

The Rock Island City Council met in Study Session at 5:45 pm in City Council Chambers at Rock Island City Hall. Present were Mayor Dennis E. Pauley presiding, and Aldermen Charles O. Austin III, Terry M.A. Brooks I, David Conroy, P.J. Foley, Stephen L. Tollenaer and Joy Murphy. Also present were City Manager Thomas Thomas, Public Works Director Bob Hawes, Administrative Services Director John Thorson, other City staff, City Attorney Ted Kutsunis, Sue McDevitt, Bob Towler and other concerned citizens for managing the deer population in Rock Island. Alderman Jason W. Jones was absent.

PRESENTATION ON DEER

Mayor Pauley advised that Sue McDevitt and Bob Towler are at the Study Session to present their case on the deer population issue in the City. The Mayor added that in several weeks, there will be a group that will present their case on the opposite side of the deer issue.

Mr. Bob Towler provided an illustration (map) depicting the areas in the City where there is a high concentration of deer. Mr. Towler advised that the excessive deer population affects everyone in the City. Mr. Towler indicated that people are frustrated due to their landscaping being damaged and the expense of replacing plants, gardens, trees, bushes, etc. It was noted that the deer rub against trees and weaken the trees. Mr. Towler noted that repellents smell bad and only work for a short period of time. Mr. Towler added that the deer population will continue to increase. Mr. Towler discussed parks, recreational areas and forest preserves as it related to these places now having dedicated hunt areas concerning the deer population. Mr. Towler offered that his group feels that the City could look into having designated areas in Rock Island for deer hunting with bows and arrows. Mr. Towler also discussed rules and regulations as it related to Bettendorf and Davenport, Iowa allowing bow deer hunting.

Ms. Sue McDevitt highlighted various information that was distributed to Council last week concerning the deer population. Ms. McDevitt commented that her group is called the Citizens for Managing the Deer Population in Rock Island. Ms. McDevitt noted that on May 16th, a letter was sent to Council describing the deer problem and inquiring upon Council to take action on this problem. Ms. McDevitt discussed the contents of that letter. Ms. McDevitt stated that homeowners were very frustrated due to their yards and plantings being ruined. Ms. McDevitt noted that people are just so frustrated due to so many deer in their yards eating everything and legally, citizens can't do anything about it.

Ms. McDevitt advised that the Citizens for Managing the Deer Population in Rock Island Committee are asking Council to take immediate steps leading to the establishment of an ongoing deer management program to reduce and control the number of deer within the City. Ms. McDevitt added that the group is asking Council that a plan be put into action with the opening of the deer hunting season in October 2012.

Ms. McDevitt discussed prior police memorandums as it related to the deer population not presenting a public safety problem in the City. Ms. McDevitt stated that her group's research found that the deer problem is only in certain areas of the City. Ms. McDevitt further discussed the areas in Rock Island where there is a high concentration of deer.

Ms. McDevitt discussed the Town Hall meeting that was held on January 4th. Ms. McDevitt noted that at that meeting, there were only a handful of people that were not in favor of a deer hunt to reduce the number of deer. Ms. McDevitt also discussed what other communities are doing to reduce their deer population.

Mr. John Bauersfeld stated that the deer problem is a quality of life issue. Mr. Bauersfeld commented that he has sustained at least \$6,000.00 worth of estimated damage in his yard due to the deer. Mr. Bauersfeld added that there are a lot of beautiful homes and well maintained yards in Rock Island. However, the deer are reducing that maintenance. Mr. Bauersfeld advised that a controlled deer hunt is a possibility that will increase the quality of life issue by reducing the deer.

Ms. Joanne Forlini stated that over the past five years, the number of deer in her area of the City has increased. Ms. Forlini also voiced concerns in regards to the damage that is created by the deer population. Ms. Forlini commented that she hopes that Council will consider reducing the deer population in Rock Island.

Ms. McDevitt further discussed the deer problem as it related to vehicle accidents, police reports and insurance claims in regards to how many people file reports and claims concerning deer-vehicle accidents.

Ms. McDevitt noted that the deer problem is not going away and the deer population increases approximately 30% to 40% every year until they starve or become very sick. Ms. McDevitt stated that the group wants Council to look at what the deer population is doing to homeowner's gardens and lawns.

Ms. McDevitt discussed other communities allowing controlled deer hunts as it related to the differences in their rules and regulations. Ms. McDevitt also discussed cost as it related to controlled deer hunts.

Council discussed this issue as it related deer counts in the City. After more discussion, Mayor Pauley advised that Council will decide what they want to do after the other group is heard on March 5th.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Alderman Foley and seconded by Alderman Conroy to adjourn the meeting carried by the following Aye and No vote. Those voting Aye being, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderwoman Murphy; those voting No, none. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk

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

Introductory Proceedings

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

Agenda Item #5

Minutes of the Meeting of February 6, 2012.

A motion was made by Alderman Austin and seconded by Alderman Foley to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of February 6, 2012. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderwoman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #6

Update Rock Island by Mayor Pauley.

Mayor Pauley advised that Rock Island's Public Works Director and Assistant City Manager Robert T. Hawes was recently designated as a national Public Works Leadership Fellow (PWLF) by the American Public Works Association. The Mayor stated that as a PWLF, Mr. Hawes' role will be to mentor public works professionals enrolled in the APWA Donald C. Stone Center for Leadership Excellence throughout the next year. Mayor Pauley indicated that Mr. Hawes is among 150 public works professionals from across North America who were recently inducted as Leadership Fellows. The Mayor congratulated Mr. Hawes.

Mayor Pauley stated that Eugene Field Elementary Student Council is sponsoring an 80's themed Scrapbooking Fundraiser on Saturday, February 25th from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm at the Plumbers and Pipefitters' Union Hall at 4600 46th Avenue. Mayor Pauley noted that the cost is \$45.00 and includes three meals and many door prizes. The Mayor stated that also featured is a scrapbooking "garage sale" where you can sell items you no longer want. Mayor Pauley indicated that to receive a registration form and additional details, email Cindy Arkebauer or call (309) 787-2298. It was noted that registrations are due February 17th.

Mayor Pauley advised that the Washington Junior High School Drama Club will be presenting "A Martin Luther King Celebration" on February 15th for Black History Month. It was noted that for more information, call (309)793-5915.

Mayor Pauley offered that if anyone has a new Kindle, NOOK, Tablet or Reader then they can learn how to download free eBooks and audio books with classes on the Rock Island Library's OverDrive digital book service. It was noted that classes will be offered at 10:30 am on Saturday, February 18th at the Rock Island Southwest Branch, 9010 Ridgewood Road and 10:00 am on

Tuesday, February 21st in the Rock Island Main Library Community Room at 401 19th Street.

Mayor Pauley stated that the City of Rock Island is completing demolition of blighted properties located along 10th Street and 7th Avenue. The Mayor added that this makes way to further GROWTH's Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP 2) efforts within the New Old Chicago Redevelopment Subdivision. Mayor Pauley advised that GROWTH will be building five units of new single family construction within a one block radius along 10th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. It was noted that groundbreaking is expected to occur in March 2012.

Agenda Item #7

Presentation by the Advanced Technology and Sustainability Consortium.

Mr. Kevin Koski, Chair of the ATSC stepped forward. Mr. Koski stated that members of Rock Island's Advanced Technology and Sustainability Consortium (ATSC) established the Mark W. Schwiebert Sustainability Leadership Award in April of 2009. Mr. Koski advised that it was created to honor former Mayor Schwiebert for his 20 years of service to Rock Island and for his work in the area of sustainable initiatives. It was noted that this special award would be given annually to a business, organization or individual that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the area of green or sustainable initiatives. The first award was presented to Mark Schwiebert.

