

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

1/25/2021 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

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

3. Roll Call

Mayor Thoms asked Interim City Clerk Linda Mohr to call the roll.

Present: Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderman Mark Poulos

Alderman Ivory D. Clark, Alderman Randy Hurt, Alderwoman Jenni Swanson, Alderman Dylan Parker, and Alderman Dave Geenen were present via remote connection in accordance with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order.

Absent: Alderman James Spurgetis

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Thoms led in the saying 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 any residents wished to speak via remote connection. No one spoke.

7. Minutes from the January 11th, 2021 City Council Meeting.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the minutes as printed; Alderman Clark seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt.
Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

8. Update Rock Island by Mayor Thoms

Rock Island Library Survey - As the Library Department looks to revisit a strategic plan changed by COVID-19, the Rock Island Public Library wants to know what you think. The library is currently running an online opinion survey and would appreciate your input to identify community needs, potential barriers to library use and opinions on community challenges. The survey is open through February and is available to anyone, including non-users. It can be taken online at www.rockislandlibrary.org.

Snow Routes - As we expect more winter precipitation this week, please note that parking is not allowed on designate snow routes when marked by street signage. Vehicles in violation of this ordinance will receive a \$25 parking ticket. Vehicles that remain in violation will be towed. In the event of snow, major emphasis is placed on primary streets and hills with secondary priority given to school areas. Residential streets are cleared when the primary and secondary streets are completed.

Parks Financial Assistance Program - The Parks and Recreation Foundation thinks everyone should have the opportunity for enjoying Parks and Recreation programs that allows for healthy lifestyles. The Foundation is offering financial assistance for those that want to find recreational programs of interest. For assistance or making contributions, please call (309) 732-7275 or visit www.riparksfoundation.org.

Mayor Thoms advised that Item #22 has been pulled from this agenda and no action would be taken tonight.

9. Proclamation declaring January, 2021 as National Mentoring Month.

Interim City Clerk Linda Mohr read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration.

10. Presentation of the 2020 Commercial Beautification Awards.

Before announcing the winners of the 2020 Commercial Beautification Awards, Mayor Thoms commented that this long-standing annual award presentation began in 1980 and that it was designed to recognize Rock Island organizations and businesses for their outstanding renovations or new construction.

There were 9 nominees submitted in 2020. The top four recipients received a traveling plaque or trophy to recognize their achievements.

Rotary Trophy Award (overall winner) was McManus Orthodontics, 4507 24th Street

Mayor's Award was The Cave, 4128 14th Avenue

City Council's Award was Master Design at 1416 6th Avenue

Beautification Commission's Award was Tri-City Heat Treat, 2020 5th Street

Honorable Mention went to: Christian Care, P & J Tender Care, Quad City Psychotherapy, Igor's Bistro, Helitech Waterproofing and Foundation Repair

11. A Special Ordinance authorizing the sale of City owned property described as 415 9th Street, Parcel 091951, Pin 0734413003 to Tequilla Horne for \$762.50 plus closing costs. (Second Reading)

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to pass the ordinance; Alderman Clark seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

12. A Special Ordinance authorizing the sale of City owned property described as 509 5th Avenue, Parcel 091900, Pin 0734402007 to Wanda Shelton for \$764.00 plus closing costs. (Second Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Clark moved to pass the ordinance; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

13. A Special Ordinance vacating a section of the 42nd Avenue right-of-way near the Rock River, Parcel 101274. (Second Reading)

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

14. Claims

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$4,724.07 to McClintock Trucking and Excavating, Inc., Silvis, IL, for the Sewer Lateral Repair Program, Project 2564, for services provided at 3329 26th St. 2021-004.
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$16,633.24 to McClintock Trucking and Excavating, Inc., Silvis, IL, for the Water Service Repair Program, Project 2526, for services provided at 1031 10th Avenue. 2021-005.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to approve claims items a and b; Alderman Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

15. Claims for the weeks of January 8th through January 14, 2021 in the amount of \$1,043,167.89 and January 15th through January 21, 2021 in the amount of \$191,225.32; and Payroll for the weeks of December 28th, 2020 through January 15th, 2021 in the amount of \$1,572,214.07.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

16. ACH Payments for the month of December, 2020 in the amount of \$3,386,258.26.

MOTION:

Alderman Geenen moved to approve the ACH payments; Alderman Clark seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

17. Purchase Card Claims for the period of November 28th through December 28, 2020 in the amount of \$55,875.89.

MOTION:

Alderman Clark moved to approve the purchase card claims; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

18. Report from the Fire Department regarding the bids to purchase three new thermal imaging cameras, recommending the bid be awarded to Dinges Fire Company, Amboy, IL in the amount of \$24,300.00.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to award the bid as recommended; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

19. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the 2020 Sidewalk and Pavement Patching Program, Projects 2140, 2142, 2377, 2411, 2434, and Parks Path, recommending the maintenance contract with Walter D. Laud, Inc., East Moline, IL be extended through 2021.

MOTION:

Alderman Clark moved to extend th contract as recommended and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract documents. Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

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

20. Report from the Public Works Department regarding repairs to the City's 2002 Fire Pumper, requesting authorization to have Alexis Fire Equipment, Alexis, IL complete the repairs as listed in the amount of \$35,000.00.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to approve the request as recommended and authorize Alexis Fire Equipment to complete the listed repairs; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

21. Report from the General Administration Department regarding a contract with the Quad Cities Chamber to provide Executive Management for Downtown Rock Island.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the contract as recommended and authorize the City Manager to sign the documents, subject to minor attorney modifications; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

Alderman Poulos commended those who are involved in this committee for bringing this forward. He said it is something that the council discussed during Goal Setting and it is good to see it going forward.

Mayor Thoms recognized Paul Rumler, President and CEO of the Quad Cities Chamber who was attending remotely. Mr. Rumler stated that the QC Chamber is really excited to be partnering with the City of Rock Island on this downtown agreement and that he enjoyed working with the task force and is looking forward to continuing to work with them on the steering committee. He went on to state that the Chamber has a track record of working with the downtowns throughout the Quad Cities to make sure they are inclusive and vibrant and wants to make sure the same is done for the City of Rock Island. He stated they are looking forward to a

great relationship.

Mayor Thoms added that you can't always do everything in-house, you sometimes have to reach out to others with the expertise in that field. This public / private partnership will bring the some expertise from someone who has done this before and we look forward to working with the Chamber.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll all vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt.
Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

22. Report from the Community and Economic Development regarding the update to the comprehensive Zoning Map, which reflects changes to several zoning districts revised in the new Zoning Ordinance. (First Reading)

This item was pulled by Mayor Thoms at the beginning of the City Council meeting.

23. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the Motor Fuel Tax Amended Resolution for Street Maintenance in 2020.

MOTION:

Alderman Geenen moved to adopt the resolution as recommended; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt.
Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

24. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the proposed Motor Fuel Tax Resolution for street maintenance for 2021.

MOTION:

Alderman Clark moved to approve the proposed resolution as recommended; Alderman Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt.
Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

25. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment, increasing the Health Insurance Fund (Fund 626) expenditures for CY 2020 by \$343,072.00.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt.
Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

26. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding an alley right-of-way vacation between 8th and 9th Streets north of 4th Avenue and conveyance of said property to Nathan Morehart.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to approve the vacation and conveyance as recommended, provided that the appropriate utility easements be put in place; and pass the ordinance; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt.
Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

27. Other Business

Alderman Poulos stated that we are coming to the end of the sunset clause next month in regards to the 2:00 closing of of the liquor licenses that was put in place during the latter part of 2020 and he suggested the aldermen have some discussion on the item one on one or set up a meeting before the deadline. Mayor Thoms said that discussion could be allowed at that time as there will be vote taken that evening. Alderman Poulos suggested that the item be discussed since they were in open meeting and get some thoughts out there. He stated that for the record, he is for keeping it at the 2:00 closing on a permanent basis. Alderwoman Swanson agreed with Alderman Poulos stating that she thought the 2:00 was a good idea and we would be the same as the other cities around us. Alderman Hurt stated that he agreed with Alderman Poulos and Alderwoman Swanson on the 2:00 closing.

Alderman Parker added that the council just ageed on a contract with the QC Chamber and he thinks that the city council should be engaging the Downtown Task Force or Steering Committee before making this decision. He said he didn't think the Council should be making this decision before talking to them. Mayor Thoms stated that he had already asked Interim City Clerk to set up another meeting with this committee to talk to them. That it was his intention to bring it before the Steering Committee to get their recommendations, but that it was ultimately up the the City Council to make the decision. Alderman Geenen added that he thinks the Task Force should be allowed to do what the Council tasked them to do before a rush to make a decision. He said the Task Force was empowered to make these decisions and to help us and he wants to make sure they are allowed to do so. Alderman Poulos stated that he does not disagree with the Task Force giving their decision, that he was just stating his opinion at this point. He added that if they came up with a plausible argument that would sway the other council members, then so be it. Alderman Clark added that he agreed with Alderman Parker and Alderman Geenen that the City should wait to get the opinions of the Task Force before the council makes a decision since they are the people that we asked to do that job. Mayor Thoms stated that we did this suspension during the winter months and during the pandemic, so both of those factors come into this. Was it a fair evaluation. Alderman Poulos said he would like to have the Police Department weigh in on this topic as well as they have more experience in this area, not just during 2020, and he would like to hear their comments before a vote is taken. Poulos states that he feels that what they have to say would be beneficial to the Council members.

Mayor Thoms stated that there are a number of options that could happen. He stated that the Council could put a new end date on it it could be made permanent or it could just go back to the way it was when the sunset expires. He added that he thought it should be brought forth before the February 22nd Council meeting so that everyone is familiar with what will happen in the futures. Thoms stated that Alderman Poulos brought up the need to plant the seeds so that it can be discussed before the 22nd of February. Mayor Thoms stated that before the vote, the Council would have the input of the Council, the Police Department and the Task Force. If there were any other questions, he asked that they be directed either to the City Manager or himself so that they could get everyone the information that the need.

28. Executive Session

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to go into Executive Session under item 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(6) - the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to go out of Executive Session; Alderman Clark seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

29. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION:

Alderman Clark moved to adjourn; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Ayes: Swanson, parker, Poulos, Geenen, Clark, Hurt. Nays: None. Absent: Spurgetis.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Linda K. Mohr, Interim City Clerk