

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

9/8/2025 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 6:45 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. Proclamation declaring Saturday, August 23, 2025 as Bill Bell Jazz & Heritage Festival Day.

Mayor Harris read the proclamation and his declaration. A photo was taken. Shellie Moore Guy, Polyrhythms co-founder, said a few words.

- b. Proclamation declaring September National Suicide Prevention Month.

Clerk Gange read the proclamation. Mayor Harris read his declaration. A photo was taken. Stephanie Burrow of the Quad Cities Behavioral Health Coalition said a few words.

Clerk Gange announced that the Proclamation declaring September 8, 2025 as Ivory Clark Remembrance Day was added to the agenda. Clerk Gange read the proclamation. Alderperson Evans read his declaration. A photo was taken. Mike Collier of Positive Brothers United said a few words.

- c. Presentation of the "ROCK ISLAND" Letters Photo Contest Winners.

Community Engagement Manager Sarah Hayden shared background information on the contest. She

announced the winners: Kylie Weiss for 1st Place, Bella Perkins for 2nd Place, Big Brothers Big Sisters match Rylan and George for 3rd place, and Nichole Payney for honorable mention. Rock Island Downtown Alliance (RIDA) Executive Director Jack Cullen and board member Brandy VandeWalle presented the awards.

- d. Presentation from Jack Cullen, Executive Director of the Rock Island Downtown Alliance (RIDA).

Mr. Cullen provided an update on place-based and destination branding for the downtown. He explained that RIDA worked with Mindfire Communications and the marketing team for the Quad Cities Chamber to create the new brand. The project's task force focused on developing language to highlight the downtown's unique amenities and the brand roll out itself. Individuals across various demographics and with different ties to Rock Island were interviewed during the development process, and key words and phrases were identified. Based on the interviews, Mindfire recommended *Downtown Rock Island* as the brand name. Mr. Cullen discussed how the branding would position the downtown and said the pillars of the brand are *authentic, historic, creative, diverse, and resilient*. Examples of the brand's colors and logo were displayed. If the new branding is accepted, a toolkit with brand guidelines, logos and suggested messaging will be created and distributed.

6. Public Comment

James Cox, Ahmad Afifeh, Rachel Welker, Laurel Blomquist, Taelor Denton, Teddy Doty, Andrew DeFrees, and James Blue spoke about a boycott campaign.

Dieonika Gray spoke about the shooting of Jakarta Jackson and a boycott campaign.

7. Update Rock Island

Party in the Park, Lantern Parade and Kick It with a Cop!

The Rock Island Parks & Recreation Department, in partnership with the Rock Island Library, invites the community to join the fun at Party in the Park this Wednesday, September 10th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Hodge Park, 2294 35th Street. This family-friendly event will feature face painting, balloon animals, a paper bag lantern craft from the library and a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the new Hodge Park Recreational Trail. The Police Department will also host their 2nd Annual Kick It with a Cop -- where police play a lively game of kickball with local youth.

Get in the groove this Thursday at Schwiebert Riverfront Park

Join us for Thursday Night Groove, a live concert series at Schwiebert Riverfront Park. Presented by Happy Joe's-Rock Island, this weekly event features incredible live music, delicious food and a great atmosphere along the Mississippi River. This Thursday's band is ***For Those About to Yacht***. Concessions open at 5 p.m. featuring Bent River Brewery, Happy Joe's Pizza and Rock Island Parks Grill. The concert begins at 7 p.m.

Cast your vote for the West End

The West End Revitalization has secured \$40,000 for West End residents, business owners and workers to invest in the community. Cast your vote for one of the three proposals online or by paper ballot at the MLK

Center and other West End locations. Voting is open until September 12th. The winning proposals will be announced at the next community meeting on September 16th from 5 to 7p.m. at the MLK Center.

8. Special Presentations

a. Presentation of the CY 2025 2nd Quarter Financial Management Report.

Finance Director Jessica Sager presented the 2025 2nd Quarter Financial Management Report and provided a review of revenues, expenditures, and net positions for all funds. The second quarter benchmark for revenues and expenditures was 50%. General Funds reported both revenues and expenditures at 43%. Regarding Special Revenue Funds, Ms. Sager said the Public Library Fund and the Tax Increment Financing District Funds were both at 29% while the Riverboat Gaming Fund revenue is on track with the benchmark, with transfers scheduled later in the year. The Street Improvement Fund revenue was reported at 45% and expenditures at 8%.

Ms. Sager discussed other government funds. She explained that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) revenues primarily reflect an adjustment that was made moving deferred revenue to active revenue; its expenditures were reported at 16%. The Housing and Community Development Fund revenues were at 17%, reflecting the timing of federal drawdowns, and expenditures were reported at 33%. The Martin Luther King Center Operations Fund is on track with both revenues and expenditures reported at 49%. The Foreign Fire Insurance Fund was trending high on expenditures, with 84% of the budget spent, which reflects the committee-approved purchase of supplies and equipment for the Fire Department. The Community and Economic Development Fund revenues were at 39% and expenditures were at 36%.

Ms. Sager said the Enterprise Funds, which include Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Funds, were all stable. She noted the Solid Waste Fund was slightly ahead on revenue. The Parks and Recreation Fund revenue and expenditures were both at 49%. She reported that the Internal Service Funds were mixed as the Fleet Fund and Health Benefits Funds are both on track while the Self-Insurance Fund expenditures were trending higher than the benchmark at 65%. She said funds are performing near expectations, reflecting stable financial management midyear. She added that staff will continue to monitor areas with lower revenue performance and track timing-related expenditures in the second half of the year.

Ms. Sager said staff are cautiously optimistic regarding the state and local tax disbursements. She provided the highlights of the state and local tax revenue analysis. She explained that although use tax, municipal utility tax, and food and beverage tax are below the benchmark, the increases in income tax, gaming tax, and sales tax are offsetting those shortfalls.

Ms. Sager said the monthly investment interest report indicates the average interest rates that were paid out during the second quarter months varied. The City received a combined total of just over \$428,000 in interest in the second quarter.

9. Ordinances (First Readings)

a. Report from the Community Development Department regarding an ordinance dissolving the special tax allocation fund and terminating the designation of the 1st Street Tax Increment Financing District Redevelopment Project Area. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Poulos, Healy, Evans, Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Parker. 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 Aldersperson 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 August 15 through August 21 in the amount of \$1,394,446.25; claims for the week of August 22 through August 28 in the amount of \$288,146.38; and payroll for the weeks of August 4, 2025 through August, 17 2025 in the amount of \$1,875,462.57.
- b. Purchase Card claims for the period of June 27, 2025 through July 28, 2025 in the amount of \$76,040.10.
- c. Report from the City Clerk's Office regarding a request from Olivet Baptist Church to close 21st Avenue between 11th & 12th Streets and the alley immediately north of the church on Sunday, September 14, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a picnic.
- d. Report from the City Clerk's Office regarding a request from Skellington Manor to close the southern half of 18th Street between 4th & 5th Avenues each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday between October 3 through November 2, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. for their annual haunted house event.
- e. Report from the Fire Department regarding a request from the Rock Island Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 25, regarding a request to utilize the intersection of 30th Street and 18th Avenue for their annual Muscular Dystrophy Association "Fill the Boot" fundraising campaign from Friday, October 10, 2025 through October 12, 2025.
- f. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding a payment in the amount of \$13,200 to Tyler Technologies of Plano, TX for the ERP System implementation services using ARPA funds (unrestricted).
- g. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding the quarterly software maintenance renewal agreement with Harris Govern from October 1 through December 31, 2025 in the amount of \$10,401.50 for the current permitting, business licensing, and land management

system.

- h. Report from the Police Department regarding bids for police uniforms and equipment, recommending the bid be awarded to Galls LLC, Lexington, KY.
- i. Report from the Police Department regarding bids for dry cleaning, recommending the bid be awarded to Burke Cleaners in the amount of \$11,766.15.
- j. Minutes from the August 25, 2025 Closed Session.
- k. Minutes from the August 25, 2025 Study Session and City Council meeting.

Motion:	Motion to approve Consent Agenda items a through k.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve Consent Agenda items a through k; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

11. Contracts/Agreements

- a. Report from the City Attorney regarding a settlement agreement between the City of Rock Island, Ravelingeen, and General Constructors Inc. of the Quad Cities.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to approve the agreement and authorize the City Manager to execute the document; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Police Department regarding bids for towing services, recommending the bid be awarded to Kendall Towing, Milan, IL.

Motion:	Motion to approve the contract and authorize the City Manager to execute the document.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the contract and authorize the City Manager to execute the document; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Police Chief Tim McCloud clarified that a request for bid was put out and Kendall came in lower than Quad City Towing.

VOTE:

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

12. Budget/Finance Items

- a. Report from the Finance Department regarding budget adjustments to the TIF 8 1st Street Fund (406) and TIF 9 Century Woods Fund (407) in the amount of \$51,405.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to approve the budget adjustments; Alderman Hurt seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Community and Economic Development Director Miles Brainard said the TIF districts are contiguous, so they are able to transfer funds between one another under the TIF Act. He explained that the transfer is needed to zero out the First Street TIF's balance in order to close it.

VOTE:

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

13. Department Reports

- a. Report from Administration and the Rock Island Downtown Alliance (RIDA) regarding the new branding for Downtown Rock Island.

Motion: Motion to accept the new branding guidelines for the downtown.
RC Roll Call vote is need.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to accept the new branding guidelines for the downtown; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the City Clerk regarding the amended schedule of regular City Council meetings for 2025 with the updated time change from 6:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Motion: Motion to approve the amendment as recommended.
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the amendment as recommended; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

14. Events/Misc Requests

- a. Report from the City Clerk's Office regarding an amendment to the Quad Cities Marathon race route on Sunday, September 28, 2025.

Motion: Motion to approve the amendment as recommended.
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the amendment as recommended; Aldersperson Barnes seconded.

VOTE:

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

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

VOTE:

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

b. Other Business/New Business

Economic Development Director Tom Flaherty announced that the port's master plan steering committee will hold their first meeting this week.

- 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 Regional Port Authority and reconvene the regular City Council meeting; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

16. Other Business/New Business

Aldersperson Swanson requested that the Urban Agriculture Ordinance be brought back to Council earlier than November for consideration, preferably on September 22nd. Ms. Day confirmed that if enough council members were in agreement, then it can be brought back at an earlier date.

17. Adjourn

- a. Motion to Adjourn to September 22, 2025.
- Motion: Motion to adjourn.
- VV Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to adjourn; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 8:10 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]