

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

1/24/2022 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:46 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 City Clerk Samantha Gange to call the roll.

Present: Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderpersons Randy Hurt, Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, and Bill Healy. Alderperson Moses Robinson was present via remote connection in accordance with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order.

Absent: Alderperson Judith Gilbert.

Staff: Interim City Manager John Gripp, Attorney Dave Morrison (via remote connection), City Clerk Samantha Gange, 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 requested a moment of silence. A moment of silence was observed.

6. Public Comment

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

Linda Anderson, Rock Island citizen and President of Friends of Longview Park, came to the podium to address Council. She stated she was present tonight to speak in support of additional projects at Longview Park. She indicated that the lower lagoon at the park is a historical feature and it would be great to see it be re-purposed for use again.

Thurgood Brooks, Rock Island citizen, came to the podium to address Council regarding Longview Park. He remarked he was present tonight to speak in support of adding a fountain and skating rink at Longview Park. He noted he met with Linda Anderson and Friends of Hauberg Estate to discuss future possibilities in Longview Park. He asked Council to strongly consider a Study Session to discuss the details of what the City can do to invest in this project.

Paul Fessler, Program Manager with the Black Hawk College Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP), came to the podium to address Council. He provided Council members with a flyer detailing the program. He indicated that he spoke with Alderman Hurt regarding a partnership with the City to host two opportunities for Rock Island residents to learn about the HCCTP. The next training session begins Monday, February 28th and there is no cost to students accepted into the program. Interested students must attend an orientation and can choose from two sessions in Rock Island: Thursday, February 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Black Hawk College Adult Learning Center, 4610 Black Hawk Commons Drive and Saturday, February 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Martin Luther King Center, 630 9th Street.

Mayor Thoms remarked that he received a letter from Vernon Winter, a Rock Island resident commending and thanking Mr. Victor Wenskunas, Public Works Department employee for assisting him when he fell during the past snow and ice storm. Mike Bartels, Public Works Director indicated the department would also be recognizing Mr. Wenskunas with a plaque. Mayor Thoms thanked Mr. Wenskunas for going above and beyond in assisting a resident.

7. Minutes from the January 10, 2022 Study Session and City Council Meeting.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the minutes as printed; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

8. Minutes from the January 10, 2022 Closed Session.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the Closed Session minutes; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

9. Update Rock Island

Sweetheart Dance – Dads, daughters, moms, sons and everyone...get dressed up and come have a fun night out together! Dance to music from a live DJ, get silly or sweet pictures taken in the themed photo booth, do a craft together, eat some snacks, stick on a temporary tattoo, and get a free 5x7 professional photo to remember the night. The event will be held at the Rock Island Fitness & Activity Center on Friday, February 11th from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Face coverings will be required. Early bird registration is \$10 per person until January 28th, then \$15 per person through February 10th, or \$20 at the door. Register by phone at (309) 732-7275 or online at www.rigov.org/ePark.

QCCA Expo Center Events

1. **Brewed Live 2022** – will be held on January 29, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and will feature over 35 local, regional, and national breweries for patrons to sample as well as an educational experience on beer brewing. Registration and admission are required. Visit [HTTP://WWW.QCCAEXPOCTR.COM/](http://www.qccaexpoctr.com/) to register.
2. **Quad Cities Guns Show** – Midwest Outdoors will host their annual QC gun show on Saturday, February 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, February 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00p.m. Admission is \$6.00 per person at the door.

Tuneful Tuesdays brings free noontime music to the Rock Island Public Library – The first event will be held on Tuesday, February 1st and feature the Quad City Ukulele Club. The Quad City Ukulele Club provides a forum for fans of the small instrument to play and sing together. All Tuneful Tuesday performances are free and open to the public. Please visit the library website or call 309-732-READ for further information.

10. Proclamation declaring January 2022 as National Mentoring Month.

City Clerk Samantha Gange read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration.

11. Claims

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$83,070.51 to McClintock Trucking & Excavating, Inc. of Silvis, IL for the Water Service and Sanitary Lateral Repair Program, Project Numbers 2526 and 2564.
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding final payment in the amount of \$119,065.61 to Valley Construction, Inc. for the 24th Street Water Tower Overflow Improvement Project #2740.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$14,161.08 to McClintock Trucking & Excavating of Silvis, IL for an emergency water main repair at 2052 3rd Avenue.
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$19,967.00 to McClintock Trucking & Excavating of Silvis, IL for an emergency water main repair at 2518 40th Street.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve claim items a through d; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

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

- e. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding payment in the amount of \$20,734.48 to the Rock Island County Sheriff's Office for the City's share of the RMS Software annual maintenance.
- f. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding payment in the amount of \$32,658.14 to the Rock Island County ETSB Office for the City's share of the new ProSuite RMS software annual maintenance.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve claim items e and f; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

- 12. Claims for the week December 31, 2021 through January 6, 2022 in the amount of \$514,815.43; week of January 7, 2022 through January 13, 2022 in the amount of \$1,426,181.27; and payroll for the weeks of December 27, 2021 through January 9, 2022 in the amount of \$1,603,693.66.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to allow the claims and payroll; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

- 13. ACH Report for December 2021 in the amount of \$2,004,198.55.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the ACH payments; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

14. Purchase Card Report for December 2021 in the amount of \$56,902.96.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to approve the purchase card claims; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

15. Report from the Police Department regarding the purchase of two Livescan Fingerprint Scanners in the amount of \$17,950.78 from HID Global Corporation.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the purchase as recommended; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

Alderman Poulos asked why the City has to replace the scanners every seven years. Deputy Chief Tim McCloud with the Police Department came to the podium to address Council. He responded that the company does not support the software of the scanners after seven years.

VOTE:

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

16. Report from the Public Works Department regarding bids for removal of 45 dead ash trees in the Greenbush neighborhood, recommending the sealed bid be awarded to Advantage Tree Services, LLC. of Davenport, IA in the amount of \$37,789.17.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to award the bid as recommended, and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

Aldersperson Parker remarked he was hesitant in awarding this bid as the residents of the Greenbush neighborhood were not notified that trees were being removed. Mr. Bartels came to the podium to address Council and indicated he would be willing to attend a neighborhood meeting about the issue. He noted the trees were hazardous and posed a liability as they are located on City property. It was decided that Mr. Bartels would attend the February 2022 Greenbush neighborhood meeting and notify the residents.

VOTE:

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

17. Report from the Public Works Department regarding an extension to the 2021 Sod Replacement Program maintenance contract with Greenspace Associates, Inc. of Bettendorf, IA in the amount of \$130,700.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the extended contract as recommended; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

Aldersperson Robinson asked if the company that installs the sod is responsible for watering and maintaining it for a certain period of time. Mr. Bartels indicated that the company is responsible to ensure quality sod for the first year, which includes watering. Aldersperson Robinson remarked in his Ward the company that installed the sod didn't grade it and never came back to water or perform maintenance. Mr. Bartels asked Aldersperson Robinson to email him the locations and he would ensure that it gets addressed this year. Interim City Manager John Gripp indicated this program is covered by fees collected for water service.

VOTE:

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

18. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a contract extension for the Pavement Marking Program maintenance contract with Precision Pavement Markings, Inc. of Pingree Grove, IL in the amount of \$98,000.00.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the contract extension as recommended; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

19. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a contract for the Schwiebert Park Dock Rehabilitation Project 2828 recommending the contract be awarded to General Constructors, Inc. of Bettendorf, IA in the amount of \$596,249.00.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the contract as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

Aldersperson Poulos asked if staff could provide more details as to why this item is before Council. Mr. Gripp responded the docks at Schwiebert Park were made possible by a grant that the City received over 10 years ago. As part of the grant stipulation, \$1.5 million had to be allocated towards the docks and they needed to be in working order as part of the agreement through 2032.

Aldersperson Robinson asked if there is something that can be installed to protect the docks from further damage. Mr. Gripp responded that the northernmost section of the dock will be removed and the scope of the dock will be smaller so it doesn't stick out as far into the channel. This should eliminate the dock from being damaged in the future.

Aldersperson Poulos asked if the spuds would still be intact as a barrier. Mr. Gripp responded that they would no longer be needed for the northwest portion, but would remain for the rest of the dock.

Aldersperson Swanson asked if there is a possibility for Rock Island to host one of the river boat excursions. Mr. Gripp indicated the City would need to review the specific requirements for a dock needed for boats of that size. He noted that they did explore options with the Channel Cat, however they indicated it was not an option at this time. Mr. Gripp remarked the docks need to see more usage and the City should explore options such as events and promotions with local restaurants. Mayor Thoms remarked he spoke with Vikings Cruise Line and American Cruise Line and that there isn't enough length to dock a boat of that size at this location.

VOTE:

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

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

20. Report from the Fire Department and Public Works Department regarding adoption of the amended 2021 Rock Island County Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to adopt the amended resolution as recommended; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

21. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment request to increase revenues and expenses by \$52,460.28 in Fund 247.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

Mr. Gripp noted the revenue increase is coming from grant funds not general funds.

VOTE:

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

22. Report from the Finance Department regarding an adjustment to the Columbia Park TIF Fund in the amount of \$250,783.00 for building improvements, expansion opportunities, and other development opportunities.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

23. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding changes to the locations of the Community Garden sites for the 2022 season.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the changes as recommended; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

Aldersperson Robinson asked Miles Brainard, Interim Director of the Community and Economic Development Department to come to the podium to address Council. He asked who was responsible for clean up at the end of the season and whether or not staff check each space to ensure the clean up is completed. Mr. Brainard responded that each renter is required to put down a deposit. At the end of the season, staff checks each space and if it is not properly cleaned up, the renter does not receive their deposit back.

VOTE:

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

24. Report from the Traffic & Engineering Committee regarding a request to remove the handicapped parking space in front of 2203 16th Street. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the request as recommended and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

25. Report from the Traffic & Engineering Committee regarding a request to install 3-way stop signs at the intersection on 41st Street at its intersection with 20th Avenue and 22nd Avenue. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the request and consider the ordinances; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

Aldersperson Healy remarked this will help out with traffic flow around Denkmann Elementary School.

VOTE:

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

26. Report from the Traffic & Engineering Committee regarding a request to install 4-way stop signs at the intersection of 25th Street and 14th Avenue.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to deny the request as recommended; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

Aldersperson Poulos remarked that adding a stop sign at this location could cause additional traffic and safety issues.

Aldersperson Parker remarked he wanted to be mindful of the residents in that neighborhood requesting the stop sign. He asked if the City has researched whether it would be beneficial to purchase a permanent speed check device or installing speed humps like the City of Davenport recently did. Mr. Bartels came to the podium to address Council. He indicated that they have researched the possibility of a permanent speed check and they are expensive and the department did not budget for one. He also checked with the City of Davenport on how effective the speed humps have been and received a response from their City engineer indicating that the data they collected indicated that speed was reduced by approximately six and a half miles per hour between the speed humps they installed in August 2021. However, they need additional data to determine the effectiveness. Aldersperson Parker asked if a permanent speed check device would be eligible for funding under Safe Routes to School. Mr. Bartels responded he thought that this would be an eligible item for that program and would contact Bi-State on funding and report back to Council.

Aldersperson Healy asked if this area would benefit from installing a "Children Playing" sign as it would be less expensive. Mr. Bartels remarked these aren't very effective and give the false feeling of self-awareness.

VOTE:

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

27. Report from the Martin Luther King Center and the Mayor's Office regarding the appointments and reappointments to the MLK Board.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to approve the appointments and reappointments as recommended; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

28. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding reappointments to the Labor Day Parade Advisory Board.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the reappointments as recommended; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

29. Report from the City Clerk's Office regarding a Southwest Area Hunting Exemption application from Mr. Steve Bost.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the hunting exemption application; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

30. Other Business

Aldersperson Poulos asked if there would be an opportunity to put together a Study Session regarding the proposed ice skating rink in Longview Park that citizens have brought forth. Mr. Gripp remarked that the Friends of Longview Park and others need to continue to organize a public-private partnership and set goals for the project. He noted that the scope of the projects is more than fixing the lagoon and putting water into it as it will require some type of cooling system. Mr. Gripp remarked that he could get this on the calendar for a Study Session in the future. He indicated that they will be looking for seed money from the City whether that is through alternate funding sources or raising funds through a private partnership, which the City has had success with in the past. Aldersperson Poulos recommended holding the Study Session in March.

Aldersperson Poulos commended Aldersperson Hurt on partnering with Black Hawk College on

the HCCTP and asked if Council could assist with getting the information out to residents. Alderperson Hurt remarked he received a press release from Mr. Fessler and would share with City Clerk Ms. Gange to post on all the media platforms for the City.

Alderperson Swanson thanked the City of Rock Island Public Works Department for doing an outstanding job with snow removal.

31. Closed Session.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to enter into Closed Session for the exceptions cited; Alderperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

32. Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to adjourn; Alderperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 8:48 p.m.

Samantha Gange

Samantha Gange, City Clerk