

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

11/10/2025 - 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: City Manager Todd Thompson, 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 Presentation

a. CY 2026 Budget Presentation

Finance Director Jessica Sager presented the CY 2026 budget. She identified key assumptions that were used to prepare the budget, including increases in pension and health insurance contributions and the general wage increase (GWI). The total proposed budgeted revenue for all funds was \$144.1 million. Ms. Sager broke down each revenue category. She went over the expected state and local tax revenue, totaling close to \$28.65 million, and reported on the ten-year trend of each tax. She also discussed the budgeted expenditures, with funds totaling \$153.6 million. She displayed a chart depicting expenditures by fund, with the General Fund representing the largest portion. She noted there was an 8% decrease in CY 2026 expenditures compared to expenditures in CY 2025. She also presented the expenditures by category and reported on the annual fire, police, and IMRF pension costs over the last ten years.

Ms. Sager compared the CY 2026 budgeted General Fund's revenues and expenditures with CY 2025 and indicated a total 8% decrease in expenditures. Ms. Sager recommended using the entire \$3,981,802 of the General Fund excess from CY 2024 and previous years to balance the CY 2026 General Fund. She said a total of \$1,676,925 in budget cuts to the General Fund were made by the departments. She presented the total CY

2026 budgeted revenues and expenses for the Public Works Enterprise Funds and discussed the water, wastewater, stormwater, and refuse rate increases. The budgeted revenues and expenses of the Martin Luther King Center Funds were also discussed. She provided a breakdown of expenditures and five-year comparisons of expenditures and revenues of the Parks and Recreation Fund and Library Fund.

Ms. Sager explained how the property tax would be allocated and mentioned that the proposed 2026 levy was \$18.7 million, an increase of 6.25%. She clarified they were not proposing to increase the property tax rate. She displayed a chart detailing the ten-year history of the tax levy and a chart of the overlapping tax districts. A table was shown to provide an example of how the City's 2025 tax levy would be allocated and how it was allocated in 2024 and 2005.

Ms. Sager discussed the use of the Gaming Fund and mentioned that no more than \$500,000 would be transferred to the General Fund to cover fleet amortization. She provided an update on the remaining unrestricted ARPA funding. Regarding negative fund balances, she said they were either balanced at 2026 or with the surplus to assist with eliminating the deficit. Challenges faced while building the budget included aging city assets, finding ways to balance the negative funds, population decline, aging infrastructure, and long-term debt and liabilities. She noted the City's accomplishments, including slowly reducing the negative fund balances with the surplus, continuing to use the ARPA funding in meaningful ways, and implementing more efficient software. She discussed additional considerations regarding the budget, subject to approval.

Community Development Director Miles Brainard pointed out that there were some spaces in the budget where staff might experiment with different types of housing-related programming. City Manager Todd Thompson added that \$450,000 in ARPA has been earmarked for infill and new housing incentives.

Alderperson Evans commented he would like some funding to go towards streets and new housing in the First Ward.

Alderperson Barnes encouraged budget workshops in the future. She also recommended budgeting \$25,000 using ARPA interest for an emergency homeless shelter, whether it be within the City or a neighboring city.

b. Presentation on the Proposed Amendments to the Social Services Ordinance

City Attorney Leslie Day explained that she took into consideration feedback from social service providers as well as public comments and letters while drafting the proposed amendments. She stated that the goal of the presentation was to determine if there was consensus among Council as to which amendments were favorable and plan accordingly how to best move forward.

The first amendment Ms. Day proposed would more thoroughly explain why there are different requirements for homeless shelters compared to other social services, as there are criticisms of homeless shelters being treated differently than other social service providers. She clarified that it would not change the substance of the ordinance. The consensus was for approval.

Ms. Day said the second amendment would eliminate any reference to food pantries in the ordinance. She noted that food pantries are unlike the other providers as they do not meet the standard of a service where people congregate for long periods of time and where services are provided on site. She added that most food pantries are already exempt under the current language and further clarified that a license is not required for a food pantry when it is an accessory to a church, unit of government, or non-profit entity not otherwise

regulated by the article, as long as it is limited to no more 25% floor space. There was no consensus among the Council.

Ms. Day said the third amendment would replace the City Manager with the Mayor as the license issuer. She noted that the amendment was vetoed previously. It was confirmed that Council did not change their positions regarding their previous vote.

Ms. Day said the fourth amendment would remove the requirement that an entity provide copies of the organization's bylaws, articles of incorporation, list of board members, and any other governance documentation. Some Council members expressed agreement with the amendment.

Ms. Day explained that the fifth amendment would create a new section entitled Waiver of Requirements. It would allow the license issuer to waive any of the requirements in the license application, standards for issuance of a license, and any additional requirements for homeless shelters, allowing for more flexibility. If a waiver was granted, a written finding on the basis for the waiver would be needed, and, if denied a waiver, the denial can be appealed to Council. Ms. Day commented that the provision is comparable with other municipalities that have adopted similar ordinances. She explained that it would be similar to the City's special use permits. The consensus was in favor of the amendment.

Ms. Day said the sixth amendment would limit the City's right to interview individuals to the applicant's agents and employees, respecting the right of privacy for those receiving services. It would also require a 24-hour notice before routine inspections, except in the case of an emergency. The consensus was for approval.

The seventh amendment would decrease the distance requirements, from 1,000 feet between other facilities, schools, and public parks to 500 feet. Ms. Day noted that if the waiver requirement is adopted, the distance requirement could be waived. There was no consensus among the Council.

The eighth amendment would add language that the occupancy limit shall be determined by the Fire Marshal, pursuant to the City's fire and building codes. Ms. Day said the occupancy limit is currently 49, or as determined by the Fire Marshal, whichever is less and the amendment is meant to clarify how the occupancy limit is determined. She added that if a shelter for more than 49 people wants to open, they could request a waiver. However, she also notes that if the Fire Marshal sets a specific occupancy limit according to fire and building codes, the requirement cannot be waived. Community Development Director Miles Brainard stated that the limit was set at 49 as an occupancy of 50 or more would require a sprinkler system. Ms. Day said the providers will be grandfathered into this ordinance. There was no consensus among the Council.

The ninth amendment would add a provision that if an individual is unable to sign the intake agreement due to intoxication or similar impairment, they shall sign it as soon as they are able. Ms. Day clarified that it would not impact the intent or substance of the ordinance but would provide further clarification for providers. The consensus was in favor.

The tenth amendment would allow for extended operating hours during emergencies or when temperatures are below freezing. The consensus was in favor. However, there was no consensus for the removal of the 12-hour operating limit.

The eleventh amendment would allow City staff to interview employees and agents of the facility but not on the premises. Additionally, licensees would need to provide demographic data, but City staff would not ask for

the names of those staying, absent of lawful process. Ms. Day added that lawful process would include a court order or search warrant. The consensus was in favor.

The twelfth amendment clarified that a licensed premise may still contract with licensed medical providers to provide care on site. Ms. Day noted that staff did not believe the prior language prohibited the activity. Council discussed licensure of social workers. The consensus was in favor.

The thirteenth amendment would add language that contraband should be confiscated prior to entry of the shelter but may then be returned to occupants unless retention is otherwise required by law. Ms. Day explained that this would bolster the rights of individuals to their own personal property, but it only extended to legal property. The consensus was in favor.

The fourteenth amendment would add language stating that upon written request by the applicant/licensee, the appeal may be expedited to the next available council meeting or within fifteen days, whichever is sooner, when weather or emergency conditions make delay unreasonable. The consensus was in favor.

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

- a. Certificate presentation to Chad Mottet, 2025 Snow Roadeo Champion.

Mayor Harris presented Chad Mottet with a certificate of achievement and thanked Brandon for his service to the City. A photo was taken.

Public Works Director Mike Bartels provided information on the Snow Roadeo and commended Mr. Mottet for his public service.

7. Public Comment

Mayor Harris asked if anyone in the public wished to speak. No one was signed up.

8. Update Rock Island

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Join us for the 2nd Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony in Arts Alley next Wednesday, November 19th at 5 p.m. Enjoy caroling by the Rock Island High School Chamber Choir, a “Season’s Greetings” lighted wall photo spot, La Flama food truck, drinks from The Iconic and Quad City Arts crafts and games.

Check out guest vendor booths by Catalpa Natural Cleaning Services, Dandee Flowers, Moon House Medicines and SEAL Ceramic Shop. The countdown to the tree lighting starts at 6 p.m.

After the tree lighting, hop on a free pedicab and head over to Schwiebert Riverfront Park where the fun continues. You can meet Santa and his helpers and take your own festive photos while enjoying a FREE cup of hot cocoa.

Free Thanksgiving Meals

The 36th Annual Thanksgiving Meals event kicks off at noon on Friday, November 21st at the MLK Center.

Everyone is invited for a free Thanksgiving meal from Friday the 21st through the weekend until Sunday, November 23rd. Pick up your meal curbside from noon to 5 pm on Friday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m on Saturday the 22nd; and Sunday the 23rd from noon to 4 p.m.

Delivery service is available for orders of 25 or more, and to elderly and disabled people; delivery orders must be placed by November 14th at mlkcenter.org.

Meals include turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, beans, corn, and pie. Last year the MLK Center served 7,000 free meals, and this year is expected to be bigger than ever.

9. Passage of Ordinances

- a. An ordinance to install “Tenant Parking Only - Vehicles Will Be Towed Away at Vehicle Owners Expense” signs around the perimeter of the Federal Courthouse property. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Bartels added that he spoke with the GSA, and they had no issue with the revision.

VOTE:

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

10. Ordinances (First Readings)

- a. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding a request from QC Farmers Market to temporarily operate on the sidewalk along the northeast intersection of 2nd Avenue and 18th Street on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., beginning November 15, 2025 and ending April 25, 2026. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to approve the request as recommended; and consider, suspend the rules and pass the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the request as recommended; and consider, suspend the rules and

pass the ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request to remove the residential parking zone on the east side of 31st Street from 14th to 15th Avenue. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to consider, suspend the rules and pass the ordinance; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee to ban parking on the east side of 13th Street West from 91st Avenue West north to the 90th Avenue Court West cul-de-sac. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to consider, suspend the rules and pass the ordinance; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

- d. Report from the Economic Development Department regarding a development agreement with Darius Moore dba The Vault. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement; and consider
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the ordinance.

RC

Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to consider, suspend the rules and pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Evans, Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy. 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 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 October 10 through October 16 in the amount of \$2,526,467.44; claims for the week of October 17 through October 23 in the amount of \$358,235.96; claims for the week of October 24 through October 30 in the amount of \$970,767.85; and payroll for the weeks of October 13, 2025 through October 26, 2025 in the amount of \$1,845,999.80.
- b. Purchase Card Claims for the period of August 27, 2025 through September 26, 2025 in the amount of \$86,721.69.
- c. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding a payment in the amount of \$12,521.23 to Tyler Technologies of Plano, TX for the ERP System implementation services using ARPA funds (unrestricted).
- d. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding requests from the Rock Island Downtown Alliance to use sound amplification and to close Arts Alley on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony; a request to waive the sound amplification permit fee; and a request for the outdoor consumption of alcohol in Arts Alley.
- e. Minutes from the October 13, 2025 Closed Session meeting.
- f. Minutes from the October 27, 2025 City Council Meeting.

Motion:

Motion to approve consent agenda items a through f.

RC

Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to approve consent agenda items a through f; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

12. Claims/Purchases

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment 2 to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for the 2025 Sidewalk and Pavement Patching Program in the amount of \$435,153.06.
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a payment to J.C. Dillon, Inc., Peoria, Illinois, for WSRP and SLRP repairs in the amount of \$78,161.54.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Valley Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for an emergency culvert repair at 10111 35th Street West in the amount of \$32,280.76.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to allow claims a through c; Aldersperson Evans 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: Evans, Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Poulos, Healy. Nay: None. Absent: None.

- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Kraft Power Corporation, Gaylord, Michigan, for a wet weather treatment pump engine maintenance contract in the amount of \$44,334.00.

Motion:	Motion to allow the claim.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to allow the claim; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

13. Department Reports

- a. Report from the Finance Department regarding approval of the Municipal Compliance Reports for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2024 for the Police Pension Fund and the Firefighters' Pension Fund.

Motion:	Motion to approve the Municipal Compliance Reports for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2024.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Barnes moved to approve the Municipal Compliance Reports for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2024; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

Aldersperson Poulos recused himself as he is a member of the board.

VOTE:

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

14. Rock Island Port Authority

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

- b. Other Business/New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

15. Other Business/New Business

Aldersperson Barnes announced that the Veterans Homes project is underway.

Aldersperson Evans said he was canceling his November 17 First Ward meeting at the MLK Center as he didn't believe it was necessary as he was pleased with the first urban agriculture ordinance community meeting held by City staff last week.

16. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn to November 24, 2025.
- Motion: Motion to adjourn.
- VV Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 7:26 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]