

Rock Island City Council met in regular session at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Rock Island City Hall. Present were Mayor Dennis E. Pauley, presiding, and Aldermen Terry M.A. Brooks I, David Conroy, P.J. Foley, Stephen L. Tollenaer, Jason W. Jones, Joy Murphy and Charles O. Austin III. City Manager John Phillips was also present.

**Introductory Proceedings**

Mayor Pauley called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Alderman Jones gave the Invocation.

Agenda Item #5

**Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 2010.**

A motion was made by Alderman Austin and seconded by Alderman Foley to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 2010 as printed. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Jones, Alderwoman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #6

**Update Rock Island by Mayor Pauley.**

Mayor Pauley stated that Rock Island is gearing up for the 2010 Census. It was noted that the Complete Count Committee will help to organize efforts to maximize the number of census questionnaires being mailed back and to minimize the number that require door to door follow-up. Mayor Pauley stated that completing and returning the census form is one of the most important ways that an individual can contribute to society this year. It was noted that the census form will be mailed in March.

Mayor Pauley explained that every year, the Federal Government distributes more than \$400 billion dollars to tribal, state and local governments based on census data. It was noted that the census provides a snapshot of the growing and changing population and demographics. Mayor Pauley urged everyone to fill out the census and return it.

Mayor Pauley stated that last week, the 2009 crime statistics were released. It was noted that Part I Crime and Part I Violent Crimes are both down when comparing year end totals for 2008. Mayor Pauley added that reported crime statistics are down 40% for Part I Crimes and 25% for violent crime when compared to the record highs of the 1990's.

Mayor Pauley stated that the Rock Island Police Department takes a strong stance against people that cause violence in the community. The Police Department also takes steps to improve communication with citizens in the neighborhoods where these particular crimes take place. Mayor Pauley congratulated the Rock Island Police Department and the citizens of Rock Island for working hard to improve the community.

Note: Mayor Pauley made a slight change in the order of Agenda Items. The next Agenda Item was #8.

Agenda Item #8

**Proclamation declaring Thursday, February 25, 2010 as Sister Mary Wolfe Day.**

Mayor Pauley read the Proclamation declaring Thursday, February 25, 2010 as Sister Mary Wolfe Day.

Sister Mary Wolfe accepted the Proclamation. Sister Mary Wolfe thanked the Mayor and Council for the Proclamation and stated that she may be leaving, but she still has work left to do.

Agenda Item #7

**Presentation of Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget by City Manager John Phillips.**

City Manager John Phillips addressed Council and stated that the process for reaching a balanced budget this year was more challenging in this difficult economic environment. It was noted that the initial budget was short \$2.4 million dollars. Mr. Phillips stated that with the dedicated work of the staff, the shortfall was finally narrowed down to \$1.2 million dollars. Further work was done on the budget; various identified options included; eliminating seven (7) full-time positions, delaying purchases of ambulances, delaying facility repairs, cutting equipment and supply purchases, consolidating Park offices, reducing purchases of library materials, reducing fuel consumption and shifting legal expenses and Police expenses to other funds.

Mr. Phillips indicated that after staff made \$1.2 million dollars in cuts, the City Council was inquired upon in December of 2009 for policy direction of how to make up the other \$1.2 million dollar shortfall. It was noted that decisions were made that allowed the City to close the remaining \$1.2 million dollar gap in the proposed budget and submit a balanced General Fund budget. Mr. Phillips stated that the balanced budget includes no general wage increase for any employee of any employee group. Additionally, any increase in wages would result in further budget cuts in order to maintain this balanced budget. Mr. Phillips stated that the review of the proposed budget will be held in late February and early March with approval of the Fiscal Year 2010/2011 Budget on March 22, 2010.

Mr. Phillips explained that the City is facing a budget problem this year. It was noted that with the national recession, important state revenues have fallen substantially. In addition, all cities, schools districts and others have been affected by that. Mr. Phillips stated that another reason the City is faced with a budget problem is due to the amount of funds that the City must contribute to public employee pensions, particularly Police and Fire pensions.

