

The Rock Island City Council met in Budget session on Monday, November 23, 2015 at 5:00 pm in Council Chambers of Rock Island City Hall. Present were Mayor Dennis E. Pauley presiding, and Aldermen Kate Hotle, Joshua Schipp, Charles O. Austin III, Ivory D. Clark and Virgil J. Mayberry. Staff present included City Manager Thomas Thomas, Finance Director Cynthia Parchert and Budget Coordinator Don Reichert. Other staff entered the room at various times of the evening pertinent to their presentations. Alderman P.J. Foley arrived at 5:20 pm and Alderman Stephen L. Tollenaer arrived at 5:09 pm.

FOLLOW UP TO NOVEMBER 16th MEETING

Finance Director Cynthia Parchert advised that in response to several questions Council had from the November 16th Budget session, Library Director Angela Campbell had put together the cost of operating each library branch as well as library statistics. Ms. Parchert stated that Council received that information. Ms. Parchert advised that at the last session, Alderman Austin inquired about personnel costs on one of the pages in the budget document. Ms. Parchert noted that it was a typo. Ms. Parchert commented that Alderman Schipp had inquired about the IMET laws. Ms. Parchert stated that the information was provided as well as the last update that was received from IMET. Ms. Parchert advised that information in regards to the new resident packet was sent to Council. Ms. Parchert discussed the question concerning which three businesses that the City was not getting sales tax from in reference to the notification component from Illinois Department of Revenue. Ms. Parchert commented that the information was provided to Council.

Ms. Parchert advised that for tonight's Budget review sessions, the Parks Department will present their budget first, followed by Fire, Police, Public Works and Community and Economic Development.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and Recreation Department Director Bill Nelson presented the Parks and Recreation Department's 2016 Budget to Council.

Mr. Nelson stated that the department has 26 full-time employees, 52 part-time employees and approximately 135 plus seasonal positions. Mr. Nelson discussed staffing changes. Mr. Nelson stated that the Superintendent of Parks position is open and they will work towards filling that position. Mr. Nelson added that they are expecting the retirement of one of the other maintenance positions in the coming year. Mr. Nelson noted that Parks has filled the maintenance worker positions that were open last year.

Mr. Nelson indicated that in regards to recreation, last year, four recreation positions were reorganized to better reflect the direction in programming. The positions Mr. Nelson discussed included a half-time marketing position, a recreation manager for youth programs, a recreation manager for adults and special events and the sports manager for operation of all youth and adult programs and field rentals. Mr. Nelson commented that

there is an increase in part-time fte's that reflect the staffing for an after school program that Parks is being reimbursed for from the school. Mr. Nelson added that the other increase is the internal hiring of security personnel at Whitewater Junction. It was noted that the internal hiring decreased the overall cost of security that was identified as a transfer to the General Fund. Mr. Nelson further discussed this item.

Mr. Nelson discussed program changes. Mr. Nelson stated that Parks and Recreation programs are becoming more experience based and much of this has to do with funding and the need to provide a program or service that people are willing to pay for. Mr. Nelson commented that the youth camps and school break programs involve trips, creative experiences and skill learning. Mr. Nelson indicated that they have worked with the local townships, and RICAP to develop scholarships for youth to participate in camps and for entry into the Parks facilities. Mr. Nelson pointed out that the partnership also involves the Library and MetroLink in efforts to improve transportation to these facilities and reading skills. Mr. Nelson further discussed this item.

Mr. Nelson discussed a new program with the schools, which is called LEAD and this enables students from Eugene Field to try a number of recreational activities including swim lessons, martial arts, volleyball, basketball, golf and many other activities. Mr. Nelson advised that they are expanding into youth basketball with 3rd and 4th grades and it is being offered by Parks and Recreation with the help of the YWCA.

Mr. Nelson stated that participation by those who live outside the community enables Parks and Recreation to provide services that would otherwise not be possible. Mr. Nelson added that 40% of participants are outside of the Rock Island zip code, which means that they are spending additional dollars on food, gas and other supplies when attending the programs. Mr. Nelson pointed out that this past year, there were over 700,000 visits to those facilities. Mr. Nelson added that if the visits to parks each summer are included then that figure more than doubles.

