

The Rock Island City Council met in reconvened session on Saturday, February 23, 2013 at 8:00 am in City Council Chambers of Rock Island City Hall. Present were Mayor Dennis E. Pauley, presiding and Aldermen Joy Murphy, Charles O. Austin III, David A. Conroy, P.J. Foley and Stephen L. Tollenaer. Staff present included City Manager Thomas Thomas, Finance Director Cindy Parchert and Budget Coordinator Don Reichert. Other staff entered the room at various times of the morning pertinent to their presentations. Alderman Terry M. A. Brooks I arrived at 8:13 am and Alderman Jason W. Jones was absent.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Finance Director Cynthia Parchert opened the discussion by addressing Council and stating that any adjustments that Council makes will be incorporated into the final 2013/2014 Budget. Ms. Parchert advised that the Public Hearing on the budget is scheduled to be held on March 11, 2013 with the adoption of the budget and the amended property tax levy on March 18, 2013.

Budget Coordinator Don Reichert then presented Council with an overview of how the 2013/2014 Budget documents are organized.

Mr. Reichert stated that this book is the same layout as last year. Mr. Reichert advised that the first section is the Table of Contents followed by the Manager's Brief and the Budget Digest, which are basically overviews of the whole budget. Mr. Reichert advised that the next section contains the Financial Summary, which includes the Financial Trend Monitoring System. It was noted that this document gives trends for the prior fiscal year. Mr. Reichert added that the City's financial policies are also included in this section. Mr. Reichert stated that the next sections are the main sections of the 2013/2014 Budget document, which identifies all of the departments. Mr. Reichert then stated that the last sections of the budget document include the Capital Improvement Plan Draft, Non-operating Funds and a Miscellaneous section.

Ms. Parchert pointed out that the tax rate will remain the same because the equalized assessed value (EAV) is projected to go down 3.11%. Ms. Parchert added that actually there will be a decrease of about \$14.8 million dollars in that value.

After the overview of the 2013/2014 Budget documents, each scheduled department presented their budget to Council.

MARTIN LUTHER KING CENTER

Martin Luther King Center Director Dwight Ford addressed Council and presented the Fiscal Year 2013/2014 King Center Budget. Rev. Ford discussed staffing changes. Rev. Ford stated that Pam Ziegler will facilitate the Drug Prevention Program and Toni Thomas is the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Manager. Rev. Ford added that Fredrick

Cunningham is the After School Program Manager. It was noted that the new Executive Director is Rev. Dwight Ford. Rev. Ford advised that total expenditures are at \$815,368.00. Rev. Ford indicated that this year, there is a total body count of 36 members to the team and 13 will be full-time employees.

Rev. Ford advised that the only major project in the budget is the media center. Rev. Ford indicated that the King Center received a \$6,000.00 facilitator grant; it was a donation from the Robinson Family. It was noted that the total project cost is approximately \$10,000.00 and 8% of it is completed. Rev. Ford stated that the Janitorial contract has been reduced and commented on the snow removal contract.

Rev. Ford discussed revenue. Rev. Ford advised that the King Center was included in the Promise Neighborhood Implementation Grant; it is a United Way grant that has designated the King Center to be the head of the West End sector. It was noted that this grant will significantly impact the way the King Center does services if it is received. It was noted that they did not receive the grant this year. Rev. Ford advised that he is confident that if it is resubmitted, they will eventually receive it. Rev. Ford added that this is a five year grant for a total of \$323,319.00.

Rev. Ford discussed the changes in the level of services that the King Center provides. Rev. Ford stated that the After School Program currently has 70 people enrolled and the goal is to reach 100; the Substance Abuse Program has 500 and the goal will be to reach 1,000. Rev. Ford also commented on Pregnancy Prevention, the Metropolitan Youth Group, Striders Track Team and the Rock Island Boxing Club.

Rev. Ford pointed out that Promoting the Peace, which is a grass roots organizing anti-violence campaign has become very active. Rev. Ford advised that the Growing Scholar Program is a school district initiative and the King Center does not supply the funds. However, the King Center does supply two certified teachers to assist 14 students in providing tutoring that focuses on math and reading. Rev. Ford advised that the King Center is working on a grant for the Youth Leadership and Summer Enrichment Program. Rev. Ford commented that the Active Club is a 115 member club. It was noted that there are no places on the West End for them to meet; the King Center is working on talking to funders to implement a pilot program where these members can come to the King Center in the daytime to spend mornings talking and sharing.

Rev. Ford discussed operational changes. Rev. Ford noted that the Team Reach Manager has become the Facility Supervisor. Rev. Ford added that the King Center is becoming much more active with the building rentals and would like to expand opportunities for the rentals.

Rev. Ford indicated that the United Way grant is a \$16,000.00 grant that the King Center supplements with the funding that is received from the State for the Substance Abuse Prevention Program; it has been submitted and the King Center is up for review on April 3rd. Rev. Ford stated that he is confident that it will be reinstated. It was noted that this is a reoccurring grant. Rev. Ford advised that he has been contacted by the Illinois

Department of Health Services and he was asked if the King Center could be prepared to expand their prevention services. Rev. Ford commented that the King Center is in 12 of the 13 schools in District 41. Rev. Ford commented that if the prevention service could be expanded, the Illinois Department of Health Services stated that they could possibly move another \$140,000.00 to the King Center, which would increase the exposure. Rev. Ford added that right now, the King Center is scheduled to reach approximately 2000 students with substance and alcohol abuse prevention and pregnancy prevention within the school year and the \$140,000.00 would allow the King Center to reach more students.

Council and Rev. Ford discussed staffing levels as it related to body counts, and Council discussed programs as it related to the Active Club and the After School Program. Council also discussed revenue and expenses as it related to building rental fees.

POLICE

Police Chief Jeff VenHuizen along with Deputy Chief Jason Foy and Lt. Tim McCloud addressed Council and presented the Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Police Budget.

Chief VenHuizen discussed various Police Department accomplishments over the past year. Chief VenHuizen advised that the Police Department was undergoing the accreditation process and the onsite assessment was done in January. It was noted that two onsite assessors came and evaluated the Police Department. Chief VenHuizen commented that the official word has not been confirmed by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Board yet, however, the assessors have recommended that the Police Department receive Tier One accreditation. Chief VenHuizen advised that last year was the first year that the Crime Suppression Unit was formed. It was noted that it was well received by the public. Chief VenHuizen pointed out that there were a total of 167 misdemeanor arrests, 58 felony arrests, 95 ordinance arrests, seized six firearms and over 700 grams of drugs. Chief VenHuizen advised that when comparing crime statistics from 2011 to 2012, the department was down 11% in overall crime and down 23% in violent crime.

Police Chief VenHuizen advised that there will be a temporary increase in staffing levels for the Police Department; it will go from 110 to 111 full time equivalents (fte). Chief VenHuizen stated that this is based on some anticipated absences that the Police Department will have and based on some pending retirements. Chief VenHuizen further explained this issue.

Chief VenHuizen indicated that two projects will be completed in the Fiscal Year 2013/2014 budget. The Chief stated that voters for RICOMM is a hardware that allows for radio traffic, which is the communication between the dispatchers and the officers on the street. It was noted that \$22,000.00 has been budgeted. Chief VenHuizen explained that the voters are almost 40 years old and this is the last major equipment to be purchased for RICOMM. Chief VenHuizen advised that funds have been budgeted for the completion of the 11th Street and 15th Avenue corridor neighborhood camera project. Deputy Chief Jason Foy further discussed the camera project.

Chief VenHuizen advised that there are no significant changes in revenue or the level of services that the Police Department provides. The Chief noted that the Crime Suppression Unit will continue to be funded with no major impact to the budget.

Chief VenHuizen advised that in the area of operational changes, funding from the State for the Elderly Services Officer (ESO) has been cut. The Chief added that the department will continue to staff this position. Chief VenHuizen indicated that since he was appointed to the Chief of Police position, there has been 17 personnel reassignments. Chief VenHuizen further discussed the Police Department's operational changes.

Police Chief VenHuizen advised that the Police Department will no longer be receiving the Elderly Services Officer Grant (ESO) and the department will no longer be receiving the Project Safe Neighborhood Grant, which is federally funded. Chief VenHuizen and Deputy Chief Foy further discussed these grants.

Chief VenHuizen stated that the Police Department will continue to receive funding through the Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), Tobacco Grant, Bullet Proof Vest Grant, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program and Illinois Training Reimbursement. Chief VenHuizen further discussed these grants.

Council and Chief VenHuizen further discussed the Police Department's proposed 2013/2014 Budget.

CED

Community and Economic Development Director Jeff Eder accompanied by Budget and Grants Manager Dena Haag addressed Council and presented the CED Department's 2013-2014 Budget.

Mr. Eder advised that there are a lot of things happening in the Community and Economic Development. Mr. Eder added that five staff members have left the department in the last year. Mr. Eder commented that he has been with the City for nine months and since that time, he has hired a new Planning and Redevelopment Administrator, Budget and Grants Manager and an Urban Planner. Mr. Eder indicated that he doesn't anticipate a lot of change in staff in the next year. Mr. Eder discussed CED activities and indicated that he is looking at staff to determine who is better suited for which activity.

Mr. Eder discussed upcoming Community and Economic Development projects. Mr. Eder stated that the most exciting part of town is the South 11th Street TIF. Mr. Eder noted that the Walmart project has already been announced and this past week, the redevelopment in the area of the old Michael's Trailer Park was announced. It was noted that the current TIF District will be disbanded and a new TIF will be put in its place, which will pay for all of the activities. Mr. Eder indicated that the Fareway project is moving forward. It was noted that in the Southwest area, construction is ready to start this year on some of the infrastructure for the Ridgewood Sustainable Business Park. Mr. Eder stated that the design for the water, sewer and road are complete. Mr. Eder also

discussed the Downtown TIF, The Locks TIF and the Arsenal Gateway project. Mr. Eder explained that the City will be expanding the Enterprise Zone to include the Fareway and Friendship Manor projects. Mr. Eder explained that the bigger issue is that the State law that enacted the enterprise zone expires on January 1, 2014 and this means that the City will have to go through a renewal process of the enterprise zone. Mr. Eder further discussed this issue.

Mr. Eder commented on other projects that staff is starting to work on, which include the retail planning strategies including the Blackhawk Corridor and South 11th Street. Mr. Eder also discussed College Hill. Mr. Eder stated that another exciting project being worked on is Jumer's Crossing. Mr. Eder added that for the long term, Jumer's Crossing is probably one of the most important projects the City will undertake. Mr. Eder further discussed the upcoming projects.

Mr. Eder pointed out that on the building side, the City is looking at the adoption of the 2012 Building Codes. Mr. Eder discussed adopting the energy codes as it related to State mandates. Mr. Eder also discussed revising a fee collection process for code enforcement and rental inspection activities. Council discussed rental inspections as it related to compliance.

Mr. Eder commented on the contracts included in the budget. Mr. Eder advised that revenue has not significantly changed from last year; the biggest change in revenue that staff is looking at is the inspection fees, special projects and some new grant opportunities.

Mr. Eder commented that no changes are anticipated in the level of services provided by the Community and Economic Development Department, and there are no other changes in operations with the exception of staffing changes.

Mr. Eder advised that CED will not be applying for the Historic Preservation Grant next year due to the changes in the CED Department. Mr. Eder noted that the City received an IKE Grant for \$100,000.00 and it will be used for comprehensive planning. Mr. Eder stated that Community Development Block Grant funds continue to decrease. Mr. Eder added that it is being projected for another 10% cut in this year's budget. Mr. Eder further discussed this issue.

Mr. Eder commented that another big effort being made in the CED Department is that Dena Hagg, the Budget and Grants Manager will be tasked with coordinating all of the grants with the different City departments. This will be in one centralized location. Mr. Eder noted that the Police grants will be the exception.

Council and Mr. Eder further discussed the Community and Economic Development Department's 2013/2014 Budget.

LIBRARY

Library Director Angela Campbell along with Assistant Library Director Amy Penry presented the Library's Fiscal Year 2013-2014 proposed Budget.

Ms. Campbell indicated that there is no change in full time equivalents (fte's). Ms. Campbell advised that the library will begin its strategic planning process this spring and it will be completed by the fall. It was noted that the library will also be working on a building maintenance repair schedule. Ms. Campbell stated that there are some building repair issues. Ms. Campbell advised that the roof at the Southwest Branch was found to be structurally not sound; it needs to be redesigned and then reroofed. Ms. Campbell also noted that there is a foundation leak at the Main Library that is soaking some of the drywall in the lower level. Ms. Campbell commented on various contracts included in Library's budget.

Ms. Campbell stated that in regards to revenues, fees will remain the same. Ms. Campbell indicated that the Library is comparable to surrounding cities for fees charged and the library is making a little money from the collection agency with the small balance program. It was noted that there are no changes in the level of services that the library provides.

