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

10/27/2025 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Ashley Harris asked Interim City Clerk Amanda Torres 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: Parks & Recreation Director John Gripp, Attorney Leslie Day, Interim City Clerk Amanda Torres, 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. Special Presentations

a. Presentation of the CY2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Finance Director Jessica Sager explained the CIP planning process. She said the Capital Budget is only for one year and is incorporated into the CY 2026 budget, while the CIP is a five-year planning document that assists with financial planning by outlining future expenditures. She explained that project costs in the CIP are planning estimates and can cross over multiple years. There was a total of $18.2 million requested in CIP from departments for 2026. Staff recommended a total of $10 million in CIP for 2026. Charts detailing the recommended expenditure categories and recommended funding sources were shown.

Ms. Sager discussed the various projects. Public Works projects include 20th Avenue sidewalk improvements, resurfacing 20th and 30th Streets, IL-92 reconstruction, fleet purchases, a pump station, 20 1/2 Avenue and 23rd Street intersection storm improvements, the Water Meter Replacement Program, 20th Street water main replacement, the PFAS Remediation Program, water tower replacement/rehabilitation, water treatment plant backup generators and 20th Street sanitary sewer replacement. IT's sole project is the implementation of the City's new software. Police projects include the purchase of body-worn cameras, a fleet camera system and parking enforcement software. Community Development projects include the North 11th Street demolition and North 11th Street façade improvement. Parks and Recreation projects include the relaxation or the dog park and Sports Complex playground.

Ms. Sager discussed the dates for the projected budget work schedule. The CY 2026 budget presentation will be presented at the next Council meeting. The final reading for the budget ordinance approval is December 15, 2025.

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

a. Proclamation honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Rock Island County Democratic Women's Club.

Mayor Harris read the proclamation and his declaration. Members of the Rock Island County Democratic Women's Club were present. A photo was taken. Maggie Crouch said a few words.

7. Public Comment

Mayor Harris requested a motion to suspend the rules to allow as much time for public comment as needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to suspend the rules to allow as much time for public comment as needed; Alderperson Barnes seconded.

VOTE:

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

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

Kelly McKay, Nina Strusse, Tim Pressly, and Mary Lou Pearson spoke about the Casino West development.

Tim Feeney spoke about the proposed ordinance regarding parking around the perimeter of the Federal Courthouse.

Terry Brooks spoke about his water meter and bill.

Representative Gregg Johnson and Reverand Dwight Ford spoke about the social services license ordinance.

8. Update Rock Island

Drug Take Back Day was a success!
Congratulations to the prevention team at the Martin Luther King Community Center for their successful Drug Take Back Day on Saturday. The team, led by Carlos Jimenez, hosted its annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The event was a collaboration between the Rock Island County C.A.U.S.E. Coalition, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and local police departments.

Together with community partners, the team collected 335 pounds of unused, unwanted and expired medications from seven coordinated collection sites across Rock Island County. On behalf of the City, thank you for making this a safe and successful event once again.

Community Caring Conference Hero's Banquet
Congratulations to Firefighter Joel Wilford and Police Officer Spencer Brooks who were honored at last week's Community Caring Conference Hero's Banquet as firefighter of the year and police officer of the year.

Halloween Trick-or-Treating
Trick-or-treating will take place in the City of Rock Island on Friday, October 31st from 5 to 8 p.m. Participating households are asked to turn on porch and outdoor lights and make sure walkways are well lit and free of debris or tripping hazards. For safety reasons, please do not hand out homemade food or treats. Pre-packaged candy and treats only.

9. Passage of Ordinances

a. An ordinance to install a handicapped parking space on 12th Street, north of the driveway to 1201 18th Avenue. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to pass the ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the City Attorney's Office regarding the Mayor's written objection to Ordinance No. 95-2025.

Motion:	Motion to reconsider Ordinance No. 95-2025 establishing a Social Services License over the Mayor's objection.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to reconsider Ordinance No.95-2025 establishing a Social Services License over the Mayor's objection; Alderperson Evans seconded.

Alderperson Evans rescinded his second.

Alderperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

City Attorney Day shared that she held discussions with organizations involved with homeless individuals. She said a legal memorandum regarding their requests and recommendations will be sent to Council if the ordinance is adopted.

Council members discussed their reasoning for supporting or not supporting the ordinance and voiced their concerns.

Ms. Day explained that the ordinance was drafted in a way to consider various factors before granting or denying a license and clarified that they were not restrictions.

Mayor Harris read his objections.

Alderperson Parker encouraged strengthening the City's antipoverty work and housing programs.

VOTE:

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

10. Ordinances (First Readings)

a. Report from the Community Development Department regarding the purchase of 533 22nd Street for $0.00. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Economic Development Department regarding a development agreement with River Tracks LLC. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement; and consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Sager clarified that it would use unrestricted ARPA funding.

Economic Development Director Tom Flaherty gave an update on the developer incentive policy.

VOTE:

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

c. Report from the Economic Development Department regarding the sale of 3809 60th Avenue West to A Hanna Illowa LLC. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Council members discussed their reasoning for supporting the sale.

Community Development Director Miles Brainard provided a brief overview of the archeological and environmental studies completed by the developer for the Casino West site. He described the consultation process. He clarified that the various agencies reviewed the surveys and enforced regulations, not the City.

Ms. Day said the development agreement and sales agreement require the developer to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

VOTE:

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

d. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from the Federal Courthouse to install "Tenant Parking Only - Vehicles Will Be Towed Away at Vehicle Owners Expense" signs around the perimeter of the courthouse property. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to consider the ordinance and amend it by removing the parking restriction on 18th Street; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldperson Healy said there was enough parking available nearby and supported removing the 18th Street portion of the ordinance.

VOTE:

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

11. 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 September 26 through October 2 in the amount of $479,760.04; claims for the week of October 3 through October 9 in the amount of $885,185.13; and payroll for the weeks of September 15, 2025 through September 28, 2025 in the amount of $1,859,686.45; payroll for the weeks of September 29, 2025 through October 12, 2025 in the amount of $1,868,249.35

b. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding a request from Moses Robinson to close 9th Street between 6th & 7th Avenues on Friday, October 31, 2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a Trunk or Treat event.

c. Minutes from the October 13, 2025 City Council Meeting.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve Consent Agenda items a through c; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

12. Claims/Purchases

a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for the 2025 Seal Coat and Asphalt Street Patching Program in the amount of $333,805.66.

b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to J.C. Dillon, Inc., Peoria, Illinois, for the Water Service and Sewer Lateral Repair Program repairs in the amount of $71,885.75.

c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a payment to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for an emergency water main repair at 3300 18th Avenue in the amount of $24,693.53.

d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Crawford Company, Rock Island, Illinois, for the Sunset Marina Electrical Upgrades Project in the amount of $48,150.

Motion: Motion to allow claims a through d.
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to allow claims a through d; Alderperson Hurt seconded.

Alderperson Parker recused himself due to the nature of his employment.

VOTE:

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

e. Report from the Public Works Department requesting authorization to purchase Mill Street Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Diversion Valve Actuators from Dorner Company, Sussex, Wisconsin, in the amount of $27,015.

f. Request from the Police Department requesting authorization to purchase Drone Tether from Unmanned Vehicle Technologies, Fayetteville, Arkansas in the amount of $14,021.32 (ARPA Restricted).

g. Report from the Fire Department requesting authorization to purchase structural firefighting gear from Dinges Fire Company, Amboy, Illinois, in the amount of $48,464.

Motion: Motion to approve purchases e through g.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve purchases e through g; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

13. Contracts/Agreements

a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding bids for the Rock Island Arsenal Backflow Testing Contract recommending that the bid be awarded to Schebler Heating and Air, Inc., Bettendorf, Iowa, in the amount of $52,211.

Motion: Motion to award the bid as recommended; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to award the bid as recommended; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a right of entry agreement with Carlson Bros, Inc.

Motion: Motion to approve the agreement; and authorize the City Manager to execute the document.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Swanson moved to approve the agreement; and authorize the City Manager to execute the document; Alderperson Barnes seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Director Brainard clarified that the business was based out of Joliet, Illinois.

VOTE:

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

14. Budget/Finance Items

a. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the Foreign Fire Insurance Fund (467) in the amount of $40,000.

b. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the TIF 4 Parkway / I-280 Ballys Casino Fund (402) in the amount of $178,000.

c. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the MLK Activity Fund (900) in the amount of $25,000.

Motion: Motion to approve budget adjustments a through c.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to approve budget adjustments a through c; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

15. Department Reports

a. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a minor subdivision plat for the Casino West Addition.

	Motion:	Motion to approve the subdivision plat.
	RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve the subdivision plat; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

16. Other Business/New Business

Alderperson Barnes read her statement regarding her reasoning for voting against the ARPA-related interagency agreements at the last Council meeting.

Mayor Harris gave an update regarding DeAnna's Place. Ms. Day discussed the procedure for handling liquor violations.

Alderperson Healy expressed his excitement for the River Tracks development.

17. Adjourn

a.	Motion:	Motion to adjourn to November 10, 2025.
	VV	Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to adjourn; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 7:41 p.m.
[MIN_SIGNATURES]