



## Special City Council Meeting

May 25, 2021

### Agenda 6:00 p.m. [Watch Live](#)

City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3rd Floor, 1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL

1. Call to Order
2. This meeting will be conducted by audio and video conference without a physically present quorum of the Rock Island City Council due to the disaster declaration issued by Governor Pritzker

Because of this order related to COVID-19 public health concerns affecting the State and the City, the Mayor has determined that an in-person meeting at City Hall with all participants may not be practical or prudent.

Aldermen and Staff may not all be physically present at City Hall due to the disaster and physical attendance at City Hall may be limited. To participate remotely during the Public Comment or Public Hearing portion of the meeting, please join by phone at 1-475-209-2841 and use PIN: 329 599 561#.

3. Roll Call
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Moment of Silence
6. Public Comment
7. Goal #1: Financially Sound City Providing High Quality Service and Infrastructure

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the actions steps as amended in Goal #1.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

8. Goal #2: Expanding Local Economy

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the action steps as amended in Goal #2.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

9. Goal #3: Revitalization of Strategic Locations

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the action steps as amended in Goal #3.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

10. Goal #4: Increase Population through Livable Neighborhoods

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the action steps as amended in Goal #4.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

Documents:

[CITY COUNCIL GOALS AND ACTION STEPS.PDF](#)

11. ARP Process Discussion

12. Other Business

13. Motion to Adjourn

Adjourn to Monday, June 14, 2021.

*This agenda may be obtained in accessible formats by qualified persons with a disability by making appropriate arrangements from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (309) 732-2010 or visiting in person at: 1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201.*

# Goal #1: Financially Sound City Providing High Quality Service and Infrastructure

## Action Step 1: Outsourcing related strategies for city services/programming through service agreements - 7 votes

- Rental Inspection Program → Area Home Inspection Companies
- City Arts Commission → QC Arts (or similar)
- City Parks & Rec Department music events → RME (or similar)
- GIS (CED or PW) → Bi-State Regional Commission
- CIRLF → Area CDFI
- CED Residential Rehabilitation Programs → RI Economic Growth Corp (or similar)
- Continue consideration of Illinois American Water

Responsible Department: CED, Public Works, Parks

### Status:

- Rental Inspection Program: The results of a neighboring community's look at possible outsourcing of inspections services did not identify savings/efficiencies. Staff will present a study session in September 2021 regarding the rental inspection program including an outsourcing option. **CED**
- QC Arts/Art Program: Arts funding for 2021 was not designated for a specific program allowing for more flexibility. Staff is currently developing a contract for services that will hand over the operation of our community arts program to Quad City Arts with the Arts Commission continuing to function in an advisory capacity. The agreement is expected to come to Council in June 2021. **CED**
- GIS Services: Bi-State is unable to assume GIS services but they are coordinating ongoing discussions with local Illinois municipalities to explore the possibilities of a regional GIS. The regional GIS will likely offer no monetary savings but may offer enhanced services. GIS staff from Illinois QC municipalities are currently working with the Bi-State Regional Commission to develop a "data hub" that will assist in collaborative data gathering efforts. **CED**
- CIRLF: Study session in September 2021 on updated CIRLF procedures and CDFI recommendation. **CED**
- Rehab Programs: Study Session in September 2021. **CED**
- Parks Dept. met with RME and will be offering concerts at SRP in partnership with RME. More details (dates, bands, etc) expected this month. Staff is working with them and they are very excited to have an outdoor location with us. **PARKS**
- American Water awaiting the results of the rate study. Update from American Water expected in June. **CM**
- Department Directors are tasked with exploring these and other outsourcing issues.

**Action Step 2: Adopt Injury & Illness Prevention Program (see CSU Dominquez Hills) for City Employees (Illinois State OSHA Consultation) - 5 Votes**

Responsible Department: Human Resources

Status:

Study Session scheduled for June 2021 **HR**

**Action Step 3: Create social worker liaison (Family Resources), embedded into Police Department, to address needs not appropriate for police department (i.e., homelessness, victims that do not want to talk to the police, etc.) - 5 Votes**

Responsible Department: Police Department

Status:

- The Chief has signed an annual memorandum of understanding with Family Resources re-establishing our mutual commitment to collaborate and provide services in the best interest of victims of violent crimes, sexual assault, domestic violence, etc.
- Staff is in contact with the Davenport Police Department regarding their process of embedding a social worker from Family Resources in their PD.
- Study session in October 2021 unless grant opportunities present themselves earlier. HB3653 has provisions that deal with deflection programs and co-responder approaches that incorporate behavioral health and peer or social workers taking effect January 1st of 2023. **POLICE**

**Action Step 4: Solar Power Policy and Program – Renewable energy for infrastructure and community** - 5 Votes

Responsible Department: City Manager, Public Works

Status:

- Solar company has identified 14 possible City facilities. Site visits are expected to happen in March after the snow melt for a more detailed analysis of the sites with final recommendations expected in April.
- Site visits were completed in March 2021. Awaiting final analysis from Eagle Point Solar.
- Sites: SW WWTP, RIFAC, Police Station, Water Treatment Plant, City Hall, MLK, Public Works Administration, Municipal Service Garage, Utilities Maintenance, Fire (Central Station, Station #2, #3, and #4), Marina. **CM**

## Goal #2: Expanding Local Economy

**Action Step 1: Strategies related to redirecting hotel/motel tax revenue (minus Visit QC dues) for tourism-specific programming. - 7 Votes**

Such as:

- Commission a Rock Island Heritage Tourism Plan (as identified in the 2016 Heritage Resources Plan, pg. 31 of document)
- Fund Rock Island/IL-QC Local Film Office
- Multicultural programming (i.e., Augustana's Swedish Center, foreign investment via sister-cities, etc.)

Responsible Department: City Manager, CED, DARI

Status:

- \$100,000 diverted from Hotel Motel tax in the 2021 to be devoted towards tourism. The budget is expected to increase to \$200,000 in 2022.
- DARI and City staff local representatives to discuss establishing a local film office in Rock Island. A letter supporting local film office and requesting financial support was submitted to State representatives We expect to receive \$50K. Doug Miller was hired to complete preliminary work.
- Staff is working with Visit Quad Cities on an agreement to provide additional tourism related services to the City of Rock Island.
- Study session with Visit QC completed in April 2021. Agreement to Council in June. **CM**

**Action Step 2: Adopt "set-aside" percentage of new development costs to fund public art program, administered by Arts Commission (as identified in the 2015 Arts Plan, pg. 5 of the document) - 3 Votes**

Responsible Department: CED, DARI

Status:

Study session update scheduled for July 2021 in conjunction with Incentives update. Expect to collaborate with QC Arts **CED/DARI**

## Goal #2 Continued

### Action Step 3: Improve City's image - 6 Votes

Curb appeal- weeds in ROW, facades, streets/sidewalks, monitor streetlight outages (reporting mechanism)

Responsible Department: Public Works, Parks

Status:

- Study session completed on April 12, 2021. **PW**
- Focus on downtown and major corridors with street sweeping, weed spraying, sidewalk and streetlight repairs. Sidewalk repairs and downtown cleanup started in May and is ongoing. **PW**
- Promote positive marketing of image of Rock Island. DAIR will present to the Council in June. This will also be part of the agreement with Visit Quad Cities. Study session with Visit CQ completed in April 2021. Agreement expected to come to Council in June 2021. **CM**

### Action Step 4: Look at institutional barriers (policies and fees) to development in the city - 3 Votes

Responsible Department: CED

Study session in August 2021: Comparison of building codes and fees between Rock Island and other local municipalities. **CED**

## Goal #2 Continued

### Action Step 5: Business Succession Planning Program - 6 Votes

To retain businesses by assisting in transitioning ownership through cooperative or other partnership arrangement for continuation of those businesses where the owner has no one to succeed them; or by assisting the family in taking over the business.

Responsible Department: CED, DARI

Status:

- A Resource Guide on how to start a business in Rock Island will be completed by May 2021. The Resource Guide is done and is available on website. Staff will present to council at study session in June 2021.
- Will seek assistance from the SBDC and Business Development Partners to conduct a workshop on Succession Planning workshop by June 2021. SBDC has provided information on this topic. A separate session will most likely not occur on this subject but become a part of business planning programming (one on one sessions with SBDC). ED Team is also recommending that succession planning be a potential question during business connection interviews. A survey of businesses is planned. **DARI**

### Action Step 6: Aggressively Market the Downtown (Business) - 6 Votes

Responsible Department: CED, DARI

Status:

- Marketing Specialist hired by DARI in March 2021
- Study Session on Marketing Plan recommendations scheduled in June 2021
- The marketing plan is city wide – not downtown specific. **DARI**



## Goal #2 Continued

**Action Step 7: Zero Interest Economic Development Revolving Loan Program or Forgivable Loans When Meeting Certain Criteria - 6 Votes**

Responsible Department: CED, DARI

Status:

Study Session scheduled for June 2021 Incentive programming recommendations will be provided to Council at a study session in July **DARI/CED**

**Action Step 8: Economic Development (Business Marketing).  
Promote everywhere, including 11th Street and Watchtower Plaza - 3 Votes**

Responsible Department: CED, DARI

Status:

Study Session on Marketing Plan recommendations scheduled for June 2021. **DARI**

## Goal #3: Revitalization of Strategic Locations

**Action Step 1: Continue to seek funding for 11th Street: street, sidewalk and retaining wall improvements - 4 votes**

Responsible Department: Public Works

Status:

- Grant submitted in 2020 for 11th Street, 31st/45th Aves - REBUILD Illinois Infrastructure Grant
- Grant submitted in 2021 for 11th Street, 31st/45th Aves - Rep Bustos Transportation Reauthorization QC Earmark
- Grant submitted in 2021 for 11th Street, 31st/45th Aves - Rep Bustos Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriation
- Currently working on 11th Street, 31st/45th Aves - RAISE Grant **PW**

**Action Step 2: Continue work to utilize 11th Street Watch Tower for temporary and/or permanent purposes - 3 Votes**

Responsible Department: CED, Parks

Status:

Study Session Scheduled for July 2021. Staff was approached about a farmer's market to the southwest corner in the fall of 2021. **CED**

## Goal #3 Continued

**Action Step 3: Execute Downtown strategies and Downtown Plan (Staff will come back with a timeline) - 7 Votes**

- Establish SSA/BID/BDD. Create independent Board of Directors from area stakeholders to enter into service agreement with the City to administer the SSA/BID/BDD.
- Use part of remaining TIF dollars to hire consultant/The Chamber to guide Board of Directors through the process of creating SSA/BID/BDD.
- Use City funds to hire Downtown Partnership Executive Director to do the work of newly established entity

Responsible Department: Mayor, City Manager, CED

- Downtown Task Force established
- Contract with Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce to provide downtown management signed in January 2021.
- Staff is working with the Downtown Manager in interpreting the Downtown Revitalization plan and its implementation
- Study session update scheduled for August 2021. **DOWNTOWN MANAGER**

**Action Step 4: Establish “mapping out” repeat offenders as a condition of court sentencing (as identified in DARI’s West Palm Beach report) - 3 Votes**

Responsible Department: Downtown Manager and Steering Committee

Status:

Study session to be scheduled for September 2021 **DOWNTOWN MANAGER**

## Goal #3 Continued

### Action Step 5: College Hill Redevelopment / Business Development and 30th Street and 14th Avenue - 5 Votes

Responsible Department: CED, DARI

#### Status:

- College Hill Redevelopment/Business Development expected to reconvene in March 2021.
- Study session update scheduled for June 2021.

The business groups have not been meeting this year due to COVID but hopefully will reconvene in late Summer. A study session to present staff recommendations will be rescheduled to late 2021. **DARI**

### Action Step 6: 11th Street Business Development Corridor - 3 Votes

Responsible Department: CED, DARI, Public Works

#### Status:

- NPC 11 Executive Committee resuming meetings in May with regular meetings starting in June 2021.
- Study session update rescheduled for Fall/Winter 2021. **DARI**

### Action Step 7: Enforce / Create Rental Ordinances.

Ordinances regarding rental property and landlords need to be enacted and enforced. If a landlord doesn't maintain the property, then they should be fined. We need to work with the landlords to monitor rental rates so that they are not excessive. Absentee landlords should not be permitted. If we cannot contact you, then you should not be permitted to rent - 2 Votes

