

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

8/11/2025 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 6:47 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Roll Call

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

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

Absent: None.

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. Moment of Silence

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

5. Awards and Honor Presentations, Officer Swearing in Ceremony, and Proclamations

- a. Presentation of the Annual Historic Preservation Awards.

Linda Anderson with the Preservation Society presented the annual historic preservation awards. Photos were taken with each award winner and Mayor Harris.

6. Public Comment

Mayor Harris asked Council members to suspend the Public Comment rules to allow for public comment to go over the 30 minute allowed time.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker made a motion to suspend the rules; seconded by Aldersperson Hurt.

VOTE:

Motion FAILED on a 1-6-0 roll call vote. Aye: Parker. Nay: Swanson, Poulos, Healy, Evans, Hurt, Barnes. Absent: None.

Latriece Jackson spoke about the shooting of Jakarta Jackson.

Gary Rowe and Chloe Miller spoke about the proposed moratorium on homeless shelters.

Antas Simmons with the UTH Writers Foundation and spoke about public safety, including gun violence, and the services the organization provides.

Kelly McKay spoke about eagles and the Casino West project.

Daniel Roadan with the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board spoke about the importance of fire sprinklers in saving lives.

David Salins spoke about the downtown project and construction delays.

Ann McGowan with Tapestry Farms spoke about the Urban Agriculture Ordinance and the importance of not restricting food gardens.

7. Update Rock Island

Enjoy Free Music in the Park

Thursday Night Groove kicks off this Thursday at Schwiebert Riverfront Park with the New Breed Brass Band. Join us every Thursday for live music, great food, and beautiful riverfront views in Downtown Rock Island. Concessions open at 5 p.m. featuring Bent River Brewery, Happy Joe's Pizza, and Rock Island Parks Grill. Concerts go from 7–9 p.m.

Alternating Currents Week in Downtown Rock Island

It's **Alternating Currents week** starting this Thursday, August 14th and running through Sunday, August 17th. Come check out this four-day festival in downtown Rock Island celebrating live music, film, comedy, art, and more! This year, downtown Rock Island is buzzing with creativity as two new murals come to life by artists Matthew Mederer and Lorenzo Fontanella. While you're downtown, don't miss the **Arts Alley Block Party** on Thursday at 5 p.m., featuring live music, artisan pop-up shops, food and drinks, and a silent disco under the lights. Then, check out all the incredible events happening **Thursday through Sunday**. See the full schedule and plan your weekend at alternatingcurrentsqc.com.

11th Annual Polyrythms Bill Bell Jazz & Heritage Fest

The 11th Annual Bill Bell Jazz and Heritage Festival is coming to the Quad Cities, and you won't want to miss it! From Friday, August 22nd through Sunday, August 24th, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Rock Island will be filled with the sounds of live jazz, the voices of local Black authors, and the excitement of youth performances. This free, three-day celebration will also feature a book fair, delicious food, and unique merchandise vendors, offering something for everyone to enjoy. Gather your friends and family, come experience the joy of music and culture, and be part of a community tradition that celebrates heritage, talent, and togetherness.

Rockin' the Arts 41st Annual Rock Island Labor Day Parade

Monday, August 18th is the deadline to enter the 41st Annual Rock Island Labor Day Parade. Enter by going to bit.ly/2025LaborDayParade. Join us for a celebration of creativity, community and fun at one of the Quad Cities' most beloved traditions. This year's theme is "Rockin' the Arts." Help make this year's parade the most colorful and creative one yet!

8. Passage of Ordinances

- a. An ordinance amending Chapter 4: Building Regulations of the Municipal Code. (Second Reading)

Motion: Motion to pass the ordinance.
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. An ordinance amending the International Residential Code and removing a requirement for fire sprinkler systems in one- and two-family houses. (Second Reading)

Motion: Motion to pass the ordinance.
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos made a motion to postpone the item until the September 8, 2025 meeting; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion FAILED on a 3-4-0 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Swanson. Nay: Healy, Evans, Hurt, Barnes. Absent: None.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Harris and Council members discussed the requirement for fire sprinkler systems in new home builds, noting both the limited number of new houses constructed in the City and the importance of firefighter safety. Council members discussed whether removing this requirement will make a difference in new builds and if there would be an increase.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans made a motion to pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-1-0 roll call vote. Aye: Poulos, Healy, Evans, Hurt, Barnes and Swanson. Nays: Parker. Absent: None.

- c. An ordinance establishing regulations on urban agriculture. (Second Reading)

Motion:	Motion to pass the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Council members discussed postponing the item until November to provide additional time for dialogue and communication with those who will be impacted.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson made a motion to postpone the item until the November 10, 2025, meeting; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Council members discussed the rodent issues, tall weeds and grass and the nuisance of some of these gardens and the need to regulate them. Aldersperson Evans said it has been a major concern in his Ward from residents and Aldersperson Parker said he has not had any complaints or concerns from residents in his Ward.

Council members discussed possible changes to the setback and other requirements and the need to address constituent concerns and make it less restrictive.

Former Aldersperson Moses Robinson discussed the issues the West End community has had with the community gardens.

Community Development Director Brainard said the City's Code of Ordinances does not currently cover rules or enforcement for urban gardening. He shared concerns about reaching residents due to language barriers and the need for interpreters, and noted that delaying the item could make it harder to contact some of those residents later on.

It was noted that proper staffing is needed to implement this and other similar policies.

Aldersperson Hurt withdrew his second on the motion to postpone.

Aldersperson Parker seconded the motion to postpone.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-2-0 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Healy, Hurt, Swanson. Nay: Evans, Barnes. Absent: None.

- d. A special ordinance to remove the handicapped parking space at 3752 12th Street. (Second Reading)

Motion:	Motion to pass the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Barnes moved to pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

- e. Report from the City Clerk's Office regarding a request from the Quad Cities Running Club to hold their annual TBK Quad Cities Marathon and a resolution for the closure of the Master Sergeant Stanley Talbot Memorial Bridge, 15th Street (U.S. Highway 67), and 1st Avenue (IL 92) on Sunday, September 28, 2025, from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Motion:	Motion to approve the event and adopt the resolution.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to approve the event and adopt the resolution; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

- f. Report from the City Attorney's Office regarding the Mayor's written objection to Ordinance No. 69-2025.

Motion:	Motion to reconsider Ordinance No. 69-2025 amending Chapter 3, Alcoholic Liquor over the Mayor's objection.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

Attorney Day said this item is regarding the Mayor's veto of the ordinance that was passed on July 28, 2025. Pursuant to 65 ILCS 55-3-3, the Mayor may veto any ordinance by filing a written objection at the next regular scheduled meeting for the council to reconsider.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker made a motion to reconsider Ordinance No. 69-2025 amending Chapter 3, Alcoholic Liquor over the Mayor's objection; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Some Council members said the City Council is the governing body that sets the limits and, since video gaming and tobacco licenses are approved by the Council, all items should follow the same process for consistency.

VOTE:

Motion FAILED on a 4-3-0 roll call vote. Aye: Poulos, Healy, Hurt, Swanson. Nay: Parker, Evans, Barnes. Absent: None.

9. Ordinances (First Readings)

- a. Report from the Economic Development Department regarding a development agreement between the City of Rock Island and SAL Community Services. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to approve the development agreement, authorize the City Manager to execute the document and consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Barnes moved to approve the development agreement, authorize the City Manager to execute the document and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Council members remarked that this project will bring a much needed service to our youth and a unique partnership with Friendship Manor and SAL.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Economic Development Department regarding a development agreement with Fresh Films. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to approve the development agreement, authorize the City Manager to execute the document and consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the development agreement, authorize the City Manager to execute

the document and consider, suspend the rules and pass the ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the Economic Development Department regarding a development agreement between the City of Rock Island and Moskowitz, Grabau, and Hughes LLC. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to approve the development agreement, authorize the City Manager to execute the document and consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the development agreement, authorize the City Manager to execute the document and consider, suspend the rules and pass the ordinance; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a rate increase for residential refuse and yard waste service. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to approve the yard waste service rate increase and consider the amendment to the refuse rate ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the yard waste service rate increase and consider the amendment to the refuse rate ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

Alderperson Hurt moved to postpone the item indefinitely; Alderperson Evans seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Public Works Director Bartels explained there is a vacancy in the department they no longer need to fill and there is potential for additional savings next year with the consideration of the free leaf bags.

VOTE:

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

- e. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from Marilyn Chandler, 2027 34th Street, to install a handicapped parking space in front of her home. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to approve the request and consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the request and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

- f. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from Stephen Rock, 619 44th Street, to install a handicapped parking space in front of his home. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to approve the request and consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the request and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

- g. Report from the City Attorney regarding a Special Ordinance for the disposal of surplus property and the execution of a hold harmless agreement. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to consider, suspend the rules and pass the ordinance and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to consider, suspend the rules and pass the ordinance and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Fire Chief Graff said the reason we are donating the truck to East Moline Schools is because it is out of commission and has no monetary value and can no longer be used by the Fire Department. The high school in East Moline serves as the Vocational Tech Center for Rock Island high school students and can be used as a

recruitment tool. Attorney Day said the hold-harmless agreement protects the City.

VOTE:

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

10. Consent Agenda

All items under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by a single motion and subsequent roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless an Alderperson so requests, in which case, the item will be moved from the Consent Agenda and considered as the first item after approval of the Consent Agenda.

