

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

8/9/2021 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

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

3. Roll Call

Mayor Thoms asked Interim City Clerk Josh Adams to call the roll.

Present: Alderman Moses Robinson, Alderwoman Judith Gilbert, Alderwoman Jenni Swanson, Alderman Dylan Parker, Alderman Mark Poulos, Alderman Dave Geenen, and Mayor Mike Thoms.

Absent: Alderman Randy Hurt.

Staff: City Manager Randy Tweet, City Attorney Dave Morrison, Interim City Clerk Josh Adams, and other City staff.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Thoms led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Moment of Silence

Mayor Thoms called for a moment of silence. A moment of silence was observed.

6. Public Comment

Mayor Thoms asked if anyone in the public wished to speak.

Rock Island residents Mike Collier and Thomas White came to the front to address Council. Mr. Collier introduced himself as part of a non-profit group called Positive Brothers United. He said the group combats violence in Rock Island and Davenport. He discussed recent loitering in the downtown, as well as discussions he has had with local businesses and residents in the area. He offered the services of the group to help combat loitering with alternative activities such as self-empowerment meetings. He said the group extends their support to help make a difference in the downtown area. At Mayor Thoms' behest, Mr. Collier read a description of the group as well as the services they offer.

Rock Island resident Thurgood Brooks addressed Council regarding the proposed Police Community Relations Commission. He noted the number of ordinance drafts given to Council, the Mayor, and the City Manager, as well as the meetings and Study Session that were held. He mentioned subsequent discussion regarding the proposal, noting there was a sense of understanding that it would be on an agenda. He said he did not believe the process was being carried on in good faith with regards to Council. He expressed frustration that the process seemed to be going backwards by consulting the Legal Department after discussions had taken place. He said he has not been made aware of what legal concerns may be. He said this process could be completed if elected representatives believed they were acting out of care for the City.

Rock Island resident Dan Hintzke introduced himself to Council. He said he moved to the City in January, and wished to comment on the discussion of selling the City's water utilities. He summarized the experience that the Homer's Glen, Illinois community had with Illinois American Water. He noted the annual price increases, which were 70 percent higher than nearby municipalities and three times higher than inflation. He said the city attempted to combat the price hikes, but they were rejected upon appeal. He discussed the relationship with American Water in nearby cities such as Davenport, Iowa and both Peoria and Urbana in Illinois, noting online reviews for the company. He said he would rather pay more for infrastructure in the short term than passing obligations to future generations. He said the sale of the City's water would be grossly irresponsible, and any vote on the sale should be done solely by citizens in a referendum.

Rock Island resident Beatrix Hintzke addressed Council regarding the discussion of selling the City's water utilities. She said she would support a referendum with regards to privatizing the water. She questioned that if the service provided by a private company is poor, who would keep them accountable and make them maintain infrastructure. She questioned if the City would be able to afford breaking a contract if residents wished to return control of the water utility to the City, and noted there would be a drawn-out legal issue as well. She asked if it would be morally right to profit from a human necessity if it were monopolized.

7. Minutes of the July 26, 2021 City Council meeting.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the minutes as printed; Alderman Poulos seconded.

Alderman Gilbert wished to go on the record that she did not vote in favor of agenda item 17 regarding purchase card claims report. Mayor Thoms noted the adjustment would be made.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

8. Minutes of the July 26, 2021 Executive Session, and amended minutes of the July 12, 2021 Executive Session.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the Executive Session minutes of July 26, 2021, and the amended minutes of the July 12, 2021 Executive Session; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

9. Update Rock Island

Thursday Night GROOVE: Free Concert Series in Schwiebert Park - The concert series will be held on the Ellis Kell Stage at Schwiebert Riverfront Park every Thursday through September 23rd. At 6:00 pm, food and beer sales begin featuring the Rock Island Parks Concession Stand with brats and hot dogs, Happy Joe's Pizza, and beer sales by Bent River Brewing Company. The live concert performance will be from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This Thursday August 12th, "North of 40" will perform followed by "The Stone Flowers" on August 19th. A complete schedule of performances can be found on the Rock Island Parks & Recreation website.

YaMaka My Weekend-YaMaka My Weekend is back for 2021! Started in 1992, the event is a celebration of Caribbean culture with great food, live music and activities for the entire family. The event will take place in downtown Rock Island on Saturday August 14th at 4pm. Admission is \$10 and kids 12 and under get in free! Highlights will include ziplining through the concrete jungle and a variety of reggae and steel drum music.

Drive-in Movie hosted by Rock Island Parks and Recreation- Join the Rock Island Parks and Recreation Department for a Drive-in Movie in the Park on Saturday, August 14th. Raya The Last Dragon, a family friendly movie, will be the feature presentation at the Campbell Sports Complex located at 8399 29th St W, Rock Island. Gates will open for cars to park at 7:15 pm. All cars must be parked by 8:15 pm, for the movie to begin at dusk. A mobile concession stand (which will take cash only) will be available. Prior to the movie, a fun activity will be offered by the Rock Island Library. For more information, visit the Rock Island Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

Floatzilla Challenge – Registration is still open for River Action’s annual paddle event on the Mississippi River held August 21, 2021. Paddlers will launch from five sites across the Quad Cities to take over the river for the day. The US Coast Guard will close the river and have a team of safety boats on the water to make sure everyone makes it to Lake Potter at Sunset Park in Rock Island safely. At Lake Potter there are a selection of local food trucks and live music for participants to enjoy. At 2:30 pm all participants will gather at the center of the lake for a HUGE group photo! After the picture shuttles will be provided to return participants back to the launch sites.

If you don't have a kayak or canoe, check out River Action’s list of outfitters that serve Floatzilla. Outfitters will meet up with you at a launch point with the boat, then wait at Sunset Park to pick it up after you finish paddling. Come out and have a great time and help set a world record! For more information visit RIVERACTION.ORG/FLOATZILLA.

Mayor Thoms said there would be an additional proclamation recognizing the Rock Island Legion Post 200 baseball team. Interim City Clerk Adams read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration, and called up the team and coaches to receive recognition for their accomplishments. Rock Island Legion Post 200 Head Coach Jerry Burkhead came to the podium and discussed the team's accomplishments and goals for the future.

10. Proclamation declaring the week of August 22 through August 28, 2021 as National Everybody Eats Week in the City of Rock Island.

Interim City Clerk Adams read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration. NEST (Nourish Everyone Sustainably Together) leader Laura Mann, along with fellow group members, came to the front. Ms. Mann described the NEST Cafe program and summarized their accomplishments. She said as a result of the proclamation, the City of Rock Island is joining small towns and large cities across the country in acknowledging the issues of hunger and food security. She added the next monthly pop-up event would be August 24, 2021 at Two Rivers United Methodist Church from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. She said the group was looking for a permanent home in order to do the work of the non-profit organization on a daily basis.

Mayor Thoms recalled Ms. Mann coming to see him two years prior regarding the idea. He added that her persistence with this idea has paid off, and commended her for sticking with it.

11. Presentation by the Rock Island Fire Department commending Whitewater Junction staff and members of the Rock Island Fire Department for their actions.

Fire Chief Jeff Yerkey presented special recognition awards to four Whitewater Junction employees and three Rock Island Firefighters for their roles in assisting a cardiac patient at the park. Whitewater Junction employees Mackenzie Kreger, Reyna Garcia, Cory Clemons, Jr., and Ryan Ballard were given awards for their actions. Rock Island Firefighters Corbin Ayers, Anthony Schooley, and Lieutenant Eric Bopes were honored for their actions.

Mayor Thoms thanked everyone and remarked on how many positive things were happening in the City.

12. An Ordinance amending Chapter 16, Article III, Section 16-34 of the Code of Ordinances establishing a water rate increase of 5.5% for all user classes each year through 2025, effective September 1, 2021. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to consider the ordinance; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

Alderwoman Gilbert noted recent discussion on social media regarding rate increases and asked Mr. Tweet what was meant by fixed meter and rate charges. Mr. Tweet replied it was a service charge to allow for a hook up to the City's water system. He added that the rate charge is how much water is used. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if there was a \$5 million dollar balance in the water fund. Mr. Tweet replied it was \$4.1 million, which has been built up to begin paying for the debt on the new water filtration building. Alderwoman Gilbert asked what the balances were in the Sewer and Storm Water funds. Mr. Tweet replied the Storm Water fund was 1.1 million, and the Sewer fund was recently \$2.5 million with an upcoming \$3 million expenditure.

Alderman Parker said it was important to note that increasing rates were barely sufficient to maintain infrastructure. He said the reality is that more money is spent having a reactive system that only patches. He added that maintenance needs to be prioritized instead of having a large expense for a catastrophe. He wanted the public to know that the rate increase is not sufficient to maintain the water system.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

13. An Ordinance amending Chapter 16, Article III, Section 16-85 of the Code of Ordinances establishing a waste water rate increase of 4.5% for all user classes each year through 2025, effective September 1, 2021. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Robinson moved to consider the ordinance; Alderman Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

14. An Ordinance amending Chapter 16, Article V, Section 16-905 of the Code of Ordinances establishing a storm water rate increase for all user classes each year through 2025, effective September 1, 2021. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to consider the ordinance; Alderman Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

15. Claims

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 in the amount of \$32,348.00 to Greenspace Associates, Davenport, IA for services provided from April 30 through June 30, 2021 as part of the 2021 Sod Replacement Program (Project 2141).

MOTION:

Alderman Robinson moved to approve Claims Item A; Alderman Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$15,829.57 to Valley Construction, Rock Island, IL for an emergency storm sewer repair at 2600 17th Street.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$7,244.06 to McClintock Trucking & Excavating, Inc., Silvis, IL for services provided from April 1 through April 4, 2021 at 3223 9th Avenue as part of the Sewer Lateral Repair Program (Project 2564).
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$90,204.86 to Walter D Laud, Inc., East Moline, IL for work performed under their contract between May 19 and July 9, 2021 as part of the 35th Street Water Main Replacement (Project 2833).

- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$235,077.30 to Langman Construction Co., Rock Island, IL for work performed under contract between May 12 and June 14, 2021 as part of the Blackhawk Hills Drive and River Heights Reconstruction (Project 2815).
- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$121,875.46 to Langman Construction Co., Rock Island, IL for work performed under contract between June 14 and June 18, 2021 as part of the Levee Maintenance Riprap Placement (Project 2841).
- g. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$494,689.45 to Walter D Laud, Inc, East Moline, IL for services provided from March 19 through June 14, 2021 as part of the 2020 and 2021 Sidewalk and Pavement Patching Program (Projects 2140, 2142, 2377, 2411, 2434).

MOTION:

Alderman Swanson moved to approve Claims Items B through G; Alderman Poulos seconded.

Alderman Parker recused himself from the vote due to the nature of his employment.

Alderman Gilbert referenced past practices regarding numbering of Public Works payments, and asked if there was a reason that was not being done. Mr. Tweet replied he was not aware of why, but it could be done going forward.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

- 16. Claims for the week of July 16 through July 22, 2021 in the amount of \$505,557.47, the week of July 23 through July 29, 2021 in the amount of \$2,255,056.73; and payroll for the weeks of July 12 through July 25, 2021 in the amount of \$1,584.936.01.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to allow the claims and payroll; Alderman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

- 17. Report from the Police Department regarding bids to purchase new gas masks and filters, recommending the bid be awarded to Pro-Tech Sales, Berea, OH, in the amount of \$29,852.40.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to award the bid as recommended and authorize the purchase; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked for Police Chief Jeff VenHuizen to explain when the Department would use gas masks. Chief VenHuizen said the masks were issued in 2001 as an award for all Illinois police agencies as a means to help escape various crisis situations in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks. Alderwoman Gilbert asked how many masks were to be purchased. Chief VenHuizen replied it would be enough to outfit each Police Department member. Alderwoman Gilbert asked how long the shelf life would be for the masks. Chief VenHuizen replied they have roughly a 20 year shelf life.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

18. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding the approval of a five-year labor agreement with AFSCME A.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to approve the proposed five-year labor agreement between the City and the AFSCME A, Local #988 for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024; Alderman Poulos seconded.

Alderwoman Gilbert said she had questions regarding contract information and a comparison chart of the increases that was not provided to Council. Mr. Tweet said he did not remember that being made available for the previously completed AFSCME B contract, but he could provide it. Alderwoman Gilbert referenced the memo regarding benefits and said the City was offering an additional 48 weeks of retirement credit for members with 20 or more years service. Mr. Tweet replied that would be cashing in sick leave, and as it currently stood, they would only receive 50 percent of that, but it would now be 100 percent, or the maximum allowed by IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund). Alderwoman Gilbert said that was not in the memo or contract, and instead it said additional retirement leave. Mr. Tweet asked AFSCME Local 988 President Nick Hartman to address Council regarding this subject.

Mr. Hartman introduced himself and discussed the question of sick leave. He said there were three ways an employee could receive a sick leave benefit upon retirement. He said older employees hired prior to 1988 receive 50 percent of accrued sick leave as a cash severance payment, and the rest towards IMRF credit. He added the second way that sick leave has been given to retired employees was in the form of 50 percent of their accrued sick leave towards IMRF credit, but the other 50 percent was not given. He added the third version under the new contract would be that any employee that has earned accrued sick leave up to what is allowed by IMRF, which is 1920 hours, can be moved towards IMRF service credit, or one year of credit. He added anything above 1920 hours would be lost. He said what would happen is most older employees who work for the City are nearly retired, and no one will receive cash payments anymore. Alderman Geenen asked for

clarification. Mr. Hartman replied that some employees hired prior to 1988 that rarely used sick leave could have up to 3,000 hours accrued, and if cashed in, they would receive half of that in a cash payment, which could be significant. He noted the goal was to reward members who did not use as much sick leave. Alderwoman Gilbert asked how many employees this would affect over the life of the contract. Mr. Hartman estimated of the 75 employees covered by the AFSCME A contract, less than 5 would be affected.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-1-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, and Robinson. Nay: None. Abstain: Gilbert. Absent: Hurt.

19. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding an extension of the purchase agreement for the previously executed sale of City-owned property (Parcel 11192-3) to the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 (IUOE Local 150) for \$1.00 plus closing costs in lieu of other Economic Development Incentives.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to approve the requested amendment to the purchase contract in accordance with the attached amendment, subject to minor attorney modifications; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked Community and Economic Development Director Nathan Parch to explain how the department determined selling prices for parcels. Mr. Parch replied that the answer would date back to before his time with the City, and he was not certain what was previously negotiated. He said residential properties are generally sold for a dollar plus closing costs. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if there was a policy in writing that determines the price. Mr. Tweet replied there was a policy, and he would get it to Council. Mayor Thoms added that most commercial properties like the one in the measure will produce monies via property taxes, and different incentives are offered, such as property tax rebates or TIF funds. Alderwoman Gilbert asked what would be done with the parcel in question. Mayor Thoms replied the hope is to erect a new building that would house meetings and double as a venue for weddings or events. Mr. Tweet added the property was acquired in a trade with the State.

Alderman Robinson added the information on pricing policy would be helpful, as some residents in his Ward have inquired about buying properties, and different prices have been mentioned to them. Mr. Tweet added that price is also determined by what would be done with the property. Alderwoman Swanson noted a key item in the measure regarding economic development incentives. Mr. Parch added the reason more time is needed is to perform more due diligence regarding the floodplain and to ensure ecological sensitivity.

Alderman Parker recused himself from the vote due to the nature of his employment.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

20. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a lease renewal agreement with the renter of the Sunset Marina apartment.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the lease as written and authorize the City Manager to execute the lease agreement; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

21. Report from the Finance Department regarding the Municipal Compliance Reports for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2020 from the Police Pension Fund and the Fire Pension Fund.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to accept the reports as recommended; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

22. Report from the City Attorney regarding legal deficiencies in the proposed Police Community Relations Commission ordinance.

MOTION:

Alderman Robinson moved to put the proposed Police Community Relations Commission ordinance on the agenda; Alderman Parker seconded.

Alderman Poulos raised the issue of whether or not the Commission would be legal as is. City Attorney Morrison explained that the Legal Department was asked on July 12, 2021 to review a proposed document regarding the Commission, and offer an opinion on whether it complied with various related laws. He said Council was notified on three areas of concern regarding the document, which concurred with the opinions of some retired legal professionals originally consulted by Alderman Geenen.

Mr. Morrison said the review consisted only of asking the question of whether or not the Commission document would be upheld if challenged. He added the State's Attorney discussed similar issues of legality at the previous Council meeting regarding using investigative information from the Joint

Integrity Task Force, which consists of seven different law enforcement groups. He said the document as written would constitute ultra vires, or acting beyond a Council's power or authority. He added that information shared amongst the agencies in the Integrity Task Force would need to be approved by all seven bodies.

Mr. Morrison said the second concern regarding the Commission document involved investigations by the Integrity Task Force, and whether or not private and protected information regarding individuals or employees would be shared. Alderman Robinson asked if Mr. Morrison was discussing the same draft that he said had the concerning language removed. He added the intention of the Commission was to work hand-in-hand with the Police Department and the community, with investigation not being involved. Mr. Morrison replied that he reviewed the document entitled Version 2.0 dated July 1, 2021 that had been emailed to him by Alderman Parker, and read aloud the language involving investigation review in the document.

Alderman Parker said what was being argued was semantics. He asked if the word review in the document constituted subpoena rights or other legal power for the proposed Commission. Mr. Morrison replied the language in the document regarding a review of information not available to the public seemed to be beyond playable scope. Alderman Parker said it seemed to him that review involved the Commission asking the Integrity Task Force about a case without legal authority. Alderman Poulos replied there was a time and place for that discussion, which would be after a decision was rendered by the State's Attorney. He added that based on the information he currently had, he could not vote in favor. He said he attempted to have a conversation about what could be done together with the Commission group, but it was denied. He added he would like to develop the Commission, but the document in question was not acceptable.

Alderman Robinson said his concern was that some citizens have stepped up to help the community with something that is needed, and have pledged a commitment to fill their term on a potential Commission, yet the intended purpose is not understood. He added that Council was asked if they had questions during the study session regarding the Commission, but nothing was asked until after the fact. Alderwoman Swanson said she brought forth a concern regarding hiring and promotions, and discussed a possible mentoring program. She added when she reviewed the document, she did not know how the Commission being involved in hiring and promotion would foster goodwill between the Police Department and the community. Alderman Robinson said some citizens attempting to be hired as officers have encountered roadblocks, and felt that a Commission might help them understand what the roadblocks were. He added the Commission idea is designed as a way to help empower the community, not to attack the Police Department. Alderman Poulos said he agreed with Alderman Robinson, but the document as presented was not acceptable. Alderman Robinson said in his time on Council, he has yet to see a clean and approved document. Mayor Thoms said it was his understanding that four officials submitted adjustments following the study session, which were not taken into account. Alderman Robinson said the motion was seconded and a vote should take place.

Mayor Thoms asked Mr. Morrison if there were other issues. Mr. Morrison said if this were to be challenged, it would be up to the Legal Department to defend it. He discussed the third issue regarding the delegation of authority, referenced in the document as having a liaison on a decision-making board, as the Supreme Court ruled that power could not be delegated to an outside agency. City Attorney Hector Lareau addressed Council regarding Alderman Parker's question about investigative matters. He said the intergovernmental agreement was written in such a way that a City that is the focus of an investigation cannot participate in said investigation, and the document as written runs contrary to that.

Alderman Parker asked if that would only apply for instances in which a City police officer was being investigated, and Mr. Lareau confirmed yes. Alderman Parker asked why a group would be unable to ask how a department came to their conclusions, and how the City was defining involvement. Mr. Lareau said he called attention to a weakness in the document, in that the fundamental power vested

in the Commission is gathering data, of which there are no noted limitations. He added that gathering data and investigating are synonymous in the law, and undertaking investigatory powers without restriction under context would not survive a court challenge. Alderman Parker discussed the Human Rights Commission, which is empowered by ordinance to investigate discrimination, and asked what the difference would be regarding the proposed Commission. Mr. Lareau replied the Legal Department was currently constructing a Human Rights Commission ordinance per the instruction of that group, and significant progress had been made. He added the difference involved the language used in both instances. He said Council can enact any ordinance voted upon, but the Legal Department is offering that the enacting of this presented ordinance would not be lawful.

Alderman Gilbert asked why the Legal Department was not involved from the start. Mr. Morrison replied they did discuss problem areas via oral comment, but had not been asked to draft anything or review a draft at that point. Alderman Parker asked if what was done with the Human Rights Commission could also be done for this proposal. Mr. Lareau said if Council tasked them with generating a document that would pass legal muster, they would gladly do so. Mr. Morrison said the IML (Illinois Municipal League) was consulted, and similar ordinances in other municipalities were reviewed.

Alderman Robinson said the present discussion is illustrative of why there is a barrier between the City and community, as there is nothing but roadblocks. He added there is a real issue in the City of some citizens not trusting leadership. Alderman Geenen said something Council has forgotten was the Commission initiative was a result of community members coming together. Alderman Swanson asked if the motion could be amended to include the Commission ordinance on the agenda after it has been reworked by the Legal Department. Alderman Robinson said he thought the measure needed a vote in the current session. Alderman Gilbert said she would like to see this continue as a public process. Alderman Parker suggested not continuing with the motion as it currently stood. He also suggested putting together a task force involving the public and Council, with enough members to not violate OMA (Open Meetings Act) regulations. Alderman Gilbert suggested making the meeting subject to OMA so it would be public.

Mayor Thoms said the motion could be modified, withdrawn, or could be voted down until the Legal Department would be able to collaborate with a Commission group to modify the document. Alderman Parker said if there is a policy disagreement instead of a legal disagreement, that would need to be decided by Council. Alderman Swanson said there is not a Councilperson that does not want a Commission, but it would be pointless if not legally defensible. Alderman Poulos noted that citizens have the right to ask the Police Department about policies. Alderman Swanson preferred it be withdrawn with a new motion made to ensure it was on the agenda at a future point. Alderman Parker asked if it were possible to remove the word proposed and then have it be considered at the next meeting. Mayor Thoms was not sure if that could be done in two weeks. Mr. Morrison said it could be placed on the agenda in two weeks, but as to whether or not an amended ordinance could be completed by then, he was not certain. Alderman Robinson said if Council wants that in two weeks, it could be done. He reiterated to Council that the Commission was a way to build trust with the community. Alderman Swanson said Council should be respectful of the City Attorney's time.

Alderman Parker said the motion could not be passed as it stood, and added he did not want to stall. Alderman Robinson said he would rather vote yes and others vote no to prove a point, and expressed concern that the measure would be drawn out. Alderman Swanson said there is no sense in pushing the measure through without having it right. Alderman Parker withdrew his second on the original motion. Alderman Geenen moved to second the original motion, adding it should have a vote.

VOTE:

Motion failed on a 3-4-1 roll call vote. Aye: Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Absent: Hurt. Mayor Thoms provided the tie-breaking vote with a nay.

23. Report from the Mayor's office regarding the reappointment of Jim Hass and appointment of Andy Parer to the Stormwater Board of Appeals.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to approve the reappointment and appointment as recommended; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

24. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding an Activity permit application from Kyle Peters of The Daiquiri Factory for the 2021 Ya Maka My Weekend festival to be held on Saturday, August 14 from 3:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., and Sunday, August 15, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the Plaza event as recommended, subject to complying with all Plaza and liquor license regulations; and subject to being closed down early if complaints are received; Alderman Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

25. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Jack Cullen, Downtown Rock Island Director for the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, to close off the 300 block of 20th Street from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 19, 2021 for the public unveiling of a new mural as part of the Alternating Currents music, film, comedy, and art festival.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the street closing request as recommended; Alderman Geenen seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

26. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding an Activity permit application from the Irreverent Warriors to hold a local Silkies Hike on Saturday, August 28, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the event as recommended; Alderwoman Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

27. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Kavanaugh's Hilltop Tavern for an outdoor fenced event with live music for the Saint Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, August 28, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the event and requests, subject to complying with all liquor license regulations, contacting the Fire Department for fire and safety considerations, and subject to being closed down early if complaints are received; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

28. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding an Activity permit application for the 37th annual Rock Island Labor Day Parade to be held on Monday, September 6, 2021 from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Gilbert moved to approve the event as recommended; Alderman Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

29. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Jason Parris of Wake Brewing for outdoor entertainment with sound amplification and the outdoor sale and consumption of alcohol in the fenced-in area at 2529 5th Avenue on Friday, September 10, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 11, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the requests as recommended, subject to complying with all liquor license regulations, and subject to being shut down early if complaints are received; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

30. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding an Activity permit application from the Cornbelt Running Club for their 32nd annual Nancy Kapheim Memorial Classic 5K and 10K Run on Sunday, October 3, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

MOTION:

Alderman Gilbert moved to approve the event as recommended; Alderman Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

31. Other Business

Alderman Poulos asked if the issue regarding hunting around City limits had been addressed. Mayor Thoms said a proposed ordinance change is in process and will be discussed at a future meeting. Alderman Poulos also noted the Backwater Gamblers were heading to Division 1 Nationals in the coming weekend, and directed the public to see them at Ben Williamson Park on the coming Wednesday in advance of that event. He added that Division 2 Nationals would be in Rock Island in 2022.

Alderswoman Gilbert said it was her opinion that Council move forward as soon as possible with the strategic planning process regarding pending replacement of the outgoing City Manager. She did not know how a City Manager could be hired without a vision and goals in place. She said the University of Illinois Extension office was not available until October 2021, and she was familiar with the set process of that entity. She offered the Bi-State Regional Commission as a possibility as well to facilitate the process earlier than October. Mayor Thoms said he did not feel goal-setting and vision were linked to the City Manager hire, as situations could change.

Alderswoman Swanson said even if a strategic plan was completed in October, it would provide two months before a new City Manager would start. She said two months would be an adequate amount of time, and some Councilpersons had budgeted their time already. Alderswoman Gilbert said the discussion about strategic plan had begun in May, and several have pushed for an earlier process. Alderman Geenen said as it relates to the American Rescue Plan funding, five year planning is now more akin to three year planning. Alderman Parker said a more robust conversation was needed regarding strategic planning, which needs to be improved. He said whether it took place in August or October, Council should identify what is actually needed, and what is meant by strategic planning. He added Council needs to identify strengths and then ask how resources could be allocated to said strengths.

Alderswoman Gilbert said she collaborated with the Extension office to develop a new process, which was submitted to all Council members. Alderman Parker said he did not understand how the University of Illinois Extension office would be different than the Bi-State Regional Commission. Mayor Thoms said the strategic planning of which he has been involved begins with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, and can take several days. He suggested the group should have patience in going through the process.

Alderswoman Gilbert said this is the same conflict as the Police Community Relations Commission, in that a presentation was made to Council, but there was not an open and honest discussion regarding strategic planning. Alderswoman Swanson said she did not think that was the debate, but rather if it should be done in August or October as had been decided. Alderman Poulos asked if Council could have City staff participate in the SWOT analysis. Alderswoman Swanson said it had been decided to invite department heads for input. Mr. Tweet said that had been done in the past.

Alderswoman Gilbert noted that a community member sent her the City of Moline's strategic plan, and the goals and vision were nearly identical. She added Rock Island was a different community than Moline, and the plans were cookie cutter and basic. Alderman Parker asked how much Council was willing to commit to a strategy and allocate resources to the strategy. Alderman Geenen asked Alderswoman Gilbert if Council was to continue with the strategic planning process she introduced. Mr. Tweet noted it had been sent to Council twice. Alderman Parker said he was reminded of how Council came to decide the long-term community recovery plan process, and how it appeared there was a lack of understanding. He suggested asking an entity familiar with developing strategy and processes, be it through a RFP or task force. He said Council needs to learn how to better understand strategy. Alderswoman Gilbert asked why Council would solicit advice in August in advance of October planning.

Alderswoman Swanson said she had been through and facilitated many strategic planning sessions, and the first thing to do is a SWOT analysis, and from there Council could move forward. She suggested each Councilperson do the analysis on their own and bring their thoughts to the first strategic planning meeting. Alderswoman Gilbert said that is exactly what the Extension office proposed. Alderman Parker noted the City was behind with current goals, and it did not matter who facilitated the meetings. Alderswoman Swanson suggested sticking with the October 18th date, as it was already on the calendar. Mr. Tweet said if the Extension office was brought in, they requested three nights, ideally beginning at 4:00 p.m. Alderman Geenen said it is important work, and he would make himself available for whenever it took place.

Alderman Robinson asked for confirmation that the Extension office would facilitate the same process as mentioned by Alderwoman Gilbert. She replied it was their process, but it helps to have a facilitator. Alderman Robinson said the more time do work on this, the better, as he was new to the process. Mr. Tweet, Mayor Thoms, and Council continued to discuss dates that would be best to meet and options for facilitators. Mr. Tweet said he would return to Council with options for meetings and facilitators.

Alderman Parker noted recent State legislation involving a policy change regarding the nomenclature of municipal officials from Alderman or Alderwoman to Alderperson, and asked if Council could do that. Mr. Tweet said it was up to each municipality, and Council could decide on a preference. Alderman Parker asked Council if they were ok with that, and Council agreed.

Mayor Thoms discussed whether or not to hire a search firm or do a RFQ (Request For Qualifications) in the hiring of a new City Manager. Alderman Poulos said law enforcement uses a Chief's Association, and asked if there was a government association that helped to recruit trained individuals. Mayor Thoms replied the most common was GovHR. Alderwoman Gilbert said she believed it was ICCMA or something similar. Mr. Tweet described what the ICMA organization process would be. Alderman Parker asked Mr. Tweet if it was his recommendation that Council work with former City Manager John Phillips through ICMA to hire the next City Manager. Mr. Tweet replied he recommended that process. Alderwoman Swanson said it was important to have assistance from someone familiar with the job and City. Alderwoman Gilbert said she would like to get input from other former City Managers from many municipalities.

Alderwoman Gilbert said the following day was the deadline for the RFQ regarding the ARPA process, and asked Mr. Tweet to explain how the process would move forward afterwards. Mr. Tweet said he suspected most would be received electronically, and would be opened on Wednesday, August 11th in his conference room. He added once it was confirmed that all necessary documents were included, he would send them to Council for review. Alderwoman Gilbert heard from a financial expert in the City that the insurance requirements would and are preventing individuals from applying. Mr. Tweet said the City did not include insurance requirements. He added Council would pick a preferred firm(s), and on September 7th the firm(s) would come back for interviews.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked Mayor Thoms if there was still a Special City Council Meeting on the 23rd. Mayor Thoms replied yes. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if there would be a process and ground rules. Mayor Thoms replied Mr. Cole from IML would be setting the process. He added it may be productive to know if the City Clerk or City Manager should be a part of the conversation. Alderwoman Gilbert said the City Clerk could not be excluded. Mr. Morrison replied the only time the Clerk could be excluded would be if it were about the Clerk, but he would check. Alderman Parker suggested starting with everyone present and then decide whether or not to ask someone to leave.

Alderwoman Swanson asked if the City's workplace bullying and harassment policy also applied to City Council. Mr. Morrison replied it could apply to both employees and elected officials. Alderwoman Swanson said if Council members were part of the City's insurance plan, they should be included under that policy. Mayor Thoms said it applies to all employees as well as non-employees such as, but not limited to vendors, customers, and visitors. Alderwoman Gilbert said it was her understanding that the policy was discussed twice but not passed by Council. Alderwoman Swanson said extensive training was given and signatures were required afterwards.

32. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to adjourn; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Robinson, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: Hurt.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Josh Adams, Interim City Clerk