the week of June 25 through July 1, 2021 in the amount of \$771,136.98; July 2 through July 8, 2021 in the amount of \$278,815.07; and payroll for the weeks of June 14 through June 27, 2021 in the amount of \$1,568,114.65.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

15. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a proposal for maintenance repairs to the settling plates and supporting framework at the water treatment facility (Project 2843), recommending the contract be awarded to General Constructors, Inc., Bettendorf, Iowa in the amount of \$128,625.00.



MOTION:

Alderwoman Gilbert moved to award the contract as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Alderman Robinson seconded.

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

VOTE:

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

16. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a one-year agreement with Quad City Arts to develop and operate a public arts program for the City at a cost of \$18,000.00.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the Arts Program Services Agreement and direct the City Manager to execute said agreement; Alderman Geenen seconded.

Alderman Parker thanked Kevin Maynard and the team at Quad City Arts for taking on the partnership. He said it was his understanding that the current City Arts Commission was in the process of developing another arts plan. Mr. Parch said that was not his understanding, as the current plan is either completed or is close to its expiration. He added the plan is to move toward a model that will have yearly outreach with the assistance of QC Arts to help inform the community about the program.

VOTE:

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

17. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a request to vacate a group of improved and unimproved alleyways adjacent to or surrounded by properties owned by Augustana College. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to approve the vacation of the described sections of rights-of-way and their conveyance to Augustana College; that a utilities easement be put in place for the same; and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderman Geenen seconded,

VOTE:

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

18. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 721 14th Street (Parcel 097454, PIN #0735309006) to Mr. Kenneth Clark for \$1,000.00 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Geenen moved to approve the sale as recommended; authorize the City Manager to execute the sale agreement; and consider the ordinance; Alderman Parker seconded.

Alderman Geenen asked for clarification that the measure would return for the next Council meeting. Alderman Parker confirmed yes.

VOTE:

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

19. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding a request to remove a handicapped parking space in front of 1112 3rd Avenue. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Robinson moved to approve the request and consider the ordinance; Alderman Geenen seconded.

Alderman Geenen asked if Council wished to suspend the rules or have another reading. City Attorney Morrison clarified that the second would need to be withdrawn and a second motion initiated. Alderman Geenen withdrew his second.

Alderman Robinson moved to approve the request and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderman Geenen seconded.

VOTE:

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

20. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding a request to install residential parking (Type B) on the east and west side of 37th Street between 12th and 14th Avenues. (First Reading)

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

21. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding a request to ban large truck traffic on 7th Street between 4th and 7th Avenues. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Robinson moved to approve the request and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderman Parker seconded.

Alderman Geenen asked if this request came from a resident. Alderman Robinson said the request came from residents of the area, as a large truck had ripped down the cable lines across the street. He noted the trucker's GPS correctly routes them, but they take a shortcut through the area, and the street is being damaged. He added the safety of the residents was a factor, and the request was initiated to keep trucks from going down that street.

VOTE:

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

22. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding the appointment of City Manager Randy Tweet as the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Authorized Agent pending the hiring of a new Human Resources Director.

MOTION:

Alderman Gilbert moved to approve the appointment as recommended, and authorize Human Resources to complete IMRF form 2.20 and submit it to IMRF; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

23. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a Plaza Activity / Event application from Steve's Old Time Tap for the 9th annual CCKMA Car & Bike Show on Saturday, August 22, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with street closures of 17th Street between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue, and 3rd Avenue between 17th and 18th Streets; a request for the outdoor consumption of alcohol in the fenced-in area in the adjacent parking lots; a request for sound amplification; and a request for the waiver of the permit fee, as the event is a charitable fundraiser.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the event and requests as recommended including street

closures and waiver of the fee, subject to complying with all Plaza and liquor license regulations, and subject to being closed down early if complaints are received; Alderman Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

24. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Steve's Old Time Tap to hold an outdoor event with music for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, August 28, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with street closures 17th Street between 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue, and 3rd Avenue between 17th and 18th Streets; a request for the outdoor consumption of alcohol in the fenced-in area in the adjacent parking lots; and a request for sound amplification.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the event and requests as recommended, subject to complying with all Plaza and liquor license regulations, and subject to being shut down early if complaints are received; Alderman Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

25. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a Plaza Activity / Event application for the Rock Island Grand Prix to be held on Saturday, September 4, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Sunday, September 5, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; a request to close 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Avenues between 17th and 20th Streets, close 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th Streets north of 5th Avenue and south of 1st Avenue; and close 4th Avenue at 24th Street from Friday, September 3 at 5:00 p.m. to Monday, September 6, 2021 at 6:00 a.m.; a request to use a portion of Parking Lot C from Wednesday, September 1 through Monday, September 6, 2021 for the storage of equipment; and a request for a waiver of the permit fee.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the event and requests as recommended, including street closings; and the waiver of the permit fee; Alderwoman Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

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

26. Other Business

Alderman Robinson asked Mr. Tweet if the City was prepared to bring the proposed Police Community Relations Committee forward for a future Council meeting. Mr. Tweet replied he has not received additional comments on the matter from all Council members, and the item was not ready to go on an agenda without the necessary rules and regulations. Alderman Parker said that information was in the ordinance language that was sent to Council. Mr. Tweet said it was not. Alderman Geenen asked what the expected timeline would be, and Mr. Tweet replied he has not heard from Council, and therefore he was not sure. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if the City Attorney would draft the ordinance. Mr. Morrison replied it would need to come to his office for drafting, and that had not yet been done. Mr. Tweet mentioned the Human Rights Commission has taken many months to complete, and it is not a quick process. He noted he first needed input from Council to see if changes would be necessary.

Alderman Parker said he did not understand what was missing from the proposal, and pointed to the document emailed to Council. Mr. Tweet reiterated that he has not received notification from Council that they would like to move forward. Alderman Parker asked why the proposal could not be placed on the agenda, noting a previous measure in which he was unanimously opposed. Alderman Geenen said he communicated that the issues addressed during the previous Study Session were ok with him. Mr. Tweet replied those issues were not changed in the final document he received. Alderman Parker said if the approval of four Alderpersons was necessary to have an item placed on the agenda, it would defeat the point of voting.

Mr. Tweet said the previously agreed upon process for bringing items to the agenda involved having four Alderpersons requesting it. Alderman Parker asked if that was codified. Mr. Tweet noted if a committee is to be formed, the procedures need to be outlined, and said he did not receive a version with procedures included. Alderman Poulos added he had seen the document and made some adjustments, which he would send to Mr. Tweet. Alderman Hurt added he would do the same. Alderman Robinson said he was good with it as is. Mr. Tweet said he would make the requested adjustments and send it back to everyone. Alderwoman Gilbert said she had questions, but they were addressed in a meeting with Mr. Brooks and Annika O'Melia.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked for more detail regarding the rules and regulations for forming a commission. Mr. Tweet said if a committee is to investigate a matter, the criteria is outlined, and the process is defined. He added he did not have the latest document with adjustments, and requested it from Mr. Brooks. Mr. Brooks said he sent the same document to Council and Mr. Tweet. Mr. Tweet replied he must have the wrong version. Mr. Morrison added the City Attorney's office would need to know if there would only be a commission or a full ordinance, and would like to have the opportunity to review the document. Alderwoman Gilbert suggested having the legal opinion on the changes to the document prior to the following meeting. Mr. Morrison replied he would try to complete a review as quickly as possible, but wanted to make sure it was done correctly. Mayor Thoms noted it would be difficult to complete in two weeks. Alderwoman Gilbert clarified it would be good to have another public discussion regarding the amended document plus the legal opinion. Mayor Thoms said the discussion could take place in the other business section of the next meeting.

Alderwoman Gilbert discussed the 3rd Ward meeting held on June 29th. She said over 40 residents were in attendance in-person or via remote connection. She noted there was attendance by residents from other wards as well, and there consensus was more ward meetings were desired. She noted a resident sent her a link from local Channel 4 regarding a potential developer for the Watchtower Plaza site, and it placed her in a difficult position as a member of Council that did not have the same knowledge as the media. Alderman Robinson discussed the Ward meeting he and Alderman Hurt hosted. He said it was a success, and there was a good turnout. He noted there were great questions, and the collection of communication cards will help to build a resident database.

Alderman Geenen said he will be meeting with Project NOW and the South Rock Island

Township supervisor relating to emergency rental assistance. He reminded everyone that the State moratorium on evictions was due to end July 24, 2021, and the Federal moratorium is July 31, 2021. He said Project NOW is equipped to help with eviction diversion programs, but they should call soon and get on a list. He then discussed the recent 4th of July fireworks, and asked how Council wished to respond to situations where residents were not being responsible, as well as how to be responsive to residents with PSD or animals. He said there is a policy in place to enforce those who are reckless, but noted some residents are upset that Council has not addressed the two nights surrounding the holiday. He said a task force is being assembled to discuss the City ordinance and potential changes to in advance of presenting any recommendations to Council. Alderman Robinson said there is an ordinance restricting firework use, and discussed the process of citing offenders. Alderman Geenen said many neighbors are hesitant to report their neighbors. Mayor Thoms said offenders need to be caught in the act before enforcement can occur, and discussed the enforcement process. Alderman Poulos said he spoke with Police Chief Jeff VenHuizen regarding the issue, and was informed that the Police Department is unable to do much in many cases. He noted that the City has to consider where to allocate resources in this situation.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked Mr. Tweet for a status on the RFQ for a consultant to assist the City with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) process. Mr. Tweet said he received the update earlier in the day, and needed to review changes before sending it to Council. Alderman Geenen asked when Mr. Tweet's preference would be to have the RFQ sent. Mr. Tweet replied it would be when Council is ready, as it is their decision.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked when the strategic planning meeting would occur. Mr. Tweet replied it is scheduled for October 18, 2021. Alderman Parker said he was fine with the [University of Illinois] Extension Office moderating the planning session. Alderwoman Gilbert then asked for an update on water and sewer rate increases. Mr. Tweet said he had not received comments from Council regarding the use of ARPA funds to buy down part of the rate increase. He added if Council is fine with the current iteration, it could be brought forth at the next meeting.

Alderman Robinson asked when Council would receive the budget. Mr. Tweet replied it would be in September. Alderwoman Gilbert asked for an update on whether or not to issue a RFP regarding the water and sewer systems. Mr. Tweet said the plan is to come for a study session for July 26, 2021. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if there were updates on the SeeClickFix work management software. Mr. Tweet replied there was not an update, but he had sent information regarding an online seminar for a competitor product. He said the software does interact with the Public Works database, but does not with other databases. Alderman Geenen noted that a large investment in software would make all databases compatible.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked for suggestions regarding the logging of complaints and requests for follow-up. Alderman Robinson said he created a database with Google Forms to assist with the collection of resident information. He added this allows Mr. Tweet to see everything regarding complaints, along with a number for reference. He said he prints the form and sends it to the resident, so there is a form they can refer to when calling about an issue. Alderman Geenen said he also has maintained a database for three years to track constituent issues. Alderman Robinson said he plans to build the database for some time, then present it to Council to see if it could be implemented on a wide basis.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked for a progress report on the 2022 budget. Mr. Tweet said he would be able to provide an update later, but that he was aware that the payroll portion had been completed.

27. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to adjourn; Alderman Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

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Josh Adams, Interim City Clerk