City Manager John Phillips then presented the 2010-2011 Budget. Mr. Phillips explained that the budget is a financial plan that outlines where funding will come from and where

funding will be spent. The budget serves as an operations guide to staff on how each department will be allocating resources to get the job done.

Mr. Phillips stated that the General Fund covers the revenues and expenses of many City services. Police, Fire and Public Works are the areas that comprise approximately 86% of General Fund spending with 36 % being spent in Police, 23 % in Public Works and 27% of spending in Fire. Personnel costs are a major item in the budget totaling approximately 68% of the General Fund budget. Services are at 21% and Supplies are 4% of the budget. Mr. Phillips indicated that the General Fund budget is proposed at \$33.2 million dollars, which represents about a 4.7% increase over last year's General Fund budget. It was noted that the major reason for the increase is due to Personnel costs. Mr. Phillips indicated that Personnel costs are up \$868,000.00 and pension costs make up 97% of that increase in the General Fund expenses from last year. In addition, that is a 19.3% increase in the City's pension contributions. It was noted that the pension obligation is a big concern for Rock Island and for other cities.

Mr. Phillips offered that the Illinois based revenues are based on the state economy and the distribution formulas that the state provides. Income Tax revenue is typically 10% to 12% of the General Fund revenues. The City projects \$3.1 million dollars for the next year. This is approximately \$540,000.00 less than was budgeted last year. Mr. Phillips added that the City will have to monitor this closely due to the state and national economy.

Mr. Phillips indicated that another major revenue source is Replacement Tax, which is based on corporate income. It is projected at \$2.2 million dollars for next year. Mr. Phillips noted that this is 28% less than the City received in the 2008 fiscal year. Mr. Phillips indicated that the Use Taxes are taxes that are collected in Illinois on certain goods and services, which are distributed back to local communities and are based on population. The City is projecting approximately the same revenue as last year. Mr. Phillips noted that the Utility Tax is stable with no growth anticipated.

Mr. Phillips stated that overall, the Sales Tax revenue has been steady. It was noted that the Local Option Sales Tax was recently increased from .75% to 1.25%. It was \$4 million dollars in 2009, and it is projected to be slightly lower in this fiscal year.

Property Taxes represent 10.5% of the total City budget. Mr. Phillips stated that this year, the assessed value is expected to increase 1.45%. The Property Tax levy will only increase 1.45%. The tax rate is expected to remain unchanged. Mr. Phillips noted that the Property Tax levy is the amount the City collects to use for budgeted purposes. Mr. Phillips mentioned that the Property Tax bill that residents receive shows that the schools receive 53%; the City receives 25%; the County receives 9% and other taxing bodies receive 13%. Mr. Phillips noted that for every dollar that citizens pay in property taxes, the City receives 25 cents.

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 15, 2010  
MINUTES**

City Manager Phillips noted that the Property Tax rate has declined from \$4.13 per \$100.00 of assessed value to \$2.36 this year. As assessed values of properties decrease, the City decreases the tax rate; and taxes will be collected at a rate less than the rate of growth of property values in the City. The budget proposal calls for the same tax rate as last year. Mr. Phillips indicated that in past years, the largest share of the Property Tax has gone to pay for general City operations. However, for the first time, more of the Property Tax goes to fund Police and Fire pensions than general City services or Parks and Library. Mr. Phillips added that \$4.2 million dollars of the Property Tax goes to fund Police and Fire pension obligations. It was noted that this is 38% of the total amount paid by taxpayers to the City. In addition, about 28% of the City's Property Tax collections go to fund General Fund services and Parks and Library receive approximately 32% of the Property Taxes.

City Manager Phillips discussed Police and Fire pensions as it relates to City obligations and unfunded liabilities.

City Manager Phillips concluded the discussion reviewing various strategic issues for the coming year, which included maintaining and enhancing the financial strength of the City, wages, health insurance and pension obligations. Mr. Phillips reminded Council that the budget work sessions will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2010 beginning at 8:00 a.m and on March 1 and March 8, 2010.

Agenda Item #9

**Public Hearing on a request from Consuelo Gonzalez, owner of EL Patron Bar and Grill for a waiver of the signature requirement to secure a Liquor License at 1806 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.**

Mayor Pauley closed the regular meeting at 7:16 p.m. and opened a Public Hearing on a request from Consuelo Gonzalez, owner of EL Patron Bar and Grill for a waiver of the signature requirement to secure a liquor license at 1806 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

Ms. Consuelo Gonzalez of 723 22<sup>nd</sup> Street stepped forward. Mayor Pauley swore in Ms. Gonzalez.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that she is seeking approval to waive the signature requirement to secure a liquor license to sell authentic Mexican beverages including Margaritas and Tequila that are typically seen in an authentic Mexican restaurant. Ms. Gonzalez indicated the restaurant will offer authentic Mexican cuisine and she would like to provide these types of foods and beverages to the Quad City Community. It was noted that the restaurant will be located at 1806 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and they plan to be open seven (7) days a week offering a lunch and dinner menu.

Mayor Pauley inquired as to how many signatures Ms. Gonzalez was able to obtain.

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 15, 2010  
MINUTES**

Ms. Gonzalez responded that she was able to obtain more than half of the signatures, but not for the City of Rock Island. Ms. Gonzalez added that she has the support of a lot of the businesses Downtown and there has been no negative feedback.

Alderman Conroy inquired as to whether this would be a 1:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m. liquor license.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that the business would like to see how it goes for a while and they are planning to be open from 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. serving lunch and dinner Ms. Gonzalez noted that this is a family sit down restaurant.

Council discussed this issue.

Mayor Pauley inquired as to whether there was anyone that wished to speak in favor of the waiver of signature requirement for a liquor license at 1806 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. No one stepped forward.

Mayor Pauley then inquired as to whether there was anyone that wished to speak in opposition to the waiver of signature requirement for a liquor license at 1806 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. No one stepped forward.

With no persons present to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the waiver of signature requirement for a liquor license at 1806 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Mayor Pauley closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 7:20 p.m.

It was moved by Alderman Austin seconded by Alderman Jones to recommend to the Mayor/Liquor Commissioner to waive the signature requirement and approve the liquor license for Consuelo Gonzalez, owner of EL Patron Bar and Grill at 1806 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Jones, Alderwoman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #10

**A Special Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit at 1624 26<sup>th</sup> Street.**

It was moved by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Foley to consider, suspend the rules and pass the Ordinance. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Jones, Alderwoman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #11

**CLAIMS**

It was moved by Alderman Austin, seconded by Alderman Jones to accept the following reports and authorize payment as recommended. The motion carried by the following

Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Jones, Alderwoman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

- a. Report from the Administrative Services Department regarding payment in the amount of \$831.65 to AT&T for General Liability Claims.
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 and final in the amount of \$26,462.00 to Rock River Electric, Inc. for services provided for the Hydroelectric Plant electrical upgrade and wiring for two additional generators. (039)
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #2 and final in the amount of \$7,885.42 to Hoerr Construction, Inc. for services provided for the 2009 Joint Sanitary/Storm Sewer Lining project. (040)
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$5,425.50 to DrinkerBiddle&Reath for professional services for the Pretreatment Program-NPDES permit. (041)
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #9 in the amount of \$74,704.88 to Williams/Valley Construction Management for services provided for the Schwiebert Riverfront Park Bid Release 2 project. (042)
- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 in the amount of \$30,601.80 to Valley Construction Company for services provided for Entry Way Signs. (043)
- g. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 in the amount of \$33,254.15 to Valley Construction Company for services provided for the MidAmerican Substation Landscape Screen project. (044)

