

CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3rd Floor,
1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL

7/14/2025 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Roll Call

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

Present: Alderpersons Glen Evans, Linda Barnes, Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, Bill Healy and Mayor Ashley Harris.

Alderman Randy Hurt arrived at 6:22 p.m.

Absent: None.

Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, Attorney Leslie Day, City Clerk Samantha Gange, and other City Staff.

3. Presentations

a. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for CY 2024

Finance Director Jessica Sager explained that there were new accounting principles set forth by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in 2024, and the City restated the financials to follow the new standards. Ms. Sager introduced Audit Manager Hannah Cullerton of Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, who joined virtually.

Ms. Cullerton gave the highlights of each section of the audit report, beginning with the introductory section, which included the list of principal officials, the organizational chart, the transmittal letter and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2023 from the Government Finance Officers Association. Ms. Cullerton mentioned the certificate was awarded to the City of Rock Island for 2024, making it the 42nd consecutive year the City has been a recipient of the award.

Ms. Cullerton went over the financial section, including the independent auditor's report, management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), basic financial statements and supplementary information. The independent auditor's report stated that all financial statements were presented fairly in all material aspects, and there were no internal control findings.

Ms. Cullerton discussed the City's Statement of Net Position and reported on the City's assets and liabilities for governmental activities, business-type activities, the Martin Luther King Center, and the Rock Island Public Library Foundation. She also went over the Statement of Activities and reported on the City's revenues and expenses. She pointed out that there was an increase in the net position change for all four activities. She

briefly touched on government funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds and explained the contents of the financial statement notes and supplementary information section.

Ms. Cullerton went over the City’s SAS 114 letter, a separate report containing Lauterbach & Amen, LLP’s recommendations.

b. Augustan Hilltop Community Development Corporation

Augustana Hilltop Community Development Corporation (CDC) Executive Director Jerry Lack said that Augustana College recently formed the Augustana Hilltop CDC, a nonprofit focused on revitalizing the Hilltop neighborhood through partnerships, investment, and community engagement. He explained that CDCs are neighborhood-level organizations that promote and support affordable housing, job training, health services, small business growth and job creation, neighborhood revitalization, childcare, and advocacy and community organizing. He gave a brief history of CDCs and added that they helped pass the Fair Housing Act and Community Reinvestment Act.

Mr. Lack said Augustana Hilltop CDC’s website includes information on the Board of Directors, a business directory featuring the Hilltop businesses, news regarding the CDC, and events in the Hilltop area.

Recent activities of the CDC include the purchase and demolition of the Curry Out Building to open an area for future investment, developing promotional neighborhood banners, and looking into streetscaping to make the area more walkable and bike-friendly. Mr. Lack said they’ve held engagement meetings to get suggestions and ideas from residents and businesses. They plan to explore several funding avenues, including federal and state grants.

4. Public Comment

Mayor Harris asked if anyone in the public wished to speak.

Brian Ritter, Curtis Lundy, Jason Munson, Tim Pressley, Dave Kinney, Brian Blevans, Daniel Deshane, Tabitha Defrieze and Jaqueline Elliott spoke about the proposed Casino West Site development and wetlands.

5. Adjourn

- a. Motion: Motion to adjourn.
- VV Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 voice vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, 7th Ward Alderman Healy, Evans, Hurt, Barnes. Nay: None. Absent: None.

The Study Session concluded at 6:32 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]