Mr. Koski stated that the nominations for the 2011 award included three individuals, two businesses and one organization. Mr. Koski stated that the 2011 award recipient is White Hydropower Company; the owners are Mitch and Melba White. Mr. Koski provided highlights for the selection of the Hydropower Company. Mr. Koski and Mayor Pauley then presented Mitch and Melba White with the award.

Mr. White thanked the City and members of the selection committee for the award. Mayor Pauley congratulated the Whites.

Agenda Item #8

CLAIMS

It was moved by Alderman Austin and seconded by Alderwoman Murphy to accept the following reports and authorize payment as recommended. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderwoman Murphy; those voting No, none.

- a. Report from the Administrative Services Department regarding payment in the amount of \$17,575.87 to Active Network, Inc. for the annual maintenance for Parks and Recreation software. (018)
- b. Report from the Police Department regarding payment #2 in the amount of \$34,087.93 to McClaren, Wilson and Lawrie, Inc. for the Rock Island Police Department facility needs assessment. (006)

- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$10,414.78 to Iowa Interstate Railroad, LTD. for the installation of warning gates for the railroad crossing at 6th Avenue and Mill Street. (035)
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #3 and final in the amount of \$22,147.85 to Centennial Contractors of the Quad Cities, Inc. for services provided for the 2011 50/50 Sidewalk, Curb and Tree Program project. (036)
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$27,835.00 to Maguire Iron, Inc. for services provided for the 14th Street and 42nd Avenue Water Tower Replacement project. (039)

Agenda Item #9

Report from the Administrative Services Department regarding a General Liability Claim in the amount of \$384.99 for Kevin Nolan.

Note: the motion on the printed Agenda was to deny the claim.

Alderman Foley moved and Alderwoman Murphy seconded to approve the claim.

Discussion followed. Alderman Austin inquired as to what the rationale is to approve the claim.

Alderman Foley advised that the pictures of the potholes that the gentleman discussed were quite enormous. Alderman Foley added that sometimes things have to be looked at and assess whether it is the right thing to do. Alderman Foley stated that he believed that it is the right thing to do.

Alderman Tollenaer stated that he would encourage approval of this item.

After discussion, the motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderwoman Murphy; those voting No, Alderman Austin.

Agenda Item #10

Claims for the week of February 3 through February 9 in the amount of \$1,994,478.97.

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

Agenda Item #11

Payroll for the weeks of January 23 through February 5 in the amount of \$1,261,877.12.

Alderwoman Murphy moved and Alderman Tollenaer seconded to allow the payroll. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderman Austin, Alderman

Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderwoman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #12

Report from the Public Works Department regarding the purchase of 350 new register/touch pads from Badger Meters, Inc. in the amount of \$21,000.00.

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

Agenda Item #13

Report from the Fire Department regarding bids for reroofing the three roof towers at Fire Station #2, recommending the bid be awarded to White Roofing in the amount of \$12,215.00.

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

Agenda Item #14

Report from the Public Works Department regarding the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan, recommending to approve the allocation of Gaming and General Fund Carryover funds; approve a 5.0% water rate increase effective April 1, 2012 and a 5.0% water rate increase effective January 1, 2013; a 2.0% sewer rate increase effective April 1, 2012 and a 2.0% sewer rate increase effective January 1, 2013; a 2.0% stormwater rate increase effective April 1, 2012 and a 2.0% stormwater rate increase effective January 1, 2013.

Alderman Conroy moved to approve the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan as recommended, the allocation of Gaming and General Fund carryover funds, authorize staff to implement the FY13 projects and authorize staff to begin designing the FY14 projects, Alderwoman Murphy seconded.

Discussion followed. Alderman Conroy stated that he didn't move to approve the water, sewer and stormwater increases for several reasons. Alderman Conroy stated that he would like to review this during the upcoming budget sessions. Alderman Conroy advised that there is almost a 5% increase over the next five years in water rates; one of the major reasons is to get the cash on hand up to where it needs to be. Alderman Conroy indicated that instead of trying to make this happen within five years, the City could possibly look at doing something like that over a 10 year period to see what that may do for lowering the rate.

Alderman Conroy stated that the other issue is projects. Alderman Conroy discussed the Gaming Fund as it related to the year 2014 and the year 2015. Alderman Conroy indicated that there may

be some projects at that time where Gaming revenue could be used to also help build up this fund. Alderman Conroy pointed out that he would like to review and discuss these two issues during the budget meetings in February and March.

Alderman Conroy advised that the City has already discussed what a burden these rates are, and Rock Island is the highest in the Quad Cities. Alderman Conroy offered that he is trying to make a better environment for businesses that want to come to Rock Island by lowering and not raising the water rates. It was noted that Alderman Conroy had a real concern in regards to raising the rates without further evaluation.

Council further discussed these issues as it related to whether or not to defer this Agenda item.

Alderman Brooks advised that the City just went through the process of developing a new program for payment options regarding water bills. Alderman Brooks noted that this is not a good time to consider an increase.

Mayor Pauley advised that one of the main reasons for the increase is for the City to be able to continue the program that was developed several years ago in regards to replacing water pipes when the City digs up streets. Mayor Pauley commented that this will slow the process down considerably if there is not an increase; the City will be doing less projects.

Alderman Foley stated that over the years, these increases have been very high and it is tough to put a 10% increase within a year on the citizens when the economy is bad.

Alderwoman Murphy agreed that Council needs to wait and go through the budget process before making a decision. Alderwoman Murphy commented that there are a lot of people in the community struggling.

Council further discussed this issue as it related to whether or not to have a study session before, during or after the budget sessions. More discussion followed on whether or not to defer or table this item.

Alderman Conroy then moved to table Agenda Item #14 and Alderwoman Murphy seconded. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderwoman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #15

Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a request from Hodge Construction for rezoning from an R-3 (one and two family residence) district to a U-1 (university and college) district at 1112 and 1116 37th Street.

Alderman Tollenaer moved and Alderwoman Murphy seconded to approve the rezoning 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, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks,

Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderwoman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #16

Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request to eliminate the no parking on the east side of 22nd Street from 3rd to 4th Avenue.

It was moved by Alderman Tollenaer 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, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderwoman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #17

Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request for City ordinance (section 9-42) control of a parking lot at 2411 4th Avenue.

Alderman Austin moved and Alderwoman Murphy 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, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderwoman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #18

Report from the Mayor regarding reappointments to the GROWTH Board and the Labor Day Parade Board.

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

Reappointments to the GROWTH Board include; Darwin “Buzz” Robinson, Monta Ponsetto and Evie White. These are three year terms that expire on March 31, 2015.

Reappointments to the Labor Day Parade Board include; Mary Chappell, Art Milton and Grace Shirk. These are three year terms that expire on January 23, 2015.

Agenda Item #19

Other Business

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

Alderwoman Murphy reminded everyone to shop Rock Island. Alderwoman Murphy stated that if anyone would like to buy something for Valentine’s Day, shop at the Rock Island Botanical Center’s gift shop at 2525 4th Avenue. It was noted that the gift shop is open to the public,

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 13, 2012
MINUTES**

Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday from noon to 4:00 pm. Alderwoman Murphy advised that the gift shop offers jewelry, books, garden gifts, plants, and it is a great place to find unique, handcrafted and artistic things that are made in the Quad Cities. Alderwoman Murphy encouraged everyone Shop Rock Island.

Agenda Item #20

Executive Session on Personnel.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Austin at 7:19 pm to recess to Executive Session on matters of Personnel. The motion carried on a roll call vote. Those voting Aye being, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderwoman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #21

Recess

Mayor Pauley reconvened the regular meeting at 7:35 pm. A motion was made by Alderwoman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Foley to recess to Monday, February 20, 2012 at 5:30 pm. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderwoman Murphy; those voting No, none.

The meeting was recessed at 7:36 pm.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk