

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

**August 20, 2019
MINUTES**

The Rock Island City Council met at 5:06 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 Council members Mark Poulos, Dave Geenen, Randy Hurt, James Spurgetis, Jenni Swanson, and Dylan Parker. Also present were City Manager Randy Tweet, Human Resources Director John Thorson, and City Clerk Judith Gilbert. Alderman Ivory Clark was absent. Alderman Dave Geenen left at 6:29 p.m.

Council members received a packet of Action Step documents for the four goals.

City Manager Randy Tweet explained the process for the evening's session. Based upon vote totals from the first Goal Setting session, action steps and their timelines would be reviewed for each of the four City goals. Council could provide input as they go through each action step.

Audience attendee Russell Thomas provided public comment.

GOAL #1: FINANCIALLY SOUND CITY PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY SERVICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The 2020 Budget will include the local gas tax revenue in the Street Maintenance Plan. Alderman Parker asked for better weed control.

Mr. Tweet stated Council will be informed what results the non-profit agencies had with their allocations from the Gaming Fund. He said the plan is to present at study sessions in 2020 a more detailed overview of how individual departments spend their money.

Council discussed solar options for certain City facilities based on more incentive money becoming available.

Mr. Tweet reported that Finance Director Stephanie Masson is working on guidelines for P cards. Alderman Parker asked that the staff purchasing policy be reviewed by Council. Alderwoman Swanson stated Council is setting a leadership example for staff and that departments should be more mindful of their spending and be held accountable.

Human Resources Director John Thorson brought a large scale City organizational chart for Council to review.

Council discussed new revenue ideas for the CY 2020 budget.

Alderman Parker asked for an Unplugged event for Council.

Alderman Hurt asked for Council members to be open to exploratory discussions of the privatization of the water system and to listen to what the company has to say.

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Council discussed a safe workplace free from bullying.

GOAL #2: EXPANDING LOCAL ECONOMY

Council discussed Business Improvement Districts and Special Service Areas. The Downtown TIF expires in 2020.

Alderman Parker asked for staff to be educated regarding employee buy-outs of companies as an option for business succession planning.

A meeting will be scheduled with business realtors. Council discussed turning Opportunity Zone funds back to the Chamber/Quad City First. Alderman Parker proposed having an economic development services contract versus staff doing the work, similar to the Downtown Davenport Partnership. Alderwoman Swanson agreed and would like to see the City working with DARI. Mr. Tweet will talk with DAR and the Quad Cities Chamber.

Council discussed a zero interest economic development revolving loan program. The City is looking at ways to have the program without devoting staff time to it; perhaps through a local credit union.

The status of recreational marijuana and the impact on the City was discussed.

Mr. Tweet would like to see a marketing task force established with key stakeholders and have just one events calendar.

The challenges of setting up a DBE/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program were discussed.

Mr. Tweet provided Council with an update on the Country Market property.

GOAL #3: REVITALIZATION OF STRATEGIC LOCATIONS

An update was provided on the Library's facility plans.

Mr. Tweet reported an ordinance will be coming to allow short-term rentals in Rock Island.

Council discussed issues with vacant buildings and an absentee landlord ordinance.

Mr. Tweet said staff will explore combining College Hill and the Hilltop Business Association and reinvigorating the two groups.

Mr. Tweet said the Downtown streetscaping and street repairs did not get done this year because of the flood. Alderman Parker said an SSA or BID would help with additional resources. Mr. Tweet reported this year's Plaza festivals were very successful.

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Alderman Spurgetis spoke about the efforts of the Nonprofit Consortium on 11th Street; he said they want to work on beautification efforts.

Council requested options for leveling the Watchtower Plaza site so events could be held there.

Council discussed street improvements for 11th Street.

Alderman Parker suggested a Business Improvement District for 11th Street. Mr. Tweet will look into that option.

GOAL #4: INCREASE POPULATION THROUGH LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

One action step was re-titled: Promote Rock Island as a great place to live. A Mayor's task force will be established.

Council discussed working together with DARI.

Mr. Tweet reported Police Chief VenHuizen is looking at several options for a crime/shooting reduction plan, including an expansion of cameras. Council discussed the safety of Lincoln Park and the Augustana College neighborhood. Mr. Tweet said they would need to document the services being provided to the college before asking for a PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) from the college.

Alderwoman Swanson said she was first against the sprinkler ordinance and now she is a strong advocate for them. Aldermen Hurt and Poulos are also in favor of keeping the sprinkler ordinance.

The Goal Setting session concluded at 8:33 p.m.

Judith H. Gilbert, City Clerk