

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, Joy Murphy and Charles O. Austin III. Also present were City Manager Thomas Thomas, Community and Economic Development Director Jeff Eder, Human Resources Director John Thorson, Parks and Recreation Director Bill Nelson, other City staff, City Attorney Dave Morrison and Ami Jenkins, Executive Director of the Quad City Botanical Center. Alderman Kate Hotle arrived at 5:35 pm. Aldermen David Conroy and P.J. Foley were absent.

QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER UPDATE

Ami Jenkins, Executive Director of the Quad City Botanical Center (QCBC) provided an update to Council on Phase I of the Children's Garden project and the upcoming Phase II project, which is the Headwaters and Sauk Village. Ms. Jenkins advised that the Quad City Botanical Center (QCBC) has had an amazing partnership with the City of Rock Island.

Ms. Jenkins highlighted the many things that the City did for the center to help move the Children's Garden project forward. Ms. Jenkins stated that the City provided the land including the acquisition, environmental clean-up and the long term lease agreement. In addition, Ms. Jenkins stated that the City offered their partnership, which was required to receive the federal funds, and this allowed QCBC to win the \$750,000.00 grant from Scenic By-Ways. Ms. Jenkins commented that \$150,000.00 in matching funds was provided along with the grant administration and billing, and then Council approval to provide \$237,500.00 in advance for the pass-through funds for the Illinois Museums Grant. Ms. Jenkins also noted the support, guidance and expertise from City staff, and the road improvements for the Children's Garden, which included redesigning and paving 3rd Avenue.

Ms. Jenkins advised that they had a very successful first season with the Children's Garden. Ms. Jenkins noted that QCBC had over 200 volunteers that helped plant 2,500 plants in two weeks so that they could get the Children's Garden open and running. It was noted that between May and September, QCBC had a 69% increase in revenue generated from admissions over the previous year from when they didn't have the Children's Garden, and during that time, they also had a 30% increase in revenue generated from membership sales over the previous year.

Ms. Jenkins stated that the majority of the funds have been paid back to the City, but there is still a \$25,766.00 balance remaining. Ms. Jenkins noted that as the remaining pledges come in, that balance will be paid off. Ms. Jenkins commented that QCBC anticipates a 12 month time frame to pay off the balance to the City.

Ms. Jenkins then discussed Phase II of the Children's Garden project, which includes the Headwaters and Sauk Village. Ms. Jenkins explained that the backbone of the garden has been built with the delta, the entry plaza and the river, but the center wasn't able to build the complete river and that includes the headwaters. Ms. Jenkins explained that QCBC was able to receive another \$520,000.00 grant from the Illinois Museums Capital Grant and another \$25,000.00 from the Riverboat Development Authority (RDA). Ms. Jenkins added that \$72,000.00 in funds is left to raise to be whole on the Headwaters project and the Sauk Indian Village. Ms. Jenkins added

that they plan to be in the field and start building it this summer. Ms. Jenkins commented that the project kicked off in January and the bidding will be in April with an anticipated groundbreaking in June. Ms. Jenkins noted that the construction season would be from June through September with the project being completed in September and the grand opening in October.

Ms. Jenkins stated that it is the Quad City Botanical Center's hope that the partnership can continue with the City and if the City may consider fronting the \$520,000.00 for the Illinois Museums Grant. Ms. Jenkins commented that it would be the same process as it was for the previous grant in which QCBC could apply for reimbursement from the DNR at 50% completion and 100% completion. Ms. Jenkins stated that it would be wonderful if the City could help the Quad City Botanical Center.

Ms. Jenkins also discussed the Quad City Botanical Center's strategic plan as well as other joint partnerships.

Ms. Jenkins and Council discussed demographics as it related to QCBC memberships and visitors. Ms. Jenkins and Council also discussed the components for Phase II of the project concerning the Headwaters and Sauk Village. Council discussed funding as it related to Phase II of the project and continuing the partnership with the Quad City Botanical Center. Mayor Pauley commented that the funding is viable, but the City would need to see a proposal from the Quad City Botanical Center. Council further discussed Phase II of the project.

UPDATE ON PERSONNEL AND PARKS POLICIES

Human Resources Director John Thorson discussed the current Park's personnel policies and the City's personnel policies; the differences between both policies; and Park's transition to the City's personnel policies.

Mr. Thorson advised that as of January 1, 2015, Park's employees have adhered to the City's personnel policies with a couple of exceptions. Mr. Thorson stated that in regards to Section 3.600 of the City's personnel rules under Terminal Pay, City employees are normally required to complete 20 years of service or have minimum years to qualify for an IMRF pension. Mr. Thorson added that in this case, it would be eight years of service and the minimum age of 55 years to qualify for sick leave pay out. Mr. Thorson pointed out that in the Parks Department's case, it is four years of service.

