

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION  
February 25, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.**

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

Present: Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderman Dave Geenen, Alderman Ivory D. Clark, Alderman Virgil J. Mayberry, Alderman James Spurgetis, Alderman Stephen L. Tollenaer, and Alderman Dylan Parker

Absent: Alderman Joshua Schipp

Staff: City Manager Randy Tweet, City Attorney Dave Morrison, City Clerk Judith Gilbert, and other City staff

Community and Economic Development Director Chandler Poole introduced the new Chief Building Official Christopher Young. Mr. Young gave a brief biography of himself to Council. He said he was a career firefighter, retiring as a battalion chief. It was during his career in the fire department that he took over the building department. Mr. Young said the focus of his work would be the education of stakeholders. Council welcomed Mr. Young to the City.

2/25/2019 - Minutes

**ROCK ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY: PRESENTATION OF 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

Library Director Angela Campbell introduced board members Virgil Mayberry and Holly Sparkman as well as the Rock Island Library Foundation Executive Director Kathy Lelonek in attendance. Ms. Campbell explained that it is an annual report required by the state. She has forwarded a copy of the 2018 report to the City Manager, the City Clerk, and the Finance Director as required by the statute. The report has been attached to the study session agenda. The presentation will be a brief overview of the report.

Ms. Campbell noted that the financials in the report are pre-audit. She also stated they never receive all of their revenues because some of the revenues are estimates. They also don't spend everything in their budget. The 2018 Revenues come primarily from municipal property taxes (80%) with an additional 10% from district property taxes. The remainder of revenue comes from state grants, foundation grants, fines and fees, CIP, and other. Ms. Campbell reviewed the make-up of expenditures: personnel makes up 64%, services including service contracts and the Consortium contract for the catalog system make up 20%, and 10% to 12% is spent on materials every year.

Ms. Campbell reviewed statistics on the library operation. They have a total of 202,468 print materials available. The total in-house circulation was 326,253 with an online circulation of 53,930 (electronic materials such as ebooks). Total database usage was 34,514; these used to be print materials. There were 596 interlibrary loans which are loans of materials sent out to other libraries outside of the PrairieCat Consortium. The total number of library materials used was 415,353.

Ms. Campbell discussed their extension of services which includes their current partners: Rock Island-Milan School District, Spring Forward Learning Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Parks and Recreation Department, HeadStart, Community Health Care Clinic, Midwest

Writing Center, Rotary Club of Rock Island, Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) libraries, PrairieCat Consortium, and many more. She noted that the Midwest Writing Center is housed at the downtown library and the library sponsors Little Free Libraries at the Community Health Care Clinic and through Rotary. The PrairieCat Consortium provides the catalog system for the library.

Alderman Spurgetis asked how the library partners with the school district. Ms. Campbell replied the library's teen librarian runs a book club at the high school; the library also gives book talks at schools twice a week. They have participated in resource fairs at the schools and staff read to the students at different schools. Alderman Spurgetis asked for an example of the "many more" she mentioned. He wanted to know if Blackhawk College or Augustana is involved with the library system. Ms. Campbell responded that they have reciprocal borrowing with Augustana so students can also get a Rock Island Public Library card. This is a result of an agreement between the library and Augustana College. Someone from the library sits on one of Blackhawk's advisory boards so the library is available to help when needed.

Alderman Parker asked if the library partners with any local history or preservation Rock Island organizations. Ms. Campbell replied they have donated items to the historical society when the library ran out of storage space. There is also a library staff member who attends a genealogical conference. She said they don't do a lot with the Preservation Society except when exterior changes are needed for the downtown library. Alderman Parker said a lot of people use the library for historical research. Ms. Campbell said they do have a history room.

Alderman Geenen asked if they are in the process of digitizing everything. Ms. Campbell responded they are digitizing what can legally be done for copyright purposes.

Ms. Campbell stated fund requirements are also part of the report. She said the Library board voted to raise the CY 2020 library levy by 4.9% which is an increase of approximately \$103,000. She provided information on how much that would be per resident and household. She explained that service contracts go up 3% to 5% per year and personnel costs go up every year. She said with the increase in the minimum wage, they will have to figure out how to afford their staff. They have a lot of staff falling under the \$15 per hour threshold.

Ms. Campbell said a statement of accumulations and liabilities is required for the report. She stated they have no financial liabilities at this time. The library does have a 90-day reserve per the City's finance policy. Ms. Campbell said the Library board passed an "assigned reserve fund" this past year where anything beyond the 90-day reserve is set aside specifically for building projects related to their long range plan.

Ms. Campbell stated she can't thank her staff enough for the excitement they bring to the library and the exciting programs they offer. Ms. Campbell said people might not check out library items, but they do attend library programs. She stressed the library is used in a lot of different ways and not everything is circulation or patron count; the library is out in the community a lot too.

Ms. Campbell reviewed the library's major accomplishments last year. The library completed their new strategic plan. They preserved the exterior brick and painted the Southwest Library and fire station. Additional WiFi Hot Spots were added to the collection for circulation. She said they are checked out as soon as they are checked in. A new print management system was added. New security gates for the south exit at the Downtown Library were added; Ms. Campbell thanked IT for their assistance. They continued and expanded their summer partnership expanding the sites with Spring Forward and serving more children at the King Center. They are proud of their disaster and recovery plan. They implemented a Code Adam program after there was one incident with a missing child. The library staff has been fully trained in the Code Adam program. Ms. Campbell explained that as part of their strategic plan, every employee

participates in some sort of training opportunity every week such as reading a journal article or attending a free webinar. The library implemented the "Rocket into Reading" literacy program for children ages 5-8 which was a great success. They are continuing their Hug-A-Book program for children under 5 years funded by the foundation. They partnered with community organizations such as the King Center and the schools to launch the #RockTownReads initiative.

Mayor Thoms said the YMCA is looking for a location in Rock Island and is considering partnering with the library. Mayor Thoms talked about the the library's Community Leaders Input sessions. Alderman Geenen said he went to a session; they are considering a collaborative facility and two locations were discussed. Ms. Campbell said they were both looking for a central location and they are looking for support from community leaders for the actual partnership. Mayor Thoms said by partnering, they can share costs. He said there are five or six questions that are asked at all the sessions. He said overall it's been well received. Concerns were raised about the impact on RIFAC. Mayor Thoms discussed additional comments raised.

Alderman Geenen asked John Gripp to speak since he has met with the YMCA. Mr. Gripp said he will be at the Wednesday session. Ms. Campbell said the YMCA is trying to centralize their food preparation. Mr. Gripp said he has met with the YMCA Director; he said there is enough need and they welcome the YMCA as partners. Alderman Geenen asked if they were at capacity at RIFAC; Mr. Gripp responded no, but they are busy. He would like to cooperate with the YMCA.

Mayor Thoms said it's all in the preliminary stages. He said the library may do another feasibility study to see if sufficient private funds can be raised. The YMCA serves almost 2,000 kids per day with food and are currently using the MLK Center for food prep, but they need more facilities. Mayor Thoms said it makes sense to continue to study this. He said the basic remodeling of the Tri-City Jewish Center for the library and the Y together at the site would be \$5 million plus the purchase price. Mayor Thoms said he attended an input session. They are looking for critical thoughts. Mayor Thoms said it's a positive thing to look at collaboration. There has even been talk about collaboration with the school district. Mayor Thoms said they are not coming to the City for any money at this point. Ms. Campbell said everyone seems very positive about the discussions and it would be a good fit; she said there are a lot of questions that they hope to answer. Mayor Thoms said another question was the financial sustainability of the operation if the plan goes forward.

Alderman Mayberry stated the library board has voted to close the 30/31 branch this year and put it on the market to sell. Alderman Tollenaer said there are people interested in purchasing the property. Alderman Geenen said he is getting calls from residents when they hear the library is closing. Mayor Thoms said it has also been educational with getting people to understand the separation between the City and the library. Mayor Thoms said it has been very positive conversations.

Alderman Parker said he loves the idea; he goes to the Two Rivers Y in Moline. He would like the Y in Rock Island. Alderman Parker asked if the six questions can be emailed to Council. He can't attend, but he would like to participate. Alderman Geenen said Jason Wild is doing the moderating. Alderman Parker said the last time a central library was floated, there was a lot of concern from his constituents regarding the Downtown Library. Ms. Campbell said the administrative functions would remain at the Downtown Library. She said a new central library would be triple the size of the current library. Alderman Parker said the worry about the Downtown Library will resurface.

Ms. Campbell thanked Council. Mayor Thoms thanked the Library board.

The study session concluded at 6:31 p.m.

---

Judith H. Gilbert, City Clerk