It was noted that Ms. Campbell became the new Library Director on January 21st. Ms. Campbell commented that operations and personnel are currently being evaluated for efficiency. Ms. Campbell advised that the grants that the library receives from the Friends and Foundation are expected to remain the same. Ms. Campbell indicated that the Rock Island Community Foundation grant for Fiscal Year 2013 may have to be carried over to Fiscal Year 2014.

Ms. Campbell discussed the Quad Cities library computer system consortium-RiverShare, which replaced the PrairieCat system. Council and Ms. Campbell discussed the leaking roof at the Southwest Branch.

Council further discussed the Rock Island Library's proposed 2013/2014 Budget.

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Bob Hawes accompanied by Assistant Director Michelle Martin presented the Public Works Department's 2013/2014 Budget.

Mr. Hawes stated that the Public Works Budget is approximately \$68 million dollars, which is spread over 13 funds; it is up 4.0% or about \$2.4 million dollars. Mr. Hawes added that most of that is capital costs and debt service costs related to the Long Term Control Plan.

Mr. Hawes indicated that in the area of full time equivalents (fte), the staffing levels for the department will be reduced from 112 to 109 positions. Mr. Hawes advised that the department currently has nine vacant positions. Mr. Hawes added that the budget assumes the elimination of three of the vacant positions, which include a maintenance electrician and two maintenance worker positions. Mr. Hawes advised that the budget includes approximately \$366,000.00 for 25 thousand hours for contract employees, which is a little over 12 fte's. It was noted that this is down slightly from the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget. Mr. Hawes commented that the areas of reduction include; seasonal labor maintenance of the City owned rain gardens; the clerical assistance hours for the Cross – Connection Control Program; a slight reduction of hours for the fuel dock attendants at Sunset Marina; and a reduction of an engineering intern's hours.

Mr. Hawes advised that there are no proposed revenue changes other than the water rate increase that Council approved about a year ago and the increase in Sunset Marina rates that was approved this past October.

Mr. Hawes stated that the General Fund supports street and right-of-way maintenance, snow removal, solid waste collection and electrical maintenance. Mr. Hawes added that there will be some minor reductions in service levels due to the elimination of the prior mentioned positions. It was noted that some money was added to contract maintenance to offset the loss of the maintenance electrician and a small amount of money was added for tree trimming. Mr. Hawes commented that there will be a reduction in the annual micro-surfacing program; it will go from 130,000 square yards to 97,500 square yards. Mr. Hawes explained that the micro surfacing program is designed to treat all asphalt streets on a seven year cycle; the impact to the reduced program will increase the cycle length to nine years for taking care of the asphalt streets. Mr. Hawes added that over the long term, this could accelerate the deterioration of the asphalt streets. Mr. Hawes discussed the impact on snow removal as it related to the proposed Fiscal Year 2014 staff reductions. Mr. Hawes indicated that for small snow storms, there would be no impact. However, when there is a major storm, it may be more difficult to maintain a full snow removal crew.

Mr. Hawes stated that there are no expected changes in the area of operations. Mr. Hawes then discussed grants. It was noted that the City received an IKE grant of approximately \$750,000.00 that will be applied for the design of the 6th Avenue relief sewer. Mr. Hawes offered that the annual Solid Waste Assistance Grant (SWAG) from the Rock Island County Waste Management Agency of \$29,264.00 will go in the General Fund to support the cost of solid waste activities. It was noted that the City received a Truck Route Program Grant (TARP) of \$114,250.00 from the Illinois Department of Transportation for improvements to 5th Street between 18th and 24th Avenue.

Council discussed the Public Works Department budget as it related to the reduction in staffing levels in terms of major snow storms and reductions in staffing levels as it related to efficiency in operations. Council also discussed the City's prior operation of the refuge and yard waste center at Public Works. Council further discussed the Public Works Department's budget.

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – BUDGET**

**February 23, 2013
MINUTES**

RECESS

A motion was made by Alderwoman Murphy and seconded by Alderman Foley to recess to Saturday, March 2, 2013 at 8:00 am. The motion carried by the following Aye and No vote: those voting Aye being; Alderwoman Murphy, Alderman Austin, Alderman Brooks, Alderman Conroy, Alderman Foley and Alderman Tollenaer; those voting No, none.

The meeting was recessed at 11:00 am.

Aleisha L. Patchin, City Clerk