Mr. Thorson advised that they are trying to make the policies match up in which the first change is that the City's personnel policies are now followed by any new Park's employee hired on or after January 1, 2015. Mr. Thorson added that the employees that were hired prior to January 1, 2015 will adhere to the four year requirement.

Mr. Thorson advised that the second change is under Section 5.500 of the City's personnel rules, which is Vacation Leave. Mr. Thorson stated that all City employees can earn vacation based on years of service; it ranges from 80 hours to about 160 hours. Mr. Thorson added that City employees can carry a maximum of one and one-half times their maximum accrual rate. Mr.

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Thorson noted that at the end of the fiscal year, if an employee's accrual rate is beyond the maximum then that time would be lost.

Mr. Thorson advised that Parks had a slightly different policy where they permitted employees a maximum of two and one-half times their annual accrual rate, and those employees that were hired prior to January 15, 1997 could accrue vacation leave without limit. Mr. Thorson commented that the Park's policies are being matched up with the City's policies. Mr. Thorson advised that Park's employees will have until September 4, 2015 to become compliant with the one and one-half accrual limit. Mr. Thorson explained that there are approximately 18 Park's employees that are above the maximum and there are a couple of Park's employees that had a lot of vacation time on the books. Mr. Thorson stated that those two employees with a lot of vacation time on the books will be given additional time to become compliant with this requirement. Mr. Thorson commented that Parks is adopting all of the other policies that the City currently has.

Council discussed the City's personnel policies as it related to vacation time accrued, and maximum limits as it related to Park's employees hired prior to 1997. Council also discussed benefits as it related to Park's employees and other City employees.

Parks and Recreation Department Director Bill Nelson discussed reducing overages of vacation time as it related to Park's employees.

Council further discussed the City's personnel policies.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Alderman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Tollenaer to adjourn the meeting carried by the following Aye and No vote. Those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 pm.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk

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

Introductory Proceedings

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

Agenda Item #5

Minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2015.

A motion was made by Alderman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Hotle to approve the Minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2015 as printed. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #6

Update Rock Island by Mayor Pauley.

Mayor Pauley advised that Governor Rauner signed into effect the permits and licenses for the Medical Marijuana facilities. Rock Island is going to have a growing facility, which will be out in the Southwest area with GTI Clinic Holdings, LLC. Mayor Pauley added that Rock Island will also have a dispensary, which will be called Nature's Treatment of Illinois, Inc. Mayor Pauley commented that the growing facility will start out at about 35 jobs and quickly go up to about 100 jobs. The distribution center will be 10 new jobs. Mayor Pauley stated that this is great news for Rock Island.

Take a look at the employment page on the City's website at www.rigov.org. Mayor Pauley stated that we have started the process of posting our spring and summer seasonal positions. Currently, we have posted the positions at Whitewater Junction and the greenskeeper positions at Highland Springs & Saukie. Look for more openings to follow. If you are interested, go out and have a look.

Mayor Pauley advised that the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center has started their "Free Tax Preparation" now thru Saturday, April 11, 2015. The Mayor added that the service is available first come, first served on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Income limit is \$50,000. Everyone must have a valid driver's license or photo ID.

Mayor Pauley stated that You're invited! Come to The Establishment Theatre on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm to see the blueprint that will direct growth, investment and development in the Downtown area over the next 10 years. Visit <http://www.hlplanning.com/portals/rockisland/> to learn more.

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Mayor Pauley stated that Saturday, February 21st at 6:00 pm at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, the public is invited to the Quad Cities Civil Rights & Justice Summit to discuss issues affecting young minority men in the Quad Cities. Mayor Pauley added that topics covered will be the causes, solutions and future action plans to begin to address the problem. This summit is free to the public.

Agenda Item #7

Public Hearing on a request from Jody and Gene Zwiefel for a Special Use Permit to operate an antique shop out of the caretaker's cottage and an antique furniture restoration business out of the carriage house at 1918 7th Avenue.

Mayor Pauley closed the regular meeting at 6:49 pm and opened a Public Hearing on a request from Jody and Gene Zwiefel for a Special Use Permit to operate an antique shop out of the caretaker's cottage and an antique furniture restoration business out of the carriage house at 1918 7th Avenue.

Gene and Jody Zwiefel of 1330 20th Street stepped forward. Mr. Zwiefel stated that they currently have an antique business and they have operated online for many years. Mr. Zwiefel added that they have traveled around the country and done shows. Mr. Zwiefel commented that they have also had a presence at an antique mall in Madison, Wisconsin. Mr. Zwiefel indicated that they sell antiques from around 1900 and 1915 in the arts and crafts style. Mr. Zwiefel advised that they have looked for a commercial property in the Quad Cities for several years and they found the Potter House with the caretaker's cottage and the carriage house. Mr. Zwiefel stated that it offered a good fit for them. Mr. Zwiefel indicated that they would like to sell their furniture and accessories out of the cottage and do furniture restoration and repairs out of the carriage house.

Alderman Tollenaer inquired as to whether this was operated as a special use permit not so long ago.

Mr. Zwiefel stated that it was a different entity with a different address. Ms. Zwiefel stated that a business used to operate out of the 1918 cottage address; and they have purchased the property next door to the Potter House on 19th Street and they still have their business at that address.

Mayor Pauley inquired as to whether there was anyone that wished to speak in favor of the special use permit. No one stepped forward.

Mayor Pauley then inquired as to whether there was anyone that wished to speak in opposition to the special use permit. No one stepped forward.

After discussion, and with no persons present to speak in favor or in opposition to the special use permit, Mayor Pauley closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 6:52 pm.

It was moved by Alderman Austin and seconded by Alderman Hotle to approve the request for the special use permit as recommended, subject to the stipulations that; two resident and two future non-resident employees shall be allowed; hours of operation shall be 10:00 am to 6:00 pm,

Monday through Saturday, but appointments shall also be allowed; a minimum of eight off-street parking spaces shall be maintained on the site; a six square foot unlighted attached sign shall be allowed for each, the cottage house and carriage house businesses; the uses shall meet all other applicable codes and ordinances; and refer to the City Attorney for an ordinance.

Discussion followed, Alderman Hotle stated that this is in her ward and she has talked to the neighbors and they said that it sounds like a great idea for the neighborhood. Alderman Hotle commented that it will fit in well with the historical aspects. Alderman Hotle wished the Zwiefel's good luck in their new endeavor.

Alderman Murphy stated that this is a great use for these two buildings. Alderman Murphy commented that she was glad the Zwiefel's chose Rock Island for their business.

After discussion, the motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #8

A Special Ordinance declaring one current City owned 2004 Wildcat Roadpatcher (truck mounted asphalt spray patching machine) as surplus and allowing for disposal.

Alderman Hotle moved and Alderman Murphy 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 Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #9

CLAIMS

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

- a. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding payment in the amount of \$3,200.00 to Larry Bopes for General Liability claim.
- b. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding payment in the amount of \$3,500.00 to Julie Cole for General Liability claim.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #2 and final in the amount of \$26,810.84 to CDB Utility Contractors, Inc. for services provided for the Fiber Optic - Phase 7 project.

d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 in the amount of \$607,724.53 to Brandt Construction for services provided for the 6th Avenue Relief Sewer project.

Agenda Item #10

Claims for the weeks of January 16 through January 22 in the amount of \$970,128.40 and January 23 through January 29 in the amount of \$809,545.30 and payroll for the weeks of January 5 through January 18 in the amount of \$1,315,916.15.

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

Agenda Item #11

Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding bids for the demolition of the Watchtower Plaza Area Round 5, recommending the bid be awarded to Valley Construction for Option 1 - May 1st demolition completion in the total amount of \$245,014.00.

It was moved by Alderman Conroy and seconded by Alderman Murphy 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 Clark, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #12

Report from the City Clerk regarding a Resolution approving the full release of the listed Executive Session Minutes.

It was moved by Alderman Austin and seconded by Alderman Hotle to approve the full release of the listed executive session minutes as recommended and adopt the resolution. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #13

Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the donation of property at 602-604 10th Street from Second Baptist Church to the City and the donation of City owned property at 1009 and 1013 6th Avenue to Second Baptist Church.

Alderman Clark moved and Alderman Conroy seconded to approve the donations as recommended based on the terms as stated in the report, authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents and refer to the City Attorney for an ordinance. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Conroy,

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Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #14
Other Business.

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

Alderman Murphy reminded everyone to Shop Rock Island. Alderman Murphy stated that Huckleberry's is expected to open back up this weekend after the fire Downtown. Alderman Murphy encouraged everyone to stop by Huckleberry's for the next couple of weeks; just pack the place and let them know how much everyone appreciates them working so hard to open back up. Alderman Murphy encouraged everyone to Shop Local and Shop Rock Island First.

Agenda Item #15
Executive Session on Personnel, Property Acquisition and Litigation.

An Executive Session was not held.

Agenda Item #16
Recess

A motion was made by Alderman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Hotle to recess to 5:30 pm, Monday, February 9, 2015. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Clark, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy and Alderman Austin, those voting No, none. The meeting was recessed at 6:56 pm.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk