

CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

6/14/2021 - 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 Interim City Clerk Josh Adams to call the roll.

Present: Alderman Moses Robinson, Alderman Randy Hurt, Alderwoman Jenni Swanson, Alderman Dylan Parker, Alderman Mark Poulos, Alderman Dave Geenen, and Mayor Mike Thoms.

Alderwoman Judith Gilbert was present via remote connection in accordance with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order.

Absent: None.

Staff: City Manager Randy Tweet, Interim City Clerk Josh Adams, and other City staff.

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 anyone in the public wished to speak.

Rock Island resident Annika O'Melia addressed Council regarding the Section 1983 Initiative and Federal Civil Rights Act. She said the organization's purpose is to give more awareness to the 4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as well as providing a way to have civil rights enforced. She noted it also helped create a more just community, and to provide advocacy and support for citizens. She said they are currently seeking funding for an Executive Director.

Rock Island resident Thurgood Brooks addressed Council regarding the proposed Police Community Relations Committee. He said he has had dialogue with Council members, but noted it was important to be transparent and on record with the dialogue. He said a study session would be appropriate, and would put the issues on the table. He asked Council to treat the situation with integrity, respect, and a sense of urgency.

Rock Island resident Anthony Gay addressed Council with quotes from the Bible and Helen Keller. He said the discussion of police brutality could not be had without acknowledging that there was a problem. He noted Council had not done enough to protect the citizens of the community. He said a petition has been formulated to the Department of Justice in order to investigate the Rock Island Police Department. He said they should not be allowed to function with impunity.

Rock Island resident Jennifer Johnson of the Third Ward addressed Council regarding the cost of taxes and water and sewer charges. She noted the poor condition of her roads and said she has considered what would be a more viable option of a place for her to live. She said she would reach out to her representatives outside of Rock Island to discuss the expenses to residents. She warned Council that the higher costs would drive residents out of the community.

7. Minutes of the May 24, 2021 City Council meeting.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the minutes as printed; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

8. Update Rock Island by Mayor Thoms

Free Concert in Black Hawk State Park- The Rock Island Public Library will host a free concert in Black Hawk State Park on Saturday, June 19 from noon to 1:00 p.m. The Quad City Symphony Orchestra ensemble quartet will bring their music to the great outdoors for all ages next to Singing Bird Nature Center. Participants should bring their own seating. In the event of rain, the concert will move inside the Singing Bird Center. This concert was made possible by a generous donation from Carol and Jim Horstmann.

Quad City Botanical Center- The Quad City Botanical Center will have free admission for dads in honor of Father's Day this Sunday, June 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come enjoy the various gardens or a train ride from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Black Hawk State Historic Site- The Black Hawk State Historic Site is offering a free family event on Saturday June 26 from 10:00 a.m. to noon near Singing Bird Center. Activities will include playing Nature Bingo, using your senses to explore the natural environment for an Alphabet Scavenger hunt and then using what you find to make a plaster plaque to take home. Space is limited for this free event, so participants must call to preregister at 309-788-9536.

Mayor Thoms asked Alderman Robinson to speak on the recent happenings with the Rock Island Boxing Club. Alderman Robinson said the Club recently had a member qualify for Nationals in Vershaun Lee, rated #2 in the nation. He noted Mr. Lee will be boxing for the United States in summer 2021, and congratulated him and the Club for doing an excellent job with their resources.

9. Presentation by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) recognizing Lt. Timothy J. McCloud as a Certified Eligible Police Chief.

Dean Stiegemeier, a Vice President of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, came to the front and recognized Lt. Timothy McCloud as a Certified Eligible Police Chief. He said achieving this certification is an extensive process requiring a written exam, presentation before a board of three Certified Chiefs of Police, and a background examination. He said Lt. McCloud has a Master's Degree from Western Illinois University in Criminal Justice, a Bachelor's Degree in Art, and is a graduate of the National FBI Academy.

Mr. Stiegemeier presented the plaque to Lt. McCloud and photos were taken with Mayor Thoms.

10. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding an Ordinance rezoning from R-4 (multi-unit residential) to PUD (Planned Unit Development) the property located approximately at 2001 7th avenue (Parcel 095289) (Second Reading)

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

11. Claims

- a. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding payment in the amount of \$23,574.44 to David G. Morrison, City Attorney, for services rendered during the month of May, 2021.
- b. Report from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center regarding payment in the amount of \$58,240.36 to Quad Cities Golf Classic Charitable Foundation for the Birdies for Charity program.
- c. Report from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center regarding payment in the amount of \$7,350.00 to Rock Island Parks and Recreation for the rental of two rooms in the Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center.
- d. Report from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center regarding payment in the amount of \$55,920.00 to Youth Hope for youth services to complete the FY20-21 contract with the Illinois Department of Human Services.
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$9,654.78 to McClintock Trucking & Excavating, Inc., Silvis, IL for the Sewer Lateral Repair Program, Project 2564, for services provided at 2048 45th Street.
- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$19,754.92 to McClintock Trucking & Excavating, Inc., Silvis, IL for the Water Service Repair Program, Project 2526 for services provided at 9415 13th Street West, 2224 9th Street, and 2101 Stadium Drive.

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to approve Claims Items A through F; Alderman Robinson seconded.

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, Geenen, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

- g. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$20,300.31 to Valley Construction, Inc of Rock Island, IL for work performed on the 24th Street Water Tower Overflow Improvement, Project 2740.

MOTION:

Alderman Robinson moved to approve Claims Item G; Alderman Poulos seconded.

Alderman Parker recused himself from the vote due to the nature of his employment. Alderwoman Gilbert requested an explanation of the claim. Public Works Director Mike

Bartels said the work was performed at the 24th Street Water Tower site on a storm sewer pipe that handles water from overflow of the water tower tank.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos, Geenen, and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

12. Claims for the week of May 21st through May 27th, 2021 in the amount of \$915,858.98, May 28th through June 3rd, 2021 in the amount of \$310,763.13, and June 4th through June 10, 2021 in the amount of \$502,013.23; and payroll for the weeks of May 17th through May 20th, 2021 in the amount of \$1,554,479.61.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

13. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a construction and maintenance agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to make improvement to traffic signals located at the intersection of IL 92 (Andalusia Road) and the Rock Island Parkway.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the attached State of Illinois Department of Transportation Construction and Maintenance Agreement and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents; Alderman Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

14. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a cost estimate from Advantage Tree Service, Davenport, IA in the amount of \$27,654.54 for tree trimming and removal of dead, dying, or dangerous trees in the downtown area using downtown TIF Funds.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to authorize the expenditure of \$27,654.54 from the downtown TIF as recommended; Alderman Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

15. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding an amendment to the Quad Cities Enterprise Zone Ordinance No. 046-2020 related to the addition of the Reynolds Ford property in East Moline, IL to the Enterprise Zone Intergovernmental Agreement.. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the amended ordinance for the Quad City Enterprise Zone; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

Alderman Robinson asked how to get this information to the public. Mr. Tweet said the measure is a business incentive many local communities participate in which provides companies with a break on sales tax, utility taxes, and building materials. He noted that each time the Enterprise Zone is amended, the changes must be approved by the board as well as each participating city.

VOTE:

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

16. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 1018 11th Avenue (Parcel 095572, PIN #1602105018) to Magali Oliveros-Rojas and Onixsiel Cruz-Arroyo for \$1.00 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Robinson moved to approve the sale as recommended; authorize the City Manager to execute the sale agreement; and consider the ordinance; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

17. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a sale of City-owned property located at 715 4th Avenue (Parcel 091804, PIN #0734408003) to Reverend Dr. Jacqueline J. Cunningham-Walls for \$1.00 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Robinson moved to approve the sale as recommended; authorize the City Manager to execute the sale agreement; and consider the ordinance; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

18. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding a request for a handicapped parking space at 1506 33rd Street. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to approve the request as recommended and consider the ordinance; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

19. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding a request for a handicapped parking space at 725 22nd Street. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the request as recommended and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

20. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a resolution declaring the City of Rock Island's support for the submittal of a RAISE Grant application for US 67 (11th Street) between 31st Avenue and 45th Avenue.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the resolution declaring support for submittal of a RAISE Grant application for US 67 (11th Street) between 31st Avenue and 45th Avenue; Alderman Parker seconded.

Alderman Parker asked Mr. Bartels to describe the grant. Mr. Bartels said the grant stood for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, and it is for road, rail, transit, and port projects. He explained the City has applied for approximately nine million dollars with a one million match from the City if awarded. He noted the work would cover the water main, repairs to the existing sanitary and storm sewer system, retaining walls, street light upgrades, and improving pedestrian bicycle access along the 11th Street corridor. He said IDOT has given general approval for the project.

VOTE:

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

21. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a resolution declaring the City of Rock Island's support for the submittal of a RAISE Grant application for IL 92 (Andalusia Road) and US 67.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the resolution declaring support for submittal of a RAISE Grant application for IL 92 (Andalusia Road) and US 67; Alderman Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

22. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a request from Quad City Coffee and Pancake House to install a vestibule within the 19th Street Right of Ways (ROW) at 1831 3rd Avenue.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to allow the Quad City Coffee and Pancake House to install the vestibule within the 19th Street Rights of Ways at the above referenced address; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

23. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a request from Koch Fertilizer, LLC to become the new operator for the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) at the Rock Island River Terminal Corporation facility located at 700 Mill Street.

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the request from Koch Fertilizer, LLC to utilize the Foreign Trade Zone designation and direct the City Attorney to prepare the attestation letter; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Geenen,

and Robinson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

24. Report from the Mayor's office regarding the reappointments of David VanLandegen and Todd Linscott to the Beautification Commission, and Brett Hitchcock, Carolyn Krueger, Jodie Kavensky, Pat Stolley, and Brandy VandeWalle to the Arts Commission.

MOTION:

Alderman Robinson moved to approve the reappointments as recommended; Alderman Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

25. Other Business

Mr. Tweet updated Council regarding the search for a consultant to help with the ARPA fund process. He said WVIK radio was contacted regarding hosting a meeting, and they would quote a price to include setup and electronics, and discussed hiring a facilitator. Alderman Geenen said his rationale for the idea came from hearing from constituents that did not want the City to hire a consultant, but rather keep the public informed. Mr. Tweet said a facilitator would be at the meeting to ensure the conversation kept a common thread. Alderwoman Gilbert said she would support the idea but would take it further than ward meetings to include financial representatives, non-profits, small businesses, and philanthropy.

Alderman Poulos asked if the proposed meeting would take place prior to speaking with a consultant, stating there was a chance the wrong information could be delivered depending on the timing. Alderman Geenen noted his constituents have many concerns regarding the effect of the pandemic, and he would appreciate administrative assistance in helping communicate the ARPA process to them. Mayor Thoms attempted to clarify what Alderman Geenen's preferences regarding a facilitator would be. Alderman Robinson noted that without a communication plan, Council has a difficult time figuring how to get information to the public.

Alderman Hurt said he felt having three Unplugged sessions would be redundant, and the same could be accomplished by communicating to the City as a whole. Alderman Robinson pointed out Ward meetings will be handled differently according to the Alderperson, as opposed to having a communication plan with a consistent message. Alderwoman Swanson said she agreed that input was needed, but certain ward meetings may leave a false impression of how the funds would be spent. She preferred to have the same message consistent throughout the City. Alderman Poulos agreed that the City does not want to have alternate stories given to the public.

Alderman Parker noted two separate conversations were taking place, with one being how the funds will be spent, and the second being how the City is communicating the message. He noted the main factor is communicating to the public about the process itself. Alderman Robinson said Unplugged sessions would be a good way to gather information. Alderman Hurt expressed the concern of having mixed messages if there are multiple, separate ward meetings. Alderwoman Swanson expressed concern regarding the different needs and wants

for the constituents of each ward.

Alderwoman Gilbert said the City should pick a spokesperson for the City that is knowledgeable about ARPA guidelines and can answer specific questions. Alderman Parker reiterated the need to hire a professional that can facilitate conversations regarding the ARPA process, and said his focus is on how to arrive at a process. Mayor Thoms said a consultant would help Council with how to communicate to the public. Mr. Tweet said the proposed consultant would help Council hold the meetings and guide the entire process. Alderman Parker said there is a need to explain to the public that the process would take time, and noted he would not need facilitating in a potential ward meeting. Alderman Poulos said at least some information could be given to the public regarding what ARPA is.

Alderman Geenen noted how ARPA would greatly assist the children of the community, and has not seen such engagement with the public before. He noted this was connected to a larger three to four year deployment for recovery. Alderman Parker said a professional should be consulted before any meetings are held so the City does not get too far ahead. Mayor Thoms said the first step is to have a professional on hand and build from there. Alderwoman Swanson suggested sending out a mailer with basic ARPA guidelines. Alderman Hurt concurred. Alderman Geenen said there are other non-profits to consider. Alderwoman Gilbert said a mailer would cost thousands of dollars and likely more with additional mailers. Alderman Parker suggested a press release notifying the public that the City has put out a RFQ.

Alderman Robinson suggested talking to residents through a ward meeting, or walking through neighborhoods. Mayor Thoms said his main concern is having a consistent message. He said the consensus for the best idea seemed to be having independent ward meetings. Alderwoman Gilbert asked Mr. Tweet to explain the RFQ process. Mr. Tweet replied he was working on a draft and should expect to hear back in three weeks. Alderwoman Swanson asked about the possibility of a frequently asked questions form. Mr. Tweet replied the U.S. Treasury has a simplified guideline, but it is still 15 pages. He said certain items deemed important could be pulled onto a single sheet, and additional questions could be referred to the Treasury.

Alderman Robinson asked what would be needed for a study session for the proposed Police Community Relations Committee. Mr. Tweet replied each Council member and himself would be meeting with [Thurgood] Brooks in advance of a session at the next Council meeting. Alderwoman Swanson suggested starting that session at 5:00 p.m. and Council concurred.

Mayor Thoms said the community recycling center drop-off pickup on 7th Street and customer pickup have become expensive and laborious. He noted it will require additional funding to continue, and the County Waste Management Board has considered eliminating these services. He noted Alderman Hurt's position on the Board and asked Council to provide him with guidance on which direction to vote. Public Works Director Mike Bartels addressed Council regarding the matter. Alderman Parker asked why they needed to cut expenses. Mr. Bartels said their costs have increased, and their expenditures are now exceeding revenues. He noted they have considered eliminating the drop-off center, which would impact residents less, and that does cost the City. Alderman Robinson asked for confirmation that there were cameras at the site. Mr. Bartels confirmed there were cameras to help curb illegal dumping, but some of that cannot be enforced. He noted the recycling contract with Republic Services and the County was coming up for review in the near future, and in order to get out of the contract, it would cost roughly \$7,000.

Alderman Parker said if Republic Services profits from recycling, they should pay for recycling. Mr. Bartels described the process Republic Services uses for recycling. Mayor Thoms asked if Republic Services had the option to take items to a landfill, and Mr. Bartels confirmed yes. Alderman Parker asked if the County has attempted to negotiate for a lower price, and asked why the taxpayers and government that fund the service need to remove the service while a

company profits. Mr. Bartels said he would ask if renegotiating the contract has been considered. Mr. Tweet said Republic Services is the low bidder for these services. A discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of raising recycling rates to accommodate the service. Alderwoman Swanson said the threat of eliminating the service would encourage residents to follow regulations regarding drop-off.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked where the City was in the budget process. Mr. Tweet offered to send a report. Alderwoman Gilbert clarified she wanted the public to know where the City was in the process. Interim Finance Director Linda Barnes addressed Council regarding the status of the budget process. She said they have begun looking at payroll verification. She said they are in the beginning phases, and will be further once the audit process is completed. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if department services and staffing levels had been part of the process thus far, as it was part of Mr. Tweet's goals. Mr. Tweet said that had not taken place thus far, as data is still being gathered. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if a decision had been made regarding the Finance Committee. Mayor Thoms replied no. Alderman Geenen offered to be a part of that when it is set.

26. Executive Session:

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to go into Executive Session for the exception cited; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

27. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to adjourn; Alderman Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.