Responsible Department: CED

#### Status:

- Delayed due to staff vacancies.
- Annual rental inspections began in January 2021
- Study session on updated rental ordinance scheduled for September 2021. **CED**

## Goal #4: Increase Population through Livable Neighborhoods

### Action Step 1: Address findings of the Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing

- Pursue cultural competency analysis / equity plan / affirmative action and diversity inclusion workforce plan - 4 Votes
- Empower Human Rights Commission to perform Fair Housing Testing / Fair Housing Ordinance - 3 Votes

Responsible Department: CED, MLK

- Revised Schedule:
- Study session on Human Rights Commission/Fair Housing Testing scheduled for July 2021 **CED/MLK**
- Study session on Impediments to Fair Housing scheduled for July 2021 **CED**
- Human Rights Commission update scheduled for August 2021. **MLK**
- Study Session on cultural competency analysis / equity plan / affirmative action and diversity inclusion workforce plan scheduled for August 2021 **CED/MLK**

### Action Step 2: Safety-End/reduce gun violence - 5 votes

Responsible Department: Police

Status:

- Return to full strength with officers so more pro-active enforcement activities can be conducted rather than reactive.
- Continue to staff to the best of our ability the Tactical Operations Division whose mandate includes investigation of violent and gun related crimes as well as targeting known violent offenders.
- Re-allocate additional resources to the Tactical Operations Division once full staffing has been achieved.
- When the budget allows, post and hire for the Crime Analyst Position to better collect, quantify, and develop strategies from intelligence / analyst data.
- Continue to pursue federal charges for all gun related offenses that qualify
- Continue to advocate for "gun court" to be instituted at the State prosecutorial level
- Continue our high level of inter-agency cooperation related to gun crimes **POLICE**

## Goal #4 Continued

### Action Step 3: Promote Neighborhood and Connect with neighborhoods – 8 Votes

- If all the Rock Island neighborhoods have names or identifiers, then those should be known and promoted. It will give a sense of pride and belonging to some areas. The banners areas are a good idea to identify neighborhoods. Perhaps a monthly focus on a neighborhood will help build a sense of pride and help with connecting neighbors and getting them more involved
- Promotion and mapping of amenities. Promote walking distance to libraries, parks and entertainment - 8 Votes

Responsible Department: CED

Status:

Study Session update rescheduled for August 2021 **CED**

### Action Step 4: Meet with Area Realtors – 6 Votes

A conference with area realtors – commercial and residential – should be held to promote Rock Island and to identify barriers and how we can reduce them and work more collaboratively with realtors. We need to bring them on as partners, not adversaries. The map of amenities identification of neighborhoods and a plan of creating a safe city and clean up of downtown, along with the historic designation will go far - 6 Votes

Responsible Department: CED, DARI

Status:

- Residential Housing Resources Guide will be provided to Council by March 2021. Completed and available online. Presentation to council is planned in June 2021.
- Commercial Real Estate Brokers and Developers networking social and resource scheduled for June 2021. Individual meetings will occur in June through August with a social planned for late Summer.
- Incentive recommendations for new residential housing development will be presented to council in July 2021 (i.e. reauthorization of new construction residential tax rebate program). **DARI**

## Goal #4 Continued

### Action Step 5: Maintain Clean-up and Beautification Efforts, Enforce and / or Create Nuisance Ordinances (Including Sidewalks) and Enforce Fines - 6 Votes

- We need to enforce fines for those who don't comply with ordinances. I see a lot of garbage and trash all over yards and trash cans left out for days. They don't care
- Fine land holder (e.g. banks) to maintain the property.
- Ordinance needs to be created to keep trash and recycle containers put behind houses Grass should be mowed trash should be cleared, sidewalks should be shoveled. Fines should be assessed and collected for noncompliance.
- Penalties for blatant negligence promotes positive City image for businesses and residents.

Responsible Department: CED, Public Works

Status:

Study Session covering nuisance ordinances and the process of issuing violation, fines, cleanups, etc., scheduled for April 2021. Delayed while awaiting staff arrival. New date July 2021. **CED/PW**