Mr. Nelson discussed the Parks Department's primary projects that are part of Gaming, which included; replacement of two riding mowers to maintain the parks and the bond payment for Whitewater Junction. Mr. Nelson noted that this is the last year for the bond payment. Next, Mr. Nelson discussed projects covered in the Park and Recreation's portion of the budget. The projects discussed included; the repair and replacement of irrigation equipment on selected tees and greens at Highland Springs Golf Course; replacement of play ground equipment on either side of the large shelter at Sunset Park; replacement of a playground in Longview Park; and replacement of the pool heater for Whitewater Junction. Mr. Nelson discussed various accomplishments in the Parks and Recreation Department. The accomplishments discussed included; their work with Little League to bring games back to Douglas Park; and the development of the TRY-Play scholarship program with the townships. Mr. Nelson added that they also obtained sponsorships of over \$20,000.00 to offset the costs for concerts and special events.

Mr. Nelson discussed revenue. Mr. Nelson advised that fees are reviewed each year with the board and staff. Mr. Nelson stated that daily golf fees will be increased for selected

times to reflect the market. Mr. Nelson added that cart fees will also be increasing by one dollar at Highland Springs. Mr. Nelson and Council further discussed golf and cart fees as it related to revenues. Mr. Nelson advised that sports fees for sports programs will be increased if they lag behind other program fees. It was noted that most of these fees were increased last year. Mr. Nelson added that Whitewater Junction fees for private rentals were increased last year and the entry fee was raised to \$8.00 two years ago. Mr. Nelson indicated that fee increases for RIFAC will be considered for the summer; several fees were increased last year. Mr. Nelson commented that they have expanded gym use to the Pickleball players. Mr. Nelson added that the Pickleball Club is working with staff to raise funds for additional outdoor courts at Mel McKay Park.

Next, Mr. Nelson discussed level of services. Mr. Nelson advised that a great concern is that park fund reserves are dwindling and they will have to repurpose several underutilized parks in the near future. Mr. Nelson explained that with the proposed increase in transfers from the Parks and Recreation Department to City Hall for services and the increasing loss due to minimum wages and pensions, the parks and facilities will have to be prioritized based on usage and revenue generation. Mr. Nelson stated that fees make up two-thirds of the overall Parks and Recreation budget and those fees are not enough to offset the cost of maintaining parks, entryways and downtown areas. Mr. Nelson advised that for the 2017 budget, the total property tax identified for the park portion of the budget would be transferred to the General Fund for services, vehicle expense and depreciation, which leaves no funding to maintain the parks. Mr. Nelson added that he hopes that the upcoming study that Ballard*King completed might have some solutions to this issue. Council discussed this issue as it related to expenses, revenue and reserves.

In the area of operations, Mr. Nelson advised that staff has been looking for options that generate revenue or decrease expenses. Various efforts Mr. Nelson discussed included; the possible sale of facilities; increasing participation rates; redeveloping facilities to improve their profitability; and additional partnerships such as the Girls Softball program, Pickleball Club, RICAP, townships and schools. Mr. Nelson stated that they have added special programs, obtained sponsorships, increased scholarship options, and decreased unprofitable hours at the facilities. Mr. Nelson added that the number of employees has been decreased over the years in an effort to keep up with the increases in fees from minimum wage and City services.

Mr. Nelson advised that they have not submitted any new grants. Mr. Nelson pointed out that there is one grant for Douglas Park that has been held up by the State for the last two years. Mr. Nelson added that they will have funding from the schools to do the after school program during the year. It was noted that the grant is administered by the school and Parks and Recreation does get reimbursed for providing the program.

In regards to Gaming, Mr. Nelson stated that there is the replacement of the two riding mowers that are used to mow all of the primary park areas and currently they work on a seven day mowing rotation.

Council and Mr. Nelson discussed the Parks and Recreation Department's 2016 Budget as it related to the two golf courses and Whitewater Junction concerning fees and revenues. Council also discussed the EAV increase. Council further discussed the Parks and Recreation Budget.

FIRE

Fire Chief Jim Fobert accompanied by Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Yerkey presented the Fire Department's 2016 Budget.

Chief Fobert indicated that staffing levels remain the same at 58 sworn and one civilian for a total of 59 FTE's. Chief Fobert advised that the only issue he has had with staffing is in regards to sick time, deployments, medical leave and injuries where it kind of gets into an overtime budget. Chief Fobert further discussed this item.

Chief Fobert stated that in the area of projects, the Fire Department was looking at new windows for CY2016 for Central Fire but another project came up, which was more important and that is the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Chief Fobert stated that there is a grant from FEMA, the Assistance Firefighting Grant (AFG) that will be a joint venture with Moline. The Chief added that it would be about a \$1.2 million dollar grant. Chief Fobert advised that the departments applied for it and there is a consultant on board, which came through one of the vendors. Fire Chief Fobert commented that the cost was split for the consultant in which Rock Island paid \$350.00 and Moline paid \$350.00. Chief Fobert noted that they haven't submitted it yet; they are waiting for it to open up. Chief Fobert further discussed this item.

Chief Fobert advised that the Ambulance Billing contract remains the same through Professional Billing Services for CY2016. Chief Fobert indicated that new software for medical reports was implemented this year, where everything went paperless even the EKG's and charting. Fire Chief Fobert further discussed this item.

Chief Fobert stated that in the area of ambulance revenue, about \$2.9 million dollars was billed out. The Chief added that about 43% or 44% of that is uncollectable. Chief Fobert noted that about 85% of patients that are picked up have Medicare or Medicaid. Finance Director Cynthia Parchert, Chief Fobert and Council further discussed this item. Chief Fobert stated that the department did change the level of ALS intercepts in the outlying areas. The Chief explained that the department was finding out that when they were going out and intercepting with the ALS services in Andalusia and Coyne Center, the patient could not be billed because they were in the other ambulance and the Fire Department would go in that other ambulance with the equipment and start ALS treatment. The Chief added that it was realized that the department could charge for intercept. Chief Fobert advised that in April of 2015, Council approved an ordinance for an ALS intercept fee of \$225.00 for each intercept. Fire Chief Fobert pointed out that it doesn't go to the patient, it goes to the service. It was noted that from April 1st through the end of September, the Fire Department had 22 intercepts. Fire Chief Fobert further discussed this item.

The Chief noted that Haz Mat permits are usually budgeted at about \$20,000.00 and this year it is budgeted at \$22,000.00. The Chief commented that these Haz Mat permits are fees on the businesses that have hazardous materials. Chief Fobert indicated that the Foreign Fire Tax Fund was budgeted at \$52,000.00 and came in at \$53,900.00. Chief Fobert further discussed this item.

Fire Chief Fobert stated that one of the big changes in the level of services is the new Water Rescue Boat that was placed into service this year. The Chief noted that the rescue boat is located at Sunset Marina and it has a lift system. Council and Fire Chief Fobert further discussed this item. In the area of operational changes, Chief Fobert indicated that the department is looking at purchasing a new Fire Pumper Engine for CY2016. Chief Fobert explained that it will be a smaller apparatus, lighter, less maintenance and a lower fuel cost. Chief Fobert commented that there will be more water rescue training coming up. The Chief added that they are looking at putting a new radar system on the boat for the nighttime. The Chief noted that the Foreign Fire Tax will purchase that item.

Assistant Fire Chief Yerkey discussed the AFG grant. Assistant Chief Yerkey stated that the AFG grant places priority on certain equipment and the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) is one of those pieces of equipment. Assistant Chief Yerkey added that because of the age of the equipment, the Fire Department is eligible to apply for that grant. Assistant Fire Chief Yerkey stated that there is greater success if local agencies do a regional grant. It was noted that the Moline Fire Department joined in. Assistant Chief Yerkey explained that as the host agency, the Fire Department will go out and do the bid process and purchase the equipment and both departments will have the exact same equipment. Fire Chief Fobert commented that each department will be responsible for 10% to 15% of the final cost; the Fire Department is looking at a cost of \$68,000.00, which is budgeted through Gaming funds.

Council and Fire Chief Fobert discussed mutual aid as it related to service. Council and Chief Fobert also discussed ambulance billing as well as the process and requirements for testing Fire Department applicants.

Council further discussed the Fire Department's 2016 Budget.

POLICE

Police Chief Jeff VenHuizen along with Lt. Tim McCloud addressed Council and presented the Police Department's 2016 Budget.

Police Chief VenHuizen advised that in regards to staffing levels, the Police Department is at full strength with 110 employees. The Chief added that the Police Department anticipates two retirements in CY2016; a detective and patrol officer. Chief VenHuizen commented that they will be looking to retain two new officers to send to one of the Police academies.

Police Chief VenHuizen discussed budgeted projects for the upcoming year. The Chief stated that the department has budgeted \$30,000.00 out of the State Drug Fund for the purchase of additional neighborhood cameras. The Chief added that the existing neighborhood camera system has been expanded to nine cameras. Chief VenHuizen indicated that in regards to the camera project, the department will have to look at the needs and feasibility in continuing to put those cameras in different areas within the City.

Police Chief VenHuizen advised that budgeted contracts remain the same as they have been for a number of years.

Chief VenHuizen stated that once the Police are in the new facility, they will begin offering criminal history checks. The Chief added that there will be a fee charged that is associated with the background investigations and there is a process involved.

Lt. Tim McCloud advised that the Police Department would like to start offering these background checks. Lt. McCloud added that they currently conduct background checks for employment for only the Police Department. Lt. McCloud offered that if the Police Department can offer this service to the public, to other businesses, and for the City, then the department could start having another revenue source in that area. Lt. McCloud pointed out that currently the Police Department cannot do it with the current LEEDS system; it is illegal for the department to use criminal history ability to check folks for licensing purposes. Lt. McCloud stated that once they are in the new facility, they will be able to use it for City purposes such as checking liquor license applications, taxi cab permits and itinerant merchants. Lt. McCloud added that they will be able to do a lot more thorough checking than the department could do in the past. Lt. McCloud further discussed this item.

In regards to the level of services, Police Chief VenHuizen stated that it is his belief that as the level of efficiency rises with the move to the new police facility, the level of service to the public will also rise. Chief VenHuizen stated that he is excited about the move.

Police Chief VenHuizen discussed operational changes. The Chief stated that in the summer of 2015, the Police Department created the Tactical Operations Unit by combining the Crime Suppression Unit, the Downtown Unit and the Narcotics/Vice Unit. The Chief added that personnel in this unit are cross-trained to better address problems in various areas of the City and they are under the command of the Criminal Investigations Division. Council and Police Chief VenHuizen further discussed this item.

Police Chief VenHuizen stated that there are not a lot of changes in grants. The Chief pointed out one change with the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). Police Chief VenHuizen indicated that the JAG grant is through the U.S. Department of Justice and the Police Department currently applies for it with the Moline Police Department and the Rock Island County Sheriff's Department. The Chief commented that funds are based on crime statistics. The Chief added that this year, the Police Department received \$16,336.00, which is a decrease from \$21,132.00 that was received last year.

Police Chief VenHuizen advised that professional development remains the same with an emphasis on mandatory recertifications. The Chief explained that this is associated with the Criminal Investigations Division and homicide investigations; there is a certain mandate of classes that they have to take.

The Chief discussed the overall budget analysis. Police Chief VenHuizen indicated that for several years, the Police Department has deferred a part of the salary costs of the School Resource Officer through the DARE Fund and the State Drug Prevention Fund. The Chief added that Rock Island/Milan School District puts in an additional \$30,000.00 to help fund that position. Chief VenHuizen advised that for CY2016, the department will use the final \$10,000.00 that remains in the DARE Fund, requiring a partial shift of salary costs back to the General Fund, which is \$20,000.00. The Chief added that the department will continue to pay the remainder out of the State Drug Prevention Fund for CY2016.

Police Chief VenHuizen discussed drug forfeitures. The Chief pointed out that the State Drug Prevention Fund continues to be a concern for the Police Department. The Chief offered that this is used to offset a lot of the costs that are coming out of the General Fund through money seizures that are taken from drug dealers. The Chief noted that now, it is under a lot more scrutiny as far as the retention or awarding of those funds.

Council and Chief VenHuizen discussed body cameras in reference to taking a comprehensive approach to this subject and how body cameras and the FOIA process would relate. Council and Police Chief VenHuizen discussed the new Police fleet in regards to the new police facility, the communication center and when the new fleet would be put into operation. Council further discussed the Police Department's 2016 Budget.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Randy Tweet along with Michelle Martin presented the Public Works Department's 2016 Budget.

Mr. Tweet stated that there are two staffing changes reflected in the CY2016 Budget. Mr. Tweet advised that the full-time Maintenance One position at the Marina was eliminated. Mr. Tweet noted that 25% of a Maintenance One position at Municipal Services is paid by the Marina and Municipal Services offers assistance when needed.

Council and Mr. Tweet discussed the 400 Dock at the Marina as it related to it sinking every winter.

Mr. Tweet stated that when Public Works was gearing up for the new water treatment plant, one of the operator positions was changed to a sludge operator position a few years ago, but when the new plant came on line, it was determined that there was not enough operators running the plant, so one Sludge Treatment Operator position at the plant was transferred to a Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator. Mr. Tweet advised that there are

five open positions; one Maintenance Worker One position has been filled and an offer has been made for the other Maintenance Worker One position. Mr. Tweet and Council further discussed full-time staffing. Mr. Tweet advised that in regards to contract employees, the CY2016 Budget includes a reduction of almost \$20,000.00 from last year and this is because in addition to the full-time maintenance person at the Marina being eliminated, the contract employee was also eliminated.

Mr. Tweet discussed special projects and service contracts. Mr. Tweet advised that the majority of the contracts remain the same as CY2015, but there are a few exceptions. Mr. Tweet indicated that there is a reduction in the In-place Asphalt Recycling Program. Mr. Tweet explained that there were some additional motor fuel tax funds available this year so the amount was bumped up. Mr. Tweet added that last year, about \$240,000.00 was spent in that program and this year, about 450,000.00 was spent. Mr. Tweet commented that between the CIP and the motor fuel tax funds, it will be about \$309,000.00 for CY 2016. Mr. Tweet advised that there is a reduction in tipping fees with the new five year landfill contract that was approved. Mr. Tweet added that it is typical when there is a new landfill contract for the rates to be reduced. Mr. Tweet advised that there was an increase in janitorial fees because the City wasn't satisfied with the former company so a new company was brought in and with that came a significant increase. Mr. Tweet and Council further discussed this item.

Mr. Tweet discussed revenue changes. Mr. Tweet indicated that there will be four increases, one of which includes the increase in the water service fee. Mr. Tweet added that most residential customers will see an increase of \$6.80 per quarter. Mr. Tweet offered that there will be a \$2.00 a month increase in the curbside residential refuse collection fee and a \$0.50 a month increase in the curbside recycling fee. Mr. Tweet noted that the additional refuse cart fee was changed to equal the refuse service fee. Mr. Tweet stated that the \$10.00 fee at the drop-off center will increase to \$13.00. Council and Mr. Tweet further discussed this item.

Mr. Tweet indicated that service levels have not changed. Mr. Tweet commented that 23 people are typically available for snow removal and it takes 20 people to man two shifts. Mr. Tweet added that Public Works has six backup drivers. Mr. Tweet further discussed service levels.

In the area of operational changes, Mr. Tweet advised that the solid waste services were moved from the General Fund to the newly created Solid Waste Fund; services will remain the same. Mr. Tweet advised that an operational change was made within the department in regards to the Utilities Maintenance Supervisor and the Utilities Maintenance Division. Mr. Tweet stated that they will now report to the Utilities Superintendent. Mr. Tweet further discussed this item.

Mr. Tweet discussed the Solid Waste Assistance Grant. Mr. Tweet explained that there is a fee added every time someone drops off something at the landfill and that also includes the City. Mr. Tweet commented that Rock Island County Waste Management gives all of that money back and some of it goes for the recycling drop-off center on 16th Avenue and

the rest of it, which is about \$29,000.00, is refunded back to the City and that money is used for refuse. Mr. Tweet further discussed this item.

Next, Mr. Tweet referred to the spread sheets and discussed staffing, contracts and the capital improvement projects (CIP). Mr. Tweet advised that staffing was reduced a little bit over the last three years in which some of that had to do with the parking, the water treatment plant and recently, the reduction of one position at the Marina. Mr. Tweet stated that with contract maintenance, there is the reduction in the worker that was going to the Marina and the parts runner was a contracted position, but now it is a full-time position.

Mr. Tweet discussed contracts. Mr. Tweet advised that the biggest changes are with the waste disposal services, the reduction in the motor fuel tax funds and the hot in-place recycling. Mr. Tweet further discussed this item. Mr. Tweet then discussed Gaming and capital projects. Mr. Tweet advised that instead of using Gaming funds for some projects, General Fund carryover will be used. Mr. Tweet stated that the joint sealing, brick street program, asphalt patching, in-place recycling and tree removal will still be paid for out of the CIP; there is really no change. Mr. Tweet further discussed this subject.

Mr. Tweet discussed the Long Term Control Plan projects. Mr. Tweet advised that one of the projects is the improvements to the Blackhawk Lift Station, and combined with that is the relocation of the outfall where a sewer manhole overflows into the creek and that is being moved over to the Rock River. Mr. Tweet added that there is also the combined sewer separation program at 26th to 30th Street and 5th to 9th Avenue, which will start in CY2016. Council and Mr. Tweet further discussed the Long Term Control Plan projects.

Mr. Tweet discussed the Water Fund as it related to rate increases, target cash revenues and projected ending cash for CY2016 through CY2020. Mr. Tweet discussed the Sewer Fund and Stormwater Fund projections. Mr. Tweet also discussed rate increases as it related to the Water Fund and Sewer Fund. In addition, Mr. Tweet discussed the Stormwater Fund as it related to the surplus in the fund.

Council and Mr. Tweet discussed putting together a 10 year plan for streets as it related to the funding, maintenance, reconstruction and resurfacing of the streets.

Council and Mr. Tweet further discussed the Public Works Department's 2016 Budget.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community and Economic Development Director Jeff Eder presented the CED Department's 2016 Budget.

Mr. Eder advised that CED's CY2016 Budget continues to support the City's economic and development mission by funding programs, projects and activities directed toward creating and retaining jobs, enhancing neighborhoods, increasing revenues and ensuring that structures are safe for occupancy and use. Mr. Eder added that the department is

supported by 14 separate funds, which include seven TIF District funds, four loan funds, one grant fund, the Community and Economic Development fund, which includes riverboat gaming dollars as well as special project expenses and the General Fund. Mr. Eder noted that the Labor Day Fund has been moved to General Administration.

Mr. Eder stated that staffing numbers (20) have been about the same for the last several years. Mr. Eder added that there has been some turnover in the department in the last year. Mr. Eder commented that the Administrative Secretary has been promoted to the Grants and Budget Manager and the department is currently looking to fill the Administrative Secretary position. Mr. Eder offered that the Inspections Division has made a structural change within the property maintenance section to allow for better control of daily operations. Mr. Eder noted that the department is recruiting for one inspector. Mr. Eder further discussed this item.

In the area of budgeted projects, Mr. Eder stated that Ancel Glink is the consultant for the zoning ordinance, and it is an 18 month project. Mr. Eder advised that currently, the department is going through the analysis of reviewing the current zoning ordinance with the consultant. Mr. Eder added that in the late summer, the public process will start and about this time next year, public hearings will be held. Mr. Eder noted that in early 2017, the zoning ordinance will come to Council for adoption. Mr. Eder further discussed this project.

Mr. Eder indicated that the department is doing the Heritage Historic Preservation Plan and this will be completed in mid 2016, and it is grant funded. Mr. Eder indicated that staff is working closely with an Augustana College class that is doing a plan for the Greenbush project. Mr. Eder and Council discussed the Riverview Lofts project as it related to the contractor and legal issues. Mr. Eder indicated that staff is working on the CDBG program updates that are required by HUD. Mr. Eder noted that the department is working with Public Works on the implementation of parking in the downtown. Mr. Eder and Council further discussed the budgeted projects.

Mr. Eder discussed budgeted contracts as it related to the zoning ordinance, and the Heritage Historic Preservation Plan. In the area of revenue changes, Mr. Eder advised that revenue is not expected to change significantly; there will be a few grants carried forward into CY2016. Mr. Eder advised that there are a couple of TIF districts that will generate substantially more money in CY2016. Mr. Eder stated that there will be a large increase with Hill & Valley in the Columbia Park TIF as well as with Missman and State Farm in the Watchtower TIF. Mr. Eder commented that the increases in revenue will be used to pay existing bond debt and development agreement expenses. Mr. Eder and Council discussed the TIF districts as it related to the 1st Street TIF in terms of a property purchase.

Mr. Eder discussed changes in the level of services that are being provided to customers and citizens. Mr. Eder advised that the City is in a joint grant (Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control Grant) with the city of Moline under the Illinois Quad Cities Healthy Homes Coalition; it includes Rock Island, Moline, East Moline and Rock Island

County. Mr. Eder added that Moline is the lead applicant and administrator of this three year program. Mr. Eder noted that it is a \$2,500,000.00 grant. Mr. Eder added that most of the homes are either completed or in progress. Mr. Eder noted that they expect to do six more homes before the grant is up next year. Mr. Eder commented that by that time, the City will have hit the 35 home mark. Mr. Eder added that they will look at reapplying for that grant again when it comes up.

In the area of operational changes, Mr. Eder advised that Inspections will be moving personnel around to better reflect their current operations. Mr. Eder added that this action will help with the nuisance complaints and allow for better follow-up.

Mr. Eder then discussed grants. Mr. Eder advised that CDBG is not expected to change significantly in the next year. Mr. Eder stated that they will have one final drawdown for the USEPA Brownfield grant. Mr. Eder advised that there is an opportunity to apply for some new USEPA grant funds to do a Phase I and Phase II environmental assessment and there is a potential for cleanup funds. Mr. Eder further discussed this grant. Mr. Eder reiterated that they are already looking at the Health Homes and Lead Hazard Control Grant.

Next, Mr. Eder discussed CIP budgeted projects funded from Gaming and General Fund carryover.

City Manager Thomas inquired upon Mr. Eder to move the City Hall remodel project for \$50,000.00 to Contingency.

Mr. Thomas stated that he has heard a lot of feedback from Council in regards to continuing to fund District events, which is budgeted at \$28,500.00. Mr. Thomas stated that this item will be kept in the budget for CY2016, but he would like to have a conversation with Council about this issue. Mr. Thomas and Council further discussed this subject. After much discussion on this subject, it was determined that a meeting would be held with The District.

Mr. Eder pointed out several budgeted projects. Mr. Eder advised that there is \$100,000.00 in the budget for substandard structure demolition and \$10,000.00 is budgeted for Red, White and Boom upon Council's request from last year. Mr. Eder stated that the Community Caring Conference is not in the budget this year. Mr. Eder noted that the Community Caring Conference is reorganizing. Council and Mr. Eder further discussed the Community Caring Conference.

Council and Mr. Eder discussed the Walmart project as well as the quiet zone study. Council and Mr. Eder discussed the CVS project as it related to the completion date. Council also discussed the 175th Anniversary Celebration. In addition, Council and Mr. Eder discussed the amount in Contingency for the Jumer's Crossing Redevelopment. Council also discussed contributions as it related to GROWTH, DARI and The District events.

Council and Mr. Eder further discussed the Community and Economic Development Department's 2016 Budget.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Schipp and Public Works Director Randy Tweet discussed the current Sidewalk Program as it related to funding and the process. Alderman Schipp stated that he was concerned about the funding level and believed it should be increased to meet the demands. Alderman Schipp stated that he would like to see a mechanism in place for an equal distribution for the wards up to a certain time limit. Mr. Tweet further discussed the Sidewalk Program as it related to the process and cost.

Council discussed the Library's presentation from last week as it related to the presentation made by Mr. Koski concerning their 2.0% increase request in property tax revenue. Council also discussed the budgets for Council as it related to an increase in their budgets. City Manager Thomas stated that each Council member's budget will be increased to \$4,000.00. Mr. Thomas added that a study session will then be held to discuss policy guidelines. Mr. Thomas and Council further discussed this item.

RECESS

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

The meeting was recessed at 8:12 pm.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk