

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND  
CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING SESSION**

**June 3, 2019  
MINUTES**

The Rock Island City Council met at 5:15 p.m. in the Dennis E. Pauley Community Room at the Rock Island Police Station at 1212 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, Illinois for the first meeting of their annual Goal Setting session. Present were Mayor Mike Thoms presiding, and Council members Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, Ivory D. Clark, and James Spurgetis. Also present were City Manager Randy Tweet, Human Resources Director John Thorson, and City Clerk Judith Gilbert. Denise Bulat and Gena McCullough from Bi-State Regional Commission were present to serve as moderators. Alderman Randy Hurt arrived at 5:19 p.m. and Alderman Dave Geenen arrived at 5:34 p.m.

Introductions were made around the table. Council members received a binder with the documents related to the agenda.

City Manager Randy Tweet reviewed the 2022 Five Year Goals: 1) Financially Sound City Providing High Quality Service and Infrastructure; 2) Expanding Local Economy; 3) Revitalization of Strategic Locations; and 4) Increase Population through Livable Neighborhoods. Mr. Tweet explained these long-term goals were not meant to change. He pointed out the objectives, means to residents, short-term challenges and opportunities, and long-term challenges and opportunities for the four goals.

Mayor Thoms pointed out they need to have Public Comment. Sarah Hayden was present, but did not wish to speak. She asked for a binder.

Mr. Tweet next reviewed the progress and status of the Goals and the individual 2018/2019 Action Steps.

Alderman Parker said he would like to see regional collaboration with one Park District for all of Rock Island County. Mr. Tweet said that would have to be directed by elected officials in the jurisdictions. He offered to coordinate with other elected officials for a joint meeting if it was a supported goal. Council discussed the idea. Mr. Tweet will discuss at the Bi-State meeting tomorrow.

Council discussed a more comprehensive tourism plan including heritage and the coming Viking River Cruises.

Alderman Geenen stated that two of last year's action steps were failed: the employee buy-out planning and the lack of movement on a solar program. He said these two goals of Council were not met by the City Manager and staff.

Mr. Tweet discussed the current budget projections for 2019. Council discussed gaming revenues. Mr. Tweet anticipates next year's City budget will be at a deficit again. Mayor Thoms said labor costs are going up. Mr. Tweet said they will have to figure out how to replace the gas tax.

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Mr. Tweet noted to Council the lists of potential cost reductions, revenue suggestions, and challenges/blockades in their binders suggested by directors and staff.

Council had previously submitted action steps for the four goals. Ms. Bulat and Ms. McCullough reviewed each action step with Council for clarification of the individual action step and to combine similar ones or eliminate duplicates. Council members each had six votes per goal to identify their six top action steps. (Votes were not allowed to be doubled up.) Votes were tallied for each action step.

Council's Action Steps and Votes:

**Goal 1: Financially Sound City Providing High Quality Service and Infrastructure**

- *Improve and repair sidewalks and streets. (7)*
- *Re-examine spending. (7)*
- *Solar power policy and program/Renewable energy for infrastructure and community. (5)*
- *Compensation reform. (5)*
- *Better mindfulness in P card spending. (4)*
- *Review structure of departments to determine value of layered administrative positions. (4)*
- *Create new revenues. (3)*
- *More open events where residents can talk with City staff and Council in a casual environment. (2)*
- *Have exploratory meetings for privatization of water system as a way to generate money for infrastructure. (2)*
- *Balanced budget. (2)*
- *Gas tax re-direction. (2)*
- *Zero tolerance policy for employee bullying. (2)*
- *Increased civic participation. (1)*
- *Research interest with other Quad Cities jurisdictions in intergovernmental consolidation in various categories-sharing staff, departments and/or services. (1)*
- *Program utilization. (1)*
- *Create new attractions. (0)*
- *Current taxes and fees. (0)*

**Goal 2: Expanding Local Economy**

- *Business Improvement Districts. (7)*
- *Succession planning program. (6)*
- *Aggressively market the downtown. (6)*
- *Zero-interest economic development revolving loan program or forgivable loans when meeting certain criteria. (6)*
- *Plan for legalized recreational marijuana. (5)*

- *Flood-free promotion. (3)*
- *Better marketing. (3)*
- *DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) program. (3)*
- *Economic development. (3)*
- *Council business visits. (1)*
- *Rock Island heritage tourism plan. (1)*
- *Removal of barriers to building. (1)*
- *Map Rock Island amenities. (1)*
- *Explore possibility of bringing in a museum as a way to promote tourism to the city. (1)*
- *Pursue businesses that have a high chance of succeeding within the city. (0)*

**Goal 3: Revitalization of Strategic Locations**

- *Support partnerships with Library and YMCA. (7)*
- *Allow short-term rentals. (6)*
- *Manage vacant and partially vacant buildings. (5)*
- *College Hill redevelopment/business development and 30<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (5)*
- *Execute downtown plan. (5)*
- *11<sup>th</sup> Street-short-term goals. (4)*
- *11<sup>th</sup> Street improvements. (4)*
- *11<sup>th</sup> Street business development corridor. (3)*
- *Adopt massage parlor ordinance. (3)*
- *Enforce/create rental ordinances. (2)*
- *Zoning ordinance revision/update. (1)*
- *Old Country Market (24<sup>th</sup> Street/23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue). (1)*
- *Preserve courthouse. (1)*

**Goal 4: Increase Population through Livable Neighborhoods**

- *Promote Rock Island as a safe place to live. (9)*
- *Promote neighborhoods and connect with neighborhoods. (8)*
- *Meet with area realtors. (6)*
- *Maintain clean-up and beautification efforts; enforce and/or create nuisance ordinances (including sidewalks) and enforce fines. (6)*
- *Residential housing development - new housing development. (5)*
- *Crime/shooting reduction plan. (4)*
- *Review sprinkle ordinance. (4)*

Council discussed: fleshing out their ideas in another session and what they mean before action steps are given to staff; having work sessions to flesh out policy direction; Council's vision to get things done; and being clear what it is that Council wants.

The consensus of Council was to have another session to provide more detail and direction on their action steps that received the majority votes (4). Ms. Bulat suggested that it might be more

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productive to get staff's input on the action steps before the next session without adding new ideas.

Mr. Tweet asked for guidance on the Best Building project; he provided background for new Council members.

Alderman Hurt moved to adjourn; Alderman Parker seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Judith H. Gilbert, City Clerk