

The Rock Island City Council met in Study Session at 6:00 pm in City Council Chambers at Rock Island City Hall. Present were Mayor Dennis E. Pauley presiding, and Aldermen Joshua Schipp, Charles O. Austin III, Ivory D. Clark, Virgil J. Mayberry and Stephen L. Tollenaer. Also present were City Manager Thomas Thomas, Community and Economic Development Director Jeff Eder, Public Works Director Randy Tweet, other City staff and City Attorney Dave Morrison. Alderman Kate Hotle arrived at 6:06 pm. Due to work obligations, Alderman P.J. Foley participated remotely in the Study Session via electronic means (telephone conference).

DISCUSSION ON LEASING VEHICLES

Public Works Director Randy Tweet discussed the purchasing and leasing process for vehicles. Mr. Tweet advised that vehicles are purchased using the Fleet Replacement Fund; the department pays an annual amortization fee into the Fleet Replacement Fund. Mr. Tweet added that the replacement vehicle is then purchased using the Fleet Replacement Fund. Mr. Tweet then discussed amortization fees.

Mr. Tweet advised that operation and maintenance costs include; routine maintenance such as oil changes, tire rotations and radiator fills; repair or replacement of worn parts including brakes, tires and shocks; and non-routine maintenance such as mechanical breakdowns; and accident repairs. Mr. Tweet stated that warranty work is not included. Mr. Tweet added that operation and maintenance costs vary year to year and increase as the vehicle ages. Mr. Tweet advised that the total cost to operate the vehicle includes the fixed amortization cost and the operation and maintenance costs, which are variable. Mr. Tweet commented that the service life is based on the age of the vehicle when the operation and maintenance costs exceed the costs to purchase a new vehicle.

Next, Mr. Tweet discussed non-amortized vehicles. Mr. Tweet indicated that Fleet Services pool the vehicles such as out of town cars and loaner vehicles. Other non-amortized vehicles that Mr. Tweet discussed included back-up vehicles and limited use vehicles. Mr. Tweet commented that the departments pay only operating and maintenance costs for non-amortized vehicles. Mr. Tweet added that there are no funds in the Fleet Replacement Fund to replace these vehicles.

Mr. Tweet then discussed costs as it related to leasing vehicles. Mr. Tweet advised that there is a fixed annual lease fee for the term of the lease; repair costs for non-warranty parts/services; accident repair costs; and possible additional costs for damage and excessive mileage. Mr. Tweet further discussed these costs.

Next, Mr. Tweet discussed the City's vehicle leasing history. Mr. Tweet advised that in regards to short-term leases, the Public Works Department budgets about \$35,000.00 per year for vehicle leasing, which includes refuse packers for the fall leaf collection and mini excavators for street and utility projects. Mr. Tweet pointed out that vehicles are leased rather than purchased when it is more cost effective to do so. Mr. Tweet commented that in regards to long term leases, the Police Department has leased their undercover vehicles for over 20 years. Council and Mr. Tweet further discussed this item.

Mr. Tweet discussed annual cost comparisons as it related to the purchasing and leasing of vehicles. Mr. Tweet commented that at the conclusion of the lease for each vehicle, there is a \$350.00 turn in fee. Mr. Tweet and Council further discussed this item.

Next, Mr. Tweet discussed the advantages and disadvantages for leasing vehicles. The advantages Mr. Tweet discussed included; newer vehicles; less down time due to maintenance; and it is a lower annual cost. The disadvantages discussed included; the City does not own the vehicles; and there are additional costs for over mileage, excessive wear and tear and damage. Council and Mr. Tweet further discussed the advantages and disadvantages of leasing vehicles.

Mr. Tweet recommended conducting a pilot program for leasing seven CED vehicles and one Library vehicle for the next three years. Mr. Tweet stated that the lease program could be revisited prior to the 2019 budget, and at that time, a recommendation could be provided to Council for consideration as to whether or not to continue the program.

Council and Mr. Tweet discussed the number of vehicles to be leased for this pilot program in reference to the original staff report for this item. Council and Mr. Tweet also discussed cost comparisons as it related to leasing and purchasing vehicles in terms of cost effectiveness.

After more discussion on the leasing of vehicles, it was determined that the pilot program item would be brought back to Council for consideration.

UTILITY PATCHING PROGRAM

Mr. Tweet discussed the private utility patching process. Mr. Tweet advised that in this current process, the excavation contractor completes the utility work, which may include water and/or sewer service repair, new service, disconnect for demolition or other types of utility services; when the work is completed, a temporary asphalt patch is installed. Mr. Tweet stated that the engineering division will add the location to the patch list and when there is a sufficient amount of locations ready then the list is given to the City's patching contractor. Mr. Tweet added that the patching contractor completes the patch, then engineering inspects the work and the billing information is sent to the Finance Department. Mr. Tweet noted that the Finance Department then bills the excavation contractor for the patch and the contractor passes that cost on to the customer.

Mr. Tweet advised that there are problems with the current process. Mr. Tweet stated that there is a delay from the time when the utility work is completed and the permanent patch is installed. Mr. Tweet explained that temporary asphalt patches sink and it is an inconvenience to drivers in regards to traffic control because of the initial repair and again during the permanent patch. Mr. Tweet stated that another problem is that in the spring, there is a delay completing the backlog of patches from the winter. Mr. Tweet pointed out that another issue is that the City is involved in the billing process and receives complaints about the cost of the repair. Mr. Tweet further discussed these issues.

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 1, 2016
MINUTES**

Mr. Tweet discussed several proposed changes to the process. Mr. Tweet stated that excavation contractors would be responsible for completing the permanent patch within seven days and if they are not responsible then they have to use a licensed flatwork contractor. Mr. Tweet commented that currently, MidAmerican and AT&T complete their own permanent patches. Mr. Tweet advised that another change would be that the permanent patch should be warranted for 48 months. Other changes that Mr. Tweet discussed included; temporary patches between December 1st to April 1st should be concrete instead of asphalt to reduce the possibility of sinking; the contractor is responsible for temporary patches; they must respond within 24 hours if a repair is needed; and the City reserves the right to conduct the repair and bills the contractor if immediate repairs are needed.

Mr. Tweet advised that there are advantages to the changes. Mr. Tweet commented that it would be less disruption for traffic and there would be very few temporary patches during the construction season. Mr. Tweet added that there would be fewer issues with sinking patches during the winter months and the winter backlog would be completed in a more timely manner. Mr. Tweet stated that another advantage is that the City would be removed from the billing process. Council and Mr. Tweet further discussed the proposed changes to the private utility patching process.

Mr. Tweet stated that he would like to draft ordinance changes to require excavation contractors to complete the restoration work in which repairs must be conducted to current standards and the engineering division will still inspect the work. Mr. Tweet stated that he could have it ready next week.

Council discussed Mr. Tweet's presentation. After discussion, it was a consensus among Council to move forward with Mr. Tweet's recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Alderman Schipp and seconded by Alderman Clark to adjourn the meeting carried by the following Aye and No vote. Those voting Aye being; Alderman Schipp, Alderman Austin, Alderman Clark, Alderman Mayberry, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Hotle; those voting No, none. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 1, 2016
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 Joshua Schipp, Charles O. Austin III, Ivory D. Clark, Virgil J. Mayberry, Stephen L. Tollenaer and Kate Hotle. Also present were City Manager Thomas Thomas and City Attorney Dave Morrison. Alderman P.J. Foley attended and participated remotely in the meeting via electronic means (telephone conference).

Introductory Proceedings

Mayor Pauley called the meeting to order.

Mayor Pauley advised that Alderman Foley notified the City through Aleisha Patchin, City Clerk that he would be required to be out of town for employment purposes and made a request to participate remotely per City ordinance. Mayor Pauley then inquired as to whether there was a motion to allow Alderman Foley to participate in the Council meeting remotely.

It was moved by Alderman Mayberry and seconded by Alderman Hotle to allow Alderman Foley to participate in the Council meeting remotely. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Schipp, Alderman Austin, Alderman Clark, Alderman Mayberry, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Hotle; those voting No, none.

At this time, the roll was called and Mayor Pauley led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Alderman Austin gave the Invocation.

Agenda Item #5

Minutes of the meeting of January 18, 2016.

A motion was made by Alderman Hotle and seconded by Alderman Schipp to approve the Minutes of the meeting of January 18, 2016 as printed. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being; Alderman Schipp, Alderman Austin, Alderman Clark, Alderman Mayberry, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Hotle; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #6

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

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

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS - 2016

I would like to start by recognizing our two newly elected aldermen. In the Second Ward, we have Alderman Virgil Mayberry and in the Sixth Ward we have Alderman Joshua Schipp. They join a hard working team, including: Ivory Clark in the First Ward, PJ Foley in the Third Ward, Steve Tollenaer in the Fourth Ward, Kate Hotle in the Fifth Ward and Chuck Austin in the Seventh Ward. This team is charged with making the tough decisions on the needs of the city. Our City Manager, Thomas Thomas, continues to lead his team of dedicated directors as they

come together to guide the city through the challenging day to day operations of the city. As we continue to face numerous financial obstacles, this management team is often charged with doing more with less.

As the State of Illinois continues to deal with budget issues, Rock Island starts 2016 with a balanced budget and continues to have a strong AA2 bond rating. We will fully fund our pension obligations again this year; maintain our financial reserves and we continue to evaluate each open staff position in an effort to reduce expenses. 2016 will be the fifth year in a row where the City of Rock Island has not increased the property tax rate.

2015 was another busy year for our Information Technology Department. Mobile operations continue to grow and the new patrol fleet will have 4G communications software and video recording. Our Fire Department will also have their ambulances and command vehicles outfitted with 4G communications and new software, thereby establishing a paperless reporting environment in our public service divisions. Additional video surveillance was installed along 15th Avenue and the IT Department personnel worked tirelessly to meet the opening date of the new police department.

Microsoft based systems continue to evolve and municipal efficiencies in technology have leveraged cloud computing. Growth of internet usage continues and public safety technologies are transforming at an astounding rate. A major project in 2015 was to continue to address systems that are no longer supported by Microsoft. A number of desktop computers, laptops and mobile data terminals have been either replaced or upgraded to eliminate Windows XP and several new software systems, such as Fleet Management and Marina Management, were implemented. Our Information Technology Department works diligently to insure all the systems in Rock Island are kept up to date.

The Rock Island Library continues to meet the goals and objectives set out in its strategic plan. In 2015, the library introduced new literacy and learning opportunities for adults, teens and children. The combined story time attendance at all locations is 6,090 higher than last year and total circulation of library materials has increased by 2,091 above last year.

The Children's Department has introduced "Stemazing", an after school science, technology, engineering and math fun time for elementary school students; and "Play and Grow", an early literacy program that encourages children from birth to 5 years old to learn reading, playing and socializing skills. There is also a new "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" program to help boost a child's learning potential and they added Playaway Launchpads, tablet computers that offer interactive learning and literacy through age appropriate themed games that are extremely popular.

The young adult librarian is working to engage teens, visiting classes at every Junior High and High School in Rock Island. She has encouraged hundreds of our youth to seek out the books she talks about.

The library's adult services department has added new, small free libraries throughout the community. These mini libraries are located at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, Botanical

Center, Community Health Care Clinic, RIFAC and both township offices. The library also offers a variety of important services, such as free tax preparation Saturdays and several other programs to our residents.

As you can see, it has been a very busy year for the Library board and staff and 2016 looks to be just as busy. A fundraising feasibility study will begin in 2016 to determine if the one building concept is possible. Much has been said about the idea of expanding the main library. Studies prove that libraries remain a necessity for communities. We will see what the future holds.

In 2015, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center marked a major milestone by hosting a Gala Black Tie event to celebrate its 40 year anniversary. The agency completed a strategic plan entitled “Thriving in Our 4th Decade; A Three Year Plan”. The plan has three pillars: sustainability, stewardship, and structure. In 2015, the center served 21,860 residents through a variety of programs and services. 160 students attended the six week summer day camp program emphasizing social skills building and education in an effort to prevent summer learning loss. The center continued its program of substance abuse prevention and pregnancy prevention programming for over 2,300 students.

The King Center Metropolitan Youth Program engaged a 54 event performance schedule throughout the year in community impacting events and they participated in the Chicago McDonalds Thanksgiving Day Parade for the second consecutive year.

The annual Thanksgiving dinner at the center continues to be a huge success and this year they provided meals to over 1,224 people. Their annual Christmas party served a total of 581 attendees, 409 of which were children, providing families with the needed support for holiday gifts and family centered entertainment.

The King Center’s Active Club mobilized 132 members last year, encouraging its members, 55 years of age and older, to remain active in their community. They hosted the second year of the King Café, a senior citizen led initiative that promotes volunteerism, community building, dialog and food.

The King Center provides income tax return preparation and many other programs, they offer meeting space for the members of the community, and they hold several special events throughout the year to help build a stronger community through collaborations.

The Rock Island Parks and Recreation Department provides outstanding parks facilities and programs. In 2015, they developed a new youth scholarship program called “Try-Play”. It was developed in conjunction with the Rock Island County Area Project, Rock Island Township, South Rock Island Township, the Rock Island Library, MetroLink and Rock Island Parks. The goal is to increase access for those with limited resources to participate in camps, sports, swimming lessons and the ability to attend White Water Junction, RIFAC and the golf courses at reduced rates.

Parks personnel are working to complete the web based registration to make it easier for people to sign up for classes, rentals, special events and other park and recreation activities.

They worked to expand programming and practice space by working with the YWCA. Offerings have included fitness classes, swimming classes, martial arts and practice space for youth baseball.

The Parks Department worked with a local pickle ball club to develop a fundraising committee, with the goal of adding more pickle ball courts. They added additional courts at Mel McKay Park this past year, adding more opportunities to play this quickly expanding sport.

With the help of Blackhawk College and a state grant, they completed significant upgrades to Douglas Park, including underground wiring for field #1 and the replacement of all the bleacher boards. The intent is to increase participation in youth baseball at Douglas Park.

Other Park accomplishments include:

- The installation of new playground equipment at Hasselroth Park in the southwest area
- Rebuilt pumps and motors at Highland Springs and Saukie golf courses to improve efficiency
- Completed reroofing the Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center and the Genesis Guild theatre at Lincoln Park
- Developed a number of new programs at the golf courses, including a 50 and over league, a women's golf tournament and the First Tee Youth program

The Rock Island Fire Department continues to excel and look towards the future as they enhance their services. In 2015, they improved their ISO rating from a 4 to a 3. The lower rating improves insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties and is a prime factor that can be used to attract new businesses to the community.

The new 800mhz communication system was approved and went online in April, 2015. This new system enhances communication capabilities with any fire agency in the metropolitan area, which is very vital in case of a large, multi-jurisdictional emergency or disaster incident.

A new rescue boat, a first for the Rock Island Fire Department, was put into use in July, 2015. This boat will provide emergency services on both the Mississippi and Rock Rivers and will be used at special events such as Red, White and Boom and Floatzilla. The boat will augment the departments rescue operations for individuals needing emergency assistance while boating or swimming on the rivers.

In response to a UnityPoint Health request, the Fire Department purchased new tablets and software for paperless medical report writing. UnityPoint assisted with the purchase of the software.

The Rock Island Fire Department promotes a positive and professional image for the City of Rock Island and will continue our cooperative efforts with our neighboring departments, regional special response teams and state training opportunities.

This past December, the Police Department began moving into their new facility between 12th and 13th Streets and 5th and 7th Avenues. This is a state of the art facility that improves the level of efficiency and the level of service to the public.

- The lobby is substantially larger with better access and a front desk that is combined with their records division for more efficient service to citizens
- Larger public parking lot
- Private interview rooms off the lobby
- Inside parking for squad cars
- State of the art crime lab
- All evidence housed under one roof

The department upgraded all in squad technologies, including radios, mobile data terminals and in car video recording systems. The Police Department also upgraded to the 800mhz system, which is the standardized system for the entire Quad Cities.

The department merged several units into one unit, now designated as the Tactical Operations Unit. Police personnel are now cross trained to better address any issues throughout the city, allowing for better utilization of personnel and resources.

In 2015, for the first time in three years, the Mississippi River did not flood and Public Works did not have to expend resources to fight floods. This allowed the department to start earlier on a large number of maintenance programs, including patching streets, replacing sidewalks, replacing signs, grading alleys, repairing catch basins and monitoring a wide variety of other programs.

The Engineering Division was busy managing numerous maintenance projects. One of the two largest projects for the year was the full depth concrete patching, where bad sections of concrete are replaced all the way to the base material and numerous small repairs were completed around the city using this method. With the Hot in Place program, 56 blocks were replaced at less than \$9,000 a block. This represents a significant cost savings over the traditional resurfacing, allowing us to do more streets for the dollar.

The Sidewalk Repair Program was expanded in 2015. Locations were identified by citizen requests. The program was very well received and crews have already replaced over 13,700 square feet of sidewalk (624 panels in 48 locations throughout the city).

Public Works personnel trialed two new test programs in 2015. The first was the enhancement of gravel alleys. 15 blocks of gravel alleys were either seal coated or treated with asphalt millings, then sprayed with a liquid asphalt product. All indications are that both processes offered significant improvement. The second was seal coating of asphalt streets that were beyond patching or recycling. The streets were ground smooth, seal coated and topped off with a sealer. That also appears to be a success. These streets and alleys will be evaluated in 2016 to see if the program should be expanded.

Over the past year, the City Council has had ongoing discussions regarding the special assessment program for street repairs. The Council ultimately decided in September to discontinue the program as a way to fund street repairs. With a variety of new cost saving techniques like the New in Place Recycling Program, the city will be able to continue to improve streets without special assessment funds.

Work continues on our Long Term Control Plan. The largest project of the year was the 6th Avenue Relief Sewer and at \$10.6 million, this is probably the largest underground infrastructure project ever completed by the city. This project involves 20 blocks of large diameter storm sewer along 6th Avenue from 6th Street to 25th Street. Work on the rest of the control plan continues and all the work on the plan will be completed in 2017 long before the Federal government's completion date requirement of 2018.

The city's water treatment plant is over 100 years old and this past May, the City Council approved funding to move forward with design and engineering for a replacement plant.

The City of Rock Island had an exciting year in Economic Development in 2015. It started off in January with the opening of The Locks, a 36 unit apartment building, the opening of the MetroLink transit center on 20th Street and 2nd Avenue and the Rock Island Housing Authority opened the Linden Lane Project with 52 new living units. February was highlighted with the opening of Hill and Valley at their new, \$12 million facility. Their relocation retained approximately 140 jobs and will add an additional 25 more in the near future. In March, UnityPoint Health opened their new \$65 million Emergency Room and Heart Center. In August, FedEx opened its new 185,000 square foot distribution facility and Green Thumb Industries opened their new medical marijuana grow facility.

The city partnered with Habitat for Humanity this past year to build new homes in Rock Island and also partnered with ARC for additional group homes.

Hawk Technology, a leading designer and manufacturer of a wide number of industrial products, opened their new expansion in October. They currently have more than 50 employees and are still growing. Rock Island Animal Hospital completed its new state of the art facility in November.

Walmart signed a contract for a new superstore on 11th Street and 40th Avenue and CVS will be opening very soon at its new location on 18th Avenue.

The city is currently undertaking the creation of a Heritage Resource Plan to help formulate and identify specific strategies for the city's historic preservation program and recently began an 18 month process to update the zoning code and sign ordinance.

The city began a new Micro-CIRLF loan program this past year. This new program is designed to make loans to small businesses, who may not qualify for traditional loans. The maximum loan is \$10,000 and to date, six businesses have taken advantage of the program.

The City of Rock Island and Renaissance Rock Island have a very strong public / private partnership that has been in existence for over 30 years. The partnership continues to help build a better future for our community.

Developments around the city include:

Completion of the Villas at College Hill. In March, three new homes ranging from \$209,900 to \$234,900 were completed.

The two phased development downtown called Star Block continues. The historical redevelopment will have 22 residential units and first floor commercial space with Soi 2 Thai Street Food opening and El Patron relocating there and tripling their existing size in 2015.

The Garden District, 7 new single family homes broke ground in July, 2015 and they are currently under construction. These 2 and 3 bedroom homes will range from 1,400 to over 1,700 square feet in size and completion is expected in the spring of 2016.

Recently there was an announcement of the redevelopment of Zimmerman Lofts. The building will house 45 living units and 21,100 square feet of commercial space.

To date, Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation has assisted 677 homebuyers purchase homes in Rock Island since 1998. The Live-Work Rock Island program is unique to our city and it's an excellent opportunity for those who work in Rock Island to purchase a home here.

The Development Association of Rock Island is proud to have rolled out two editions of the downtown magazine. The latest edition focuses on our workforce downtown. This magazine is a great way to learn about all the things downtown has to offer.

Earlier in the spring, we completed our Downtown Strategic Plan. As a direct result of that plan, parking in the downtown area has become much more convenient. As of January 1, 2016, parking meters were removed and we went to 4 hour parking with a limited number of 30 minute spots. The parking deck and selected lots are free unlimited parking.

2015 saw many, new restaurant openings and expansions.

- Moe's Burgers and Brews – formerly At Your Service Catering expanded to a restaurant / bar and catering operation
- Soi 2 Thai Street Food – part of the Star Block development
- Gunchies Rock Island – they did extensive remodeling, both inside and out, to the former Hunter's Club
- Nana's Chicken and Fish – rejuvenated the old Maid Rite building on 5th Avenue when they expanded their business with their second restaurant in the Quad Cities
- El Patron – this successful downtown restaurant, relocated across the street to the Star Block building, tripling their size
- Mad Roots Juicery – reopened under new ownership
- Roosters – new owners brought a new flair and a new menu to the District

- Cabana's reopened under new ownership

With all the new, 2015 also saw the closing of a downtown restaurant that was the epitome of fine dining. I want to congratulate and thank Chef Rachid Bouchareb and his spouse, Therese, for bringing Le Figaro to Rock Island in 1982 and providing such a fine dining experience for all Quad Citians for the past 33 years. I wish them the very best in retirement.

Other new businesses in the downtown area include:

- Discounted Furniture – selling quality used furniture for living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms and more
- J Wild Marketing – full service marketing consulting that is customized to fit all unique situations
- The C.O.O.L. Closet – a high end resale clothing store, where proceeds go towards faith based programs for kids
- Coleman Florist – an 86 year old Rock Island business relocated from their original location on 12th Street to downtown Rock Island
- Gentry Boutique – a new women's clothing store
- Spell Bound New Age and Gift Shop – a unique shop offering a wide variety of new age gifts
- Rocket Bottoms – a cloth baby diaper and baby clothing store
- Lavish Salon and Spa – a trendy new full service salon
- Cycle Therapy – bicycle sales and service on all brands of bikes, located just off the bike path

New businesses opening around the city include:

- Grand opening of Friendship Manor's Memory Care
- Taste Buds – a new owner reopened the former Oh Nuts in the College Hill area with an expanded product line
- Pressly Funeral Home – recently remodeled and reopened the former Larson Funeral Home facility
- GPX Electric – relocated and expanded their business
- Athletico – will be open soon in their new building on the corner of 39th Street and 18th Avenue
- 1103 Marketing – opened recently, providing marketing services for small and medium size businesses
- Shakespeare Chocolates – relocated to Rock Island and expanded their business
- Divvy Dose – a start up pharmacy that is reinventing medicine dispensing
- Pizano Electric – moved into Rock Island and expanded their business
- The expansion and addition of fuel pumps at Jesse Mart
- Statewide Tire – opened their latest warehouse and distribution center here in Rock Island
- Title Max – opened their business on 11th Street in August
- Blackhawk Therapy and Business Coaching opened this past year

- Spot On Target Marketing – opened their call center with 10 new jobs
- Rock Island High School INCubator Program began their yearlong entrepreneurial class that takes young entrepreneurs from the ideation phase of business, to creating a Minimum Viable Product, to being in Operation. The city's Economic Development Manager was selected to be a mentor

In Rock Island, we solidly support the efforts of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce. We continue to support regionalism as a way for the entire area to grow and prosper. We fully support the Rock Island Arsenal and will continue to support the programs initiated by Arsenal personnel. Hopefully everyone agrees that our best avenue to a stronger and better Quad City metropolitan area is for all of us to work together.

Agenda Item #7

Public Hearing on a request from Mindy Diaz for an amendment to an approved special use permit to locate an additional attached sign (proposed digital message board) on the north façade of the building at 1815 24th Street.

Mayor Pauley closed the regular meeting at 7:09 pm and opened a Public Hearing on a request from Mindy Diaz for an amendment to an approved special use permit to locate an additional attached sign (proposed digital message board) on the north façade of the building at 1815 24th Street.

Mr. David Howard of New Boston, IL and on behalf of Mindy Diaz stepped forward. Mayor Pauley swore in Mr. Howard.

Mr. Howard stated that Ms. Diaz is interested in putting a digital sign (2 ft. tall by 6 ft. long) beside her existing sign on the side of her building facing the road. Mr. Howard advised that there were a couple of requirements; staff wanted to make sure that it could be put on a timer to shut off at a certain time to benefit the neighbors and the residential area around it. Mr. Howard stated that it can be put on a timer, but it is fully programmable so it doesn't need a timer to shut off; it can be programmed to do so.

Alderman Schipp stated that if it is approved, it is hoped that it will boost your business and the business will become even more successful in Rock Island.

Alderman Austin inquired as to whether Ms. Diaz was the building owner. Mr. Howard stated that Ms. Diaz is the building owner and property owner.

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

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

With no person present to speak in favor of or in opposition to the amendment to the approved special use permit, Mayor Pauley closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the regular meeting at 7:11 pm.

It was moved by Alderman Hotle and seconded by Alderman Austin to approve the amendment to the special use permit as recommended, subject to the stipulation that the lighted digital message board attached sign shall be set on a timer for the sign's digital lights to turn off at 10:00 pm and refer to the City Attorney for an ordinance. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being; Alderman Schipp, Alderman Austin, Alderman Clark, Alderman Mayberry, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Hotle; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #8

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 Schipp, Alderman Austin, Alderman Clark, Alderman Mayberry, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Hotle; those voting No, none.

- a. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding payment in the amount of \$19,783.98 to Dave Morrison for legal services rendered for the month of January.
- b. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding payment in the amount of \$15,617.31 to the Rock Island County Sheriff's Office for the City's share of the OSSI Records Management System software annual maintenance.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #3 in the amount of \$160,911.40 to Centennial Contractors of the Quad Cities for services provided for the Shadybrook Phase II Resurfacing project.
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #2 in the amount of \$4,626.00 to Otto Baum Company, Inc. for services provided for the Rock Island Pump Station Tuck Pointing project.
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #12 in the amount of \$463,509.83 to Brandt Construction for services provided for the 6th Avenue Relief Sewer project.
- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 and final in the amount of \$162,014.07 to Langman Construction, Inc. for services provided for the 2015 Catch Basin and Manhole Program projects.

Agenda Item #9

Claims for the weeks of January 15 through January 21 in the amount of \$1,285,899.33 and January 22 through January 28 in the amount of \$401,254.79 and payroll for the weeks of January 4 through January 17 in the amount of \$1,411,462.31.

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

Agenda Item #10

Report from the Police Department regarding a Dry Cleaning contract with Burke Cleaners, Inc., recommending the final one year renewal expiring December 31, 2016 at the prices quoted in the existing contract.

It was moved by Alderman Tollenaer and seconded by Alderman Mayberry to approve the contract as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being; Alderman Schipp, Alderman Austin, Alderman Clark, Alderman Mayberry, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Hotle; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #11

Report from the Public Works Department regarding a request from MetroLink to install a bus shelter within the 18th Avenue right of way at 2617 18th Avenue.

Alderman Tollenaer moved and Alderman Hotle seconded to approve the request as recommended, subject to providing a signed copy of the license agreement and hold harmless 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 Schipp, Alderman Austin, Alderman Clark, Alderman Mayberry, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Hotle; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #12

Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the 2016 Façade Improvement Program application package.

It was moved by Alderman Hotle and seconded by Alderman Clark to approve the 2016 Façade Improvement Program application package as recommended.

Mayor Pauley advised that he would like a few changes to be considered for this item. Mayor Pauley stated that one issue is the three year component. Mayor Pauley commented that he has been told that if a person is a good player in this game then they can come in every year and request \$5,000.00 for a multiple number of years and never have to stop. The Mayor explained that if you have several people doing that then it actually is keeping some people from participating in the program. Mayor Pauley advised that it should be three years per location before a person can come back. Mayor Pauley indicated that if a person comes in and requests

\$5,000.00 then that would be it for the three years; this gives more people an opportunity to participate.

It was noted that during a prior discussion, parking lots were eliminated from the program. Mayor Pauley stated that there are a lot of small businesses that have small parking lots attached to their buildings; \$15,000.00 could be a major upgrade to that and it is a facade issue. Mayor Pauley stated that he would like to see the parking lots that are attached to the buildings be added back in to the program. The Mayor noted that this would not include self standing parking lots.

Alderman Schipp and the Mayor discussed the three year issue.

Community and Economic Development Director Jeff Eder stated that Mayor Pauley's suggestion makes it very easy for staff to administer. Mr. Eder explained that if a person comes in for \$5,000.00, the match is \$5,000.00; it is one check for the City and then it is three years before they can come back.

Alderman Tollenaer commented on the parking lot issue. Alderman Tollenaer stated that he didn't want to see the program be so rigid where you have someone that truly needs some help and the policy doesn't allow any leeway. Alderman Tollenaer further discussed this item.

Mr. Eder stated that he liked the idea that the parking lot has to be tied to the business. Mr. Eder added that it is clear direction to staff.

After more discussion on this item, Mayor Pauley stated that a motion will be needed to accept the revisions.

At this time, it was moved by Alderman Austin to amend the motion to add the revisions that it shall be three years per location before a person can come back and reapply, and that parking lots attached to the buildings (not self standing parking lots) shall be added back in to the program, Alderman Hotle seconded. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being; Alderman Schipp, Alderman Austin, Alderman Clark, Alderman Mayberry, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Hotle; those voting No, none.

The amended main motion reads as follows:

It was moved by Alderman Hotle and seconded by Alderman Clark to approve the 2016 Façade Improvement Program application package with the revisions that it shall be three years per location before a person can come back and reapply and that parking lots attached to the buildings (not self standing parking lots) shall be added back in to the program. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being; Alderman Schipp, Alderman Austin, Alderman Clark, Alderman Mayberry, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Hotle; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #13

Report from the Mayor regarding reappointments to the Library Board.

It was moved by Alderman Clark and seconded by Alderman Hotle to approve the reappointments as recommended. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being; Alderman Schipp, Alderman Austin, Alderman Clark, Alderman Mayberry, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Hotle; those voting No, none.

Michael Avgenackis and Eudell Watts III were reappointed to the Library Board for three year terms expiring on April 30, 2018.

Agenda Item #14

Other Business.

Alderman Hotle commented on two businesses that Mayor Pauley mentioned in his State of the City Address. Alderman Hotle stated that Courtney Loftin is a Rock Island citizen and owns the Gentry Boutique in Downtown Rock Island. Alderman Hotle added that Amy Gibbs is a Rock Island resident and owns Lavish Salon and Spa in Downtown Rock Island. Alderman Hotle further discussed these two businesses.

Alderman Hotle advised that she has started participating in Continuous Improvement with the School District. Alderman Hotle added that this is part of a grant they got; they have meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 4:00 pm. Alderman Hotle commented that it is made up of various community members and anyone can come and be involved in this. Alderman Hotle advised that the point of it is to get more involvement and input in terms of what is going on with the School District. Alderman Hotle encouraged everyone to attend a meeting. Alderman Hotle commented that the meeting tomorrow is at the Martin Luther King Center.

Alderman Schipp commended Public Works Director Randy Tweet and the Public Works Department for quickly resolving a number of constituent issues in the 6th Ward. Alderman Schipp further discussed this item.

Alderman Schipp discussed a couple of things that have recently been in the press in regards to the Hauberg Center. Alderman Schipp advised that the Healy family owns Bridges Catering and they live in Rock Island, but their business is currently located in Princeton, Iowa. Alderman Schipp commented that they want to relocate their business to Rock Island. Alderman Schipp discussed a recent article in the newspaper in regards to whether the Hauberg property should be sold.

Alderman Schipp discussed and read the original title transfer in regards to the Hauberg Center. Alderman Schipp stated that the original transfer was written and signed by John Hauberg and Catherine Sweeney in 1956 when they made the City the grantee of the property. Alderman Schipp stated that the transfer basically says two things. Alderman Schipp advised that Mr. Hauberg and Ms. Sweeney anticipated in the future that change would be coming and they provided a provision in very clear language that if that period came along, how it would be done.

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

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Alderman Schipp commented that Mr. Hauberg and Ms. Sweeney stated that the proceeds and any income would go to the Parks Department.

Alderman Schipp advised that he has heard from many people throughout the City that have expressed their disapproval of what Council has done here. Alderman Schipp indicated that within the Open Meetings Act of the State of IL., there is a provision that grants Council the legal authority to talk about property, litigation and personnel. Alderman Schipp added that there was discussion about this property in an executive session; Council was told about an interested business owner, and Council decided it was in the best interest of the City to vent the process all the way through and bring the plan to the people of Rock Island.

Alderman Schipp stated that he believes the original transfer, the Open Meetings Act and the integrity and legitimacy as elected officials gives the Council the right to think about the best interests of the City and the future of Rock Island. Alderman Schipp noted that this business has 12 full-time employees and 105 part-time employees; there would be sales tax revenue and property tax revenue and it is the desire of the business to keep the Hauberg home in great condition and open to the public. Alderman Schipp stated that he believes this process needs to be seen through and to have the full details. Alderman Schipp added that it is anticipated that more information will be available to folks about this project.

Alderman Tollenaer stated that Bridges Catering is a family legacy business and agreed with Alderman Schipp in regards to the Hauberg item. Alderman Tollenaer stated that he couldn't have said it better himself.

Alderman Austin stated that the neighbors across the river are doing their Caucus procedure this evening. Alderman Austin added that the primary is not until March 15th, but early voting starts Thursday of this week. Alderman Austin advised that the polls in Illinois are open Thursday at 8:00am at the County office building. Alderman Austin added that starting on March 5th, they will expand their hours to include weekends. Alderman Austin commented that there are some remote sites, and that information is available on the County's website.

Alderman Foley commented that he is the first one to use this technology for the meeting tonight. Alderman Foley stated that it seems to have worked well. Alderman Foley added that he would not be able to attend Council meetings when he goes out of town, which is about four times a year. It was noted that this new technology will allow Alderman Foley to participate remotely.

Alderman Mayberry advised that everyone has a lot of comments in regards to Hauberg. Alderman Mayberry stated that there is a senior citizen population here in Rock Island and a lot of people cannot be here to voice their comments. Alderman Mayberry indicated that he knows this is the first time the City has used this technology, but this Hauberg item will be on the Agenda sometime in the future.

Mayor Pauley stated that the item will be on a Study Session sometime in February.

Alderman Mayberry stated that he would like for the City Attorney to look into it and see if citizens can call in to voice their opinions.

City Attorney Morrison stated that he would look into it. City Attorney Morrison indicated that from a non-legal standpoint, he would need to talk to the IT Department because he wasn't sure if the City has switchboard capabilities of doing this. City Attorney Morrison reiterated that he will look into the legal aspect of this item.

Bruce Noah of 3 Hillcrest Court stepped forward. Mr. Noah expressed concerns in regards to the proposal to sell the Hauberg Center. Mr. Noah stated that the proposed sale of the center is a disservice to the citizens of the City of Rock Island and to the Denkmann - Hauberg family. Mr. Noah indicated that the property was never intended to be an income producing facility for the City but rather a civic center for the use of its citizens. Mr. Noah commented that it is an important site in which to learn about the contributions of John Hauberg with regards to the written narratives of the Native Americans and local settlers that he recorded and the artifacts that he collected. Mr. Noah stated that the historic value of the property is important to the community. Mr. Noah further discussed his disapproval of the proposed sale of the Hauberg Center.

Alderman Mayberry stated that everyone in this room is a Native American; the Federal Government turned Indians into Native Americans. Alderman Mayberry offered that the Hauberg family did great things with Indians. Alderman Mayberry added that you do not find anything in their history where they talked about indigenous people or Native Americans; we are talking about Indians. Alderman Mayberry stated that it offends him when people use that out of context because they want to be politically correct.

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 Tollenaer and seconded by Alderman Hotle to recess to 5:30 pm, Monday, February 8, 2016. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being; Alderman Schipp, Alderman Austin, Alderman Clark, Alderman Mayberry, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Hotle; those voting No, none. The meeting was recessed at 7:37 pm.