

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING-GOAL SETTING**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2011  
MINUTES**

The Rock Island City Council met in reconvened session at 1:00 p.m. for the first day of the annual Goal Setting Session at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 630 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, Illinois. Present were Mayor Dennis E. Pauley presiding, and Aldermen, P. J. Foley, Stephen L. Tollenaer, Jason W. Jones, Joy Murphy, Charles O. Austin III and Terry M. A. Brooks I. Staff present included current City Manager John C. Phillips, Public Works Director Bob Hawes and new City Manager Thomas E. Thomas. Also present was Lyle Sumek, Group Facilitator of Sumek and Associates. Alderman David Conroy arrived at 2:40 p.m.

Mr. Sumek and Council reviewed various major accomplishments (successes) that were identified by staff and Council members in the past year, some of which included; passed a balanced General Fund budget; retained Aa2 rating from Moody's Investors Service; obtained a \$20 million dollar loan from IEPA with \$2.5 million principal forgiveness and a \$750,000.00 state grant for the Waste Water Long Term Control Plan; \$1.5 million dollar grant obtained for the transient boat dock at Schwiebert Riverfront Park; obtained approval of \$1.5 million dollars for the Ridgewood Road Business Park; effectively responded to an 18.5" snowfall and two floods; adoption of the Economic Development Strategic Plan; established a new business recognition program; 32 new businesses opened and the City supported several expansions; renovation and expansion of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center was completed; a space needs study for the new police facility was conducted; under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, 21 homes were renovated, 27 demolitions completed and funding for Jackson Square obtained; and several recommendations of the Safer Community Task Force were implemented including the Mayor's initiative to promote Achieve Quad Cities and a 14% reduction in crime through August of this year.

A number of other various successes were identified, which included; the planning and implementation of the new City website; completion of the new Municipal Services facility; continuation of the On-Site Nurse Program and a contract with Rock Island County to provide services to include Rock Island County employees; completed expansion of the Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center; and adoption of a catering license.

Mr. Sumek and Council discussed and reviewed various actions that were taken to reduce costs this past year, along with service increases and services reductions. Various actions discussed for reducing costs included; Parks and Recreation staff relocated to one location; reduction in size of City fleet; Public Works staff reduced (seasonal/full time); new take home vehicle policy implemented; library implemented six furlough days; various vacant positions in City departments kept open; and reduction in training budget. Several service increases included; King Center transportation for youth as well as an increase in after school and summer programming; use of social media increased; Wellness Center expanded to include annual physicals; increased communication with residents via study circles; and immigrant family support at library. Various service reductions discussed included; reduction in crew for weed control, reduction in alley

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grading to once per year; employee training reduction; library reduced hours; and food cooperative at King Center eliminated.

Following more discussion, Mr. Sumek then asked each Council member to identify three (3) major focus areas (challenges) to work on during the next five (5) years and three (3) action items that they felt needed to be undertaken in the next year. Various focus items included; King Center and Douglas Park development; service levels, staffing and pension costs in regards to the budget; tax and revenues and the cost of government; State and Federal Government cutbacks and mandates; maintaining infrastructure; cost increases for City services; South Rock Island flood resolution; and citizen expectations of expanded services. Various actions included; water bill and affordability as it related to policy direction; funding in regards to the rental inspection program; retail attraction; plan for 11<sup>th</sup> Street corridor; Mill Creek resolution; and casino area development.

Mr. Sumek and Council members continued their discussion on the focus items and actions identified by staff and Council members. Mr. Sumek and Council briefly discussed new realities for cities. Mr. Sumek then stated that on Saturday, discussion would begin on prioritizing goals.

A motion was made by Alderman Foley, seconded by Alderman Jones to recess to Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer, Alderman Jones, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin and Alderman Brooks; those voting No, none.

The meeting was recessed at 5:02 p.m.

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Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk