

CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

5/23/2022 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:45 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 (virtual), Judith Gilbert, Jenni Swanson, Mark Poulos, and Bill Healy.

Absent: Alderpersons Moses Robinson and Dylan Parker.

Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, City 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

Ray Lind, resident of Rock Island, addressed City Council during public comment regarding the Black Hawk statue on 11th Street where the former Watchtower Plaza was located. Mr. Lind explained in his opinion, the decision of what should happen to the Black Hawk statue should be left up to the taxpayers as they are the rightful owners. Mr. Lind discussed a previous

presentation by Mr. Huiskamp, President of Black Hawk Bank and Trust, who identified three groups of interest including: Mr. Huiskamp supporters, the Quad City Native American Coalition, and people like himself. Mr. Lind reported that he made two attempts to contact the Native American Coalition of the Quad Cities for which he received no response. Mr. Lind requested the City Council have a Public Hearing so that citizens can voice their opinions regarding the Black Hawk statue.

7. Minutes from the May 9, 2022 Study Session and City Council Meeting.

Clerk Gange noted Scrivener's Error in Study Session Minutes.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to approve the minutes; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

8. Minutes from the May 9, 2022 Closed Session Meeting.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to approve the closed session minutes; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

9. Update Rock Island

Whitewater Junction Season Opening - Whitewater Junction is scheduled to open on Saturday, May 28th for the summer season! Grab your suit and head out Memorial Day weekend with your family or friends to Whitewater Junction! Splash down the waterslides, relax on a lounge chair by the side of the pool, or play with one of the many water features. Whitewater Junction is a zero-depth to nine feet deep pool featuring four waterslides, a tot slide, splash features, and fun for the whole family. Whitewater Junction hours are Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm and Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. Admission is \$9.00 for ages three and up. Children two and under are free with paid adult. Evening swim special is Monday-Friday from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm for \$6.00. Discounted Punch Passes and Season Passes are available for purchase. For questions please call (309) 732-7946 or visit WWW.RIGOV.ORG/WWJ.

2022 Rock Island Citizen of the Year Award Nominations now open – Each year, people in Rock Island have an opportunity to nominate residents who have contributed to the Rock Island

community. Nominations are now being taken for the 2022 Rock Island Citizen of the Year Awards. There are nine categories for Rock Island Citizens: Business, Professional, Education, Individual, City Employee, Organization, Veteran and Youth. There is a special category for someone that does not live in Rock Island, but has contributed to the good of the community. An online nomination is available at: [HTTPS://RIGOV.ORG/COY](https://rigo.org/coy). The **deadline** for receiving nominations is **July 6, 2022**. For more information, please call the Deputy City Clerk at 309-732-2012

Save the Date! The 38th Annual Labor Day Parade will be held Monday, September 5th, 2022. The parade line up will start at 8:30 am and the parade at 9:30 am. Parade organizers chose the theme "Marvelous Rock Island!" to focus on what is so extraordinary about our city and community. Entries could feature our amazing schools, libraries, or city parks. Focus could also be on something specific such as a person, business, church, event, comic character, a pet, bicycles, or flowers. Non-theme related entries are always welcome! Registration forms will be available soon. Questions? Call Mary (309) 269-7944 or Art (309) 235-2045

Kickoff a Great Summer of Reading Beyond the Beaten Path at the Quad City Botanical Center. Summer starts next week, and the Rock Island Public Library is your path to free fun, adventure, and reading for all ages from June 1 to July 31. The Rock Island Library's "Camp iRead" summer activities and all-ages reading challenge offers more than 118 opportunities to read, learn, and have fun beyond the beaten path. Available options cover all ages, and include camp-themed craft kits, in-person events at libraries, movie showings, library outreach around town, and chances to explore new interests. Full details on all the Camp iRead fun to be had this summer will be available at the *Beyond the Beaten Path* Summer Kickoff, Wednesday, June 1 from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm at the Quad City Botanical Center, 2525 4th Avenue Rock Island. For more information visit [WWW.ROCKISLANDLIBRARY.ORG](http://www.rockislandlibrary.org) or call 309-732-READ.

10. Presentation of Police Department Service Awards from Chief Richard Landi.

Police Chief Landi came to the podium to present service awards. Chief Landi explained that this night is an opportunity to recognize exemplary service of staff. Officers Brienne Lonergan and Mathew Bundy were each recognized with the Life Saving Award for their actions on November 21, 2022, when they responded to a suicidal man on the Centennial Bridge. Detective Tina Noe, Sergeant Phil Anderson and Sergeant Ben Meiresonne each received challenge coins from the U.S. State Department for their assistance in an investigation involving a former military member scheduled for court martial. Officers Zachary Costas and Andrew Lawler were each recognized with meritorious service awards for exemplary performance and dedication to duty for their roles in the police department's Tactical Operations Division, formed for the purpose of addressing violent crime on the streets of Rock Island. K-9 handler Alex Bowman, along with his dog, Sparky Jackson, was awarded a Certificate of Commendation for exemplary performance and dedication for his actions during a traffic stop last year in which two firearms were recovered. A Certificate of Recognition was awarded to CSI Officer Garrett Alderson for taking the initiative to become a certified latent print examiner in 2018.

11. Claim - Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to McClintock Trucking & Excavating, Inc. of Silvis, IL in the amount of \$10,463.56 for the sewer lateral repair program on 1527 8th Street.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the claim item; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

12. Claims for the week of April 29 through May 5, 2022 in the amount of \$416,573.29; for the week of May 6 through May 11, 2022 in the amount of \$363,212.84; and payroll for the weeks of April 18, 2022 through May 1, 2022 in the amount of \$1,553,123.10.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

13. ACH payments for the month of April 2022 in the amount of \$724,204.75.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

14. Purchase Card Claims for the period of March 29 through April 26, 2022 in the amount of \$70,451.11.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the purchase card claims; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

15. Report from the Public Works Department regarding bids for the 2022 Asphalt Street Milling and Patching Program, recommending the bid for the contract be awarded to Langman Construction of Rock Island, IL in the amount of \$166,847.60.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

16. Report from the Public Works Department regarding bids for the 2022 Sidewalk and Pavement Patching Program, recommending the bid for the contract be awarded to Centennial Contractors of Moline, IL in the amount of \$464,652.00.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

17. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding a three-year contract with Genesis Health for on-site medical services for the period March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2025.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the request as recommended; consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Gilbert stated that she was in favor of 18-year-olds and older serving alcohol, however, she was not in favor of all liquor license establishments serving alcohol starting at 7:00

a.m. on Sundays. Alderperson Gilbert explained her preference that only the restaurants that are serving breakfast and brunch have an early start time.

Alderperson Poulos indicated he agreed with Alderperson Gilbert, however, he would like to be fair to all businesses that sell alcohol.

VOTE:

Motion FAILED on a 4-1-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: Gilbert. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to consider the amendments to the ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 4-1-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: Gilbert. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

19. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the sale of City-owned property located at the eastern portion of 1730 8th Avenue (PIN 0735438012) to Margie Mejia-Caraballo for \$1,200.00 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderperson Swanson moved to approve the sale as recommended; authorize the City Manager to execute the sale agreement; and consider the ordinance; Alderperson Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

20. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 1044 and 1046 14th Street (PIN 1602110012 and 1602110013) to Ndihiyabandi Michel for a total of \$2,311.00 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve the sale as recommended; authorize the City Manager to execute the sale agreement; and consider the ordinance; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

21. Report from the Finance and Parks and Recreation Departments regarding a request for an extension of the line of credit from American Bank & Trust by \$800,000.00 for a total of \$2,100,000.00 for the new Highland Springs Clubhouse in partnership with First Tee Quad Cities.

MOTION:

Alderson Swanson moved to approve the extension of credit from American Bank and Trust; Alderson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderson Gilbert asked Parks and Recreation Director John Gripp to answer questions regarding the extension of credit. Alderson Gilbert inquired if City engineers were involved in this project. Mr. Gripp explained that they were not involved and that the project was a collaboration with Legat Architects and Estes Construction. Alderson Gilbert asked if any revisions were being made to the project. Mr. Gripp explained that the project was value engineered down from \$2.5 million to \$2.1 million which is still \$800,000 over budget. Alderson Gilbert inquired about the monthly payment amount. Mr. Gripp explained that the interest payments will fluctuate because the interest rates are not fixed. He went on to explain that they continue to raise funds to cover interest payments for 2022, 2023, and 2024. Alderson Gilbert asked how much First Tee has raised. Mr. Gripp responded First Tee has increased their commitment to \$300,000 and they have also committed to helping fundraise every year of the financing for this project. Alderson Gilbert inquired about the amount committed from the Woodward Trust. Mr. Gripp reported the Woodward Trust has committed \$20,000 per year for the next three years for a total of \$60,000. Alderson Gilbert asked how much the Foundation has raised. Mr. Gripp reported the Foundation has committed \$10,000 by itself and has raised funds privately of over \$100,000.

Alderson Healy asked if staff had reached out to Birdies for Charity. Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Todd Winter confirmed both First Tee and the Parks Foundation work with Birdies for Charity.

Alderson Gilbert asked for the amount of the debt to be paid off in 2024. Mr. Gripp stated that in 2024 the Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center (RIFAC) bonds will be retired and about \$219,000 can then be used towards the clubhouse line of credit payment.

Alderson Healy stated that the project is a wonderful idea, but expressed concerns on how the City will pay for it. Alderson Gilbert asked how much the monthly or annual payments would be. Finance Director Linda Barnes indicated the original payments were set up as interest-only payments to be paid twice a year with the option to pay toward the principal, if desired. Ms. Barnes explained an amortization schedule was submitted which included calculations if principals were paid, principal and interest every month on the current loan would be \$12,770 and \$21,689 for the revised loan. Alderson Gilbert asked what the total amount is for the year. Ms. Barnes reiterated the monthly payment amount.

Alderson Healy asked what the variable breakdown is per year, if it is every year, and if they would go for a five-year Adjustable Rate Mortgage (ARM). Ms. Barnes reported the quote was given with what is called a blended interest rate based on the current rate and the interest on the additional \$800,000 with a weighted average. Ms. Barnes reported this is a good rate for this market as it is still below four percent. Mayor Thoms clarified the dollar amount included interest and principal but it would be less if payments were made with interest only. Ms. Barnes responded affirmatively.

Aldersperson Gilbert asked if RIFAC has enough money to make the interest only payments for 2022, 2023, and 2024 until the bond payments are paid off. Ms. Barnes explained that the interest payments are budgeted yearly. Aldersperson Gilbert confirmed the \$260,000 is for interest payments only. Mr. Gripp explained the money that has been raised and continues to be raised is what they will use to fill in the gap until the RIFAC bonds are retired. Once these bonds are retired an additional \$219,000 per year will be free to pay the loan off early. The Parks and Recreation Department continues to work with the First Tee program, who is making a solid commitment to Rock Island. For example, their headquarters will be located in Rock Island and they've already invested \$170,000 into the driving range and they will invest an additional \$300,000 into the Highland Springs Clubhouse. Mr. Gripp stated that these types of investments will continue every year and if the focus needs to be on paying the mortgage, then that will be the main focus so that it will never fall on taxpayer dollars.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

22. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment for the Martin Luther King (MLK) Community Center increasing the TIF 11th Street Fund (203) and decreasing the MLK Center Activity Fund (901) by \$24,157.48.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

23. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding the reappointment of Jeff Dimer to the Preservation Commission and the appointment of Paul Hansen to the Park Board.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the appointment and reappointment as recommended; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

24. Other Business

Aldersperson Gilbert reminded 3rd Ward residents that she is hosting a ward meeting in two nights, on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. She explained that City Manager Todd Thompson and department directors would be available to

answer questions, City Clerk and ARPA Program Manager Samantha Gange will provide an update about the ARPA process, and IT Director Tim Bain will debut the new Simplicity App.

Mayor Thoms shared that tomorrow May 24, 2022 at 3:00 p.m., there will be a pop-up party for an announcement of exciting news with regards to the City at Arts Alley in the District of Rock Island and encouraged the public to attend.

Aldersperson Healy announced the Citizen of the Year nomination form is online and encouraged participation in completing nominations.

Aldersperson Gilbert stated the City of Rock Island does a wonderful job recognizing all the contributions of individual residents, like no other City.

Mayor Thoms also announced the Knights of Columbus will be honoring one police officer and one fireman for their civic awards at an upcoming event.

25. Closed Session.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to enter into Closed Session for the exceptions cited; Aldersperson Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson and Parker.

26. Motion to Adjourn.

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

Present Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderspersons Judith Gilbert, Jenni Swanson, Mark Poulos, Bill Healy.

Absent: Alderspersons Moses Robinson, Randy Hurt, and Dylan Parker.

Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, City Attorney Dave Morrison, City Clerk Samantha Gange, and other City Staff.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 4-0-3 roll call vote. Aye: Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, and Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson, Hurt, and Parker.

The meeting concluded at 8:44 p.m.

__Naomi Sanderson_____

Naomi Sanderson, Deputy City Clerk