- a. Claims for the week of July 4 through July 10 in the amount of \$376,553.09; claims for the week of July 11 through July 17 in the amount of \$973,326.70; claims for the week of July 18 through July 24 in the amount of \$595,904.98; and payroll for the weeks of June 23, 2025 through July 6, 2025 in the amount of \$1,930,445.63; payroll for the weeks of July 7, 2025 through July 20, 2025 in the amount of \$1,908,944.69.
- b. ACH Report for the month of June 2025 in the amount of \$5,691,069.22.
- c. Purchase Card Claims for the period of May 27, 2025 through June 26, 2025 in the amount of \$69,828.74.
- d. Report from the City Clerk's Office regarding requests from the Rock Island Downtown Alliance to use sound amplification and to close Arts Alley on Thursday, August 14, 2025 from 5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. for a public block party event; and a request for the outdoor consumption of alcohol in Arts Alley.
- e. Report from the City Clerk's Office regarding a request from Latriece Jackson to close 12th Street between 24th & 25th Avenues on Saturday, August 16, 2025 from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. for a block party event.
- f. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding requests from Othea Stevenson to use sound amplification and close 11th Avenue between 11th & 12th Streets on Saturday, August 23, 2025 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for a speaking engagement on gun violence; and a request to waive the sound amplification fee.
- g. Report from the City Clerk's Office regarding a request from the Rock Island Labor Day Parade Advisory Board to hold the 41st annual Rock Island Labor Day Parade on Monday, September 1, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- h. Minutes from the July 28, 2025 Closed Session.
- i. Minutes from the July 28, 2025 Study Session and City Council meeting.
- j. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding requests from Avery Pearl and Shellie Moore Guy to

use sound amplification and close 9th Street between 7th Avenue and 6th Avenue on Saturday, August 23, 2025 from 10:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. for the Polyrhythms Bill Bell Jazz and Heritage Festival with food trucks and vendors; and a request to waive the sound amplification fee.

Motion: Motion to approve consent agenda items a through j.
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

Aldersperson Healy requested Consent Agenda items d, e, and f be removed and placed on the regular agenda.

DISCUSSION:

Council members discussed that item numbers d and f have sound amplification and item e does not. It was also noted that one of the events requested waiving the fees for the permits and the others did not. Aldersperson Healy suggested waiving the fees for all three items and adding the sound amplification permit to item e.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve consent agenda items a through c and g through j; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve consent agenda item d and waive the sound amplification fee; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Council members discussed the fee waiver policy and the costs of having staff administer the permitting system. Finance Director Sager commented that the fee waivers would be documented as a journal entry.

VOTE:

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve consent agenda item e and waive the sound amplification fee and grant the permit; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

It was noted that the applicant did not complete the sound amplification permit and checked "no" on the activity permit application for sound. Attorney Day said the signatures from the surrounding neighbors were collected and all marked yes to allow the sound amplification. Alderperson Parker said sound amplification may not be needed as it is not a requirement for a block party. Attorney Day noted the motion needed to include the permit and the fee.

VOTE:

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve consent agenda item f and waive the requirement for the sound amplification fee; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

11. Claims/Purchases

- a. Report from the Public Works Department requesting authorization to purchase a trailer from Vermeer Midwest, East Moline, Illinois, in the amount of \$16,483.

Motion: Motion to allow the claim.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to allow the claim; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to J.C. Dillon, Inc., Peoria, Illinois, for Water Service Repair Program and Sewer Lateral Repair Program repairs in the amount of \$191,285.41.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to McClintock Trucking and Excavating for an emergency sewer main repair at 2303 17th Street in the amount of \$82,430.21.

Motion:	Motion to allow claims b and c.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Barnes moved to allow claims b and c; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

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: Poulos, Healy, Evans, Hurt, Barnes, Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

12. Contracts/Agreements

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding an IDOT Intergovernmental Agreement for Street Maintenance.

Motion:	Motion to approve the agreement and authorize the Mayor to execute the document.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to approve the agreement and authorize the Mayor to execute the document; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

13. Budget/Finance Items

- a. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the Fleet Amortization Fund (605) in the amount of \$16,483.

Motion:	Motion to approve the budget adjustment.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Barnes moved to approve the budget adjustment; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

Absent: None.

14. Rock Island Port Authority

- a. Motion: Motion to close the regular City Council meeting and convene the Rock Island Regional Port District meeting.
- VV Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to close the regular City Council meeting and convene the Rock Island Regional Port District meeting; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Other Business/New Business

Economic Development Director Tom Flaherty reported that the port consultant was in town and met with city staff and Alter representatives. Mayor Harris and Aldersperson Evans were able to tour the site. The consultant is forming a steering committee.

- c. Motion: Motion to exit the Rock Island Port Authority and reconvene the regular City Council meeting.
- VV Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to exit the Rock Island Port Authority and reconvene the regular City Council meeting; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

15. Other Business/New Business

No other or new business was discussed.

16. Closed Session

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

Motion: Motion to enter Closed Session for the exception cited.

VV Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to enter Closed Session for the exception cited; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

The City Council entered closed session at 8:49 p.m.

17. Adjourn

- a. Motion to Adjourn to August 25, 2025.

Motion: Motion to adjourn.

VV Voice vote is needed.

Upon entering back into the regular City Council meeting, Clerk Gange called the roll. Mayor Harris and all seven council members were present.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to adjourn the meeting; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

The City Council meeting concluded at 9:31 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]