

The Rock Island City Council met in Study Session at 5:30 pm in City Council Chambers at Rock Island City Hall. Present were Mayor Dennis E. Pauley presiding, and Aldermen Joy Murphy, Charles O. Austin III, Terry M.A. Brooks I, David Conroy, P.J. Foley, Stephen L. Tollenaer and Jason W. Jones. Also present were City Manager Thomas Thomas, Public Works Director Bob Hawes, Finance Director Cindy Parchert, other City Staff and City Attorney Ted Kutsunis.

WINTERTIME WATER SHUT - OFF POLICIES

City Manager Thomas inquired upon Public Works Director Bob Hawes and Finance Director Cindy Parchert to present additional information that Council requested in regards to the wintertime water shut-off policies concerning options and costs.

Mr. Hawes discussed some general information in regards to the City's water billing and water shut-off policies. Mr. Hawes advised that currently, a customer has approximately seven and a half weeks to pay a water bill before their water is shut off. Mr. Hawes stated that the water shut-off cannot occur sooner than the 53rd day after the water bill is rendered. Mr. Hawes pointed out that the City also offers three standard payment plans for normal utility bills. Mr. Hawes noted that when someone receives an extraordinary bill due to a water leak or they have an extra payment to make on either the water services repair program or sewer lateral repair program then those are negotiated on a case by case basis. Mr. Hawes advised that the standard plan is that if a customer comes in prior to the due date of the bill, and makes arrangements, they can pay the three installments in which the first one is due on the due date, the second payment due one month later and the last installment due two months later. It was noted that late fees would still be assessed.

Council discussed late fees as it related to payment installments and payment arrangements as it related to renters not having the ability to make payments without the property owner's permission.

Finance Director Cindy Parchert advised that the landlord does not have to physically come in; they can call to make arrangements for their tenants to pay the bill. Ms. Parchert further explained that the arrangement cannot be made with the renters if the landlord doesn't come in or call due to the 5% late charge and because the water bill stays with the property. Ms. Parchert further discussed payment arrangements at it related to the 5% late charge.

Council discussed the policies as it related to payments of water bills and responsibility as it related to the property owner's responsibility to the City to pay the water bills and not the renter's responsibility to pay the water bills. Council also discussed the reasoning behind the initial discussion concerning a moratorium on shutting off people's water for nonpayment as it related to some citizens not being able to pay their water bills.

Mr. Hawes offered that Council had inquired about adding a coupon to the bill. It was noted that the current software does not allow for that option. Council then discussed as to whether or not

the software could be modified. Mr. Hawes commented that this is canned software; staff could go back to the company and ask if it could be modified.

Mr. Hawes discussed overtime costs as it related to not disconnecting water services for nonpayment during the winter months. Mr. Hawes advised that this option would defer approximately 1,040 shut-offs being posted and 224 actual shut-offs. Mr. Hawes added that this is assuming that staff can catch up with the back log in four weeks after the moratorium ended. Mr. Hawes stated that to accommodate the workload, it would take about 240 hours of Public Works time to be diverted from other activities to do the postings and shut-offs. Mr. Hawes added that an additional \$2,800.00 worth of overtime would be needed to open two additional places where people could come in and pay their bill. Mr. Hawes advised that the thought was to open the Finance Department six days a week and also take payments at the Police Department and the Marina for four weeks. Mr. Hawes further explained that \$400,000.00 in revenue would be deferred, which is cash on hand, and this would be reduced to approximately \$2,500.00 in lost interest.

Mr. Hawes stated that the idea of a monthly billing system option was looked at without actually doing a monthly billing system. Mr. Hawes explained that a customer could come to the Finance Department and set up a payment plan in advance, determine what a reasonable monthly bill would be based on the usage and set it up on an ACH account. Mr. Hawes noted that a customer would need to have a checking or savings account. Mr. Hawes further explained this option.

Council discussed this option as it related to tenants and landlords in regards to making arrangements and late charges as it related to monthly options.

After more discussion, Mr. Hawes explained that monthly billing requires a couple million dollars investment to change the City's meter system. It was noted that the current software does monthly billing and it will do a budget payment plan if monthly meter reading is used. However, the conversion costs over \$200,000.00 a year (ongoing) to switch to the monthly billing. More discussion followed as it related to modifying the software for payment plan options. Mr. Hawes stated that staff could talk to the software supplier to see if the system could be modified and what the costs would be.

Council discussed shut-off notices as it related to actual disconnections of water services in regards to residents paying their bill after they are disconnected. In addition, Council discussed payment installments as it related to the moratorium.

After more discussion, Council requested more information in regards to the software options and whether there are any ordinances from any community in regards to whether or not a landlord can be fined if the water bill is left unpaid and the water is shut-off on a tenant. In addition, Council discussed whether or not to defer, table or to withdraw the second on the motion regarding Agenda Item #11 concerning wintertime water shut-off policies.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Alderman Foley and seconded by Alderman Brooks to adjourn the meeting carried by the following Aye and No vote. Those voting Aye being Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p. m.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk

Rock Island City Council met in regular session at 6:45 p.m. in Council Chambers of Rock Island City Hall. Present were Mayor Dennis E. Pauley presiding, and Aldermen Joy Murphy, Charles O. Austin III, Terry M.A. Brooks I, David Conroy, P. J. Foley, Stephen L. Tollenaer and Jason W. Jones. Also present were City Manager Thomas Thomas and City Attorney Ted Kutsunis.

Introductory Proceedings

Mayor Pauley called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Alderman Foley gave the Invocation.

Agenda Item #5

Minutes of the Meeting of January 16, 2012.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Jones to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of January 16, 2012. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #6

Update Rock Island by Mayor Pauley.

Mayor Pauley advised that the Quad City Alliance for Immigrants & Refugees (QCAIR), with the mission to build community among the Quad Cities' refugees, immigrants and citizens, is currently seeking applications from constituent organizations and individuals for at-large appointments. Mayor Pauley stated that applications will be taken until Tuesday, January 31st for those organizations wishing to be part of the inaugural board of directors for QCAIR. It was noted that typical members will be ethnic community based organizations, agencies, churches, school districts and governments working with refugees and immigrants. Mayor Pauley added that for more information visit www.rigov.org.

Mayor Pauley stated that the Rock Island Preservation Society is seeking nominations for the 2011 Preservation Awards. Mayor Pauley added that the group is looking for nominations for outstanding restoration or renovation of residential, commercial, religious or public buildings that are 50 years old or more in the city limits of Rock Island. It was noted that nominations must be received by March 1st. Mayor Pauley indicated that for more details, please visit www.rockislandpreservation.org.

Mayor Pauley offered that Saukie Golf Course has firewood for sale at \$10.00 for a bundle or \$65.00 for a truck load on a first come, first served basis. It was noted to call Tom Hergert at (309) 732-2124 for arrangements and questions.

Mayor Pauley advised that the January art exhibit at the Rock Island Main Library features art works by Rock Island/Milan elementary students. It was noted that the "Art Start" show is sponsored and organized by the Rock Island Art Guild. Mayor Pauley stated that works are

available for viewing during regular library hours. Mayor Pauley added that the show is on the 2nd floor of the Rock Island Main Library. It was noted that third through sixth grade students will be participating from Longfellow Liberal Arts, Earl Hanson, Ridgewood and Rock Island Center for Math & Science.

Mayor Pauley indicated that the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy's (IMSA) Rock Island Region Field Office will host a Community STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Festival for families throughout the Quad Cities area on Tuesday, January 24th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Rock Island Center for Math and Science Elementary School. Mayor Pauley stated that the festival will consist of hands-on demonstrations for the entire family in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics presented by local professionals, educators, students, and experts from community-based organizations. It was noted that participants will make ecological crafts with the Quad Cities Botanical Center, ride an energy bike with Lights for Learning, engineer wind turbine blades with the Advanced Technology Environment and Engineering Center and take part in many more activities. The Mayor stated that this event is free and open to all families in the Quad Cities area, and free prizes will be given to the first 500 student participants.

Agenda Item #7

Proclamation declaring January 27, 2012 as Langman Construction Day.

Mayor Pauley read the Proclamation. Mr. Chuck Langman and family accepted the Proclamation. The Mayor also presented the business benchmark award and a Key to the City to Mr. Langman. Mr. Langman thanked the Mayor and Council for the Proclamation and the award and stated that the City of Rock Island has been wonderful to Langman Construction.

Agenda Item #8

Claims for the week of January 13 through January 19 in the amount of \$650,761.46.

It was moved by Alderman Austin and seconded by Alderman Conroy to allow the claims. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #9

Report from the Public Works Department regarding a lease renewal for the Sunset Marina apartment.

Alderwoman Murphy moved and Alderman Austin seconded to approve the lease renewal as written and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #10

Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a Resolution providing for a feasibility study on the designation of a portion of the City of Rock Island as a redevelopment project area (I-280/ IL Route 92 N.E.) and a contract with PGAV Planners for drafting a redevelopment plan and meeting conditions of the TIF statute.

It was moved by Alderman Conroy and seconded by Alderman Foley to adopt the resolution as recommended, approve the contract with PGAV Planners and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #11

Report from the Public Works Department regarding wintertime water shut-off policies, recommending no changes in the policies for the disconnection of water services for non-payment. (A motion remained on the floor - Alderwoman Murphy moved and Alderman Brooks seconded to approve no changes in the policies as recommended.)

Note: Agenda Item #11 was deferred from the January 16, 2012 Council meeting.

At this time, Alderman Brooks removed his second. Mayor Pauley inquired as to whether there was another second. With no other second, Mayor Pauley inquired as to whether there was another motion. With no other motion, Mayor Pauley stated that this item has died until someone brings it back.

Agenda Item #12

Report from the Finance Department regarding an adjustment to the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget, recommending increasing the Water Operation and Maintenance Fund in the amount of \$318,051.72.

It was moved by Alderwoman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Conroy to approve the budget adjustment as recommended. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #13

Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding an amendment to the Brick Streets Plan, recommending adding the four blocks listed in the report as Category 4 streets where resurfacing and patching with materials other than brick would be permitted.

Alderman Jones moved and Alderwoman Murphy seconded to approve the amendment as recommended.

Discussion followed. Alderman Conroy inquired as to whether the City still has the policy for allocating a certain amount of money in the street budget for brick streets.

Public Works Director Bob Hawes stated yes and that it is approximately 5%, which is about \$80,000.00 per year.

After discussion, the motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #14

Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request to ban parking on the east side of 21st Street between 18th and 19th Avenue.

It was moved by Alderman Foley and seconded by Alderwoman Murphy to approve the request as recommended and refer to the City Attorney for an ordinance. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #15

Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request for the installation of a handicapped parking space at 1005 17th Avenue.

Alderman Jones moved and Alderman Austin seconded to approve the request as recommended and refer to the City Attorney for an ordinance. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #16

Report from the Mayor regarding appointments to the QCAIR Board.

It was moved by Alderwoman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Austin to approve the appointments as recommended.

Alderwoman Murphy commented that Ed Hanna is the community person that is going to be appointed and he has worked tirelessly on this issue. Alderwoman Murphy advised that she was glad that Mr. Hanna has been accepted and appreciated all of the hard work that he has done.

After comments, the motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

Ed Hanna (Neighborhood Partners President) and Alan Carmen (City Staff) were appointed to the QCAIR Board for three year terms.

Agenda Item #17

Report from the City Clerk regarding an event for the Lucky Shamrock Irish Pub, requesting utilization of the alley way between 3rd and 4th Avenue on the east side of 20th Street, permission to have live music outside and a request to set up a canopy on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at 313 20th Street.

Alderwoman Murphy moved and Alderman Jones seconded to approve the event with music, utilization of the alley way and the setup of a canopy as recommended, subject to complying with all liquor license regulations. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #18

Other Business

No one signed up to address Council to speak on a topic.

Alderman Brooks stated that he and Alderman Foley discussed the issue of asking different Council members from different cities to come together and try to come up with some type of discussion in regards to violence throughout the Quad Cities.

Alderman Foley indicated that in reference to the shooting several weeks ago, all of the communities in the Quad Cities need to come together and work out solutions on issues that the communities have and issues dealing with violence.

Alderman Conroy stated that last Saturday an event with the Mayor was held at the Southwest Library. Alderman Conroy noted that the Mayor holds these coffees and conversations in the morning. Alderman Conroy encouraged everyone to go to this event when it comes to their neighborhood or ward. It was noted that these events are open formats and discussion may include issues that affect the City or a citizen's ward.

Mayor Pauley advised that the next event will be held in several months, but no date is set yet. Mayor Pauley added that this event will take place in Ward Six (6).

Alderwoman Murphy reminded everyone to shop Rock Island. Alderwoman Murphy pointed out the many different places to go in Rock Island to have coffee or hot chocolate. Various places mentioned included; McDonalds, Hy-Vee, City Limits, Cool Beanz Coffeehouse, Lee's on 14th and Theo's downtown. Alderwoman Murphy encouraged everyone to shop Rock Island.

Agenda Item #19

No Executive Session.

An Executive Session was not held.

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 23, 2012
MINUTES**

Agenda Item #20

Recess

A motion was made by Alderwoman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Austin to recess to Monday, February 6, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

The meeting was recessed at 7:03 p.m.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk