

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

10/24/2022 - 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 City Clerk Samantha Gange to call the roll.

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

Absent: None.

Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, City Attorney Dave Morrison, City Clerk Samantha Gange, 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 would like to speak. No one volunteered in person or virtually.

7. Minutes from the October 10, 2022 Study Session and City Council meeting.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert,

Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

8. Update Rock Island

Fright Night in the Park Come to Schwiebert Riverfront Park this Thursday, October 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. for trick-or-treating, music and dancing. Presented by Goodwill of the Heartland, there will also be a costume contest and goodie bags given out.

Attention all ghosts, goblins and witches! Halloween trick-or-treating for the City of Rock Island is Monday, October 31 from 5 to 8 p.m. As always, be safe and have fun.

The 25 th Annual Frieze Lecture Series is underway at the Rock Island Public

Library The next lecture, led by Dr. Lauren Hammond, associate history professor at Augustana College, will examine the ideas and impact of “The 1619 Project,” by Nikole Hannah-Jones, who won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary on the project. The free lecture takes place at 2 pm on October 27 in the Community Room of the Downtown Library, 401 19th Street.

Is your child car seat installed properly in your vehicle? The Rock Island Fire Department will host its last community child car seat inspection on Saturday, November 5 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The event takes place at the Rock Island Fire Station, 1313 5th Avenue.

The City of Rock Island congratulates Community and Economic Development

Director Miles Brainard, who has been named to the Forty Under 40 list, published by the Quad Cities Regional Business Journal.

The City also congratulates Fire Chief Jeff Yerkey and Police Officer Brieanne Lonergan for being named by Community Caring Conference as community heroes.

9. An Ordinance regarding a land donation of twenty-three parcels in Southwest Rock Island from Riverstone Group for \$1 plus closing costs. (Second Reading)

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

10. Mayor Thoms will close the regular meeting and open a Public Hearing on a request from Skylar Willingham of Skylight Luxury Lounge LLC for a waiver of the signature requirement to secure a Liquor License at 1325 30th Street.

Mayor Thoms stated he would close the regular meeting and open a Public Hearing on a request from Skylar Willingham, Skylight Luxury Lounge LLC for a waiver of the signature requirement to secure a liquor license at 1325 30th Street.

Tara Polek approached the podium to speak against the waiver of the signature requirement due to limited parking and an increase in traffic to the area. She said there are risks of accidents with parking on both sides of 14th Avenue as it creates blind spots for drivers turning onto 14th Avenue from alleyways. She also said she is concerned about increased crime with an additional bar in the area.

Skylar Willingham, owner of Skylight Luxury Lounge approached the podium to address City Council. Ms. Willingham shared her operating hours, plans for security on weekends, and establishing partnerships with area businesses for additional parking during evening hours. She said safety is her priority.

Aldersperson Poulos asked Ms. Willingham the reason why she was unable to get the signatures required. Ms. Willingham said the City property required a waiver request and after being unable to contact some property owners she sent out certified letters to request support but did not receive responses. Aldersperson Poulos asked if Ms. Willingham had already talked with business owners regarding parking and if they were agreeable to sharing parking. Ms. Willingham responded affirmatively. She said she had spoken with businesses including the neighboring business, Radicle Effect, and that she was waiting to hear back from others.

Aldersperson Gilbert asked how many signatures Ms. Willingham was able to acquire. Ms. Willingham said she did not know that exact number but that it was more than half of the requirement, approximately 15-16 signatures. Aldersperson Healy asked if Ms. Willingham had discussed parking with Mr. Maple with Happy Joes. She said she was able to meet with him in person to discuss her plans. Aldersperson Poulos asked if food would be served. Ms. Willingham responded yes and described available menu items. Aldersperson Poulos asked if the business would be based more on food or wine tasting. Ms. Willingham said her plan is to follow the zoning requirement for at least 50 percent revenue from food.

Aldersperson Gilbert asked Chief Landi to provide information for signatures received. Chief Landi explained there are two separate categories for signatures, majority and required. He explained that Ms. Willingham needed 9 required signatures and 11 signatures as the majority of the 21 listed properties. Ms. Willingham was able to obtain 11 in total but was unable to get all required signatures. Mayor Thoms added that the City was one of the signatures needed which necessitated the signature waiver.

Mayor Thoms asked if anyone else would like to speak, no one volunteered to speak. Mayor Thoms closed the public hearing and reopened the regular meeting to entertain a motion.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to recommend to the Mayor/Liquor Commissioner the signature requirement as requested and approve the liquor license; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

11. Consent Agenda

- a. ACH payments for the month of September 2022 in the amount of \$2,467,857.01.
- b. Purchase Card claims for the period of August 27 through September 26, 2022 in the amount of \$84,252.90.
- c. Claims for the week of September 30 through October 6, 2022 in the amount of \$1,096,429.55; for the week of October 7 through October 13, 2022 in the amount of \$1,003,460.34; and payroll for the weeks of September 19 through October 2, 2022 in the amount of \$1,612,507.20.

- d. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding payment in the amount of \$43,894.75 to Azteca Systems LLC of Santy, UT for the Cityworks Online annual support maintenance.
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to MSA Professional Services, Davenport, IA in the amount of \$38,755.62 for consultant services on the design of the Schwiebert Park marina dock.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve consent agenda items a through e; Aldersperson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Robinson asked See Click Fix could be included with the City's Civic Plus subscription for item D. Information Technology Director Tim Bain clarified that item D was for City Works as the primary application utilized by public works to track work orders and special action requests.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

- 12. Claim - Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to McClintock Trucking & Excavating, Inc. of Silvis, IL in the amount of \$56,464.79 for repairs at multiple locations as part of the Water Service Repair (Project 2526) and Sewer Lateral Repair (Project 2564) programs.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert move to allow the claim; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

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

VOTE:

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

- 13. Report from the Finance Department regarding bids for audit services from 2022 through 2026, recommending the bid be awarded to Lauterbach & Amen in the amount of \$316,000..

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to accept the bid as recommended; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

14. Report from the Public Works Department regarding bids for the Motor Fuel Tax-funded reconstruction of 46th Street at 37th Avenue, recommending the bid be awarded to Five Cities Construction Co., Coal Valley, IL in the amount of \$442,605.80.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to award the bid and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

15. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a contract to conduct a Market Analysis for Sunset Marina with Edgewater Resources, Madison, WI in the amount of \$24,000.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Aldersperson Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

16. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a contract with HG Green, Cedar Rapids, IA to provide professional services for funding assistance in order to provide standby power for the City's water infrastructure.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to award the contract and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

17. Report from the Public Works Department regarding an amendment to the existing Intergovernmental Service Agreement (IGSA) with the Rock Island Arsenal.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve IGSA Amendment 2 and authorize the Mayor to execute the document; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Robinson recused himself from the vote due to the nature of his employment.

VOTE:

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

18. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding a recommendation to authorize the consulting firm Plante Moran, Chicago, IL to conduct an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) needs assessment, selection of software, and contract negotiations for City software replacement, in an amount not to exceed \$95,220.00.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

19. Report from the Finance Department regarding an adjustment to the CY 2022 budget, increasing the Public Works Department Fleet Service Fund (601) revenue and expense budgets for CY 2022 by \$400,000, and decreasing the General Fund (101) expense budget by \$400,000.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

20. Report from the Finance Department regarding an adjustment to the CY 2022 budget, increasing the General Fund revenue and expense budgets by \$8,000 to purchase fencing materials.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Aldersperson Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

21. Report from the Finance Department regarding an adjustment to the CY 2022 budget, increasing the revenues and expenditures of the Illinois Public Health Association Fund (903) by \$49,500 as a result of a grant award to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

22. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the write-off of uncollectible Commercial/Industrial Revolving Loan Fund (CIRLF) Program loans totalling \$761,391.69.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the write-off of the uncollectible CIRLF loan balances; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Healy explained as a member of the committee, most of these loans are more than twenty years old and there are no current associations. Aldersperson Swanson added that most are situations of bankruptcy. Aldersperson Healy said there would be more in the future. Aldersperson Gilbert asked if more loans would be brought to Council to write-off. CED Director Mile Brainard said Council has been provided with a total of \$1.2 million which includes the number presented tonight and the amount that may still be able to be sent to collections. Mr. Brainard explained that the policies and procedures have been rewritten for sufficient protections for the City and taxpayers. He said additional safeguards include additional underwriting work to assess if borrowers are in a good position to borrow. He said CIRLF loans are available for entrepreneurs opening a business in Rock Island.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

23. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding approval of a housing rehabilitation project located at 1830 32nd Street in the amount of \$148,402.00.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the project and delegate authority to the City Manager to execute contracts; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

24. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a resolution establishing a grant pass-through with the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to adopt the resolution establishing a pass-through for the two stated grants; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

25. Report from General Administration regarding a resolution declaring support for the Rock Island Regional Port District.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt move to adopt the resolution as recommended; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Thoms asked Bi-State Regional Commission Executive Director Denise Bulat to address Council. Ms. Bulat said a port statistical area for 15 counties in Iowa and Illinois was created to raise the stature of the Upper Mississippi River and to support the Rock Island District Corps of Engineers. She said that designation is not recognized by the State of Illinois for grants. She said if a Port District was created that is recognized by Illinois, then grants could be applied for any publicly-owned facilities here in Rock Island to support port development. Ms. Bulat explained City Council would serve as the board for all decisions made within the Rock Island jurisdiction. She said the goal is to make grants accessible without adding another layer of government. Mayor Thoms asked if Sunset Marina could be included in the Port District. Ms. Bulat responded affirmatively. Mayor Thoms asked if it would also include things associated with the Port District including rails or highways. Ms. Bulat responded affirmatively and said they are careful not to duplicate existing authorities in the Quad Cities, but would like to add to them to make grant funds available.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

26. Other Business

Aldersperson Robinson announced a townhall meeting at the Martin Luther King Center on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and encouraged members of the First Ward to attend.

Mayor Thoms said he is looking forward to the the Community Caring Conference Hero Awards Banquet on November 10, 2022, as Fire Chief Yerkey will be recognized and the 40 under 40 Banquet honoring Mr. Brainard the same evening.

Mayor Thoms said the Chamber fee at 44 percent mentioned earlier includes labor for the executive director and the ambassadors. He said labor fees are a major expense for any

business and clarified the fee itself is 15 percent.

Aldersperson Robinson asked about the City hosting an Unplugged event to discuss issues including ARPA and the SSA and support dialogue from constituents outside of City Hall. Aldersperson Hurt stated agreement with scheduling an Unplugged event. Aldersperson Gilbert said she received feedback as well regarding constituents wanting to attend a townhall discussion regarding the final ARPA decisions. Aldersperson Healy volunteered his building as a space to hold an Unplugged event. Mr. Thompson said he and Sarah Hayden, Communication Engagement Manager, would work together to set up an event.

27. Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

Meeting ended at 7:20 p.m.

Naomi Torrence_____

Naomi Torrence, Deputy City Clerk