

CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

7/26/2021 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:48 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 Randy Hurt, Alderwoman Judith Gilbert, Alderwoman Jenni Swanson, Alderman Mark Poulos, and Alderman Dave Geenen.

Absent: Alderman Moses Robinson and Alderman Dylan Parker.

Staff: City Manager Randy Tweet, City Attorney Hector Lareau, Interim City Clerk Adams, 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 called for 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 and former 6th Ward Alderman Joshua Schipp expressed concern to Council regarding the potential sale of the City's water and sewer assets. He said he understands the process, but hoped it would be transparent so the public could understand the full impact on residents and City operations. He noted the recently passed ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) legislation, and said many of the costs associated with City-owned utilities would be perfectly tailored in line with the City's expected allocation of funds. He also noted the investor presentation from American Water's website, regarding them as a successful company. He added their purpose as a for-profit company is to manage cost and return the profit to shareholders, which is different than a publicly-owned utility.

Rock Island resident and Water Treatment Plant employee Russell Thomas addressed Council regarding the potential sale of the City's water and sewer assets. He asked Mayor Thoms if a RFP was just approved. Mayor Thoms replied no, that Council only gave indication to Mr. Tweet to start the pursuit of information regarding a RFP. He said he wished Council to halt the pursuit of a RFP. He referenced the past discussion of the Walmart development proposal. He said the water is very good in Rock Island, and there was a \$5 million surplus in the budget from last year with water utilities, and there will be more because of the efficiency of the water plant. He said American Water is out to make money, and monies from other sources including the casino, should be sufficient to fund some of the needed infrastructure projects.

Rock Island resident Linda Rudolph addressed Council regarding abandoned homes in her neighborhood. Ms. Rudolph said she has been a City resident for two years and active member of the Greenbush Neighborhood Association. She said despite only living in the City for two years, she has owned her property for ten, and noted substantial investments have been made in home repairs. She said the property next to hers has been vacant since 2016 and is beyond repair. She added pests have been inside the vacant home, trees are encroaching upon her property, and there is significant debris. She asked why the vacant property had not been dealt with properly. Mayor Thoms suggested Ms. Rudolph speak with Community and Economic Development Director Nathan Parch regarding the matter. Ms. Rudolph said she had called many times without a reply. Alderman Geenen thanked her for her contributions to the City, and said the 18th block of 40th Street has had similar issues.

Rock Island resident of 40 years Paul Inman addressed Council regarding the potential sale of the City's water and sewer assets. He said he was against the possibility. He noted the financial successes of American Water, but said it is not good for the residents they service. He said he preferred that profits stay within the City. He said the decision regarding this would affect everyone in the City for the next 50 or more years. He said it should not be approved by Council, but rather go up for vote by the residents. He noted the recent Flint, MI decisions holding the municipality responsible for the results of their decision to sell the water utility.

Rock Island 5th Ward resident Josh Ludeking addressed Council regarding the potential sale of the City's water and sewer assets. He said a profit motive is antithetical to a public utility, and any public service should not be run for profit. He said profiting on a public utility is a conflict of interest and should not govern how the water utility is managed.

Rock Island resident Andrew DeVries addressed Council regarding the potential sale of the City's water and sewer assets. He said the proposal is anti-union in nature, and an assumption could be made on their intentions with union employees. He said if someone is pro-worker or pro-union, it would be a lie. He said if a utility is sold to a private corporation, they may not have an obligation to maintain it, and noted climate change. He added if the City controls the utility,

there would be control over what would be maintained.

Rock Island resident James Blue addressed Council regarding the potential sale of the City's water and sewer assets. He noted the potential for an increase in water utility rates. Alderwoman Gilbert referenced the pending agenda items. Mr. Blue noted that with a sale, rates would continue to increase. Mr. Blue was asked to end his comments following the use of profanity.

Lifelong Rock Island resident Deb Kutsunis addressed Council regarding the potential sale of the City's water and sewer assets. She said she is now a senior living on a fixed income, and is concerned about the continuing rise in utility prices. She said if there is a sale, there will be no control on what happens financially. She added praise for the City's Water Utility employees, referencing an incident at her home. She expressed concern about a private company maintaining the utilities and upholding their responsibility in a crisis.

Rock Island resident Anne Sullivan addressed Council regarding the potential sale of the City's water and sewer assets. She pointed to a recent neighborhood newsletter regarding water conditions in cities with utility privatization, and expressed concern about an additional sale if the utility does not make enough money. She also noted an abandoned home near her property that was becoming an issue. Mayor Thoms suggested Ms. Sullivan speak with Community and Economic Development Director Nathan Parch regarding the matter

Rock Island resident Zelda Cowell addressed Council regarding the potential sale of the City's water and sewer assets. She expressed concern about the proposed sale of the City's utility, and preferred the measure come to a vote for the public. She suggested speaking with communities that are already customers with American Water to get additional opinions.

Rock Island resident Thurgood Brooks addressed Council via remote connection in regards to the proposed Police Community Relations Commission. He provided a review of the process leading up to the current meeting, and noted a compromise with the first draft, and submitted a second. He said there was an expectation of placing the measure on the agenda for vote, and said it was his belief there had been efforts to stonewall the commission. He said it was unfortunate that four Council members requested the measure to be placed on the agenda, but it was not. He opined the legal review was an additional effort to stonewall the commission. He asked the leadership to stop doing irresponsible and selfish work. He added it would be a mistake to sell the City's water and sewer utilities.

7. Minutes of the July 12, 2021 Special City Council Meeting and minutes of the July 12, 2021 regular City Council meeting.

MOTION:

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

Mr. Tweet said corrections Alderwoman Gilbert noticed would be made prior to posting.

VOTE:

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

8. Minutes of the July 12, 2021 Executive Session.

MOTION:

Alderman Geenen moved to approve the Executive Session minutes; Alderman Poulos seconded.

Alderwoman Gilbert said it was odd that Council questions were logged in the minutes, but not candidate responses. Mr. Tweet said the corrections would be made.

Alderman Poulos withdrew his second. Alderman Geenen withdrew his motion.

Alderwoman Gilbert moved to reconsider the minutes on a date certain of August 9, 2021; Alderman Geenen seconded.

VOTE:

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

9. Update Rock Island

Music and Fun with Babaloo- Rock Island Public Library brings acclaimed family performer Babaloo to Rock Island's Lincoln Park band shell for a free concert on Thursday, July 15th at 10:30 a.m. The event, which is part of the library's Reading Colors Your World summer activities, is free and open to all ages. Babaloo concerts are a blend of music and comedy, and usually run under an hour. Families should bring lawn chairs or other seating and social distance as needed. There is no rain date.

Black Hawk State Historic Site- The Black Hawk State Historic Site is offering a free event, Close-By Critters, on Saturday July 17th from 10:00 a.m. to Noon at Watch Tower Lodge. Discover surprising facts about common animals native to Iowa and Illinois by examining furs and mounted specimens up close. Create a plaster cast of a track made by one of the animals to take home! Space is limited for this free event, so participants must call to preregister at 309-788-9536.

Tell on your Neighbor Awards- Each year, residents of Rock Island are encouraged to "Tell On Your Neighbor" by nominating the yards in their neighborhood that they find to be the most appealing or the most improved. The City of Rock Island's Beautification Commission will review all entries and awards will be announced at the August 23rd City Council meeting. Nominations can be made through August 6th. Digital photos of the nominated yards are required. Send the photo and address of the nominated property to the Community & Economic Development Department via e-mail at douglass.kathryn@rigov.org. For questions call (309) 732-2905.

Mayor Thoms discussed the upcoming Floatzilla event. He said River Action will hold Floatzilla on August 21, 2021 at Sunset Marina. There will be several locations throughout the Quad Cities to begin, and there is a challenge amongst Quad City mayors to see which City will have the most registered floaters.

Mayor Thoms discussed the Thursday Night Groove free concert event on Thursday, July 29, 2021, opening at 6:00 p.m. in advance of a 7:00 p.m. start time.

Mayor Thoms discussed the upcoming National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Longview Park's upper pavilion, with games, activities including tug-of-war, and music.

10. Proclamation declaring Tuesday, August 3, 2021 as National Night Out in the City of Rock Island.

Interim City Clerk Adams read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration.

Community Caring Conference representative Ametra Carroll thanked Council for allowing her to promote the event, and she considered the event her favorite thing to do. She noted that the Conference has organized block clubs across the City for over 45 years.

11. Presentation of the CY 2021 General Obligation Refunding Bonds.

Interim Finance Director Linda Barnes addressed Council to introduce Anthony Miceli, Vice President of Speer Financial. Mr. Miceli summarized the City's refunding opportunities for the year, including the restructuring of General Obligation Bonds as well as other refunding opportunities. He said a large portion of the City's General Obligation Bonds are paid by gaming revenues. He said it had been kept in mind the idea of refunding and restructuring gaming-supported debt service to lessen the reliance on that revenue stream.

Mr. Miceli said there were two refunding opportunities for General Obligation Bonds that are paid with gaming revenues, including Series 2012A bonds, in which there are approximately \$1.5 million remaining. He summarized what the bonds were for. He then discussed Series 2013A bonds, of which there are approximately \$6.75 million remaining. He summarized what these bonds were for.

Mr. Miceli discussed the gaming debt restructuring goals. These goals included lowering the City's current burden, taking advantage of callable bonds, no restructuring of the Special Assessment debt service specific to the 2012A bonds, minimal restructuring of debt service for road improvements, and target a longer restructuring of bonds issued for longer-term capital projects.

Mr. Miceli discussed the preliminary financing model for the 2012A and 2013A bonds, as well as refunded debt service. He then discussed additional refunding opportunities, including two outstanding IEPA low-interest rate loans, that could be used for potential debt service savings. He said assuming current rates, the City could achieve approximately \$280,000 in savings through a refinancing of existing IEPA loans.

Mr. Miceli discussed the steps in the timetable for financing, starting with the current meeting. He asked Council for questions. No additional questions were asked.

12. Mayor Thoms will close the regular meeting and open a Public Hearing regarding the HUD CDBG Program Year 2021 Annual Action Plan.

Mayor Thoms closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing. Mayor Thoms asked if anyone in the public wished to speak on the measure. No residents came up to speak or joined via remote connection.

Mayor Thoms closed the Public Hearing and reopened the regular meeting to entertain a motion.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to approve the Program Year 2021 Annual Action Plan as submitted; Alderman Poulos seconded.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked Mr. Parch to come to the front for questions. She said the Action Plan was written in the language of HUD (Housing and Urban Development). She noted about the objective on page one regarding the improvement of housing conditions, and asked if the City had a Housing Plan. Budget and Grants Manager Colleen Small-Vollman joined via remote connection and replied yes, as well as a Housing Needs Assessment and consolidated Plan that all address housing protocols over five years. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if that was completed in conjunction with other housing partners in the Quad Cities. Ms. Small-Vollman said no, as each community has to follow their own plan. Alderwoman Gilbert clarified she meant non-profits involved in housing. Ms. Small-Vollman replied stakeholders attend the meetings, and they have input with housing issues. She said the goal and expectation is for the City to use their assessments and studies to develop the Housing Plan.

Alderwoman Gilbert said page two of the plan had targeted areas within the City, and requested a map as follow-up to the meeting. Ms. Small-Vollman replied she would. Alderwoman Gilbert said page three noted two public and one stakeholder meeting, and thanked Alderman Geenen for helping to get residents to the meetings. She asked how many of the meetings involved stakeholders or non-profits. Ms. Small-Vollman replied there were public service organizations that attended the public meetings, but the majority were in the stakeholder meeting. Alderwoman Gilbert said there were numerous references in the action plan denoting a pilot program for rehabilitating two homes on pages 6 and 21 with the goal of having HUD home investment funding. She said for the amount of money spent on those homes, one could have built a new home, noting CDBG restrictions. She added the ultimate goal of the home program funding does allow for new construction. She asked why staff would not identify specific homes that would cost less, or target a specific block to allocate an amount per home on the block for upgrades. Ms. Small-Vollman replied the purpose was to get vacant and abandoned homes restored and back to making money for the City, and also to revitalize neighborhoods. She added that in previously completed studies, the City has the most vacant homes per capita. She said staff is currently working on one home for the pilot program that they hope will lead to more.

Alderwoman Gilbert said the end of the report noted the goal of CDBG funding, to reduce the number of poverty-level families in the City. She said if staff invested more in currently occupied homes, more good could be done for people in the neighborhoods it was meant to address. Ms. Small-Vollman said that is already being done through other housing programs. Alderwoman Gilbert noted the \$250,000 allocated for the two homes in the pilot program, but \$230,000 would be spent on one, with \$20,000 left for the other. Ms. Small-Vollman disputed that, saying \$125,000 would be allocated equally between the two homes, and that money allocated was approved in 2020's budget. Mr. Tweet clarified that the pilot program would not move forward without approval from Council, and noted the potential for profit on these homes.

Alderwoman Gilbert referenced page 23 regarding public infrastructure, including funds for remediation on Solomon Homes, the Hauberg Estate Carriage bathroom renovation, and public facilities. She said some of the funds are carried over, but asked how the Hauberg bathrooms would be renovated for the amount listed. Alderman Geenen said Hauberg has communicated with Council for some time regarding the high price for renovation. Mr. Tweet added that the

project in question has not come before Council, but a placeholder had been set in the Plan. Alderman Geenen asked Ms. Small-Vollman to clarify if \$25,000 in CDBG funds had been given already to Hauberg. Mr. Tweet said the amount was in the action plan, but the actual expense would still need to come before Council for approval, as well as the rest of the project. Mr. Parch said CDBG funds could be used to overcome an architectural barrier, but the scope of the project will not be covered by those funds.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked what public facilities would be identified for \$105,000 as noted in the plan. Ms. Small-Vollman said staff was working on the Firehouse at Douglas Park, and \$67,000 is still available for the roof, but there would likely be additional needs for the project.

Alderwoman Gilbert then asked about the job creation on page 23 for the CRLF (Commercial Revolving Loan Fund). Ms. Small-Vollman said HUD actually allows up to \$35,000 per full-time employee, dependent on the projects or applications come in. Alderwoman Gilbert said there have been problems with the CRLF load fund program before, and asked how the City would avoid the same issues. Ms. Small-Vollman said the committee is sound, and has new members, and staff is addressing the findings from HUD to be able to put the program back online. She pointed to future Council meetings where items will be available for Council to review.

Alderwoman Gilbert discussed the targeted areas for code enforcement and associated allocated funds. She asked if homeowners were eligible to receive the available CDBG funds to mitigate code violations, or if the funds were used for staff. Ms. Small-Vollman replied the targeted area repair and rehab program for 2021 is \$198,000, and to use the CDBG dollars for employing a code enforcement officer, staff must provide a path to help property owners mitigate violations. Mr. Tweet clarified that an inspector only views targeted areas. Alderwoman Gilbert asked for clarification on code violations, and asked if one could apply for CDBG funds for mitigation. Mr. Tweet replied that was the whole purpose, to introduce violators to the mitigation program. Alderwoman Gilbert asked what the maximum amount of money a homeowner could receive under the program. Ms. Small-Vollman replied it depended on what is needed to complete the mitigation, up to \$30,000.

Alderwoman Gilbert pointed to page 37 of the plan regarding homelessness. She asked if the City has funded organizations that assist the homeless in the past. Ms. Small-Vollman replied in the past when public service dollars were available, that did take place, but was not currently. Alderwoman Gilbert asked how long ago these organizations had last received funding. Ms. Small-Vollman said she was not aware, but not since she had been with the City. Alderman Geenen said staff could speak with Reverend Michael Schwartz, who would remember when that allocation existed under Mayor Mark Schwiebert. He said since then, public service funds had gone to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center. Alderwoman Gilbert said at the public input meetings, the common comment from non-profits involves why they are unable to receive funds from Rock Island. She noted the absence of that comment from the plan.

Ms. Small-Vollman noted that the information actually was in the plan in the form of a comment that if the City continued to fund other public services, the way it is done needed to be changed. Alderwoman Gilbert noted on page 44 regarding the reduction of poverty-level families, and asked staff to provide historical Census numbers for the last 10 years, showing the number of poverty-level families in the City. Ms. Small-Vollman said once the Census data comes out, staff would be able to provide that. Alderman Geenen said the American Community Survey would provide data from the past 10 years if it were requested. He also noted that the Bi-State Regional Commission could obtain that information.

Alderwoman Gilbert asked Mr. Parch to provide at a later date the evaluation process for all CDBG-funded programs. She then asked if there was a reason why the Action Plan contained a partial transcript of the meetings, but the agenda version did not have a transcript. Ms. Small-Vollman said it was her omission. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if the unspent CV (coronavirus)

funds were carried over from 2020. Ms. Small-Vollman confirmed they were not. Alderwoman Gilbert asked for a request for a detailed monthly financial report for CDBG funds that showed revenues and expenditures, as well as recipients of the payments. Alderman Geenen concurred.

VOTE:

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

13. A Special Ordinance authorizing the sale of City-owned property located at 721 14th Street (Parcel 097454, PIN #0735309006) to Mr. Kenneth Clark for \$1,000.00 plus closing costs. (Second Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to pass the ordinance; Alderwoman Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

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

14. Claims

- a. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding payment in the amount of \$10,283.91 to Assetworks LLC of Wayne, PA for renewal of the Fleet and Fuel software annual support maintenance contract.
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$67,500.00 to the State of Illinois for the annual National Pollution Discharge Elimination system permits issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #5 in the amount of \$1,777,193 to Johnson Controls, Moline, IL for services provided from June 1 through July 31, 2021.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to approve Claims Items A through C; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$16,224.43 to McClintock Trucking & Excavating, Inc., Silvis, IL for services provided March 22 through March 30, 2021 at 1202 42nd Avenue as part of the Sewer Lateral Repair Program, Project 2564.

MOTION:

Aldерwoman Gilbert moved to approve Claims Item D; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

15. Claims for the week of July 9 through July 15, 2021 in the amount of \$990,432.92; and payroll for the week of June 28 through July 11, 2021 in the amount of \$1,570,706.64.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to allow the claims and payroll; Aldерwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

16. ACH Payments for the month of June 2021 in the amount of \$2,882,297.24.

MOTION:

Aldерwoman Gilbert moved to approve the ACH payments; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

17. Purchase Card Claims for the period of May 27 through June 28, 2021 in the amount of \$63,684.75.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the purchase card claims; Aldерwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

18. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the purchase of new handheld meter reading tablets in the amount of \$11,559.60 from United Systems Inc. (iTron), Benton, KY.

MOTION:

Alderman Gilbert moved to approve the purchase as recommended; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

19. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a request to negotiate a contract with CDM Smith, Inc., Chicago, IL for assistance in implementing maintenance repairs on the anaerobic digesters at the Main Wastewater Treatment Plant.

MOTION:

Alderman Gilbert moved to authorize City staff to negotiate a contract with CDM Smith, Inc., for engineering services towards digester maintenance; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

20. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a request to negotiate a contract with IMEG Corporation, Rock Island, IL for assistance in implementing the renovation or replacement of the influent pump station at the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant..

MOTION:

Alderman Swanson moved to authorize City staff to negotiate a contract with IMEG Corporation for engineering services towards pump station renovation or replacement; Alderman Hurt seconded.

Alderman Geenen noted IMEG Corporation was a wonderful Rock Island company.

VOTE:

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

21. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a request to negotiate a contract with CDM Smith, Inc., Chicago, IL for assistance in implementing maintenance repairs on the storage domes at the Water Treatment Plant.

MOTION:

Alderman Gilbert moved to authorize City staff to negotiate a contract with CDM Smith, Inc for engineering services for maintenance of the storage domes; Alderman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

22. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the addition of McClintock Trucking & Excavating, Silvis, IL to the emergency contractor rotation list.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the addition of McClintock Trucking & Excavating to the emergency contractor rotation list; Alderman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

23. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a Water Utility rate increase of 5.5% for all user classes each year through 2025.

MOTION:

Alderman Swanson moved to approve the Water Utility rate increases; and authorize the City Attorney to draft the appropriate ordinance changes; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

24. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a Wastewater Utility rate increase of 4.5% for all user classes each year through 2025.

MOTION:

Alderman Swanson moved to approve the Waste Water Utility rate increase and authorize

the City Attorney to draft the appropriate ordinance changes; Alderman Hurt seconded.

Mr. Tweet noted the handout to Council from Public Works regarding the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) that includes each utility project. He added there are a couple of projects that have developed since the CIP was compiled.

VOTE:

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

25. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a Storm Water Utility rate increase of \$0.34 per year for the average household each year through 2025.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Gilbert moved to approve the Storm Water Utility rate increase and authorize the City Attorney to draft the appropriate ordinance changes; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

26. Report from the Finance Department regarding adjustments to the CY 2021 budget, increasing the MLK ILDHS (906) revenues by \$105,317 and expenditures by \$132,304; increasing the ICJIA revenues by \$245,577 and expenditures in by \$245,577; and increasing the MLK Activity Fund (901) revenues and expenditures by \$25,000.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Gilbert moved to approve the budget adjustments as recommended; Alderman Geenen seconded.

VOTE:

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

27. Report from the Finance Department regarding the CY 2020 Firefighters and Police Pension Fund Assumptions.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Gilbert moved to approve the recommended pension assumptions; Alderman Geenen seconded.

Alderman Poulos recused himself from the vote due to his status as a pensioner.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 4-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Gilbert, Swanson, Geenen, and Hurt. Nay: None. Absent: Parker and Robinson.

28. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a request to amend the parking lot improvement stipulation for the Approved Special Use Permit at 1406, 1412, and 1416 6th Avenue, allowing for two additional years until May 31, 2023 to complete the required improvements to the parking lot.

MOTION:

Alderman Geenen moved to approve the requested stipulation revision to allow until May 31, 2023 to make the required surface improvements to the parking lot; and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderwoman Gilbert seconded.

Alderman Poulos asked if there were enough votes to suspend the rules. Mayor Thoms said if everyone voted aye, there would be, and that was confirmed by City Attorney Morrison. Alderman Geenen noted the requesters would like the City to move forward with the measure.

VOTE:

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

29. Report from the Mayor's office regarding the appointment of Sara Meyer; and reappointments of Thurgood Brooks, Gregory Hampton, and Janet Lockhart-Johnson to the Human Rights Commission.

MOTION:

Alderman Geenen moved to approve the reappointments and appointment as recommended; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

30. Report from the Public Works Department and City Clerk's office regarding a request from Mr. Allen Shay on behalf of CCKMA to use the grassy area in front of the Sunset Marina Office along with parking on Friday, September 10, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; to hold their annual Poker Run at Sunset Marina on Saturday, September 11, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and a request for sound amplification.

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the events and requests as recommended; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

31. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Augustana College to use sound amplification on Saturday, August 28, 2021 from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. outside the Lower Quad of the campus for an outdoor concert.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

32. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, 630 9th Street, to hold their annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, September 11, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., with street closures at 9th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues; and a request for sound amplification.

MOTION:

Alderwoman Gilbert moved to approve the request as recommended; Alderman Geenen seconded.

VOTE:

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

33. Other Business

Alderman Hurt asked to address the Police Community Relations proposal, and noted previous discussions on the topic. He said both he and Alderman Poulos were afforded the opportunity to comment on certain items with which they disagreed. He pointed to distributed handout regarding reviewing internal investigations, and said it was problematic, as the Integrity Task Force is comprised of the City, the Illinois State Police, and several other organizations. He said he invited State's Attorney Dora Villareal to the meeting to further address the issue.

Alderman Geenen asked if the group headed by Thurgood Brooks had withdrawn the version of the ordinance in question. Mayor Thoms said that the group did not wish to make any additional changes. Mr. Tweet added the discussion from the previous Council meeting concluded with Council members wishing to continue the conversation in the following meeting. Alderman Geenen asked if the discussion would be surrounding the final version. Mr. Tweet noted it was the July 1, 2021 version.

Ms. Villareal greeted Council. She said she supported community policing and a good relationship between all residents and all police departments. She noted the Integrity Task Force is activated whenever there is an officer-involved shooting, and is comprised of more than the Rock Island Police Department. She said there could be issues for the City if there is a commission that attempts to have jurisdiction over the Integrity Task Force. She added the City steps aside in officer-involved shooting incidents, and other local agencies assist with the investigation. She said once the investigation is completed, it comes to her office for review of potential criminal charges for officers, and is not for determining proper police policy.

Ms. Villareal described her process in the three incidents she has been a part of in her term. She said her opinion and video footage has been released before as well. She said with a commission that would work with the Task Force, incidents in other municipalities would also need to be considered, and consent of each City would be required.

Alderman Hurt asked City Attorney Morrison to add his comments and asked him if there was anything procedurally that would negate the current language of the proposal. Mr. Morrison said the legal department drew up an opinion. Alderman Geenen asked if the opinion was a public document. Mr. Lareau replied it was not, and the department drew a confidential legal opinion that would be discussed in summary. Mr. Morrison said they consulted with IML (Illinois Municipal League) and other communities that have similar programs, and expressed concerns with some portions of the proposed commission document. He suggested changes may be needed to make the proposed ordinance a functioning and legally enforceable document, and any challenges to it as written would be successful.

Alderman Hurt said his biggest issue was the attempt to push the measure through at the previous Council meeting, and he did not like the format as presented. Mr. Lareau added Mr. Morrison was correct in that challenges would be upheld, as it would not be a valid ordinance in current form, as it would be beyond Council's authority to act. Alderman Geenen noted his disagreement with the assessment, as guidelines for Council had been clearly set for review. Alderman Hurt said he remembered at the prior Council meeting a push to get the measure on the agenda, which prompted some Council members to have additional review. Alderman Geenen noted there had been a deadline set for review, and if there was no feedback, it would be considered approved by Council to bring forward. Mr. Tweet said he previously had sent an email regarding what was to happen, with a request to review it, and noting it would be discussed in the current meeting's Other Business.

Mayor Thoms said he had asked if the changes that were desired could be submitted by the deadline, and they were. Alderman Geenen noted that was Council setting deadlines as a group to push through. Mayor Thoms clarified that Mr. Brooks had stated there would be no additional changes as of the last submittal, including none of the suggested changes from Council. Alderwoman Gilbert said a better way to handle the process would have been to request the legal opinion at the time of the first draft submittal, but time was instead spent reviewing the issues and holding meetings, which she called backwards. Alderwoman Swanson asked why a legal opinion would be requested if a measure was not moving forward. She said this was the time to request a legal opinion, before a vote would take place. She added if a committee is to be formed, it should work towards positive interaction rather than functioning as an oversight group. Mayor Thoms said the focus should be working on the community portion of the

measure. Alderwoman Gilbert said those comments should have been made two months prior. Mayor Thoms said there would be little point in continuing to discuss the measure at this time.

Alderman Geenen noted that on August 1, 2021, he would be walking the Wildwood neighborhood to discuss the nearby ravine. He said the City is not responsible for the ravine, but would offer advice. He spoke with MidAmerican Energy, and added that the company would be entering the area soon to do trenching in order to replace underground electric wiring. He added he would be working with the Moline Alderman of the connecting Ward on the issue as well. He also discussed a fundraiser started through his election cycle, which included a recent barbecue to benefit the 7th Ward investment fund, raising \$2,500. He said added to the fundraisers during the pandemic, the total amount raised was \$3,750, which will be distributed in the 7th Ward. He also noted that \$750 was given to the PTA at Denkmann Elementary to assist with the sidewalk painting. Alderman Geenen added that profanity would not be allowed at Council meetings, as there is a generation watching leaders, and people are watching.

Mr. Tweet asked for guidance on whether or not to place the proposed Police Community Commission on the next agenda, even with the noted legal objections. Alderman Hurt said no. Alderman Geenen said yes, and wanted it to be on record that legal has reviewed it, and former legal professionals from the 7th Ward have as well, which is the same document that has already been discussed by Council since July 1. He added he would like to have it on the agenda. Alderwoman Gilbert asked if the legal opinion would be made public. Mr. Lareau replied that it was Council's decision to make. Alderwoman Swanson said as a result to the legal opinion, it should not be on the agenda without a valid reason.

Mr. Morrison noted that procedurally the Council was not in a scenario where a vote was necessary. He added he would feel more comfortable with the request to release the opinion as a formal agenda item. Alderman Poulos asked if a vote for releasing the opinion could be placed on the next agenda. Mr. Lareau replied yes. Mr. Tweet said the discussion of releasing the opinion would be on the next agenda.

34. Executive Session

5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to enter into Executive Session for the exception cited; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

Alderman Geenen departed the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

35. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to adjourn; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Josh Adams, Interim City Clerk