

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

4/11/2022 - 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 Moses Robinson, Randy Hurt, Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, and Bill Healy. Alderperson Judith Gilbert was present via remote connection in accordance with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order.

Absent: None.

Staff: Interim City Manager and Parks Director John Gripp, Attorney Dave Morrison, 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

Steve Kibling, resident of Lakeview Estates Trailer Park in Southwest Rock Island came to the podium to address Council. He indicated that the management company continues to increase

lot rents and is also requiring that he replace the plumbing and sewer lines for a lot that he will be renting. He remarked there has to be a law that prevents companies from continuously raising rates multiple times in a year. Mayor Thoms indicated that unfortunately the City has no control over rental rates and private property.

Dennica Samson came to the podium to address Council. She remarked President Biden recently indicated that the non-binary option would be available on U.S. passport applications and asked when the updated application for this option would be available. Mayor Thoms indicated the City has no control over passports or when the information gets updated on the passport application. Ms. Samson commented that there are a number of potholes in the historic district and asked when the City plans to address the issue. Mike Bartels, Public Works Director, remarked the City is just starting the season of patching potholes and hopes to address these this spring. Mayor Thoms indicated specific locations of potholes can also be reported to Public Works through the website [WWW.RIGOV.ORG](http://WWW.RIGOV.ORG) or by calling 309-732-2200.

Ms. Samson asked the current status of the old Rock Island County Courthouse and whether it would be torn down. Mayor Thoms responded the City has no control over the Courthouse and any questions should be addressed with Rock Island County.

7. Minutes from the March 28, 2022 Study Session and City Council Meeting.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

8. Minutes from the March 28, 2022 Closed Session.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the Closed Session minutes; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

9. Update Rock Island

**Your Earth Day Celebration** - Community members of all ages are invited to attend Your Earth Day Celebration at Longview Park on Sunday, April 24th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Join us in celebrating the ways our area stays green, and learn more about how to engage in environmentally friendly habits to sustain our area. This free event, hosted by Rock Island Parks and Recreation, will feature a youth recycled art show, arts and crafts for kids, educational opportunities, healthy snacks, a scavenger hunt, and a park service project. The service project

will involve cleaning up trash and sticks in the park and around the neighborhood, so bring work gloves if you plan on participating.

**The Martin Luther King Center** - In partnership with Family Resources, is hosting free GED classes and other services such as career exploration, life skills and parenting classes for 16-21-year-olds. Visit [MLKCENTER.ORG](http://MLKCENTER.ORG) for more information.

**Spring into Fun and Learning April 11-15, 2022 at the Rock Island Public Library with events including:**

- **Hug-A-Book Learning Through Play** free take-home kit for families with children ages 2 through 5. Register via the library calendar. Each kit includes play activities such as a morning and bedtime routine clip book and a calm-down-do-it-yourself activity. Kit pick up will be April 18-23 at Rock Island Library locations.
- **Money Smart Week online webinars** for adults on budgeting, credit, homebuying, and retirement planning at 1:00 pm every day this week. To sign up for the free 30-minute webinars, visit the [MONEY SMART WEEK WEBSITE](https://www.moneysmartweek.org/) [HTTPS://WWW.MONEYSMARTWEEK.ORG/](https://www.moneysmartweek.org/)
- **Rock Island Arsenal lecture series with Army Sustainment Command historians.** The April 13 talk is offered at 2 pm at the Downtown Library, and is on the military's involvement in the Black Hawk War of 1832. For more events and information, visit the library website at [WWW.ROCKISLANDLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.ROCKISLANDLIBRARY.ORG).

10. Proclamation declaring April 2022 as Earth Month.

City Clerk Samantha Gange read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration. A representative came forward to accept the proclamation.

11. Proclamation declaring April 11-15, 2022 as National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW).

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

12. Proclamation declaring April 12, 2022 as Brea Beal Day.

Aldersperson Robinson read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration. Brea Beal's mother and father came forward to accept the proclamation. A picture was taken with Aldersperson Robinson and Mayor Thoms.

13. Public Hearing regarding the HUD CDBG Program Year 2021 Consolidated Annual Performance Report.

Mayor Thoms closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing. No one one volunteered to speak. Mayor Thoms closed the Public Hearing, reopened the regular meeting, and entertained a motion.

## MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the Program Year 2021 Consolidated Annual Performance (CAPER) report as submitted; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

Aldersperson Gilbert indicated she was notified there would be a corrected report and asked when Council would see the corrected report. Colleen Small-Vollman with the Community & Economic Development Department indicated Council would receive the corrected version at the end of the week.

Aldersperson Gilbert asked when the report is due. Ms. Small-Vollman responded the report is due at the end of the week or April 15th. Aldersperson Gilbert asked why the report wasn't on the agenda sooner for Council approval and noted they went through the same process last year.

Aldersperson Gilbert asked if Council was notified of the public comment period. Ms. Small-Vollman responded she followed the requirements of the Citizen Participation Plan, which does not include notifying members of City Council. The public was notified by a notice in the newspaper, the Dispatch Argus. The public had 15 days to review and provide comments and feedback on the CAPER. Aldersperson Gilbert asked if they received any public comments. Ms. Small-Vollman responded no.

Aldersperson Gilbert asked what happens if Council doesn't approve the report or if the report is submitted late. Ms. Small-Vollman responded the report would not be late because she requested a waiver from HUD to extend the deadline date. Aldersperson Gilbert asked for clarification on the deadline. Ms. Small-Vollman responded the deadline was April 8, 2022 and she wasn't able to complete the report by the deadline.

Aldersperson Gilbert asked if there were any unspent funds from 2021. Ms. Small-Vollman responded there was approximately \$101,000, but that is not what the report addresses.

Aldersperson Gilbert indicated the report does mention unspent funds. For example, the report discusses how much we received and how much was expended, and the remainder is \$263,000, however this number is incorrect. Ms. Small-Vollman thanked Aldersperson Gilbert for finding the typographical error and noted the correct amount awarded is \$879,699. She added a line in the report that states the City has spent \$616,118 and when you add that to the unspent funds it equals \$879,699. Ms. Small-Vollman noted the report is about what has been spent and discussing what is remaining is a reminder that this money still needs to be spent.

Aldersperson Gilbert asked for further clarification on what was spent. Ms. Small-Vollman responded the City spent over 2020 and 2021 a total of \$616,118 and the \$203,307 is part of that total. Ms. Small-Vollman noted she understood the confusion and has corrected it.

Aldersperson Gilbert asked how the department would like to proceed with noting the corrections on the report and whether she should go page by page. Ms. Small-Vollman indicated it would be beneficial if she could address her biggest concerns now and email any remaining comments and corrections. She noted that she does have comments that Aldersperson Gilbert provided to Mr. Gripp earlier and that she did address those in the report. Community & Economic Development Director Miles Brainard added that Ms. Small-Vollman has gone through the report as provided by Mr. Gripp and made the adjustments. Aldersperson Gilbert remarked she had not seen the copy that Mr. Gripp provided staff.

Aldersperson Gilbert referenced the chart on page 2 of the report and indicated it appeared that some of the categories share the same pot of funding and asked for clarification as to whether this report addresses what money was spent. Ms. Small-Vollman responded the chart is based on the five-year consolidated plan and generates the numbers. For example, the lead-based

paint program is a match grant, but they still have to report how many projects were done with that grant.

Aldersperson Gilbert remarked she would like to see the corrected report and asked how Council could vote on it without first seeing the corrected version. Mayor Thoms deferred to Attorney Dave Morrison on whether Council could approve the report with minor modifications. Attorney Morrison remarked that could be done, but Council would not see what modifications those might be.

Aldersperson Robinson asked how Council can vote on something if it is going to change. Ms. Small-Vollman responded this report is just a submission to HUD that tells them how the City spent the money and whether it was in alignment with the five-year consolidated plan. All of the data in the report is correct and how the City spend the funds is also correct. Aldersperson Robinson asked for clarification on the changes and what Council is voting on. Mr. Brainard remarked every five-years the consolidated plan is approved that provides details of how the HUD funds will be utilized. Each year within that five-year period an action plan is approved that details how the funds are going to be used, and the CAPER is prepared at the end of each year detailing what was spent. Approving this report does not commit the City to anything or approve spending as it is a report back to HUD on how the funds were spent the previous year. Mr. Brainard noted the comments received back from Aldersperson Gilbert are typographical errors and additional lines of text where clarity has been added. However, it does not substantially change the general nature of the report or change the objective of telling HUD what the City did. Ms. Small-Vollman added that the report is in draft form as she receives comments from the public and Council and incorporates them into the final report for HUD.

Aldersperson Gilbert remarked that Council should be educated by staff on what the report includes as it is written in HUD language. She opined Council should have received notice of the public comment period and the public should have been notified on the website and other means and just not just the newspaper as many residents do not subscribe to it. Mr. Brainard responded that staff followed HUD obligations and staff would be happy to provided Council with additional information generally on these processes. Aldersperson Gilbert noted she mentioned this last year as well.

VOTE:

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

14. Claims for the week of March 18 through March 24, 2022 in the amount of \$582,067.62; week of March 25, 2022 through March 31, 2022 in the amount of \$812,467.80; and payroll for the weeks of March 7, 2022 through March 20, 2022 in the amount of \$1,493,744.73.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

15. Report from the Public Works Department regarding sealed bids for the 2022-2025 City-owned Facilities Mowing Contract, recommending the bid be awarded to Finer Finish Grounds Care

LLC, Newark, IL in the amount of \$146,850.00.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the bid as recommended and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the contract; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

Aldersperson Swanson noted that between this agenda item and the next one, the mowing contracts total around \$280,000 and asked if the City would be able to save money by hiring seasonal employees to do the mowing. Mr. Bartels responded City employees did the mowing previously and it took away from other other tasks such as street related maintenance as well as added additional liability as mowing the slopes and hills create safety issues. Additionally, with the current labor market, it is hard to get qualified seasonal employees to do the work. Mr. Gripp commented the fuel costs and the additional maintenance on the equipment add to the costs.

Aldersperson Parker asked if the contract for City-owned parcels includes picking up trash on the lots. Mr. Bartels responded affirmatively and indicated a pre-mow inspection is required as detailed in the contract and also includes language that clippings can not be blown to boulevards and streets.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

16. Report from the Public Works Department regarding sealed bids for the 2022-2025 City-owned Parcels Mowing Contract, recommending the bid be awarded to Finer Finish Grounds Care LLC, Newark, IL in the amount of \$135,000.00.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

17. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a lease renewal agreement with the Coast Guard Auxiliary at Sunset Marina.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the lease renewal agreement and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the agreement; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

Aldersperson Gilbert remarked that she would like to see the City develop a viable plan for the future of the Sunset Marina whether it means selling the Marina, repurposing it, or finding a way

for it to make money without the City having to put millions of dollars into it.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

18. Report from the Public Works Department recommending a contract be awarded to IMEG Corporation of Rock Island, IL in the amount of \$287,400.00 for Phase I and II design services for the 31st Avenue resurfacing project located between Illinois Route 92 and 11th Street.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

19. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the renewal of annual non-irrigated farm land lease agreements with Mr. Andrew Kordik, Mr. Scot Doxstader, and Mr. Kenneth Flack for 2022; and a recommendation to increase the price of annual leases by \$20 per tillable acre each year until the average price per acre has been reached.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt made a motion to approve the contract as recommended and authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the contract documents; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

20. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding a request from Good Shepherd Presbyterian at 1822 24th Street to vacate a section of an alleyway located between two properties they own to locate two ground mounted solar arrays. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to approve the vacation request as recommended; that the approval be contingent upon the Church applying for and obtaining the required electrical permits, meeting all Zoning Ordinance requirements within one year; that a utility easement be put in place for the same; and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker,

and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

21. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 1435 15th Avenue to Johana Perez for \$92,000 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson made a motion to approve the sale as recommended; authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the sale agreement; and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

Aldersperson Gilbert thanked staff for providing the requested information regarding the grants and costs of this project. She asked who accepted the purchase offer on behalf of the City as mentioned in the monthly director's report and does that person have the authority to do so. Mr. Brainard responded he executed the documents accepting the offer, however the sale is not approved until City Council approves it. He noted that although he executed the documents for the offer, they would not proceed if Council did not approve the sale.

Aldersperson Healy remarked on the breakdown of costs and noted the City spend almost \$234,000 on this house but is only selling it for \$92,000. Mr. Brainard noted the objectives that they are trying to achieve include funds specifically for affordable housing projects such as this one. It is very different than a normal house flip that a private citizen would do to make money. He indicated HUD has consistently "dinged" the City for not creating affordable housing and this project meets that requirement. He noted the grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IDHA) is specifically for whole housing projects. The department is spending these funds exactly how they have been told to spend them from the granting agencies such as HUD and IDHA. He indicated no General Fund dollars have been spent other than money used to purchase the property at tax auction. HUD wants to see community development revitalization of neighborhoods and that the City is providing safe and affordable housing to someone who might not otherwise be afforded one. Profit and loss are not applicable to this type of program.

Aldersperson Swanson commented this is a pilot program and with any pilot program first year costs tend to be higher. She noted this project could open up opportunities for additional funding for these projects.

Ms. Small-Vollman remarked because the City is using HUD funds, there are additional rules and regulations that must be adhered to such as the removal of lead and asbestos, which adds additional costs to the project.

MOTION:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

22. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 806 7th Avenue (PIN 0913702350) to Rhonda Hart for \$1,002.50 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson made a motion to approve the sale as recommended; authorize the

Interim City Manager to execute the sales agreement; and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

Alderperson Gilbert remarked in the past when the City has sold property, the sales agreements were included in the documents provided to Council and asked why they weren't included this time. Mr. Brainard apologized that these documents were missing and indicated he would be sure to include these documents in the future.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None

23. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 3314 11th Street (PIN1611305032) to Olser Houston for \$1.00 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker made a motion to approve the sale as recommended; authorize the Interim City Manager to execute the sales agreement; and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None

24. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a resolution to approve the utilization of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds in the amount of \$550,000.00 for reconstruction of 46th Street between 37th and 39th Avenues.

MOTION:

Alderperson Swanson made a motion to adopt the resolution; and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the documents; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None

25. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a Local Public Agency Agreement for Federal Participation and a resolution to approve the utilization of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds in the amount of \$1,600,000.00 for reconstruction of the intersection located at the Rock Island Parkway and 85th Avenue West.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy made a motion to approve the agreement; adopt the resolution; and authorize

the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the documents; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None

26. Report from the City Clerk regarding a resolution approving the partial release of Closed Session minutes and the destruction of audio recordings for the same Closed Session meetings.

MOTION:

Alderperson Gilbert made a motion to approve the partial release of the Closed Session minutes as recommended and adopt the resolution; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None

27. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding amendments to Chapter 3 of the Code of Ordinances regarding alcoholic liquor. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker made a motion to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

Alderperson Gilbert asked Mayor Thoms how he arrived at the requirement of a manager residing within 25 miles. Mayor Thoms responded he did a Google map search of various surrounding cities such as Cordova and wanted to keep the requirement within a 30 minute drive from the City.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None

28. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding variance requests for the new Federal Office Building located at 1701 4th Avenue.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker made a motion to approve the variance requests as recommended; Alderperson Healy seconded.

Mayor Thoms remarked that this a great project happening in the City of Rock Island.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None

29. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding a resolution recommending the Community & Economic Development Director serve as the City's representative on the Land Bank Board.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson made a motion to adopt the resolution as recommended; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None

30. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding reappointments to the Library Board.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy made a motion to approve the reappointments as recommended; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

Aldersperson Swanson recused herself from the vote.

VOTE:

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

31. Other Business

Aldersperson Robinson offered congratulations to Ramsey Vesey, Jr. of the Rock Island Boxing Club for becoming the 2022 Chicago Golden Gloves champion.

Aldersperson Swanson thanked the City's department heads for responding quickly to her questions regarding resident concerns. Aldersperson Poulos echoed that sentiment, as there have been some complaints in his Ward. He added that Mr. Brainard and Mr. Gripp had worked with him to resolve those matters.

Mayor Thoms responded to public conversation regarding a safety task force for the downtown area. He said there are eight people involved. They will discuss potential measures to increase safety in the area, roughly from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues, as well as 15<sup>th</sup> Street near Centennial Bridge to the Government Bridge. He noted there had been some urgency based on events in the country in recent times. He said Aldersperson Parker and Aldersperson Robinson were involved, Interim City Manager Gripp followed by incoming City Manager Todd Thompson, Mr. Brainard, Mr. Bain, Liz Tallman of the Development Association of Rock Island (DARI), Jack Cullen of the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, downtown business owner and City resident John Keim, and Interim Police Chief Rich Landi. He said he has called on the task force to consider short-

and long-term plans that can be feasibly implemented. He said he hoped to have a plan developed within 60 days, and any City expenditure would need Council approval.

Aldersperson Parker said it was his understanding that the City had previously limited business hours until 2:00 a.m. to address crime, and many of his constituents had closed their businesses as a result. Over a year later, we are facing the same issues with crime and it appears that making businesses close an hour early didn't address crime. He opined it was unfair to those business owners. Mayor Thoms noted that later closing times were not seen as the cause, but earlier closings were one measure to combat the issues. He felt the environment surrounding those issues had not yet changed in order to revisit the measures as had previously been discussed. He added that if the SSA can be established and major changes to the downtown can be implemented, that would be a good time to reevaluate. Aldersperson Parker said it seemed short-term decisions were being made to address the perception that the area is dangerous.

Aldersperson Gilbert said the Downtown Steering Committee and the proposed task force meet the definitions of a committee subject to the Open Meetings Act (OMA). She opined there should be full transparency on what the City is doing with regard to the downtown, as taxpayer monies will be spent. She requested that these groups come under OMA. Mayor Thoms said Council members can reach out to any member of those groups. Aldersperson Gilbert requested the City Attorney address the issue. Mr. Morrison said she had stated the law correctly as he understood it pertaining the definition of a meeting. Aldersperson Gilbert said ultimately these groups will request taxpayer funds to complete projects. Mr. Morrison said there are many groups not set up by the City that request funds on a regular basis, but are not subject to OMA. Aldersperson Gilbert said she specifically requested that Alderspersons receive notifications about group meetings.

Mayor Thoms said none of these groups are obligating the City and are only discussing possible expenditures and offering recommendations. Aldersperson Swanson said she agreed in part with Aldersperson Gilbert and Council should be notified of the meetings, and should be permitted to attend. Aldersperson Robinson said the safety task force has not been able to meet due to schedule conflicts, and he assumed there would be a regular schedule that is shared with everyone. He added that just being on the task force did not preclude other Council members from having a voice in the matter. Mayor Thoms noted that hopefully the group can act swiftly, as summer is approaching. Aldersperson Hurt expressed concern and frustration that a meeting of the task force was to occur and he was not aware. He said all Council should have input, as they have good ideas. Mayor Thoms said he understood, and would inform Council going forward.

Aldersperson Gilbert asked when and where the Wednesday meeting would occur. Aldersperson Robinson said it was 2:30 p.m. in the Police Department Community Room, and Interim Chief Landi confirmed at the podium. Aldersperson Gilbert remarked that before Council was informed of the existence of the task force, meetings were already arranged. Mr. Gripp said there needed to be organization completed prior to having meetings, including identifying stakeholders and arranging schedules. Aldersperson Gilbert said Council was not brought into discussion prior to the scheduling of any meetings, and would have preferred notification.

Mr. Morrison said if there is a meeting, and enough members of Council are present, OMA rules would apply. He added that if it was the intent to follow OMA, a schedule would need to be posted 48 hours prior. He said there would be nothing wrong with the meeting if Council members are not participating and complying with OMA rules. Aldersperson Gilbert said [IML Executive Director] Brad Cole told the City that if not posted as OMA, alderspersons could attend a meeting but could not speak. Mr. Morrison replied that was correct.

Aldersperson Hurt asked Interim Chief Landi if someone would be in charge of taking minutes and

getting information from the meetings to Council. Interim Chief Landi said he anticipated initial meetings to be about immediate Police Department intervention possibilities and ideas. He added that the intention was to look at what could be done with already available resources in the short-term before setting long-term plans to bring before Council. He said he would have a better idea of Police Department resources after his upcoming budget meeting reflecting upon the first quarter of 2022. He referenced long-term plans such as cameras by working with the City's Information Technology Department, and acknowledged such plans may take time.

Aldersperson Hurt asked if the safety group would be working with the downtown revitalization group to create recommendations for Council. Interim Chief Landi confirmed that would be the case, and they may be a sounding board for ideas. He described the possibility of having 'sub-stations' so officers may have a greater presence in the downtown area, similar to previous instances around the City. Aldersperson Robinson said a better solution may be to have the proposed meetings similar to previous Unplugged events, with the purpose of hearing from individuals experiencing the crime.

Aldersperson Poulos said the Police Department has the capability of drawing up specific data about incidents by using their report writing system. Interim Chief Landi said the Records Management System (RMS) is currently on the way out, as it is no longer going to be supported, and sometimes it does not paint the complete picture. Aldersperson Poulos asked when their new system would be implemented. Interim Chief Landi said it is currently delayed due to migrating one system to another, but that is would supposedly be more accurate. Aldersperson Swanson said information in the newspaper can be skewed, as shots fired incidents are fewer than other cities. Aldersperson Gilbert asked for clarification that they are migrating data from one system to another in March. Interim Chief Landi corrected his previous statement by saying they intended to start it in late May.

Aldersperson Poulos said the Rock Island Police Benevolent Association will hold a taco dinner and dance on April 23, 2022 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Culemans Memorial Hall located 1400 16th Avenue in Moline from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

32. Closed Session.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to enter into Closed Session for the exception cited; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None

33. Motion to Adjourn.

Upon re-entering the regular meeting, roll call was taken.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE: Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson,

Parker, and Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None

The meeting concluded at 9:03 p.m.

Samantha Gange

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Samantha Gange, City Clerk