Agenda Item #12

**Claims for the week of February 5 through February 11 in the amount of \$651,635.17.**

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

Agenda Item #13

**Payroll for the weeks of January 25 through February 7 in the amount of \$1,214,350.94.**

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

Agenda Item #14

**Report from the Public Works Department regarding the purchase of a Filter Turbidity Meter from the Hach Company in the amount of \$18,400.00.**

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

Agenda Item#15

**Report from the Finance Department regarding a proposal from Northstar Utilities Division of Harris Computer Systems for work required to set up a refuse billing system.**

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

Agenda Item #16

**Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the 2010 Census, recommending appointments to a Complete Count Committee.**

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

Appointments to the Complete Count Committee are as follows:

**Media:** Rock Island Argus - Roger Ruthhart and Brandy Donaldson

**Education/Educators:** Rock Island School District- Rick Loy/Mike Oberhaus

Parochial Schools: Colin Letendre for Alleman High School, Mike Daly for Jordan School and Shelly Moeller for Immanuel Lutheran School; Augustana College: Kai Swanson and Ellen Adams

**Business:** Planning Commission - Berlinda Tyler Jamison; Hilltop Business Association- Bob Connell; 11<sup>th</sup> Street/31<sup>st</sup> Avenue Business Association - Wayne Close; the District- Catherine Rodgers-Ingles

**Faith Based:** Longview Pastors - Rev. Michael Schwartz; Churches United - Ronald Quay

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 15, 2010  
MINUTES**

**Community Based:** Neighborhood Partners – Andy Boswell; Community Caring Conference - Connie Hayes; Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging – Deb Castillo; Century Woods – Jennifer Brown; Rock Island Housing Authority – Susan Anderson; Project Now – Mo Hart; World Relief - Amy Rowell

**Elected Officials/Government:** City Council appointee; Township officials: John Brown for Rock Island Township, John Bauersfeld for South Rock Island Township and Chuck Layer for Blackhawk Township

Agenda Item #17

**Report from the City Clerk regarding the Plaza Events to be scheduled for the upcoming 2010 season, a Resolution for the American Heart Association’s Start! Heart Walk and the Quad Cities Criterium, requesting a waiver of application and event fees for the District’s two Gallery Hops, Red, White and Boom, and a waiver of event fees for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Labor Day Ride for Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma sponsored by the Daiquiri Factory.**

It was moved by Alderman Conroy, seconded by Alderman Foley to approve the events and the waiver of fees as recommended and adopt the two Resolutions. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Jones, Alderwoman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #18

**Items from the City Manager’s Memorandum Packet.**

Mr. Phillips made reference to information included in the memo packet regarding the request for qualifications for the Sunset Marina purchase. Mr. Phillips stated that qualifications are due back to the Public Works Department by Monday, March 1, 2010.

Alderwoman Murphy reminded everyone to Shop Rock Island. Alderwoman Murphy stated that Flowerama is located on 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 30<sup>th</sup> Street. It was noted that Flowerama has been in business for five (5) years. Alderwoman Murphy indicated that Flowerama also has a gift shop and will service all occasions including weddings, funerals, anniversaries etc. Alderwoman Murphy offered that Flowerama is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #19

**Other Business**

None

Agenda Item #20

**Executive Session on Personnel.**

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 15, 2010  
MINUTES**

A motion was made by Alderman Jones, seconded by Alderman Foley at 7:29 p.m. to recess to Executive Session on matters of Personnel and Property Acquisition. The motion carried on a roll call vote. Those voting Aye being Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Jones, Alderwoman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #21

**Recess**

Mayor Pauley reconvened the regular meeting at 8:00 p.m. A motion was made by Alderman Austin and seconded by Alderwoman Murphy to recess to Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Jones, Alderwoman Murphy and Alderman Austin; those voting No, none.

The meeting was recessed at 8:01 p.m.

---

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk