

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 Ivory D. Clark, Stephen L. Tollenaer and Joy Murphy. Also present were City Manager Thomas Thomas, Community and Economic Development Director Jeff Eder, other City staff, City Attorney Dave Morrison and Bill Takakoshi from Hurt Norton. Alderman Kate Hotle arrived at 5:35 pm and Alderman P.J. Foley arrived at 6:15 pm. Aldermen Charles O. Austin III and David Conroy were absent.

HURT NORTON PRESENTATION

Mr. Bill Takakoshi stated that Hurt Norton has represented the Quad City area and the Rock Island Arsenal since 1998. Mr. Takakoshi discussed the background of Hurt Norton, their accomplishments and major issues regarding the Rock Island Arsenal.

Mr. Takakoshi stated that in regards to defense and the Rock Island Arsenal, and any future BRAC based closure decisions, the factory is the key as well as Senator Durbin. Mr. Takakoshi added that Senator Durbin is the Chair of the Senate Defense Appropriations Sub Committee, and in the last couple of years, he has moved about \$200 million to the Rock Island Arsenal in the form of industrial mobilization capacity.

Mr. Takakoshi indicated that Hurt Norton has helped the community with over \$300 million in projects. Various project accomplishments Mr. Takakoshi discussed included; the Government Bridge, unutilized plant capacity/industrial mobilization capacity, partnering legislation, ASPI, which is a program to make use of unutilized building space on the Arsenal and FY2015 Military housing. Mr. Takakoshi also discussed Hurt Norton's philosophy of lobbying and working in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Takakoshi discussed the D.C. climate as it related to the 2015 Defense Authorization Bill. Mr. Takakoshi stated that members were able to get three things in. Mr. Takakoshi explained that there is a requirement that the Army maintain the factory at a certain workload. Mr. Takakoshi added that they have proceeded on to define that workload for all arsenals. Mr. Takakoshi pointed out that in legislation, there is always the ability for the Secretary of the Army to close arsenals. Mr. Takakoshi stated that in this Defense Appropriations Bill, they took that language out. In addition, Mr. Takakoshi stated that Senator Durbin got in \$225 million for industrial mobilization capacity. Mr. Takakoshi advised that the Army has not decided what portion of that \$225 million will come to the Rock Island Arsenal. Mr. Takakoshi further explained this item. Mr. Takakoshi further discussed the DC climate as it related to sequestration cuts in defense and the push and pull on defense spending.

Mr. Takakoshi commented that for 2015, all federal departments were funded for the whole year except for the department of Homeland Security. Mr. Takakoshi added that this was due to the immigration steps that the President took. Mr. Takakoshi further discussed this item. Mr. Takakoshi also discussed a number of other things that Congress has to do this year, which include; tax reform, work on the transportation and highway authorization bills and increase the debt ceiling.

Mr. Takakoshi commented that the Department of Defense budget in 2000 was at \$384 billion and this year (2015) it is at \$500 billion, which is an increase of 31%. Mr. Takakoshi advised that the cost of military personnel has gone up as well as the Department of Defense's health portion. Mr. Takakoshi advised that the Pentagon has prepared a number of steps to cut costs but Congress has not agreed on the proposed steps. Mr. Takakoshi further discussed the defense budget.

Mr. Takakoshi discussed the issues that they will be working on this year, some of which include; potential BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure), monitor and react on ammunition management and monitor and react on factory partnering. Mr. Takakoshi stated that he believes that Congress has to do something and allow the Pentagon to make some budget cost reductions. Mr. Takakoshi added that he thinks that in 2017, Congress will authorize a BRAC round. Mr. Takakoshi further discussed the process for a potential Base Realignment and Closure round.

UPDATE ON GARDEN LOTS

Community and Economic Development Director Jeff Eder introduced Brett Gardella who is the new Economic Development Manager. After introductions, Mr. Eder presented an updated report on the Community Garden Program.

Mr. Eder advised that it was previously discussed with Council about putting together some rules and regulations for the Community Garden Program. Mr. Eder stated that this program has been around for a number of years and currently, there are about 42 leases in the community with approximately 27 gardeners. Mr. Eder advised that currently, there are no real rules in the lease for the gardeners. Mr. Eder added that the only thing it allows the City to do is the 30 day notice to get out of the lease. Mr. Eder stated that it is being recommended to raise the fee to \$50.00 and add a community benefit clause. Mr. Eder added that if the gardener submits a community benefit plan then they could essentially garden for free.

Mr. Eder stated that the original intent of this program was to put property in some sort of productive use while the City held it for long term economic development use. Mr. Eder advised that some parcels lend themselves more towards short term economic development goals and some parcels lend themselves to much longer economic development goals. Mr. Eder further discussed this item.

Mr. Eder discussed the program's purpose, which allows for vacant City-owned lots to be transformed into areas for edible gardens and flower gardens. Mr. Eder discussed the community benefits that garden lots provide, some of which include; places vacant land back into productive use, which reduces the City's maintenance costs; supports the City's goals of creating a healthy community with access to nutritious foods; and provides a place to learn and share gardening knowledge with others.

Mr. Eder then discussed staff's recommendation for the community benefit plan options for the gardener. Various community benefit plan options include; donating a percentage of produce to a local food pantry, community center or school; establishing a neighborhood composting site to be used by neighborhood residents; and creating demonstration garden sites and hosting

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 12, 2015
MINUTES**

workshops to educate the community on innovative garden practices. Mr. Eder advised that garden lots would be \$50.00 per year and gardeners that submit a community benefit plan could have their fee waived. Mr. Eder added that lots would be on a first-come, first-serve basis and the lease would begin January 1st and end December 31st. Mr. Eder offered that gardeners with no violations would have the option to renew their lease for a two or three year period unless there is an economic development project pending.

Mr. Eder then discussed the rules and regulations for the Community Garden Program. Various rules and procedures include; the City does not provide water to community garden sites; community garden lots must be gardened and/or maintained year-round on a consistent basis; each site must be weeded regularly; gardeners shall keep all areas of the property not under cultivation mowed and trimmed; the use of pesticides is prohibited, organic gardening is required and no synthetic chemicals including herbicides or chemical fertilizers are allowed; the properties may be accessed from dawn until dusk; and Rock Island residence is required.

Mr. Eder stated that if Council agrees then this item will be on next week's Agenda for Council consideration. Council discussed the Community Garden Program as it related to the rules and regulations concerning prohibited use of pesticides and organic gardening required. Council also discussed the issue of City liability if pesticides were to be used on City garden lots. In addition, Council discussed the locations of the community garden lots.

After more discussion, it was a consensus among Council for Mr. Eder to bring this item back next week for Council consideration.

City Manager Thomas advised that the update on Personnel and Parks Policies will be held at a future Study Session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Alderman Tollenaer and seconded by Alderman Murphy to adjourn the meeting carried by the following Aye and No vote. Those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle and Alderman Murphy; those voting No, none. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 12, 2015
MINUTES**

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 Ivory D. Clark, P.J. Foley, Stephen L. Tollenaer, Kate Hotle and Joy Murphy. Also present were City Manager Thomas Thomas and City Attorney Dave Morrison. Aldermen Charles O. Austin III and David Conroy were absent.

Introductory Proceedings

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

Mayor Pauley changed the order of the Agenda Items with Item #7 being first.

Agenda Item #7

Proclamation declaring January 2015 as National Mentoring Month.

Mayor Pauley read the proclamation. Caitlin and Gwendolyn accepted the proclamation.

Gwendolyn stated that she is 12 years old and goes to Washington Jr. High School. Gwendolyn also stated that she has been matched with Caitlin for almost five years in May. Caitlin stated that they love Big Brothers - Big Sisters. Caitlin added that the organization gives them all sorts of activities to do like educational activities, camping and rock climbing. Caitlin stated that Big Brothers-Big Sisters is a great organization.

Agenda Item #5

Minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2015.

A motion was made by Alderman Foley and seconded by Alderman Hotle to approve the Minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2015 as printed. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle and Alderman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #6

State of the City Address by Mayor Dennis E. Pauley.

Mayor Pauley gave the State of the City Address; the contents of which follow:

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS - 2015

I am very happy to again present the State of the City address so that we may have this opportunity to take a look at the past year and preview what is to come.

We have a very strong, dedicated team of aldermen. Ivory Clark, David Conroy, P.J. Foley, Steve Tollenaer, Kate Hotle, Joy Murphy and Chuck Austin work hard for the citizens of Rock Island. After 16 years of dedicated service, Alderman Conroy has decided to not seek re-election and the Second Ward will elect a replacement in the spring elections. Dave's deep breadth of

knowledge and sound advice will definitely be missed. Along with our Aldermen, our team of professional directors, lead by City Manager Thomas Thomas, continues to pursue projects to move Rock Island forward.

Rock Island continues to be in very good financial condition. 2015 will be the first year for a calendar year budget cycle. We have a balanced budget; maintain a 90 day reserve in case of emergency; we have a solid AA2 bond rating and very sound financial operations. 2015 will be the fourth year in a row that Rock Island residents have not had a property tax increase from the City.

Our Information Technology Department focused on three major areas in 2014 that significantly reduced or eliminated unsupported computing systems, improved municipal efficiencies and broaden communications.

They had to take on several projects this past year to address outdated or soon to be outdated computer systems. Numerous laptops and mobile data terminals have been replaced to eliminate Windows XP and several servers have been replaced or upgraded to keep up with modern technology.

We invested in Rock Island's future by adding additional fiber optic cable to improve access for the Century Woods substation and additional growth in public safety video surveillance. Fiber optic cable will be placed to the new police station in 2015. By focusing on efforts to eliminate outdated systems, the City continues to provide progressive and cost effective technology solutions.

January 2015 will mark one year of implementing the library's new strategic plan and the results are really beginning to show. Updates at the main library include a remodel of the bathrooms, upgrades to lighting and new window coverings. We've undergone a chimney replacement and are beginning repairs to the stone exterior. The Southwest branch underwent repairs to a leaky roof and the 30/31 branch received a new, more reliable self checkout machine and re-arranged their bookstore wing so that it now also serves as a much needed staff area and a programming and gathering space for the community.

In 2014, library summer hours were extended to stay open later on Saturdays, a DVD checkout fee was eliminated, two new types of library cards were implemented - a "My First Library Card" for patrons 5 years old and under and an "Educator" card for people working in the Rock Island / Milan School system, but living outside the community. All changes are designed to meet the ever changing needs of library patrons.

The library was honored to be chosen as one of only six locations in Illinois to host the traveling Smithsonian Museum on Main Street exhibit, "Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America" this past year.

The library has embarked on a comprehensive master plan for its three locations. The study will be completed in early 2015 and will include recommendations on how to best meet the community needs for library space and services.

The results of all the changes of the Rock Island Library have been astounding. Patron visits and program attendance have increased, along with an overall excitement for the library, and there is a lot more to come in 2015.

In 2014, the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center emphasized expanding services to serve the needs of Rock Island residents. The Center served over 22,711 residents with a variety of services and programs, expanded educational programs and 150 youth attended six week sessions emphasizing social skills.

The King Center's Metropolitan Youth Program was highlighted throughout the year in community impacting events. The Metro Youth Program was honored to perform for First Lady Michelle Obama during her visit to the Quad Cities and they also performed this past year in the McDonalds Thanksgiving Day parade in Chicago. With the helping hands of 135 volunteers, the Center's annual Thanksgiving dinner provided 1,224 dinners, which included 365 residents of the City's four elderly high-rise apartment buildings and 353 to the sick and shut-in residents of our community. The Christmas party served 202 children and 581 attendees, providing families with the needed support for holiday gifts and family centered entertainment.

The Center continued to support the Active Club, which mobilized 132 members, 55 years and older, and encouraged them to remain active in their community. Additionally, the Active Club hosts the "King Café", a senior led group that organizes and promotes volunteerism, community building, dialog and food. The Café is open 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. daily.

The King Center continues to provide services to people of all ages and also provides community access to meeting space at the center.

Our Rock Island Parks Department continues to be a leader in the region and consistently provides high quality services to the citizens of Rock Island. In May, "The Landing", the new docks at Schwiebert Park, was opened and many boaters took advantage of them to attend concerts, go downtown for dinner or district events.

The tennis courts at Longview and Lincoln Park were refurbished and Pickleball courts were installed at lower Lincoln Park. Updates were completed at Highland Springs and Saukie Golf courses. Augustana students inventoried the trees in the parks to enable us to make plans on how to remove any infestations and to determine which trees need additional care or removal.

We added several new programs, including the first tee program for youth, pass holder outings at Highland Springs, winter golf lessons at the Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center (RIFAC), a new cooperative program with Rock Island County Area Project (RICAP), township offices, MetroLink and the library to improve accessibility to park facilities and programs. RICAP and the townships are providing scholarships for youth; riders on MetroLink can use their "transfer ticket" as a coupon to get group rates and Park and Recreation is working with Little League representatives to expand their program.

Lincoln Park and Schwiebert Riverfront Park hosted concerts throughout the summer and fall and over 20 weddings and 10 all day events were booked on the riverfront. Fireworks were held

on Labor Day this past year due to flooding and that date will now be the first back up date if flooding is an issue again in the future. The ball fields at the sports complex were rented out for almost every weekend this past summer and all available weekends have already been rented out for next year.

Rock Island has tremendous parks facilities that are used by residents from throughout the Quad Cities. At Highland Springs Golf Course, 32% of our players come from Iowa. At Saukie Golf Course, 15% were from the Iowa side and at the Fitness Center, 44% were from surrounding areas. These numbers show that Rock Island has an excellent parks system that is utilized by the entire Quad Cities community.

During 2014, the Rock Island Fire Department continued to enhance its services to the citizens of Rock Island and visitors to our city. Due to the capabilities of an EKG from the new heart monitors, the department was able to alert Unity Point Hospital of several stemi alerts (cardiac issues) utilizing the enhanced capabilities of the new units. The patients were then sent directly to the heart lab, instead of spending any time in the hospital emergency room.

A new 800 MHz communication system was approved that will enhance abilities to communicate with any fire department in the area. Rock Island is a city surrounded by rivers, but we were the only community in the area without a rescue boat. In 2014, the purchase of a 26 foot fire / rescue boat and trailer was approved and will be put into service in the summer of 2015. Emergency generators were installed in Stations #2, 3 and 4. These generators are capable of operating the entire station during power outages.

In the early hours of September 27th, Rock Island had a terrible fire in the downtown. Thankfully there was no loss of life. Beginning with the extremely quick actions of a telecommunicator, who was able to ascertain from one of our downtown cameras that we had a very serious fire, and with the assistance from the Arsenal, Moline, and Blackhawk Township fire departments, our fire department was able to quickly contain the fire. This fire could have easily burned the entire city block, but was, thankfully, held to a fairly small area. From the onset, the Police Department did an excellent job of keeping residents back and away from danger and the Inspections Department was on the spot, helping determine where it was safe to go. Valley Construction diverted a backhoe and operator to the site to immediately start demolishing the burned building. A team effort and the professionalism of all the units involved helped make this much less of a disaster than it could have been.

In 2014, the Police Department implemented its downtown police unit and the consensus is that they have had a profound effect on the downtown. Many in the downtown area expressed that they feel they have a closer relationship with the officers, which has fostered better cooperation and responsiveness in addressing problems. As a result, there has been a dramatic drop in the number of police calls in the downtown over the past year. The police department will also go to the 800 MHz radio system, enhancing communication with all of the neighboring communities. This past year, Rock Island became one of only 8 agencies in Illinois to achieve their Tier II accreditation.

After being housed in an extremely undersized facility for the past 40 years, construction has begun on the new, sixty thousand square foot police facility. Located between 5th and 7th Avenues and 12th and 13th Streets, the project included demolition of several run down structures and will modernize the entire area. Construction will be completed in the fall of 2015 and the facility will be a great addition to the community.

2014 was another busy year for our Public Works department. The brutally cold temperatures and record snowfalls made the start of the year very difficult. Crews responded to over 100 water main breaks throughout the winter. Then the Mississippi River flooded in April, May and June. Although we do have a system of levees and flood walls, there is still a significant amount of work to keep the city dry. This often requires 24 hour a day monitoring. Although most of the flood fighting is done by Public Works, Police, Fire and Parks all become part of the process.

Although slow getting started, the maintenance and construction season was quite busy. The brutal cold and snow took its toll. We had three unplanned projects that were directly related to the extreme winter:

- 34th Avenue – water replacement from 3rd to 5th Street
- 44th Avenue – water replacement from 12th to 14th Street
- 29th Street West - pavement replacement, north of Andalusia Road

On the maintenance side, the streets and utilities divisions performed their annual maintenance, including patching streets, grading alleys, replacing signs and the numerous other routine maintenance functions. The engineering unit managed special projects. In the southwest, work was completed on 29th Street West and on the railway crossing on Route 92. In town, patching continued on 38th Street from 22nd Avenue to just south of 18th Avenue. Major patching occurred on several residential streets. The two major projects were 23rd Avenue, from 14th to 17th Streets and 7th Avenue, from 30th to 38th Streets.

The most talked about program this year was the addition of a Hot-in-Place asphalt recycling program. 27 blocks of asphalt streets were recycled and sealed. The cost is significantly less than the traditional method and more environmentally friendly. The program had very favorable responses from residents.

We continue to work on the long term control program. The wet weather treatment plant came on line in the summer and functioned successfully during heavy rains. There are six remaining components to the plan and all work should be completed by the end of 2017. The entire project was an unfunded mandate by the Federal Government and required to be completed by 2018.

Let's turn to Economic Development. Demolition at Watchtower Plaza is well underway. Hill and Valley is scheduled to complete their move by late January / early February and then demolition can continue to make way for Wal-Mart.

Blackhawk Commons has the completion of Blackhawk College, State Farm Insurance and Missman, Inc. corporate headquarters and there still is room for four more businesses. Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living moved into their new facility on 11th Street at 6th Avenue.

The City has purchased the former Blackhawk TV building on the corner of Blackhawk Road and 11th Street to make room for a larger turn lane to accommodate semis.

There have been some delays, but we plan to continue forward on the Jumer's Crossing project. This 90 acre site development across from Jumer's Casino and Hotel is designed to house over 200,000 square feet of retail and 50,000 square feet of services, restaurants and convenience retail. A market study estimates this project can generate up to \$2.4 million in annual sales and \$450,000 in annual property taxes and will be a great financial asset, not only to Rock Island, but to the region as a whole.

Dollar General has relocated on 11th Street with a brand new building.

FedEx constructed a new facility on Andalusia Road at Turkey Hollow Road. The construction on the building was completed and the facility was in operation for the holiday season. As the new year begins, they will undertake installation of an automated, state of the art, material handling system, which will take approximately six months to complete.

Milan Surplus relocated to 11th Street and has seen tremendous success at their new location.

The Rock Island Housing Authority completed Lynden Lanes, 55 units of housing on the former Manor Homes site.

Friendship Manor completed 13 new villas and is getting ready to begin a \$1.3 million rebuild of their dementia unit.

The MetroLink Maintenance Facility was completed in the spring of 2014. Their state of the art building houses their bus fleet and operations staff. They have a solar array to generate electricity and solar water heater and hope to attain their LEED certification soon.

The Holiday Inn downtown has finished remodeling their guest rooms and will now begin on an upgrade of their HVAC system.

Augustana continues to remodel numerous facilities on their campus.

The Sheet Metal Workers completed a substantial expansion of their facility in our Southwest Business Park.

Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwich Shop opened in a former convenience store on Blackhawk Road.

The Botanical Center completed the first phase of their children's garden and the area is receiving great reviews from both children and their parents.

We also have a variety of relocations:

- Oh Nuts relocated to the College Hill area
- Rolling Smoke Barbeque is now serving at Kavanaugh's Hilltop Tap

- Oriental Market opened up on Blackhawk Road
- Mad Roots Juicery opened up in the downtown

We have numerous projects, either planned or under construction for 2015 –

Gunchie's has purchased the old Hunters facility and they plan to undertake a significant amount of renovation before opening their restaurant / bar by St. Patrick's Day, 2015. They currently have a very successful business in Davenport and are looking forward to opening a second location here in Rock Island.

- The Rock Island Police Department will be completed in the Fall of 2015
- Unity Medical Center – Spring of 2015
- Hill and Valley will move to their new location in January or February
- 2 new ARC houses will be ready for residents in 2015
- Rock Island Housing Authority - The 3rd & 11th townhomes are located on the far west end of Rock Island in a neighborhood known as “New Old Chicago” and will be available early spring. The construction of the townhomes is funded by RIHA and represents a \$1.2 million investment in the neighborhood and will be utilized as part of RIHA's Homebuyer Incentive Program.
- Riverview Lofts – the 44 units and 1st floor commercial spaces will be available in 2015 in the historic Montgomery Ward building
- The Locks Apartments – This 34 unit, Transit Oriented Development will support Rock Island's growing need for market driven, live-work housing and the [Liveable Communities Initiative](#), an effort that strengthens the link between transit and communities.
- Beaver Landing has another 6-plex under construction to add to the seven already completed in the area between Blackhawk Road and the Rock River
- At your Service Catering is relocating to 1524 4th Avenue and will open as Moe's Burgers and Brews
- Hawk Tech – 18,000 square foot expansion
- Strip Mall in the 4100 block of 6th Avenue planned by LRC
- CVS Pharmacy will start construction of their new building in the spring on the former Audubon School site.
- Interventions in Pain Management LLC opened their clinic on Blackhawk Road in March.
- Associated General Contractors of the Quad Cities celebrated their new remodel in November

Let's take a look at the partnership between Renaissance Rock Island and the City. Economic Growth Corporation was awarded a \$3.5 million grant from the National Foreclosure Settlement Funds to assist with regional projects, with nearly \$1.6 million being directly invested into Rock Island projects.

Awarded Phase III of Live-Work Rock Island. 251 households have been assisted, generating more than \$27 million in real estate transactions in Rock Island.

Completion of transit oriented development - \$8.2 million combined investment, including \$6.1 million in The Locks development, adding 34 rental units.

The Star Block Building - \$1.7 million renovation expected to be completed August, 2015. This will include 8 upper story rental units and 2 commercial spaces on the first floor.

The Villas at College Hill – a \$932,000 investment completed by fall of 2015 includes three new homes in the College Circle neighborhood.

More than 20 new or expanded businesses were added in our downtown area in 2014:

- Switch Stance Skate Shop – retail
- Luxury Hair Boutique – retail
- Susan’s Closet – retail
- Zodiac Portraits – retail
- Vivian’s Vintage Varieties – retail, relocated and expanded
- District Theatre – relocated and expanded
- L’Couture Linens by Claudia – retail, under new ownership
- Panther Uniforms – 30 years in downtown Rock Island – relocated to their original site and expanded
- Small Wonder Photography – relocated and expanded
- Herb Schultz Law Firm – relocated and expanded
- Inland Home Mortgage – relocated and expanded to two locations in Rock Island
- Tapas Yoga Shala – Relocated and expanded
- Rumors Lounge and Nightclub opened in The District
- The Smoking Dog Pub opened in The District
- Jaded Gypsy Tattoo – opened in early 2014, but unfortunately the building was demolished during the September 27th fire. The owners purchased the former Lucky Shamrock on 20th Street and will soon be open for business
- Huckleberry’s also suffered severe damage during that fire, but took that as an opportunity to do many updates and renovations and will reopen very soon
- Something New - barbershop
- NormaLeah Ovarian Cancer Society – new location
- Mad Roots Juicery
- Purple Tree Chiropractic
- Palms Massage
- Radiant Health Imaging
- Q.C. Colon Health Hydro Therapy
- Phenom Phen Asian cuisine restaurant
- Morton Design – relocated and expanded
- Roosters Sports Bar and Grill reopened under new ownership
- The Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois renovated their former downtown headquarters to an urban program center for the girl scouts and other youth groups.

I have been presenting an update on Rock Island, but it should be noted that I completely believe in and support the regional approach and believe that whatever is good for the Arsenal and any community in this market service area of 450,000 people is also good for Rock Island and what is good for Rock Island is good for the entire area. It does not benefit the area to move jobs from one community to the other. We must work together to enhance the viability of the entire region and to attract resources we do not currently have in the region.

Rock Island is on the move. We have everyone working together to constantly improve Rock Island and we are continuing to make things happen and getting things done for the citizens of Rock Island.

Agenda Item #8

A Special Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit at 625 10th Street.

Alderman Clark moved and Alderman Foley seconded to consider, suspend the rules and pass the ordinance. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle and Alderman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #9

A Special Ordinance providing for the sale of City owned property at 909 3rd Avenue.

It was moved by Alderman Foley and seconded by Alderman Clark to consider, suspend the rules and pass the ordinance. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle and Alderman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #10

Claims for the week of January 2 through January 8 in the amount of \$1,646,016.48 and payroll for the weeks of December 22 through January 4 in the amount of \$1,336,175.46.

Alderman Hotle moved and Alderman Foley seconded to allow the claims and payroll. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle and Alderman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #11

Report from the Police Department regarding a General Usage Rental Vehicles contract with Wags Auto Center, recommending a one year renewal expiring March 31, 2016 at the prices quoted in the existing contract.

It was moved by Alderman Hotle and seconded by Alderman Murphy to approve the contract 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 Clark, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle and Alderman Murphy; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #12

Other Business.

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

Alderman Hotle advised that her other employer Mediacom held their holiday party this past Saturday night at the Stern Center in Downtown Rock Island. Alderman Hotle stated that there were about 500 people in attendance. Alderman Hotle added that the Holiday Inn catered the event and Daiquiri Factory provided daiquiris. Alderman Hotle stated that this was a whole Rock Island effort and the party was fantastic. Alderman Hotle commented that the Stern Center, Holiday Inn and Daiquiri Factory did a great job.

Alderman Clark stated that the Pena Club with the help of the Rock Island Boxing Club put on a wonderful show on Saturday. Alderman Clark thanked the Mayor, City Council and the Rock Island Police Department for helping that dream for many young people become a reality. Alderman Clark offered that the Regional Silver Glove Boxing Tournament will be held at the Martin Luther King Center on January 23rd, 24th and 25th. Alderman Clark encouraged everyone to come out and support the young people at this event.

Alderman Murphy reminded everyone to Shop Rock Island. Alderman Murphy stated that Alfano's Pizza is family owned and locally owned and they have been in business for over 40 years. Alderman Murphy advised that Alfano's is known for their thin crust pizza, stuffed pizza and calzones. Alderman Murphy stated that they are located at 2700 11th Street and they have carry-out and gift certificates. Alderman Murphy encouraged everyone to Shop Local and Shop Rock Island First.

Agenda Item #13

Executive Session on Personnel, Property Acquisition and Litigation.

An Executive Session was not held.

Agenda Item #14

Recess

A motion was made by Alderman Foley and seconded by Alderman Clark to recess to 5:30 pm, Monday, January 19, 2015. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle and Alderman Murphy, those voting No, none. The meeting was recessed at 7:19 pm.