

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

8/24/2020 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. As part of his Executive Order in response to Covid-19, #2020-07, section 6, Governor Pritzker announced provisions of the Open Meetings Act requiring in-person attendance by members of a public body are suspended, specifically the requirement that a public body must be physically present and the conditions limiting when remote participation is permitted.

3. Roll Call

Mayor Thoms asked Interim City Clerk Linda Mohr to call the roll.

Present: Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderman Mark Poulos, and Alderman Randy Hurt.

Alderman Parker, Alderman Geenen, Alderman Spurgetis, and Alderwoman Swanson were present via remote participation in accordance with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order.

Absent: Alderman Ivory D. Clark

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Thoms led in the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Moment of Silence

Mayor Thoms asked for a moment of silence. A moment of silence was observed.

6. Public Comment

Mayor Thoms asked if any member of the public wished to speak on matters not already on the agenda. No residents volunteered to speak.

7. Minutes of the August 10th, 2020 City Council Meeting

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

8. Update Rock Island by Mayor Thoms

Thursday Night Groove Concert - Get your groove on with 'Been There Done That' at Schwiebert Park sponsored by UnityPoint Health Trinity, Rock Island Happy Joe's, and Friendship Manor on August 27, 2020. Thursday Night Groove begins at 6:00 p.m. with the opening of food and beer sales. Featured will be Rock Island Parks and Recreation Concession Stand with brats and hot dogs, Happy Joe's Pizza, and beer sales by Bent River Brewing Company, who will have their seasonal on tap in addition to their standard lineup of craft brews. The live concert will be from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Admission is free, so come out and enjoy the fun.

NEST's Curbside "Pay What You Can" Pickup - The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center is hosting a NEST Cafe curbside pickup event! Come and join us on August 31, 2020 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. (or until sold out). They will be serving sweet sesame chicken over noodles with harvest vegetables. NEST's mission is to nourish bodies and the community by providing delicious, sustainably-sourced food to all who enter regardless of their means. The MLK Center is at 630 9th Street in Rock Island.

Rock Island Municipal Election - The Municipal Election packets are available starting tomorrow, August 25th, 2020. Rock Island's Municipal Election will be held April 6th, 2021, and starting tomorrow candidate packets will be available in the Executive Assistant's/Interim City Clerk's office, 1st Floor of City Hall. Wards 1, 3, 5, 7, and the Mayor will be on the ballot in April. If you ever thought about serving your community, and you live in one of those Wards, or in the City for Mayor, now may be the time to run for an elected office. Stop in and get your packet or go to elections.il.gov for more information.

Mayor Thoms said one of the most popular questions these days that citizens have been asking about are tree and shrub pickup. He said it is still happening in Rock Island, and could be some time before it is completed. He said Public Works is working diligently, and to contact the department with any questions.

9. Proclamation declaring all Essential Workers as Rock Island's Citizens of the Year

Interim City Clerk Linda Mohr read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration.

Mayor Thoms thanked the first responders for all of their work.

10. Presentation of the Financial Management Report for the Second Quarter 2020

Finance Director Stephanie Masson discussed the Financial Management Report for the 2020 Second Quarter. She said the report is both an income statement and a balance sheet. She said at this point of the year, the City has received 28% of General Fund revenues. She discussed fiduciary funds and pension funds as well. She provided a detail of the General Fund expenditures.

Alderman Poulos asked where the percentage of expenditures should be at this point. Ms. Masson said at the halfway point of the year, 50% is a general goal, but it can fluctuate from one type of fund to another. She then discussed the State and Local Tax Revenue Analysis. She

said in normal years it would be an indicator of what the numbers would be at the end of the year, but this time it is different. She said a good news point for the City has been the sales tax receipts. She said about 20 percent of remitters are bars and restaurants. She said she did expect to miss budget for the next few months, but have improved each month as well.

Ms. Masson discussed use tax. She said use tax has continued to trend upwards in part from the streamlined sales tax and online sales tax. She said she expected to exceed the budget by over \$211,000 in this category. She said the municipal utility and telecom taxes continue to decrease for various reasons. She said it will likely end up under budget by \$100,000. She then discussed the food and beverage taxes, which are collected by the State. She said the gaming tax does not show because of the pandemic. She said the estimated revenue loss is \$2.7 million for 2020, which has improved compared to early on in the pandemic.

Ms. Masson asked if there were any additional questions, and then discussed the final two pages. She said the revenue, income, and net position do have a total of cash amongst all the funds, and the total cash and investments are \$21.8 million. She showed how that was divided up amongst all of the funds. She said the next report provided the rates that were earned on various pools of cash. She said there is not currently much investment income at the moment. She concluded her presentation.

11. A Special Ordinance removing the handicapped parking space in front of 1528 44th Street

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to approve the ordinance; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

12. A Special Ordinance placing the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center parking lot, 630 9th Street, under City Ordinance enforcement

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to approve the ordinance; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

13. An Ordinance authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2020 for large meter replacements, full aeration process improvements at both wastewater treatment plants, HVAC system upgrades at various City buildings, interior lighting conversion to LED at various City facilities and LED upgrades for City owned street lights, all at an estimated cost of \$13,860,000 (First Reading)

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to consider the ordinance; Alderman Poulos seconded.

Alderman Parker asked Ms. Masson to discuss the financing of this project and if it has been affected by the pandemic. Ms. Masson said it certainly has been affected. Alderman Parker asked if the City is still anticipating the ability to acquire rebates and efficiencies in place of potential dollars spent for the project. Ms. Masson said yes, but the market has improved and although the rates aren't what they were, she sees that as a positive. She said bonds are backed by the government, which makes them safe. She said the ordinance is a parameters ordinance that sets an amount not to exceed with a soft close date. She said it is an astute way to issue bonds, and she has no doubt they will be sold. Mayor Thoms said a majority of this will be paid by the efficiencies provided by the project, along with the coverage through Johnson Controls. He said it is a big and important step for the City.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

14. Claims

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Kraft Power Corporation, Gaylord, MI, in the amount of \$33,685.00 for the engine service work performed at the Mill Street Treatment Plant

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to approve Claims Item A as recommended; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Langman Construction, Inc. Rock Island, IL in the amount of \$16,853.83 for the emergency water main repair on 34th Avenue between 14th and 16th Streets

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to approve Claims Item B as recommended; Alderman Hurt seconded.

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

15. Claims for the week of July 31st through August 6th, 2020 in the amount of \$601,863.62; August 7th through August 13th, 2020 in the amount of \$452,323.58; August 14th through 20th, 2020 in the amount of \$353,874.64 and payroll for the weeks of July 27th through August 9th, 2020 in the amount of \$1,515,738.08

MOTION:

Alderman Geenen moved to allow the claims and payroll; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

16. ACH Payments for the Month of July, 2020 in the amount of \$4,913,725.48

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the ACH payments; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

17. Purchase Card Claims for the period of June 27th through July 27th, 2020 in the amount of \$36,232.18

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to approve the purchase card claims; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

Alderman Spurgetis said it was important that those using the City's purchase card to purchase their items in Rock Island, as local retailers need all the help they can get. Alderman Hurt asked about a payment made to DPH Regulatory Program regarding an Iowa master license renewal. Mr. Tweet said this was the Plumbing Inspector's master license renewal.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

18. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding bids for the demolition project, CED-ID 20200728 for 12 residential properties, awarding the bid to JIMAX Corp of Peoria, IL for the maximum cost of \$262,577.38

MOTION:

Alderwoman Swanson moved to approve the bid as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement document; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

Alderman Parker recused himself from this vote due to the nature of his employment and asked if this was scattered throughout the City or if it was one project. Mr. Tweet said this is a normal process regarding the tearing down of properties. Alderman Parker asked if traditional demo funds are being used for derelict buildings. Mr. Tweet said there are not any in this project, and CDBG funds have been used before. He said when a property comes up for tax sale, they decide whether it can be rehabilitated, and may offer it up for bid or demo.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

19. Report from the Public Works Department regarding an agreement with Mr. Matthew Anselmi, Moline, IL for the disposal of breakout debris at no cost to the City

MOTION:

Alderman Parker moved to approve the agreement as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement document; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

20. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding an Ordinance amending the boundaries of the Quad Cities Enterprise Zone and Intergovernmental Agreement

MOTION:

Alderman Poulos moved to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderman Spurgetis seconded.

VOTE:

Motion failed on a 4-2-1 roll call vote as a super majority vote was needed to suspend the rules and pass the ordinance. Aye: Poulos, Hurt, Spurgetis, Swanson. Nay: Parker and Geenen. Absent: Clark.

Alderwoman Swanson said she would prefer to not suspend the rules on votes. Alderman Parker said he had mentioned the same in prior meetings. Mayor Thoms said it is too bad this did not pass, as it helps other cities, and they would likely do the same for Rock Island. Alderman Spurgetis asked City Attorney Dave Morrison how soon this measure could be moved to reconsider. Mr. Morrison said a member that voted on the prevailing side could do so as soon as the next Council meeting with a different motion. Alderman Spurgetis asked if this could be reconsidered at this meeting. Mr. Morrison said he was not sure but would check while the meeting proceeded.

21. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a request from J. Mainlander for the rezoning 14.74 acres at 2300 79th Avenue West from R-7 (mobile home manufactured housing) to R-1 (one family residence)

MOTION:

Alderman Geenen moved to approve the rezoning request as recommended and refer to the City Attorney for an ordinance; Alderwoman Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

22. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the solicited proposals for a comprehensive analysis of the City's water and sewer fees and rates, recommending the study be awarded to Stanley Consultants, Muscatine, IA, for the proposed \$37,115.00

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the selection as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement; Alderman Parker seconded.

Alderman Spurgetis asked why the City was doing this and what is hoped would be achieved. Public Works Director Mike Bartels said the goal was to develop fair and equitable rates and charges that best met the City's objective. He said this had not been done before per his knowledge, and it was good for a private entity to audit and look at the City's operations. He said Moline and East Moline have done this in the past, and it is good to have a different set of eyes for review. He said millions of dollars have been invested into the systems, but the rates have not been analyzed to see if they need to be changed.

Alderman Parker said if the City is considering selling the water infrastructure, why would a rate study be necessary. Mr. Tweet said a rate analysis would be required before any sort of privatization would occur. Alderman Parker asked why the interested party would not do the survey. Mr. Tweet said the parties have asked for it, and the study is for the City to determine if the rates are where they should be. Mayor Thoms said it is possible that privatization could take years. Alderman Parker asked if potential buyers inquired on rate studies, did the City ask if they would be willing to pay for it. Mr. Tweet said the City did not, as they want the rate study to be objective. He said it is information that staff would recommend, and the City will want to have as a standard. Alderman Poulos said regardless of what the City gives them, any prospective buyer may do their own study.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

23. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding a request to install a handicapped parking space in front of the residence at 1236 24th Avenue

MOTION:

Alderman Spurgetis moved to approve the request as recommended and refer to the City Attorney for the necessary paperwork; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

24. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding a request to install a 4-way stop at the intersection of 82nd Avenue West and 8th Street West

MOTION:

Alderman Swanson moved to approve the request; Alderman Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

25. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding the reappointments of Dan Lee and Berlinda Tyler-Jamison to the Ethics Commission

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

26. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding street closing and sound amplification requests from Dorothy Cotton and Evelyn Day to hold a block party on 43rd Street, 20th to 22nd Avenues on September 12, 2020

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

27. Other Business

City Attorney Dave Morrison discussed the option of reconsidering Agenda Item #20. He said if the prevailing votes wished to reconsider, it could happen within this meeting. He said if the measure were to be in the next meeting, it could be reconsidered by anyone on the Council. Alderman Parker asked to make a motion to reconsider Item #20 regarding an ordinance amending the boundaries of the Quad Cities Enterprise Zone and Intergovernmental Agreement and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance. He said he would change it to include only the location in Moline at this time. Economic Development Manager Tarah Sipes said her concern regarding the reconsideration is that each municipality is to approve the same agreement and ordinance. Alderman Parker rescinded his proposal. Alderman Geenen said he agreed with Alderman Parker regarding Moline, but that he would reconsider if it causes angst.

Mr. Tweet said this would not force East Moline to accept the agreement, and asked Ms. Sipes to confirm that each municipality would need to pass the measure for it to take effect. Ms. Sipes confirmed, and said since all are currently in an agreement for the enterprise zone, all would need to pass the measure. Mr. Tweet said when the enterprise zone was first created, there was discussion about 3M. He said East Moline could still vote against this regardless of the City's vote. Alderman Parker said an East Moline alderman reached out to him and asked to be

a team player with that half of their City Council. Alderman Geenen concurred with Alderman Parker. Mayor Thoms asked Alderman Geenen if he would be willing to pass the measure without suspending the rules. Alderman Geenen said no, as it would not be helpful for the request made to him.

Alderman Parker said he would appreciate the East Moline City Council working with 3M to come to an agreement in which all can be content. Mr. Tweet said he would contact their City Administrator to get additional information.

Alderman Hurt then asked Chief VenHuizen to provide an update on the activity in the District. Chief VenHuizen said significant police resources are being expended in the downtown around closing time, along with several disturbances. He said there are still large crowds inside and outside of the fenced area. He said some of the issues included crowds outside of the fenced area being upset about not being admitted, and they are using that as a loitering point. Alderman Poulos asked the Chief if there was a fence in the area. Chief VenHuizen said what he has seen is a fence in the Plaza area that encompasses the area which is staffed. He said there is no fencing or gates at 17th Street. Alderman Poulos said the fences are not doing any good because they are not sealing off the area. Mr. Tweet said there were originally fences and did not know why there were no longer fences. Chief VenHuizen described the fencing around Billy Bob's, and said there is no fencing around Arts Alley, which was an originally suggested point of control. Alderman Poulos said he was disappointed that there has not been a plan brought forth regarding the downtown. Alderman Hurt agreed with him that the current setup is not benefitting the downtown. He asked when Council could revisit the temporary measure to enforce bar closing times. Mr. Tweet said he would need to discuss the matter with Mr. Morrison.

Alderman Parker asked what the legality was of having non-municipal entities placing fences in public areas. Mr. Morrison said it would depend if the City has given permission to do so, in the same way it is done with events. Mr. Tweet reminded Council that they gave the Mayor the authority to make adjustments without coming to Council for permission for street closures and similar items. Alderman Parker asked if there was a written agreement between the entities. Mayor Thoms said no. Alderman Parker said if the City is to hold businesses responsible, there should be something in writing. Alderman Poulos asked if any forthcoming Governor's order would give the Mayor authority to make an emergency order as has been previously done. Mr. Morrison said it is possible, but would need to do more research. Alderman Poulos said he believed it was a larger safety issue. Alderman Parker said he is not opposed to temporary changes, and would be fine with having Council consider an ordinance or resolution that temporarily limits business hours due to health concerns. Mayor Thoms said he would work with Mr. Tweet to see what they could come up with for a solution.

Alderwoman Swanson said she implores the citizens of Rock Island to follow the safety guidelines to keep from having to adopt new restrictions. Alderman Parker agreed and said it was his understanding that staff was to draft a local application of the rules from the State. Mr. Tweet said that would be in place in the coming week, but if there was a complaint they are prepared to address it.

28. Executive Session

MOTION:

Alderman Geenen moved to go into Executive Session for the reasons cited; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

29. Motion to Adjourn

MOTION:

Alderman Hurt moved to adjourn to Monday, September 14th, 2020; Alderman Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Geenen, Hurt, Spurgetis, and Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: Clark.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Linda K. Mohr, City Clerk