

Memorandum

Community and Economic Development Department

To: Rock Island City Council
Subject: Downtown Special Service Area
Date: October 14, 2022



The City Council previously passed an initiating ordinance to begin the process of establishing a downtown special services area (SSA) on August 22. That ordinance established that the public hearing required by statute would be held on October 24. In the course of mailing notices to property owners within the proposed SSA and submitting a notice for publication in a local newspaper, staff encountered issues with returned notices and posting delays. Out of an abundance of caution, staff are recommending that the public hearing be adjourned (not closed) on October 24 and then continued on November 14. This will ensure that property owners are appropriately notified and have time to prepare responses and offer public comment on the proposed SSA. Adding the second public hearing will adjust the overall timeline for establishing the SSA as follows.

1. October 17: City Council approves date-setting resolution at special meeting.
2. October 18: Staff prepare and mail out new notices to property owners.
3. October 24: Public hearing is opened and then adjourned.
4. November 14: Public hearing continues and is then closed.
5. November 15: 60-day objection petition period begins.
6. November 21: Establishing ordinance has first reading and is considered.
7. December 12: Establishing ordinance has second reading and is passed.
8. December 13: Establishing ordinance, having been passed, is recorded with the County.
9. January 13: 60-day objection petition period ends.

The legal team, including Kathy Field-Orr, has advised that the above revised timeline complies with the statute and that the continuing of the public hearing across two City Council meetings is a reasonable precaution. Staff have prepared the attached resolution so that the City Council can formally set the date of the second hearing.

Recommendation:

The Community and Economic Development Department recommends that the City Council approve the resolution and continue the public hearing on November 14.

Submitted by: Miles Brainard, Community & Economic Development Director

Approved by: Todd Thompson, City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SECOND PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED
DOWNTOWN SPECIAL SERVICE AREA**

WHEREAS, the City of Rock Island (the “City”) is a duly organized and validly existing home-rule municipality of the State of Illinois created in accordance with Article VII, Section 6(a) of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and as such may utilize its power to further its governmental affairs; and

WHEREAS, the City is actively considering the establishment of a downtown special services area (“SSA”) for the purpose of improving conditions in the downtown; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to ensure ample opportunities to receive public comments regarding the proposed SSA; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Rock Island, Rock Island County, Illinois, as follows:

1. That the foregoing recital clauses to this Resolution are adopted as findings of the Corporate Authorities of the City and are incorporated herein by specific reference.
2. A public hearing shall be opened on October 24 and then adjourned until November 14.
3. The public hearing shall be continued on November 14 before being closed.
4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval in accordance with law.
5. If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Resolution shall be held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Resolution.

Mike Thoms, Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Passed:

Approved: