

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

Introductory Proceedings

Mayor Pauley called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Alderman Foley gave the Invocation.

Agenda Item #5

Minutes of the Meeting of January 9, 2012.

A motion was made by Alderman Jones and seconded by Alderman Tollenaer to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of January 9, 2012. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote; those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

Agenda Item #6

Update Rock Island by Mayor Pauley.

Mayor Pauley provided an update on the issue of the deer population. The Mayor advised that the City has been getting a lot of questions from people that believe a deer hunt will be held in the City soon. Mayor Pauley stated that there is not any type of a hunt scheduled in the City of Rock Island. Mayor Pauley indicated that on January 4th, a group of citizens held an informational meeting on the deer population issue. It was noted that approximately 120 people voiced their opinions on a proposed deer hunt. Mayor Pauley offered that representatives of the group will present their findings at a City Council study session in the near future. The Mayor advised that to date, the City Council has not made any policy decisions pertaining to the City's deer population.

Mayor Pauley advised that the Martin Luther King Jr. Center hosted the 29th annual Dr. King Jr. Memorial Service and awards celebration this morning from 10:30am to 12:00pm honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Mayor added that during this celebration, the "I Have A Dream" award and the "Tia Farrah Rice" award were presented to acknowledge contributions made to the community by Rock Island residents. The Mayor indicated that the "I Have A Dream" award was presented to Mr. Ramsey Vesey and the "Tia Farrah Rice" award was presented to Jalea Jackson.

Mayor Pauley commented that last Saturday night, a three hour event was held at Augustana College honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mayor Pauley stated that it was a beautiful celebration.

Mayor Pauley advised that beginning on January 1, 2012, electronic items are banned from Illinois landfills. The Mayor stated that the Rock Island County Waste Management Agency (RICWMA) does provide for the recycling of electronics at the Waste Commission of Scott County's De-Manufacturing Facility at 5640 Carey Avenue, Davenport at no charge to Rock Island County residents. Mayor Pauley advised that for additional information, please visit RICWMA's website at www.RICWMA.org.

Mayor Pauley stated that on January 6, 2012, the City of Rock Island made available a draft of the FY 2012-2013 One Year Action Plan for public review. It was noted that the One Year Action Plan serves as an update to the 2008-2013 Consolidated Plan, which is an effort by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to simplify the planning process and increase community participation by combining four HUD grant applications into a single document. It was noted that the One Year Action Plan is available online at www.rigov.org for citizen review.

Mayor Pauley indicated that the City is interested in hearing public comments in regards to the contents of the 2012-2013 One Year Action Plan. It was noted that a public hearing has been scheduled for January 24, 2012 at 5:30 pm in Council Chambers (third floor) at Rock Island City Hall at 1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois 61201.

Agenda Item #7

A Special Ordinance granting a Special Use Permit at 700 22nd Street.

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

Agenda Item #8

CLAIMS

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

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$72,160.75 to Brandt Construction Company for an emergency sanitary sewer repair on 4th Avenue and 24th Street. (006)
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #2 in the amount of \$33,227.10 to Hoerr Construction for services provided for the 2011 Joint Sewer Lining Program project. (007)

- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$17,604.56 to Valley Construction Company, Inc. for an emergency water main repair at 106 6th Avenue. (008)
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$17,764.51 to Drinker, Biddle and Reath for legal services. (012)
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #15 in the amount of \$2,680.63 to the Treasurer of the State of Illinois for the City's share of the IL 92 Resurfacing from 38th Street to the Moline border project. (013)
- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$52,814.25 to Walter D. Laud, Inc. for services provided for the 46th Street, 29th Avenue and 47th Street Court Reconstruction project. (014)
- g. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$47,675.99 to Drinker, Biddle and Reath for legal services. (016)

Agenda Item #9

Claims for the week of January 6 through January 12 in the amount of \$741,041.28.

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

Agenda Item #10

Payroll for the weeks of December 26, 2011 through January 8, 2012 in the amount of \$1,235,896.97.

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

Agenda Item #11

Report from the Public Works Department regarding wintertime water shut-off policies, recommending no changes in the policies for the disconnection of water services for non-payment.

Alderwoman Murphy moved and Alderman Brooks seconded to approve no changes in the policies as recommended. This motion was for discussion purposes.

Discussion followed.

Alderman Murphy stated that this is a real burden for many people in the community. Alderman Murphy advised that water bills have gone up considerably over the last few years. It was noted that Alderman Murphy would like to see customers have options on the water bill rather than just shutting the water off. Alderman Murphy offered that customers receive their water bill every three months and they have to pay a large water bill; it is difficult for people on fixed incomes to make a big payment. Alderman Murphy indicated that if there are options on the water bill then most people could adjust their budgets. Alderman Murphy further discussed various options including three monthly installments.

Alderman Brooks discussed approving a temporary moratorium until arrangements could be made. Alderman Brooks advised that this would be a temporary fix until Council decides what to do. Alderman Brooks stated that for many people, it is a strain to pay their water bills. Alderman Brooks also discussed costs as it related to the increase in water bills.

Alderman Conroy stated that a moratorium wouldn't mean that a person does not have to pay their water bill. It was noted that the bill, late fees, and interest would still be there. Alderman Conroy advised that according to the report, 25% of the citizens of Rock Island have a hard time making their payment on time, and almost 2% get their water shut off. Alderman Conroy stated that at this time of year, it is very critical that this doesn't happen.

Mayor Pauley then clarified the motion by stating that Alderman Murphy made a motion to approve. The Mayor added that by approving, if this is approved, it will be stating that no changes will be made to the current policies. Alderman Murphy commented that she will be withdrawing her motion and making another motion.

Alderman Jones stated that staff is working on different options and inquired as to where this stands. City Manager Thomas stated that options will be brought back to Council in several weeks. City Manager Thomas added that this is an enterprise fund that is not affected by taxes.

Alderman Conroy offered that a moratorium would only be for the winter months for not shutting off the water. Alderman Conroy stated that the City wouldn't necessarily need to do monthly water meter readings; there could be the same amount of water meter readings and people could have options of paying how they want to pay. Alderman Conroy advised that he was not looking to increase labor costs to make this happen.

City Manager Thomas reiterated that there will be a financial impact on the enterprise fund. Alderman Conroy inquired as to what that impact would be.

Finance Director Cindy Parchert stated that there would be a delay in revenue of approximately \$675,000.00; at today's rate that would be \$2,800.00 per year in interest lost. It was noted that currently, the City does offer payment arrangements.

Alderman Conroy advised that it was his understanding that if a renter comes in to pay their water bill, they are not allowed to make arrangements because they don't own the property. If it is stated on the water bill that they are allowed to make arrangements then there wouldn't be a conflict with not having the landlord present to make that partial payment.

Public Works Director Bob Hawes discussed cash flow. Mr. Hawes advised that the numbers in the report are based on four months. It assumes that everyone will pay their bill. It was noted that the \$2,800.00 is the loss in interest earnings by not having the cash. Mr. Hawes stated that the other cost cannot be determined, which is the amount of overtime it will take to do this based on these numbers. There would be overtime in the Finance Department and overtime in the Public Works Department to do this. Mr. Hawes further discussed this issue.

After more discussion on this issue, Alderman Conroy requested a Study Session on this item next week. Alderman Conroy advised that the City should defer this item for one week and not three weeks. Alderman Conroy added that he would like the Study Session to last for 45 minutes to an hour.

At this time, Alderman Conroy moved and Alderman Jones seconded to defer Agenda Item #11 for one week. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

After the vote, Public Works Director Bob Hawes inquired upon Alderman Conroy for guidance as to what facts and figures Council wanted.

Alderman Conroy stated that it would be the amount of overtime it will take for Public Works; how much overtime it will take for the Finance Department; back it up with the amount of costs and why; and break it down for February and March.

Alderwoman Murphy stated that she would like to know the costs including payment options on the water bill and privacy issues. Alderman Conroy added that a letter needs to go out to all of the landlords, and he would like to know the cost for sending the letters knowing that this change is going to happen.

After more discussion, Mayor Pauley stated this item will come back for the Study Session on Monday, January 23, 2012.

Agenda Item #12

Report from the Mayor regarding appointments to the Arsenal Gateway Steering Committee and the Central Neighborhood Steering Committee.

Alderman Conroy moved and Alderman Austin seconded to approve the appointments as recommended. The motion carried by the majority vote of six (6) aldermen in favor and one (1) alderman abstaining.

Appointments to the Arsenal Gateway Steering Committee are as follows:

Gail Brooks - Rock Island Housing Authority; Sam Kupresin - Spirit Partners / Mandus Group; Steve Tondi - Associated General Contractors / Greenbush Business Association; Mike Markell - Greenbush Neighbors; Joel Krogman - Bent River Brewery; Jason Jones - City Council; Diane Oestreich - Planning Commission; Brian Hollenback - Renaissance Rock Island representative;

Paul Rumler - QC First / Quad City Chamber of Commerce; and QCCA Expo Center.

Appointments to the Central Neighborhood Steering Committee are as follows:

Linda Anderson - Rock Island Preservation Commission; Jason Jones - City Council; Jim Gremanis - commercial property owner; Jason Lopez - Planning Commission; Deb Kuntzi - Broadway Historic Area Association President; Mike Oberhaus - Rock Island School District; Brian Hollenback (or designee) - Renaissance Rock Island representative; Pastor Willie Jones - Peoples Missionary Baptist Church; Anthony Heddlesten - Broadway Historic Area Board member and homeowner.

Agenda Item #13

Report from the City Clerk regarding a Plaza activity permit application for Steve's Old Time Tap to host a viewing area for the Grand Parade and a St. Patrick's Day post parade party on Saturday, March 17, 2012 from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.

It was moved by Alderman Conroy and seconded by Alderman Foley to approve the event for Steve's Old Time Tap as recommended, subject to complying with all liquor ~~and Plaza~~ regulations. Alderman Conroy then requested to strike the Plaza regulations.

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

Agenda Item #14

Other Business.

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

Alderman Brooks stated that the Martin Luther King celebration went quite well. Alderman Brooks commented that Ramsey Vesey was honored for his outstanding services in the community. Alderman Brooks stated that staff member Ida Robinson was also honored. It was noted that Ms. Robinson is retiring. Alderman Brooks pointed out that the board agreed that the community room would be named after Ms. Robinson.

Alderman Brooks discussed the recent shooting in the City. Alderman Brooks advised that violence is international. Alderman Brooks requested that prior to the media publishing a story; make sure to report the facts. Alderman Brooks advised that the shooting did not happen at the G-5 Youth Dance Club; it happened across the street. Alderman Brooks added that the City of Rock Island is not the isolated unit of violence.

Alderwoman Murphy reminded everyone to shop Rock Island. Alderwoman Murphy stated that La Salsa Grill is a new restaurant located in Rock Valley Plaza on Blackhawk Road. Alderwoman Murphy commented that they are famous for their salsa. It was noted that they are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm and closed on Sunday. Alderwoman Murphy encouraged everyone to shop Rock Island.

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 16, 2012
MINUTES**

Agenda Item #15

No Executive Session.

An Executive Session was not held.

Agenda Item #16

Recess

A motion was made by Alderwoman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Conroy to recess to Monday, January 23, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being, Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley, Alderman Tollenaer and Alderman Jones; those voting No, none.

The meeting was recessed at 7:25 p.m.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk