

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND**  
**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**  
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 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, Randy Hurt, Linda Barnes, Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos and Mayor Ashley Harris.

Absent: Alderperson Bill Healy.

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

**3. Presentations**

- a. Presentation from the Dream Center, Peoria IL on a new housing approach

City Manager Todd Thompson introduced Kristy Schofield, Director of Homelessness and Housing with the Dream Center in Peoria, who presented on their approach to addressing homelessness.

Ms. Schofield reported that homelessness in the nation increased by 18% last year and shelters and service providers are struggling to keep pace. She noted the Dream Center currently serves 150–170 individuals each night, with numbers continuing to grow.

She outlined three new initiatives being developed by the Dream Center: Compassion Hub, Compassion Shelter, and Compassion Village. The Compassion Hub will serve as a day center in Peoria, offering access to services such as mental health care, legal assistance, career development, life skills training, healthcare, drug rehabilitation referrals, and other resources.

The Compassion Shelter is the only emergency shelter in the area. Ms. Schofield explained there has been a shift away from the traditional shelter model, and individuals or families facing housing insecurity are paired with a caseworker to create a plan aimed at achieving stable housing within six months.

She then described the Compassion Village concept, which is still under discussion for location. The Village would feature 32 tiny homes designed for individuals who do not fit into congregate shelters, including those with pets or addiction issues. Plans include bathrooms, community spaces, picnic areas, a check-in station, and supportive services. Renderings and photos of the proposed Village were shared. She noted that feedback from residents and stakeholders suggests avoiding a downtown location.

Ms. Schofield emphasized the Dream Center’s close partnership with the City of Peoria and its involvement in the Continuum of Care. She highlighted the collaborative efforts among community providers, noting that they meet frequently to avoid duplication of services, close gaps in care, and ensure responsible use of

available funding.

**4. Public Comment**

Amanda Irwin with Project NOW provided an update on the organization's efforts in the community and shared information with Council regarding current initiatives.

**5. Adjourn**

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to adjourn the Study Session; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m.

[MIN\_SIGNATURES]