

CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Hall

1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor

10/10/2022 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. This meeting will also be conducted by audio and video conference without the requirement of a physically present quorum of the Rock Island City Council due to the disaster declaration issued by Governor Pritzker.

3. Roll Call

Mayor Thoms asked City Clerk Samantha Gange to call the roll.

Present: Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderpersons Moses Robinson, Randy Hurt, Judith Gilbert, Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, and Bill Healy.

Absent: None.

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

4. Pledge of Allegiance

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

5. Moment of Silence

Mayor Thoms requested a moment of silence. A moment of silence was observed.

6. Public Comment

Ty Wakefield, a resident of Rock Island approached the podium to address City Council. Mr. Wakefield stated he was not opposed to the development of a Special Services Area (SSA) in the downtown, but is opposed to the current proposal by the QC Chamber of Commerce. He

said he emailed Mr. Jack Cullen with the Chamber of Commerce on December 21, 2021 asking for more information on the proposed SSA and was told Mr. Cullen would be reaching out to 100% of downtown property owners beginning in January 2022. Mr. Cullen contacted him in June 2022 and asked to meet with his condo association to provide information about the SSA. Mr. Wakefield said that many of the services proposed such as snow removal are already covered by their monthly HOA dues. Mr. Wakefield said he was unable to identify how his condo association would benefit directly from the SSA due to no specific information within the proposed budget. He said he was not in support of paying 44% of the proposed budget for salaries and chamber fees.

Mayor Thoms called on Michael Walsh to speak. Alderperson Gilbert said Mr. Walsh was unable to attend the meeting, but that he had given her a letter and asked that she read it to Council members. The letter identified Mr. Walsh as a Rock Island native and conveyed his frustration with the SSA letter that was sent out to downtown residents and business owners. The letter only provided an option of returning the form if there was support of the additional tax, but did not include an opportunity to sign and return the form if there was not support. The letter went on to describe concerns related to the survey conducted by the Chamber with regards to the sample surveyed and the total population and expressed concerns regarding decisions that could possibly be made by considering the sample and not the population.

Mayor Thoms called Ashley Harris to the podium. Mr. Harris approached Council and said he was seeking support for the Rock Island Community Care Conference's (CCC) proposal and funding. He provided an overview of the history of the CCC and how it has positively impacted the City of Rock Island by creating a positive sense of community. Mr. Harris said additional funding would enable the CCC to operate at the capacity of previous years. He explained the goals and objectives for the CCC over the next five years and asked for Council to consider funding the sustainment of the CCC for the next three years. He said funding the CCC will further support the community by being proactive in addressing issues like gun violence.

7. Minutes from the September 26, 2022 Study Session and City Council meeting.

MOTION:

Alderperson Swanson moved to approve the minutes as printed; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

8. Minutes from the September 26, 2022 Closed Session.

MOTION:

Alderperson Robinson moved to approve the minutes; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

9. Update Rock Island

Free leaf collection is being provided to residential customers from Monday, October 17 through Friday, December 9. In addition to providing leaf collection, the City will also furnish leaf bags at no cost. Bags will be available beginning October 10 at the public works department, South Rock Island Township office, the Rock Island Township assessor's office and at Saukie Golf Course seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Attention all ghosts, goblins, witches and wizards! Halloween trick-or-treating for the City of Rock Island is Monday, October 31 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Botanical Center will host its annual Not So Scary Halloween Walk October 14, 21, 27 and 28th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Dress up your little ghosts and goblins and explore the nooks and crannies of the Sun Garden, wander down darkened pathways and get a glimpse of the Halloween train in the popular train garden.

Community Caring Conference will host its annual Hero Awards banquet on Thursday, November 10th at the Stern Center. Community Caring Conference will recognize local heroes and celebrate its 46th anniversary.

10. Presentation of the 2022 Labor Day Parade Awards.

Grace Shirk approached the podium to present the 2022 awards on behalf of the Labor Day Parade Committee Advisory Board. She began by thanking participants and supporters who help to make the Labor Day Parade possible. She acknowledged and thanked board members in the audience and provided an overview of the parade history.

Ms. Shirk and Mayor Thoms presented awards for each parade category and photos were taken. The awards presented were to: Denkmann Elementary School as the Best School Entry, The Refuge Church as the best church entry, and Custom Whips & Car Audio was the Best Business Entry. Ms. Shirk said the best float category was incentivized with monetary prizes awarded to the Milan Lion's Club in 3rd place, ARC of the Quad Cities in 2nd place, and Celebrate Recovery in 1st place. She announced Quad Cities 50's Friends as Citizen's Choice, the Fraternal Order of Eagles #956 as Advisory Board's Choice, Midwest Technical Institute Moline as the Council's choice award, and the Black family was recognized as the Mayor's Cup winner.

11. Consent Agenda.

- a. Claims for the week of September 16 through September 22, 2022 in the amount of \$479,224.21; for the week of September 23 through September 29, 2022 in the amount of \$365,408.46; and payroll for the weeks of September 4 through September 18, 2022 in the amount of \$1,609,028.83.
- b. Claim - Report from the Human Resources Department regarding payment in the amount of \$17,436.88 to David G. Morrison, City Attorney, for services rendered during the month of September 2022.
- c. Claim - Report from the Information Technology Department regarding the Milestone system annual maintenance renewal and payment in the amount of \$11,308.00 (4.5% increase) to Tri City Electric, Davenport, IA for video surveillance administered by the Police Department.

- d. Claim - Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #10 to Johnson Controls, Inc. of Moline, IL in the amount of \$341,798.00 for services provided June 1 through August 31, 2022.
- e. Claim - Report from the Public Works Department regarding payments 6, 7, and 8 to Greenspace Associates of Davenport, IA in the amount of \$77,958.00 for the Sod Replacement Program, Project 2141.
- f. Claim - Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #1 and final to Precision Pavement Markings, Inc. of Pingree Grove, IL in the amount of \$132,060.68 for the 2022 Pavement Marking Program, Project 2749.
- g. Claim - Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Augustana College of Rock Island, IL in the amount of \$32,200.00 for the Lead Service Line Replacement Project #6563.
- h. Claim - Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to CDM Smith of Chicago, IL in the amount of \$15,378.97 for the Mill Street Plant Anaerobic Digester Maintenance Project for services provided January 20 through July 21, 2022.
- i. Claim - Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to CDM Smith of Chicago, IL in the amount of \$29,192.31 for the Underground Potable Water Storage Project for services provided from January 20 through July 16, 2022.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to approve Consent Agenda items a through i; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

- 12. Claim - Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Langman Construction of Rock Island, IL in the amount of \$216,618.32 for the 2022 Asphalt Street Milling and Patching Program, Project 2434 for services provided April 1 through July 28, 2022.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to allow the claim; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson 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: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

13. Report from the Public Works Department regarding sealed bids for the Rock Island Arsenal backflow testing and maintenance, recommending the bid be awarded to Schebler Heating and Air, Inc. of Bettendorf, IA in the amount of \$58,292.00.

MOTION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Robinson recused himself from the vote due to the nature of his employment.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

14. Report from the Public Works Department requesting permission to negotiate contracts with Shive-Hattery, Inc. of Bettendorf, IA for design services for the Water Treatment Plant Roof Replacement Project.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to authorize City staff to negotiate a contract with Shive-Hattery, Inc. for architectural design services on the Water Treatment Plant Roof Replacement; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

15. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a request from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to acquire a permanent Sanitary Sewer Easement on Rock Island Parcels 07-36102-001 and 07-36-101-001 for \$3,000.00.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers acquisition of a permanent Sanitary Sewer Easement for \$3,000.00 and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

16. Report from City Attorney David Morrison regarding a settlement agreement for pending litigation involving the Blackhawk Fire Protection District.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the settlement agreement; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

17. Report from the Police Department regarding a Memorandum of Understanding with Rock Island County and the City of Moline for the 2022 Justice Assistance Grant.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as recommended and authorize the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Attorney to sign the agreement; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

18. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 1100 6th Street (PIN 1603215005) to Phyliss Phillips for \$1,642.50 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to approve the sale as recommended; authorize the City Manager to execute the sales agreement; suspend the rules, consider and pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

19. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding a land donation of twenty-three parcels in Southwest Rock Island from Riverstone Group for \$1 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the purchase of twenty-three parcels from Riverstone Group for \$1.00 plus closing costs; subject to minor attorney modifications; and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-1-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: Gilbert. Absent: None.

20. Report from Public Works Department regarding a Resolution declaring the City of Rock Island's allotment of Motor Fuel Tax funds for Phase I Engineering of the CRI Job 2831; 30th Street Resurfacing/Reconstruction from 5th Avenue to 18th Avenue.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to adopt the Resolution and declare the City of Rock Island's Motor Fuel Tax funds be utilized for Phase I Engineering of the CRI Job 2831; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

21. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department requesting permission to negotiate a contract with the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce for a downtown place management organization.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the Resolution and direct the City Manager and other City staff to negotiate a contract with the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce for downtown place management services; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

In response to a question from Aldersperson Healy about who would lead the negotiations, City Manager Thompson said it would be himself and Community & Economic Development Director Miles Brainard. The approach would be to get input from Council and layout key terms to be negotiated as well as seek Council feedback on the draft contract. Aldersperson Healy asked if business and property owners would be included in negotiations. Mr. Thompson said feedback from stakeholders from the meetings and public hearing would be included.

Aldersperson Poulos asked if the final agreement would be brought back to Council for approval. Mr. Thompson responded affirmatively and said this would be an interactive process with Council before being presented with the contract prior to a vote.

Aldersperson Gilbert summarized concerns voiced to Council by stakeholders regarding the cost of the proposal and suggestions for approaching the Development Association of Rock Island (DARI) or hiring an individual to manage the Special Service Area (SSA). She said she has heard some criticisms of Council for not listening to concerns of stakeholders, being shut out of the process, and some owners of landmark businesses are not in favor of negotiating with the Chamber. Aldersperson Gilbert said her concerns are that property owners are being taxed and that the public would again be shut out of the process of negotiations. Aldersperson Gilbert said her additional concerns were that the Chamber does not own property in downtown Rock Island and therefore no skin in the game, 44% of the presented budget was designated to two salaries

and a management fee, and opined the unlikelihood that the described services could be provided with the presented budget.

Aldersperson Gilbert said a key factor to consider would be the demographics of the downtown area including renters. She noted that the demographics of the area in the Chamber's proposal includes some of the City's poorest population who will be impacted the most by the tax.

Aldersperson Gilbert said she was not in support of the Chamber managing the downtown Rock Island SSA and said an alternative entity should be considered with a greater chance of gaining support of business and property owners.

Aldersperson Swanson said she believed that DARI should not be a viable option for managing the SSA due to a conflict of interest as a property owner and bringing in a different entity would require hiring staff and studying the area, delaying the current plan by one to two years. The current Chamber contract is for a five-year term and success could be determined at the second year. If results were unfavorable, another entity could draft a plan to seamlessly transition to manage the SSA at the end of the term of the contract with the Chamber without an interruption in services. Aldersperson Swanson described the Chamber's experience of success in other local cities including Davenport, Moline, and Bettendorf. She said second chances are beneficial as mistakes are learning experiences. She clarified the Downtown Steering Committee would be made up of business owners who will decide how their own money will be spent and that the Chamber was not be independently deciding how to expend funds. She encouraged members of Council to avoid micromanaging the contract with the Chamber. Aldersperson Swanson stated support for moving forward with the Chamber as timing is critical for supporting downtown and Rock Island residents in revitalization for of Downtown.

Aldersperson Robinson sought clarification for the next steps in the process. He said the purpose of the negotiations was to get answers to questions regarding implementation of the proposed services. Mr. Thompson responded affirmatively and said concerns would be addressed during the negotiation process and the developed agreement would provide safeguards and assurances related to Council concerns. Aldersperson Robinson said moving forward with negotiations would address questions and does not mean Council members are not listening to concerns of constituents.

Aldersperson Parker vocalized appreciation for business owners and real estate owners in downtown Rock Island for initiating this process. He said he was excited to make progress and thanked the Chamber for working with the City and the business community for rallying behind the SSA for change in the downtown.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-1-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay: Gilbert. Absent: None.

22. Report from General Administration regarding a Resolution endorsing the overall American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) plan.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to endorse the ARPA plan and adopt the Resolution; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Robinson asked if downtown security was still included in the plan. Mr. Thompson

responded affirmatively and said funds for security are still intended, but the framework has not yet been determined. Alderperson Robinson said given the recent violence in other parts of the City, he would prefer the line item of the budget be adjusted to allow for flexibility and not just limit it to the downtown.

Alderperson Poulos stated agreement and asked if changes could be made to allow flexibility in the areas that officers are deployed to address crime including in the downtown area. Mr. Thompson affirmed that flexibility in deploying resources is a good idea. Clerk Gange suggested amending verbiage to reflect Public Safety instead of a specific area. Alderperson Hurt stated agreement with both Aldermen.

Mayor Thoms said Chief Landi, himself, and others traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with four U.S. Senators to advocate for resources including support for personnel and equipment for the Quad City area.

Alderperson Healy withdrew his motion; Alderperson Poulos withdrew his second.

Alderperson Healy moved to endorse the ARPA plan and adopt the resolution pending minor modifications; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

23. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment for the Public Works Department Fund (501), increasing revenue and expenditure budgets for CY2022 by \$113,500.00.

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

24. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding the Honorary Street Name Dedication Policy and Application.

MOTION:

Alderperson Gilbert moved to approve the policy and application as recommended; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

25. Report from the Traffic & Engineering Committee regarding a request to remove the

handicapped parking space in front of 2837 9th Avenue (First Reading)

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

26. Report from the Traffic & Engineering Committee regarding a request to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph on 14th Street between 32nd and 42nd Avenues.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

27. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding reappointments to the Police Community Relations Commission and the Rock Island Housing Authority.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the reappointments as recommended; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

28. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Project Now to close 19th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a mobile food pantry distribution.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the street closing as recommended; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

29. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Aldersperson Robinson to close 9th Street between 6th and 7th Avenues on Monday, October 31, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

for a community event with sound amplification.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the street closing as recommended; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Robinson said his application did not include signatures since there are no homes in the space he will be utilizing.

VOTE:

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

30. Other Business

Aldersperson Healy said the recent vote to accept the land donation is positive for the City, especially the potential to develop some parcels and he hopes the donation is accepted during the next vote. Mayor Thoms responded affirmatively and said there are many different opportunities for the land.

Aldersperson Robinson announced his Trunk or Treat event and encouraged attendance as a safe alternative to Trick-or-treating in the community due to recent events.

31. Motion to Adjourn.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 8:05 p.m.

Naomi Torrence, Deputy City Clerk