

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 Stephen L. Tollenaer, Joy Murphy, Charles O. Austin III and Ivory D. Clark. Also present were City Manager Thomas Thomas, Community and Economic Development Director Jeff Eder, other City staff, Joe Taylor, President of the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau and Devin Lavigne and Matt Filter, consultants from Houseal Lavigne. Alderman David Conroy arrived at 6:28 pm, Alderman Kate Hotle arrived at 5:34 pm and City Attorney Dave Morrison arrived at 5:33 pm. Alderman P.J. Foley was absent.

QUAD CITIES CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU UPDATE

Joe Taylor, President and CEO of the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau (QCCVB) provided an update to Council on the QCCVB. Mr. Taylor stated that the QCCVB has a 14 member board in which the City of Rock Island representative is Ben McCready, Assistant to the City Manager. Mr. Taylor added that seven of the board members are elected from the membership and seven are appointed by public funding sources. Mr. Taylor advised that the QCCVB is the only organization that markets the entire Quad Cities region as a tourist destination. Mr. Taylor advised that their sales and marketing efforts bring in meetings, conventions, sports tournaments, group tours and leisure travelers, and the spending they conduct makes the economic impact.

Mr. Taylor discussed the regional economic impact for 2014. Mr. Taylor advised that the meetings, conventions, group tours and sports tournaments directly booked by the QCCVB had an economic impact of more than \$15 million dollars. Mr. Taylor added that visitors spent about \$800 million dollars in Rock Island County and Scott County. Mr. Taylor stated that in regards to Rock Island economic impact in 2014, over 4,000 room nights were booked for over 5,000 attendees with a total economic impact of almost \$2 million dollars.

Mr. Taylor offered that the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau is excited about the Missouri Valley Conference Women's Basketball Tournament that is coming to the Quad Cities in March of 2016 for at least three years. Mr. Taylor commented that the Holiday Inn will be the host hotel for all three years of the tournament and it is estimated that over \$1 million dollars will be brought into the community by this conference. Mr. Taylor further discussed this item. Mr. Taylor stated that the QCCVB is bringing in a new wine festival, which will be held at Schwiebert Riverfront Park in August of this year. Mr. Taylor added that approximately 3,000 visitors are expected to come to this event.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau updated their branding and marketing messages. Mr. Taylor added that Marvels on the Mississippi won the 2014 Illinois Excellence in Tourism Award at the Illinois Governor's Conference in February. Mr. Taylor stated that the marketing component is really focusing on the Mississippi River. Mr. Taylor showed a brief TV spot for the new brand. Mr. Taylor advised that along with the new logo and brand, they have updated the look and feel of their advertising to make it more creative and appealing.

Mr. Taylor stated that the QCCVB recently redesigned their website with a new look and it is much easier for the user to navigate through it. Mr. Taylor further discussed this item. Mr. Taylor pointed out that the Illinois Office of Tourism regards the QCCVB as the best social media organization in the State outside of Chicago. Mr. Taylor offered that the Rock Island businesses that were the most viewed on the website included; Jumer's Casino & Hotel, Whitewater Junction, Backwater Gamblers, Circa 21, Rock Island Arsenal Museum and the Botanical Center.

Mr. Taylor advised that the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau and Lodging Association are partnering on fundraising efforts to build a stronger bid fund for all of their events. Mr. Taylor further discussed this item. Mr. Taylor commented that the QCCVB offers visitor services in Rock Island with The District Visitor Center and there is an information kiosk at Bennigan's in the Holiday Inn.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau is celebrating 25 years of tourism. Mr. Taylor added that on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm, the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau's annual meeting will be held at the Hotel Blackhawk. Mr. Taylor thanked Council for their longstanding support of the QCCVB.

ROCK ISLAND DOWNTOWN PLAN CONSULTANT PRESENTATION

Devin Lavigne of Houseal Lavigne provided Council with an overview of the contents of the draft Rock Island Downtown Revitalization Plan.

Mr. Lavigne explained the planning process, which led to the formulation of the draft Downtown Revitalization Plan. Mr. Lavigne noted that they have the comments from last week's open house and they will combine any comments from Council this evening and the plan will be updated. Mr. Lavigne added that a matrix will be put into the plan for the land uses. Mr. Lavigne advised that this plan is organized into eight chapters; Chapter 1 is an introduction and describes what the planning process is, the purpose of the plan and the setting of downtown Rock Island.

Mr. Lavigne discussed Chapter 2 of the plan. Mr. Lavigne stated that the community workshop, the downtown business workshop and the vision session were all well attended. Mr. Lavigne commented that all of the outreach was used as the foundation for the plan. Mr. Lavigne pointed out the key themes that came out of all the outreach meetings, which included; improve the streetscape and appearance of buildings; reduce vacancy; retain/recruit small businesses; diversify the type of businesses; create a neighborhood feel; increase connectivity (sidewalks, trails, etc.); increase ease/volume of parking; improve the reputation of Rock Island; and remove plaza. Council and Mr. Lavigne discussed the parking component as it related to parking being a perceived problem. Council also discussed the removal of the plaza as it related to the stage. Council further discussed the key themes.

Mr. Lavigne discussed the downtown profile concerning existing land uses in regards to Chapter 3. Mr. Lavigne discussed Chapter 4 of the plan as it related to the vision, goals and objectives. Mr. Lavigne advised that the vision is what Rock Island will look like in the next 10, 15 or 20 years from now. Mr. Lavigne stated that those different changes include; an established self

sustaining, mixed-use environment with a critical mass of activity; an improved downtown appearance, unique physical character and an overall sense of place; capitalized on existing assets and nearby activity generators; achieved a balance between preservation and new development; and improvement of the overall friendliness, efficiency and safety of all modes of downtown transportation. Council and Mr. Lavigne discussed the transportation component. Mr. Lavigne advised that the vision, goals and objectives set the framework for the rest of the chapters in the plan.

Mr. Lavigne discussed Chapter 5 of the plan as it related to land use and development. Mr. Lavigne noted that in this chapter, downtown Rock Island was broken down into three functional areas, which include; the core downtown, an outer core and the downtown periphery. Mr. Lavigne stated that the highest concentration of buildings and active uses are in the core downtown. Mr. Lavigne stated that a matrix will be prepared that identifies the appropriate land uses for each of these functional areas. Mr. Lavigne further discussed this item as it related to development and historical buildings.

Mr. Lavigne then discussed transportation concerning regional grid comparisons as it related to Chapter 6 of the plan. Mr. Lavigne commented that Rock Island has a very walkable area downtown. Mr. Lavigne then discussed some of the key transportation recommendations. Mr. Lavigne stated that it is being recommended to remove the IL Route 92 designation off of 1st Avenue. Mr. Lavigne indicated that the benefit there is to get City control of 1st Avenue in order to add some additional parking, slow down traffic and make it easier to get across to the river. Mr. Lavigne commented that this will allow for a more walkable street and connect downtown to the riverfront. Mr. Lavigne stated that another recommendation is to remove the Great River Plaza stage and create a woonerf, which would open up 2nd Avenue to traffic. Mr. Lavigne commented that this would create an environment where pedestrians and vehicles would have an equal stake in the right-of-way. Council and Mr. Lavigne further discussed this item as it related to space and temporary staging. Mr. Lavigne stated that they are also recommending to expand on wayfinding. Mr. Lavigne advised that when people come to Rock Island, there is nothing to direct them to the destinations downtown. Mr. Lavigne further discussed this item.

Mr. Lavigne discussed parking challenges as it related to on-street parking and off-street parking. Various parking challenges discussed included; Monday through Friday daytime, where there is ample parking but low hourly limits and strict enforcement; general supply of parking is okay in the evening, but there is a lack of point parking; there are different hours and limits block by block; scattered lots with different regulations and requirements; limited wayfinding; and the parking ramp is poorly lit, unadvertised and confusing as to where one is able to park. Council discussed these parking challenges. Mr. Lavigne stated that it is being recommended to simplify on-street parking by consolidating all short-term on-street parking to 30 minutes, extend all medium term on-street parking to four hours and install color coded signage. In addition, Mr. Lavigne offered that it is being recommended to remove parking meters, discontinue the sale of rover parking permits and relax enforcement where it is appropriate to do so. Other parking recommendations discussed included; improving the existing parking ramp; wayfinding signage to direct people to the parking areas; restripe private lots to maximize use; angle parking in areas of high demand; and shared parking agreements.

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 9, 2015
MINUTES**

Mr. Lavigne also discussed establishing an urban design plan as it related to Chapter 7 of the plan. Various items discussed included; additional public art in the downtown; establishing a sense of place in the downtown; and maintaining pedestrian orientation.

Mr. Lavigne discussed Chapter 8 of the plan in regards to implementation. Various implementation items discussed included; administrative actions that need to be taken to start implementing the plan; establishing partnerships; and identifying resource and funding opportunities. Council and Mr. Lavigne further discussed the implementation items.

Mr. Lavigne discussed the timeline for formalizing the plan to bring back to Council for adoption. Mr. Lavigne stated that it could possibly be sometime in April. Council further discussed the draft Downtown Revitalization Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Alderman Hotle and seconded by Alderman Tollenaer to adjourn the meeting carried by the following Aye and No vote. Those voting Aye being; Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Austin and Alderman Clark; those voting No, none. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 9, 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 David Conroy, Stephen L. Tollenaer, Kate Hotle, Joy Murphy, Charles O. Austin III and Ivory D. Clark. 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 Austin gave the Invocation.

Agenda Item #5

Minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2015.

A motion was made by Alderman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Austin to approve the Minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2015 as printed. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Austin and Alderman Clark; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #6

Update Rock Island by Mayor Pauley.

Mayor Pauley stated that the 2015 St. Patrick's Day Parade will be Saturday, March 14 at 11:30 am starting at 23rd Street and 4th Avenue in Rock Island. The Mayor added that parade floats, bands, vehicles, and walkers will head through downtown Rock Island, across Centennial Bridge, and continue its course through downtown Davenport. Visit www.ridistrict.com for updates.

Mayor Pauley advised that after the 2015 St. Patrick's Day Parade has concluded, stay in Rock Island and enjoy the post parade festivities. Some of the various outdoor festivities include Steve's Old Time Tap at 17th Street between 2nd & 3rd Avenues from 8:00 am until 7:00 pm and Kavanaugh's Hilltop Tap at 1228 30th Street from 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

Mayor Pauley commented that Spring Break is approaching quickly. Be sure and sign your kids up for Day Trippers camp at the Rock Island Fitness & Activity Center March 16 through March 30. Field trips include Skate City and the Putnam/IMAX with swimming at RIFAC each week. Email johnson.nora@rigov.org for more info or call 732-PARK to register! Spots are filling fast, don't delay!

Mayor Pauley stated to head out to the Southwest Branch of the Rock Island Library on Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 pm or Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 am and join in the St. Patrick's Day fun. Make a St. Patrick's Day lucky banner garland that's suitable for all ages and skill levels, and play JINGO, a St. Paddy's Day bingo-style game.

Mayor Pauley advised that kids can practice their reading skills by reading aloud twice each month to a therapy dog from QC Canine Assistance Network. Dogs make a great audience!

Available for Pre-K to 6th grades. Come read with Rover Monday, March 16 and Monday, March 30 from 5:30 to 6:30 at the 30/31 Branch Library.

Agenda Item #7

Proclamation declaring March 17, 2015 as Alleman High School Girls Softball Day.

Mayor Pauley read the proclamation. The Alleman High School Girls Softball Team accepted the proclamation.

Agenda Item #8

CLAIMS

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

- a. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding payment in the amount of \$9,315.27 to Dave Morrison for legal services rendered for the month of February.
- b. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding payment in the amount of \$3,554.83 to Dennis A. Brebner & Associates for General Liability Claim.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 in the amount of \$40,624.90 to Legacy Construction for services provided for the 2014 Storm Water Outfall Program project.

Agenda Item #9

Claims for the week of February 27 through March 5 in the amount of \$581,718.79 and payroll for the weeks of February 16 through March 1 in the amount of \$1,329,522.62.

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

Agenda Item #10

Report from the Public Works Department regarding the State Contract purchase of 20 4x4 Chevy Tahoe's from Miles Chevrolet, Inc. in the amount of \$680,000.00.

It was moved by Alderman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Hotle to approve the purchase as recommended and refer to the City Attorney for an ordinance declaring the current fleet of Ford Crown Vic's as surplus.

Discussion followed. Alderman Austin inquired upon Public Works Director Randy Tweet as to whether these vehicles were a step up in price from the Crown Vics that were bought five years

ago. Mr. Tweet stated yes. Mr. Tweet explained that typically, the fleet is replaced at four years and every department in the City has a replacement cycle for a vehicle and they pay into an amortization fund. Mr. Tweet added that if it is 10 years then one-tenth of the price of the new vehicle would go into that fund every year and that is how the City funds the vehicles.

Alderman Austin inquired as to whether the price last year for the base vehicle was significantly less than this price. Mr. Tweet stated yes, it went to five years instead of four years and an extra year of amortization was paid to cover the difference. Mr. Tweet added that the Crown Vic's are no longer manufactured.

Alderman Austin and Mr. Tweet discussed cost as it related to accessories (decals, mobile data units and radio package) for the new vehicles. Mr. Tweet stated that the vehicles were a little more than what was budgeted, but the accessories were a little less so it is expected to be very close to what was budgeted. Mr. Tweet indicated that the vehicles are a little more fuel efficient than the Crown Vic's.

Alderman Conroy inquired as to whether there are cameras in all of the new vehicles. Mr. Tweet advised that all of the vehicles will be outfitted very similar to how the current vehicles are outfitted.

Alderman Murphy stated that if the City is going to have a professional Police Department, it is important that the City give them the best tools to do the job.

Council further discussed this item.

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

Agenda Item #11

Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the purchase of property at 1204 2nd Street from Trish and James Roark in the amount of \$43,000.00 plus closing costs.

Alderman Clark moved and Alderman Conroy seconded to approve the purchase 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.

Discussion followed. Alderman Austin inquired upon Community and Economic Development Director Jeff Eder as to whether the last appraised value on this property was \$20,000.00 based on 2011. Mr. Eder indicated that was correct. Mr. Eder stated that the owner has done other work to the property as well as redoing the furnace.

Alderman Austin then inquired as to whether it would be appraised at \$43,000.00 today. Mr. Eder stated that he didn't know if it would appraise all the way up to \$43,000.00 today especially in the location. Mr. Eder advised that it would be very difficult for an appraisal and to have

comparables to that particular property because of the location; there are no other houses around it today. Mr. Eder stated that it is not significantly different from what was paid when the City bought a couple of houses in this area in 2006 and 2007.

Alderman Austin inquired if the ability to move forward on a project is contingent on having this piece of property. Mr. Eder stated that it would not allow at least one company to expand without this property. Alderman Austin and Mr. Eder further discussed this item.

Alderman Tollenaer stated that he supported this item. Alderman Tollenaer commented that maybe this property will not appraise for that price, but where can most folks go and replace what they have for the appraised value of their property.

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

Agenda Item #12

Report from the Public Works Department regarding bids (package 4) for the new Police Station, recommending the bids be awarded to KJWW Engineering in the amount of \$40,000.00 and Window Security Services in the amount of \$76,695.00.

It was moved by Alderman Hotle and seconded by Alderman Conroy to award the bids as recommended and authorize Gilbane Building Company to execute the contract documents. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Austin and Alderman Clark; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #13

Report from the Public Works Department regarding an engineering design services proposal from Symbiont for the Blackhawk Lift Station project in the amount of \$168,000.00.

Alderman Murphy moved and Alderman Hotle seconded to approve the proposal 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 Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Austin and Alderman Clark; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #14

Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a lease agreement with James E. Coyne for farming on City owned property on Big Island.

Agenda Item #15

Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a lease agreement with Todd Stegmiller for organic farming on the Ridgewood Business Park parcel.

Alderman Conroy moved to approve the lease agreements for Items 14 and 15 as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents, Alderman Clark seconded. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Austin and Alderman Clark; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #16

Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a request from Wear Cote International to vacate the western one-half unimproved segment of 11th Street right-of-way, north of 2nd Avenue.

Alderman Austin moved and Alderman Hotle seconded to deny the request as recommended because the segment of right-of-way may be needed for future public road improvements for Route 92 rerouting.

Discussion followed. Alderman Tollenaer inquired as to whether the Council had a study session on this item. Mayor Pauley stated no. Alderman Tollenaer stated that one of the issues that he has always had is that Council gets the information on Friday and there isn't enough time to investigate everything thoroughly. Alderman Tollenaer stated that he would support the denial of this item.

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

Agenda Item #17

Report from the City Clerk regarding a request from Jeff Lam, owner of Rooster's Sports Bar and Grill to serve alcohol outside in the fenced in beer garden during regular business hours on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 2130 3rd Avenue.

It was moved by Alderman Tollenaer and seconded by Alderman Hotle to approve the request as recommended, subject to complying with all liquor license regulations and subject to being closed down early if noise complaints are received. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Austin and Alderman Clark; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #18

Report from the City Clerk regarding an application and Resolution for the Cornbelt Running Club to hold their Quad Cities Distance Classic Half Marathon and 5K Road Race on Sunday, May 10, 2015.

Alderman Hotle moved and Alderman Austin seconded to approve the event as recommended and adopt the resolution. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Austin and Alderman Clark; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #19

Other Business.

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

Alderman Conroy stated that News Channel 4 redid their whole show for news and got a new room to have the news in and a new anchor. Alderman Conroy stated that they also have new cameras and it looks pretty spiffy. Alderman Conroy thanked the new owners and hoped that they will continue in a successful manner.

Mayor Pauley stated that the news anchor for Channel 4 came in and met with him for 15 minutes to discuss Rock Island issues. Mayor Pauley commented that this is the first time this has ever happened.

Alderman Murphy stated that the Fire Department had an ISO (Insurance Services Office) Public Protection Classification. Alderman Murphy added that the ISO is an independent company that classifies and rates the different fire protections in communities. Alderman Murphy advised that 10 is the worst and 1 is perfection. Alderman Murphy stated that Rock Island went from a 4 to a 3. Alderman Murphy thanked the Fire Chief and the Rock Island Fire Department. Alderman Murphy noted that this establishes premiums for homeowners and commercial fire insurance.

Alderman Murphy reminded everyone to Shop Rock Island. Alderman Murphy discussed comic book stores in Rock Island. Alderman Murphy noted that Tim's Corner is located on 30th Street and 14th Avenue. Alderman Murphy added that the Mellow Blue Planet is located on 22nd Street and 5th Avenue near the Downtown and the Comic Book Rack is located on 18th Avenue across from Rudy's restaurant. Alderman Murphy encouraged everyone to Shop Rock Island First.

Agenda Item #20

Executive Session on Personnel, Property Acquisition and Litigation.

An Executive Session was not held.

Agenda Item #21

Recess

A motion was made by Alderman Hotle and seconded by Alderman Murphy to recess to 5:30 pm, Monday, March 16, 2015. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Conroy, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Hotle, Alderman Murphy, Alderman Austin and Alderman Clark; those voting No, none. The meeting was recessed at 7:07 pm.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk