



City of Rock Island
City Council Budget Session
November 15, 2021 - 5:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3rd Floor
1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island IL

11/15/2021 - Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY AUDIO AND VIDEO CONFERENCE WITHOUT A PHYSICALLY PRESENT QUORUM OF THE ROCK ISLAND CITY COUNCIL DUE TO THE DISASTER DECLARATION ISSUED BY GOVERNOR PRITZKER

ROLL CALL

Mayor Thoms asked Deputy City Clerk Josh Adams to call the roll.

Present: Alderperson Randy Hurt, Alderperson Dylan Parker, Alderperson Mark Poulos, and Mayor Mike Thoms.

Alderperson Moses Robinson, Alderperson Judith Gilbert, and Alderperson Jenni Swanson were present via remote connection in accordance with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order.

Absent: Alderperson Dave Geenen.

Staff: Assistant City Manager/Fire Chief Jeff Yerkey, City Attorney Dave Morrison, Deputy City Clerk Josh Adams, and other City staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rock Island resident Shellie Moore-Guy addressed Council regarding the expected African American Historic Civil Rights grant she said was awarded to the City. Ms. Guy said that the announcement that the grant had been awarded was news to the Black community. She said because the grant focuses on the

historical preservation of the African American community, not being aware of it was a concern, as no one from the community was consulted that the grant was available

Ms. Moore-Guy noted that the individuals obtaining the grant from QC PastPort, MediaLink, and Pearson Consulting were not members of the African American community. She said there was an expectation with a grant of this size that stakeholders would have an opportunity to buy into the rhetoric or narrative. She said there was a concern about how decisions were made, and that Alderperson [Moses] Robinson was not consulted. She noted that there were members of the community that should have been part of the process, and that they felt intentionally left out. She asked that when things like this happen, the Black community be given the respect and same consideration as any other group.

Rock Island resident Gaye Shannon-Burnett addressed Council regarding the same matter. She said she was there as a concerned citizen to establish on record that their thoughts and objections to the grant be implemented. She noted that they have been left out of the process. She said the grant was contracted to two entities that they feel do not adequately represent the Black community, and they do not have confidence they will do a good job telling the stories. She wished to know if the African American community was notified, what efforts were made to obtain buy-in from their community, how and why the grant's partners were selected, and who approved the grant to be submitted. She asked if there were letters of support from the community's stakeholders, and how were the grant partners vetted, and how they were determined to be authorities on preserving the history.

Ms. Shannon-Burnett said they do not feel those entities should be gathering and telling their stories, and asked who will own the content once it is created. She noted that they felt other communities in Rock Island would not be treated similarly. She said they had Zoom meetings with the entities, and expressed to them that they felt it was extremely disrespectful, and that they did not want to see the grant proceed in this fashion. She asked that the City get back to them with a response in time to make a difference. She requested that the grant be tabled until some of the concerns could be addressed. She wondered what the term passthrough meant with regards to the grant, based on the information they were able to obtain.

Mayor Thoms said the measure would not be discussed during the meeting, but that City staff would get back in touch to help answer some of the questions. Ms. Shannon-Burnett asked if it were possible to have that done prior to the following week. Mayor Thoms replied that he hoped so, and every effort would be made to ensure that. Ms. Shannon-Burnett said if this was not done to at least try to satisfy the concerns, they would have to see what their next steps would be, as they could not continue to be disrespected. Mayor Thoms referred to Interim Community and Economic Development Miles Brainard to obtain their contact information for discussion. Ms. Moore-Guy noted concern that it would be discussed the following week, and Mayor Thoms replied that he was not aware, but it may be tabled.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2021 AS SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY IN THE CITY OF ROCK ISLAND

Deputy City Clerk Adams read the Proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration.

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN GRIPP TO SERVE AS INTERIM CITY MANAGER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

MOTION:

Alderperson Gilbert moved to approve the appointment; Alderperson Hurt seconded.

Alderperson Swanson said she believed Mr. Gripp to be a wonderful person and would make an excellent Interim City Manager and City Manager. She then noted during her conversations with GovHR, the City

would have a difficult time finding quality external candidates for the City Manager position if one of the internal candidates is the Interim City Manager. She added this would be out of professional courtesy, and would not want to take a job away from someone, as historically internal Interim City Managers tend to get the position. She said it may behoove Council to reconsider a potential internal candidate as the Interim City Manager.

Aldersperson Hurt asked Alderwoman Swanson how external candidates would be aware that the City had an internal candidate. Aldersperson Swanson replied that GovHR would have to tell an applicant about internal candidates. Aldersperson Gilbert said she had the same conversation with GovHR regarding internal applicants. She recalled that GovHR said it would not be a big deal, and that Council has thought long and hard about their choice for Interim City Manager.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 5-1-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Robinson, Hurt, and Gilbert. Nay: Swanson. Absent: Geenen.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMUNITY CENTER

Jerry Jones, Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, came to the front to address Council regarding the Center's proposed budget for 2022. He provided a brief history of the Center, including how it was founded. He then discussed the types of programs the Center offered, as well as the structure and employment detail of the organization.

Mr. Jones discussed the Center's current financial position and 2022 budget. He said the Center did well in 2021, with revenues exceeding expenditures. He said the balance sheet looks good overall, but noted the Fund 211 for the building and administrative side is at a -\$109,000 balance. He discussed expected revenues for 2022, which would total approximately \$1.8 million. He showed revenue by categories via pie chart, with most coming from the State at \$1.2 million, a conservative estimate of \$130,000 in donations, and \$125,000 from local grants and foundations.

Mr. Jones next discussed the Center's expected budget expenditures by category. He noted the anticipation of expenditures less than revenues by approximately \$88,000. The largest area of expenditure is personnel at a total of \$1.1 million, followed by services.

Mr. Jones discussed expected changes to the Center in 2022. He said there will be an additional 1.25 full-time equivalents (FTE) due to an increase in grants and donations. For programming, he included the following as goals: continued response and resilience to COVID-19, stem lab renovation, expansion of partnerships, assess strategic plan progress, establishment and even codification of values, lead the West End Assessment recommendations, and a new log. For resource development, he noted a refinement of the major donor strategy and an expansion of corporate sponsorship.

Mr. Jones then discussed the annual impact of the Center on the community. Some impacts include approximately \$240,000 subcontracted to non-profit partners, \$1,460,000 received by the Center via grants, donations, and fees, 5,000 meals provided to the community, over 90 ACTIVE Club members, 2,500 youth served per year, the Rock Island Boxing Club, and support of the Metropolitan Youth Team. He provided some examples of how the Center has had real-life impact to certain individuals. He noted that the King Center's identity is also the City's identity, and adds to the uniqueness of the community.

Aldersperson Parker asked how Council could do a better job merging the activities of the Center with those of City Hall. Mr. Jones replied it certainly is a budgetary issue, as the Center is growing administratively where they had cut back in the past. He noted the completion of the West End Assessment by citizens as a good example of a way for the City to stay in touch with this constituency. He noted he would like to see more conversations with the City regarding other social issues such as the prison industrial complex, and

would love for the Center to be the place where that conversation happens. Alderperson Parker said he thinks the City can do a lot more for the Center. Mr. Jones encouraged everyone to take a close look at the West End Assessment, as it strongly pointed to more civic engagement with the community.

Alderperson Robinson asked when the King Center last received an increase to their budget. Mr. Jones replied there has not been an increase within the general fund in six years, and there has actually been a slight decrease. Alderperson Robinson said he too is a product of the King Center, and it is like a second home to him. He then asked Mr. Jones to discuss how many kids the Center sees on a daily basis. Mr. Jones replied that the Center sees 75 to 80 per day with a waiting list of nearly the same for their programs, which would be more if not for the pandemic. He added it has been difficult obtaining help due to limitations on the ability to reimburse individuals for their service. He said they would look to be as creative as they can to provide a venue for expanded services. Mayor Thoms said the Center did an outstanding job adjusting to the pandemic, e-learning, and food deliveries throughout the past year.

Alderperson Swanson said she loved the new logo, and referred to the request for capital improvement plans for the Center. She noted that most of the request referenced needs for the physical building, and said the City should invest in the building to keep it physically strong in order to keep the Center socially strong. Alderperson Gilbert congratulated Mr. Jones for having the foresight to seek state and local grants as well as donations to expand their services and cover more of the administration costs. Referencing the West End Assessment results, she said she was looking forward to having more conversations on the subject and getting more in-depth regarding the recommendations.

Alderperson Parker referenced the Capital Improvement Plan and asked what the status was for the building, specifically the roof. Mr. Jones said the roof has not leaked in approximately seven months, and their focus has shifted to the siding, which shows significant sun and other physical damages. He said the passenger vans are important, as they travel to all schools within the District. He said inside of the building is good, but the services for robust cleaning are exceeding their building budget for the following year. Alderperson Robinson said there is a desire to reach more people and do more programming, but there is not enough physical space, personnel, or budget to do so, which creates a hole.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

John Gripp, Parks & Recreation Director, came to the front to address Council regarding the department's proposed budget for 2022. He was joined by Assistant Director Todd Winter and Office Manager Kim Kruse.

Mr. Gripp first discussed staffing for the department. He noted that there were 15 full-time equivalents (FTE), 42 part-time, and 109 seasonal employees, divided into the four functional categories of Administration, Golf, Horticulture/Sport Maintenance, and Recreation. He noted that FTE's were down 1.00 from 2021.

He next summarized the department's current projects. These included Douglas Park, Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center (RIFAC) cardio equipment, Denkmann Park, Highland Springs Clubhouse, Golf Carts, Lincoln Park Large Shelter, and the Hauberg Center Carriage House. He added that over \$1 million has been raised for Douglas Park, all from private funds and grants, which includes lighting. He also noted that even though the Clubhouse project has been approved, the department will continue to try and raise funds to pay for it over the 10-year loan period.

Mr. Gripp then discussed requested CIP projects from gaming funds for 2022. These included a request for \$400,000 for the Highland Springs Clubhouse, \$300,000 for the lighting at Douglas Park, \$150,000 for the Douglas Fire House Interior, and \$80,000 for the Longview Pond Restoration. He provided additional details on the condition of the Douglas Fire House.

Budgeted contracts were next summarized, noting the type of service and the contracted vendor. Mr. Gripp then remarked on program and reporting changes. These included the following: virtual experiences, outdoor fitness, RIFAC preschool, prescribed burns, and concerts. He noted that the department looks forward to

expanding the relationship with River Music Experience (RME).

Mr. Gripp provided information on participation within Parks Department programs. He said 44 percent of individuals visiting Parks & Recreation facilities live outside of the City, and that level of traffic is critical in generating revenue and offsetting two-thirds of the Parks & Recreation budget. He added that the department is looking forward to the challenge of recovering from the pandemic and rebuilding reserves.

Mr. Gripp next reviewed the department expenditures and revenues for administration, parks maintenance, recreation programs, Whitewater Junction, Highland Springs Golf Course, Saukie Golf Course, the Golf Pro Shop, RIFAC, and Schwiebert Riverfront Park. He said total revenues for the department are budgeted at \$4.4 million, and expenditures at \$4.2 million.

He discussed the standing deficit, noting that they still had work to do on the 2022 budget. He noted a deficit at approximately \$700,000 after depreciation, and offered potential solutions including: the removal of a position from the budget for \$50,000, removal of an emergency contingency of \$25,000, and a retirement of a supervisor at nearly \$25,000 in savings. He also noted that with changing pandemic mandates, their conservative revenue estimate could change. He said those changes could reduce the deficit budget amount to \$347,000, and \$110,000 is purely a minimum wage increase. He said if tax support is not adjusted to help cover the deficit, the cost of having the department will be approximately \$350,000. He provided a list of impacts of the department on the community.

Mr. Gripp entertained questions from Council. Alderperson Hurt thanked the department for what they do and for the good work. Alderperson Gilbert said Mr. Gripp and his staff do a wonderful job of continuing to seek other sources of funding such as donations and grants. She said it was a testament to the relationship-building skills of Mr. Gripp and his staff. Alderwoman Swanson commended Mr. Gripp and his staff for the job they have done, noting that their department pulls others from the area into the City with what they do. She said whatever the City can do to fund the department and support what they do. Alderperson Robinson thanked Mr. Gripp, and said he was impressed with what the department has been able to do with less.

Alderperson Parker asked what the effect of removing depreciation from the budget would be. Mr. Gripp replied it wouldn't affect vehicles, as that would be more of an amortization. He added that depreciation will always be there, but removing it from the budget would not affect cash. Alderperson Parker noted that none of the CIP projects listed were recommended to be funded. Mr. Gripp confirmed that was correct and typical, as the department requests gaming funds, which were not readily available. Mayor Thoms said the Parks & Recreation organization has done an outstanding job, and has been a valuable asset to the City during the pandemic.

LIBRARY

Library Director Angela Campbell addressed Council regarding the department's proposed budget for 2022. She was joined by Director of Library Facilities and Services Malachi Kohlwey. She said the department's budget is dependent on the tax levy.

Ms. Campbell discussed staffing levels for the upcoming year, which she expected to remain the same at 25.63 full-time equivalents. She noted that some positions such as part-time aides, have not been filled due to lack of qualifications. She noted there have been cost savings as a result.

She next discussed special projects and service contracts, and pointed to an unattached spreadsheet for further reference. She noted the large fees for items such as vendors for online source databases, as print versions are less available. She then discussed items coming up for bid in 2022, including security guard personnel, cleaning, and landscaping. These contracts total over \$330,000 per year, and she noted they were worth it.

Ms. Campbell discussed special projects, primarily the Library's capital campaign. She noted the Library

Foundation's accomplishment of having raised \$7.5 of the \$7.8 million needed for the campaign. She reminded Council that the Library was primarily funded by property tax, and added that they are the largest system in the Quad Cities area. She said the Library Board did agree to increase meeting room fees, but that has yet to take full effect. She then discussed changes in revenue streams.

Ms. Campbell said there have been a number of additions to the changes in level of services. Some changes include homebound and curbside delivery, outreach to key locations in the City, increasing program offerings, increasing electronic resources and access, and implementing the new Library of Things collection. She also noted that the pandemic has affected operations, and continues to do so. She said the Strategic Plan would be finished by the end of 2021 and implemented beginning in 2022, and changes would be evident when that is released.

Ms. Campbell next discussed grants for the Library, which remain the same. There is the State Per Capita for the City, the State Per Capita for the District, and Foundation contributions. She added that grant applications have been filed with the State Library seeking recovery act funds available to public libraries across Illinois, for which the award status may not be known until next year. Mr. Kohlwey added that the grant was designed to help libraries rebound from the pandemic. Ms. Campbell then noted that professional development has nearly been eliminated from the budget as a cost-saving measure, but there are many educational opportunities available via the State Library and other resources.

Ms. Campbell noted that for the CIP, the department has requested help with the Capital Campaign, as well as new windows for the Downtown Library. She referred to material sent to Council regarding revenues and expenditures, noting that the Library is doing well with 80 percent of revenues thus far in 2021 and expenses lower than the expected amount. She pointed out they were submitting a deficit budget of \$278,536 for 2022, but that the Library Board had approved it.

Ms. Campbell noted that the Library's contributions during the pandemic have been far and wide. She added that reserve dollars have been used while making service and staff changes for the past years eight years to balance the budget, but there are no more reserves to subsidize that. She said the Library has been going through the same process that Council supports with tasks such as strategic planning, economic development, placemaking, and fiscal responsibility, and asked Council for their support.

Aldersperson Gilbert congratulated Ms. Campbell for the successful capital campaign and raising the funds, and offered kudos to Mr. Kohlwey for securing the \$50,000 State grant. She also thanked Ms. Campbell for updating the statistics she requested. Aldersperson Swanson offered that she is on the Library Board as the Finance Chair, and noted that unlike other departments, the Library does not have much of a revenue source. She added that libraries are important parts of communities, specifically during the pandemic as a hot spot location for internet access. She encouraged everyone to visit the Library, and that it would be sad to lose it. Aldersperson Parker said there was a \$2.5 million request for the new library and \$300,000 to fix the windows in the Downtown Library, and noted a \$1.5 million request from administration to contribute to the new building. Ms. Campbell replied that those were all contributions and that the City is not yet contributing to the project. Aldersperson Parker said the City needs to maintain in the current property before investing in new buildings.

Mayor Thoms said the Library has shined during the pandemic, and thanked them for adjusting and their hard work.

FINANCE / HUMAN RESOURCES / GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Finance

Interim Finance Director Linda Barnes addressed Council regarding the department's proposed budget for 2022. She began with a staffing summary, noting that there are 11 full-time employees, and that there have been numerous staffing issues that reinforced the need for an adequately staffed department.

Ms. Barnes next discussed budgeted projects, including new financial software in conjunction with the IT and HR departments. Other ongoing projects include the annual audit, budget, and CIP budget, the monthly budget analysis, and other audits as they arise. She summarized the various budgeted contracts for the department to handle audits, banking, actuary services, pension investment consulting, parking enforcement and software, collections, and OPEB services. She noted that revenue from parking violations was at \$23,000, which is not as strong as expected.

Ms. Barnes then summarized any changes to the department for the following year as well as grants and expected fund support. She said revenue changes do not apply to Finance, as it is part of the General Fund. She noted some operational changes, including a continued effort to collect on past due accounts, continued improvement on process efficiency, and continued strengthening of Internal Controls. She said there were no grants to utilize in 2022, and that the budget for 2022 would likely not include support from Gaming Funds.

Aldersperson Gilbert thanked Ms. Barnes for her work on the budget. She discussed the budget presentation a week prior in which it was presented that there would be no increase in the tax rate, and noted that the Truth In Taxation notice printed in the local newspaper showed an increase in the tax levy. She asked Ms. Barnes to further explain the difference between the two. Ms. Barnes explained the difference between the tax levy and property tax rate and the reasons for the increase in Equalized Assessed Value (EAV).

Mayor Thoms noted a recent newsworthy trend involving scams and municipal funds, saying it was his understanding that the City has taken precautions. Ms. Barnes replied that it was not unusual to encounter those scams, but the City has not lost money from them. Mayor Thoms thanked her for filling in as Interim Director and her hard work and creativity.

Aldersperson Hurt asked about the Per Mar parking enforcement contract in the amount of \$36,972, and wondered if parking ticket revenue offset the amount of the contract. Ms. Barnes said the City has not received as much this year, potentially due to the pandemic. Aldersperson Hurt asked about the dollar amount received from 2019 for comparison. Ms. Barnes replied she did not have the 2019 dollar amount available, but would get it to Council.

Human Resources

Human Resources Director Rob Baugous discussed the budget highlights for 2022. He said staffing levels would remain the same in 2022, and summarized the structure of the department, noting there was an opportunity for a student intern for some manual processes.

Mr. Baugous discussed budgeted projects, contracts, and agreements. Projects include a Human Resources Information System, which would assist in ridding the department of many manual tasks as well as increase the quality of output from the department. He then explained and summarized the many contracts for which HR has oversight. He noted that the Holmes-Murphy contract for health consulting and actuarial services would be taken out to bid in 2022.

He next summarized department revenues, budgeted at \$8,374,212, which represents an increase of \$412,250 from 2021. These revenues come from self-insurance, health insurance, and the cafeteria plan. He said approximately 32 percent of the health care fund balance is in cash. He noted that roughly the same number of employees had signed up during the open enrollment period as the previous year. He said the medical clinic located in City Hall has done an incredible job supporting the City during the pandemic. He noted the possibility of expanding the Wellness Center services to include Augustana College during summer months when school is not in session, as well as the YWCA and perhaps other entities on a systematic basis.

Mr. Baugous said there are no grants or CIP funding requests for the HR department. He then discussed some accomplishments of the HR department during the past year. These included maintaining flat premium rates for the upcoming year, a new Nurse Practitioner for the Wellness Center, the Business

Training Library, agreements with AFSCME A and AFSCME B, and successful negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police labor union.

Mr. Baugous then summarized the goals and objectives for the department in 2022 and entertained questions from Council. No Council members asked questions.

General Administration

Chief Yerkey discussed the General Administration department in his role as Assistant City Manager. He gave an overview of the department and organizational structure, starting with the Mayor and City Council. He then described the roles of the City Manager, City Clerk, and Deputy Clerk within the department, and the various activities anticipated for the following year. He noted there are no anticipated program changes. He discussed the accomplishments of the department throughout 2021, as well as the goals and objectives for 2022.

Chief Yerkey then discussed the revenues and expenditures of both the Mayor and City Council and General Administration departments. He said the expenditures for Council are expected to be steady in 2022, and services are up due to an increase in self-insurance premiums. The expenditures are expected to decrease from 2021, and personnel is reduced due to the combination of the City Clerk and Executive Secretary role.

Aldersperson Parker asked how much would be budgeted for health insurance for City Council members. Mr. Baugous replied he would provide that info at a later time. Aldersperson Gilbert asked if that amount was included in the personnel line within the expected department expenditures on page 9 of the presentation. Ms. Barnes confirmed it was included in the personnel cost. Aldersperson Swanson said it would be beneficial to know how many Council members were enrolled in employee only or family healthcare plans.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Interim Police Chief Rich Landi, Lieutenant Jamie Morris, and Lieutenant Ben Smith addressed Council regarding the department's proposed budget for 2022. Interim Chief Landi noted that their final budget may be different than what was presented, and they had done their best to devise a comprehensive budget that meets the operational needs of the department with fiscal responsibility.

He began the budget summary by speaking to staffing levels, noting the total number of authorized employees at 108, which would consist of 81 sworn officers and 27 civilians. The actual staffing level is currently 85 employees, an approximate decrease of 21 percent, which does not factor in a rolling average of six employees off for a variety of reasons. He anticipates the retirement of four department members in 2022, and noted a continued decrease in qualified candidates applying to be Police Officers. He discussed the breakdown of officers and duties within the department. He also noted the lack of available spots at the Academy, which limits them despite recent hires.

Interim Chief Landi next discussed budgeted projects for the department. Examples of these projects include minor expansion or repairs for the Network Camera System funded by the State Drug Fund; transition to a new fleet of squad cars with new Axon in-car camera systems; and a new five-year body camera agreement with Axon, required by the State. Budgeted contracts include the Service Contract for Patrol Equipment, the Operating Services Contract for dry cleaning, the Communications Services Contract for radio access fees and maintenance, and the Equipment Service Contract for CellBrite software.

He then discussed various grants through the department, including the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant, the Illinois Training Reimbursement, the Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), the Tobacco Grant funded by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission, and the US Department of Justice Grant. He noted that the DOJ grant would not be received, as the City's crime numbers are actually down.

He next summarized the department's accomplishments in 2021. The following were discussed: the upgrade to the P25 Communications system, which is nearing completion and should be operational in early 2022; the ongoing Department Patrol Fleet implementation with camera systems; the transition to the NIBRS Crime Reporting System; and the filling of the Crime Analyst position. He also discussed the goals and objectives for the department in the coming year.

He next discussed department revenues, asking Lt. Smith to discuss the subject. Lt. Smith said revenues have been affected in a variety of ways, especially as a result of staff shortages and the pandemic. Interim Chief Landi then discussed service levels, beginning with the suspension of the positions of School Resource Officer, Elderly Services Officer, Housing Authority Officer, and other Task Force positions. He discussed certain expectations regarding service levels, including delayed response times, less time for discretionary patrols, proactive police strategies, longer investigations, and immediate closing of low-priority cases, attributing these to staff shortages. He said the goal is to get back to where the department had been, and noted a push to receive additional training, albeit at a cost. He said the State has mandated some of this training, but has yet to develop requirements. He then noted the expected training for 2022. He asked Council to consider that the listed personnel cost in the budget comes at the expense of actual lost personnel.

Alderman Hurt thanked the department for the good work they had done. He then asked if there was a trade-in allowance for used weapons. Interim Chief Landi replied there was, and that it was factored in to the budget. He noted that the department's goal is to replace firearms every 10 years due to the expected lifespan. Alderman Hurt asked if there was a projected dollar amount that the newly-required training would cost the City, and if other officers would need overtime to cover during said training. Interim Chief Landi pointed to the overview and the information within regarding training requirement intervals, and said the cost is a projection based on previous years, and that they attempt to schedule it far in advance to control cost.

Alderman Poulos asked if the new firearms were of the same caliber, and if the same ammunition would be used. Interim Chief Landi replied the department was moving to a modular weapon system using the same frame, and calibers could be changed based on the user. Alderman Parker asked about the \$21,000 budgeted for the Police and Fire Commission. Lt. Smith provided a breakdown of that budgeted cost, which included meals, psychological testing costs, legal services, dues, and written assessments.

Mayor Thoms said the new communication system illustrated cooperation with many entities within the Quad Cities. He thanked Interim Chief Landi, Lt. Smith, and Lt. Morris for their presentation.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Public Works Director Mike Bartels and Assistant to the Public Works Director and Budget Coordinator Michelle Martin addressed Council regarding the department's proposed budget for 2022. Mr. Bartels began with a staffing overview, noting open positions, as well as anticipated retirements and elimination of positions. He said there are 108 FTEs, and 13 contract employees budgeted at a cost of \$158,000 for 2022.

Mr. Bartels next summarized the special projects and service contracts, including the Pavement Patching Program, the Sod Replacement Program, the Tree Removal Contract, Downtown Landscaping, and miscellaneous repairs. He noted the need to remove ash trees across the City, and additional funding has been requested to meet the necessary scope of removal.

He then discussed revenue, service, and operational changes for the department. He noted that the 2022 budget reflects rate increases for water, wastewater, and stormwater as part of the increase approved earlier in 2021. He pointed to the service levels for snow storms, stating that there are enough employees to cover plowing duties. With regards to operational changes, he noted the termination of the lease with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for the Sears Powerhouse Hydroelectric Plant, as well as the cost savings from the Project Development Agreement with Johnson Controls and the intergovernmental

agreement (IGSA) with the Rock Island Arsenal.

Mr. Bartels discussed grants, professional development, and the CIP. The one grant of note is the annual Solid Waste Assistance Grant (SWAG) from the Rock Island County Waste Management Agency in the amount of \$27,312.60 to fund a portion of the cost of solid waste services. He said other grants not listed in the presentation are federal grants applied for through the engineering division. Mr. Bartels next summarized the non-gaming projects that fall into several departmental categories that are more maintenance contracts not shown on the CIP. He entertained questions regarding those projects.

He then discussed the departmental overview as well as revenues and expenses. Alderman Parker first asked if the Hydroelectric Plant inclusion was an error. Mr. Bartels replied it was noted in the budget as a result of debt payments due each year through 2028. He then moved to capital expenditures, and noted that the increase in services of 35 percent involved all of the projects, including tree removal, street projects, and other repairs. For department expenditures, they have budgeted for \$872,154, or a four percent increase over 2021, and for building expenditures, \$758,817 is budgeted. He then discussed other expenditures, including street maintenance, snow and ice removal, levee and right-of-way maintenance, motor vehicle parking, electrical maintenance, parks maintenance, and those associated with the Rock Island Arsenal IGSA.

Alderman Poulos asked about the services cost under street maintenance. Mr. Bartels replied it had been increased due to the tree removal contract and the downtown landscaping contract.

Mr. Bartels next summarized the revenues and expenditures of the Motor Fuel Tax Fund, which are used for a variety of street and right of way maintenance and construction projects. He also discussed the Rebuild Illinois revenues and expenditures, noting that the department had applied for this funding in December of 2020, so the application should be in process despite their backlog.

Mr. Bartels then discussed the water works fund revenues and expenditures. He noted that most of the increase in revenues is related to the 11th Street water main project at \$1.8 million, and that the capital expenditures decreased drastically due to the completion of the new water filtration building. He added that the newly-approved rate increases have been structured to pay down the fund balance over the next five years while completing capital projects.

Mr. Bartels summarized the wastewater treatment revenues and expenditures. He said revenue is mostly collected from residential or commercial wastewater service charges, which provides cost-effective preventative maintenance programs and emergency services to maximize the operational efficiency and reliability of the wastewater collection system. He then summarized the stormwater fund revenues and expenditures, noting decreases in supply expenses due to the riprap installation on the levee. He also touched on the solid waste fund revenues and expenditures.

Mr. Bartels discussed the state of Sunset Marina, and the expected revenues and expenditures. He said the department needs input from Council as to what is the preferred direction with regards to the Marina, as there are upcoming renewals to consider. He added that the department had reviewed various ways to invest in the Marina, including repairs to the dock, parking lot, and dredging, and with 100 percent capacity of slip rentals, there would be an operating loss of approximately \$1 million per year with around \$129,000 in revenues.

Mr. Bartels summarized the revenues and expenditures of equipment and equipment maintenance. He said there is approximately \$3.2 million in revenue and \$5.5 million in expenditures, noting that much of the expenditures are through capital purchases such as a replacement snow fleet. He noted the snow fleet was approaching 22 years of age and is beyond repair to the point of being dangerous, and was originally scheduled to be replaced in 2016.

He then discussed the engineering fund, with \$971,550 in revenues and \$1,244,177 in expenditures. He said he spoke with the City of Moline regarding their 2020 analysis of outsourcing the division, and the recommendations showed outsourcing of all the design department and the inspections department, but did not discuss cost. Moline did the cost study, and results showed that comparing their engineering division

with the private sector, there was an increase in cost of over \$400,000. Mr. Bartels noted that the City's engineering division currently has three less employees than Moline, including an in-house Geographic Information System (GIS) employee. He added that with in-house engineering services, it saves the City money, and he spoke to the division's knowledge and experience in the City working with other departments. He recommended not outsourcing the engineering division. Mr. Bartels noted that the Hydroelectric Plant Fund was only in existence to pay off debt through 2028.

He then entertained questions from Council. Alderperson Gilbert thanked Mr. Bartels and his department for their work. She asked how much the City typically sees in annual revenue from the local gas tax. Mr. Bartels replied it was around \$577,000, which was not achieved in 2020. Alderperson Gilbert asked about the types of projects for which that revenue could be spent. Mr. Bartels replied it has funded the Pavement Patching Program, and is generally a maintenance contract for street improvements. Alderperson Gilbert said she noticed a deficit for 2022, and asked if there had been a drop in local collections as a result of higher gas prices. Mr. Bartels replied he spoke with Ms. Barnes regarding a decrease in the amount of contracted work in 2022 to make up for the deficit.

Mayor Thoms asked when the starting date was for removal of lead pipes for the Sewer Lateral Repair Program (SLRP). Mr. Bartels replied there is an initial requirement to have a plan in place to identify them, and the department has moved forward with it. He said they have reached out to Augustana College to recruit an intern to begin that program, and the City is ahead of the game compared to other cities. He noted they have already done a treatment to remove some lead before oxidization, and would bring that before Council in the next year. Mayor Thoms discussed the reorganization of the City's safety measures with regards to worker's compensation.

Mayor Thoms took a moment to thank Public Works employee Tammy Mendoza on her 45th work anniversary with the City.

Alderperson Parker asked if the 2022 budget had funds for drop-off recycling centers. Mr. Bartels said it did not, but that he was meeting with the Rock Island County Waste Management Agency (RICWMA) Board, and that would be discussed. He summarized the status of such centers in the area.

Alderperson Swanson thanked Mr. Bartels and the Public Works Department for what they have done for the City considering their financial cuts.

Mayor Thoms thanked them for the presentation.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Interim Community and Economic Development Director Miles Brainard and Budget and Grants Manager Colleen Small-Vollman addressed Council regarding the department's proposed 2022 budget. Ms. Small-Vollman began with a discussion of how the department generates revenue. She noted two TBK ATM location leases and farm leases that bring in certain amounts of revenue. She noted other sources of revenue, including licenses, registrations, building and electric permits, as well as HVAC in the amount of approximately \$740,000 annually. She then noted subdivision leases, abandoned property registrations, and a departmental deficit of \$178,000, which she felt would be reduced.

Ms. Small-Vollman gave an overview of the department staffing and changes in the past year. She said staffing could increase in 2022 through the filling of at least three vacancies, including the Director position. She noted the total FTE count at 21. She said in recent years there have been staff shortages, and in the next year they may not be able to fill those vacant positions.

Ms. Small-Vollman discussed gaming fund projects, noting that the department's gaming revenues are allocated based on the dues paid for different organizations. She said that is where most of the cost from gaming is allocated.

Ms. Small-Vollman discussed department accomplishments in 2021. Some examples included West End Needs Assessment, the Southwest Hunting Exemption Ordinance, Minor Home Occupation updates, and others. She also noted the service agreement for placemaking with the Chamber of Commerce downtown group, and the completion of a rehabilitation for 1435 15th Avenue, which she said has sold. She said 19 facade projects had been completed, and the Quad City Botanical Center renovations had been concluded and paid. She said the department's goals and objectives have changed due to the different structure for strategic planning. She also noted examples of community engagement including the Community Garden program and the Quad City Housing Cluster.

Ms. Small-Vollman next discussed departmental performance measures, noting a lack of available numbers for 2021. She pointed to the large value amount for building permits, noting that the total included the value of Augustana College's new building. She then discussed expenditures, stating that the department's expected total is down 39 percent. She noted that the City's TIFs (Tax Increment Financing districts) are all doing well and healthy. She said the Downtown TIF had expired, and the department is running on what the resolution says. She said she would provide to Council the actual balance.

Regarding the Bally's (formerly Jumer's) TIF, Ms. Small-Vollman said the department wants to be sure to have funds available to negotiate and form an agreement with Bally's in order to be able to put projects in action. She noted that if the City invests in Bally's, the return will replenish the gaming fund. She also noted that the department now plans the Labor Day Parade.

Ms. Small-Vollman said there is one anticipated retirement in the department for 2022, Urban Planner Alan Fries. Mr. Brainard noted that Mr. Fries had been with the City since 1981. Ms. Small-Vollman said with the pending retirement, the department would request the ability to hire someone to work with Mr. Fries prior to him leaving.

Ms. Small-Vollman noted that some projects in the City have been funded through the appropriate TIF to help defray costs. She said the expenditures on the Jumer's site were over by nearly \$250,000, but only what is available will be spent. She then discussed the status of additional TIF funds.

Ms. Small-Vollman entertained questions. Mayor Thoms congratulated the department on selling the rehabilitated home within 48 hours. Alderperson Gilbert asked about the couple purchasing the rehabilitated home. Mr. Brainard provided information on the buyers. Alderperson Swanson thanked Ms. Small-Vollman and Mr. Brainard for their work, noting that the rehabilitated home was amazing and would benefit the City down the road securing home funds. Ms. Small-Vollman said as a department, they came together as a team. Mr. Brainard echoed that, saying the team ran the department like a committee of managers and cultivated a collaborative work ethic. Mayor Thoms gave the department credit for their work, especially in being creative to leverage private dollars.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief Jeff Yerkey addressed Council about the department's proposed 2022 budget. He began with a summary of staffing for both 2021 and what was anticipated for 2022. He expects a staffing level of 59.4 full-time equivalents (FTE) for 2022.

Chief Yerkey discussed budgeted projects and contracts for 2022. He detailed multiple equipment purchases for Fire Suppression as well as billing and EMS services totaling \$63,700.00. He noted extrication equipment, and if it were not funded, attention needs to be paid to the current power unit on the Rescue Squad at a cost of \$6,200. He added the desire to move away from gas-powered equipment.

Chief Yerkey next discussed revenue projections for the department for 2022. These included ambulance billing charges and receipts with a net value of \$1.9 million, as well as haz mat permits, the Foreign Fire Tax Fund, and Safe Kids donations. He said there was no service level or operational changes anticipated for 2022. He then noted a grant through the FEMA 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG), a COVID-19 supplemental program to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in response to the pandemic.

He added there was a balance of federal funding still available, and the grant period has been extended until August of 2022. He said the department was also exploring external funding sources to purchase a specialized watercraft designed for responses to incidents on low-head dams.

Chief Yerkey discussed expectations for professional development in 2022. This includes basic firefighting, fire prevention, and EMS courses, renewals, and certifications.

Chief Yerkey reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan requests for consideration in 2022. These included replacement of one weather siren, installation of an IP-based P25-compliant station alerting equipment at all stations, replacement of extrication equipment on the Rescue Squad, security upgrades at Station 2, and entry door replacement at Station 1. He also provided a summary of future requests through 2026. He then summarized and pointed to the budget sheet comparisons from 2021 to 2022. He finished by providing statistics on the department's activity over the past few years and expected activity for 2022.

Mayor Thoms commended the Chief for his actions and compliance guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Alderperson Poulos commended the Fire Department for their ability to react to water hazards, as their skill has been invaluable. Alderperson Swanson thanked Chief Yerkey on behalf of the City's residents for their quick response times.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Information Technology Director Tim Bain addressed Council on the department budget for 2022. He summarized the structure of the department, noting that there will continue to be a staff of five. He said special projects for the upcoming year include Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software for \$75,000, and possibly new software for HR and Finance. He said the Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) sustained a Ransomware attack in Spring 2021, and it has taken many months to recover, adding that they have asked the City to participate. This would involve a purchase of CrowdStrike software for \$15,000 to update their security posture and thwart things inherent to an increase in internet technology.

Additional special projects include the expected cost of replacing computer equipment at \$90,000 for 2022. That amount would include desktops, laptops, tablets, cables printers, phones, and other related accessories. He then discussed other expected projects and contracts such as Northstar Hosting for \$48,000, HR Health & Benefit Administration software for \$30,000, Police camera systems at \$10,000, Police CAD & RMS upgrades at \$37,900 for Central Square Software, and SeeClickFix at \$40,000 to implement Citizen Engagement software.

Mr. Bain discussed the department's contracts, noting the typical annual increase of 7% for software. He then pointed Council to the remainder of the department's budget presentation for the purpose of brevity. Mayor Thoms commended Mr. Bain and staff for their work over the past year.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mayor Thoms read a statement that Alderperson Dave Geenen would be taking an indefinite leave of absence, and directed his constituents to contact City Manager Tweet or himself.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to adjourn; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Adams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Josh Adams, Deputy City Clerk