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

11/24/2025 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 5:44 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. Presentations

a. FY 2026 Budget Discussion

City Manager Thompson said the discussion was scheduled to answer unaddressed questions from Council. He said the transfer to the General Fund for fleet amortization will be removed in the final budget. He also explained that most of the sponsorships and contributions are paid out of the General Fund, but the Visitor's Bureau is paid using the Hotel Motel Tax.

Council members discussed the amount budgeted for conferences. Alderperson Parker proposed having a separate discussion regarding policy.

Alderperson Barnes said the General Fund is used to support contributions and sponsorships instead of the Gaming Fund as Gaming has taken on debt. She requested further information regarding contributions and sponsorships. Community Development Director Miles Brainard discussed how the organizations that receive contributions or sponsorships are categorized. Some are organizations where the City is a founding member while others were solicited by the City for services as a sole-source provider. Depending on the entity, there may be a contract, an intergovernmental agreement, a membership fee or a contribution. He clarified that the increase to Quad City Arts was to provide the same level of service as prices have risen.

Alderperson Barnes encouraged taking a closer look at the budget to reduce General Fund spending.

City Manager Thompson explained that the Gaming Fund is the amount of revenue it generates over time and what it funds has changed over time. A large amount of reoccurring debt takes up most of the fund. Finance Director Jessica Sager discussed the historical use of the funds and City policy. She said the Library's portion of the debt for the Johnson Controls Project was moved into the fund in 2024, but since the bond was issued in 2020, the fund has been used to cover the General Fund's liability of the project.

Alderperson Evans discussed his dissatisfaction with street conditions in the First Ward.

Alderperson Parker spoke about the Street Maintenance Utility Fee and how its revenue is spread equally amongst the wards.

Director Sager clarified that the Gaming Fund is covering the HVAC system for the Library.

Alderperson Barnes proposed a financial planning taskforce.

Alderperson Parker commented that the budget insufficiently resources key programs and strategies for the City, specifically regarding housing.

6. Public Comment

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

April Ladenburger and Natalie Linville-Mass spoke about the passing of Joshua Ludeking and a proposal to reduce the number of accidents around the 1900 block of 17th Street. Diagrams to support their proposal were provided.

Dr. Dwight Ford and Ron Lund spoke about homelessness and the social services licensing ordinance.

Heather Anderson and Kate Farrlel spoke about Birth to Five Illinois.

7. Update Rock Island

More than 9,000 Thanksgiving meals served
Over the course of three days, the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center served more than 9,000 free Thanksgiving meals throughout the Quad Cities, making this the largest by far in the event’s 36-year history.

Meals were distributed curbside at the MLK Center on Friday, November 21 and Saturday November 22. On Saturday, in partnership with Dohrn Transfer, meals were delivered throughout the Quad Cities to low-income housing, senior housing, and to seniors and people with disabilities. On Sunday, the MLK Center welcomed people to enjoy a free, hot Thanksgiving meal in its banquet room.

This event is made possible through the hard work of more than 300 volunteers, many of whom have been coming back for more than a decade. We thank them for their time and efforts.

City offices closed for Thanksgiving
City Hall and City offices will be closed this Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. During this week, refuse, recycling and yard waste will be on schedule with the exception that Thursday's collection will be on Friday.

8. Public Hearings

a. CY 2026 Truth in Taxation

Mayor Harris closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing. He asked if anyone from the audience wished to speak.

No one spoke.

Mayor Harris closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

9. Ordinances (First Readings)

a. Report from the Legal Department regarding amendments to Chapter 8, Article XXIII, Establishing a Social Services License. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to consider the ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Legal Department regarding an amendment to Chapter 8, Article XXIII, Sections 8-569 and 8-571, regarding the removal of food pantries from the Ordinance. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Swanson moved to consider the ordinance; Alderperson Barnes seconded.

VOTE:

Motion FAILED on a 3-4-0 roll call vote. Aye: Evans, Hurt, Barnes. Nay: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy. Absent:

None.

c. Report from the Legal Department regarding amendments to Chapter 8, Article XXIII, replacing City Manager with Mayor. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to consider the ordinance; Alderperson Barnes seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldperson Barnes discussed why the Mayor should be the license issuer rather than the City Manager.

VOTE:

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

d. Report from the Legal Department regarding amendments to Chapter 8, Article XXIII, Section 8-575, Distance Requirements. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Barnes moved to consider the ordinance.

Motion died due to lack of a second.

e. Report from the Legal Department regarding an amendment to Chapter 8, Article XXIII, Section 8-577 A, Occupancy Limits. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to consider the ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

City Attorney Day clarified that the amendment would allow the Fire Marshal to determine the building's total occupancy.

VOTE:

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

f. Report from the Legal Department regarding amendments to Chapter 8, Article XXIII, Section 8-577 C, Removal of 12-hour time limit. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to consider the ordinance; Alderperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

g. Report from the Legal Department regarding amendments to Chapter 8, Article XXIII, Section 8-577, by adding a new provision O, Social Work and Therapy Services. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to consider the ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

City Attorney Day clarified that the item was requested by three council members and was not discussed with social service providers. Alderperson Parker added that the social service license would require that licensees ensure that providers offering social work or psychotherapy within the licensees' facilities are properly licensed to practice.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-2-0 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy. Nay: Evans, Barnes.

Absent: None.

h. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from Leo Bautista, 2804 40th Avenue, to install a three-way stop at the intersection of 28th Street and 40th Avenue. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

10. Passage of Ordinances & Resolutions

a. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding a request from the St. Patrick Society to hold their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and a resolution for the closure of the Master Sergeant Stanley Talbot Memorial Bridge and 15th Street (U.S. Highway 67) on Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to approve the event as recommended and adopt the resolution; 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.

b. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a resolution establishing a time and place for a public hearing for the North Rock Island Port District TIF Redevelopment Project Area.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to adopt the resolution; Alderperson 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.

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 October 31 through November 6 in the amount of $869,346.34; and payroll for the weeks of October 27, 2025 through November 9, 2025 in the amount of $1,841,021.91

b. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding a payment in the amount of $14,178.00 to Tyler Technologies of Plano, TX for the new point of sale hardware.

c. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding a request from Phi Omega Phi of Augustana College to use sound amplification on Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. for a block party.

d. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding a request from the Rock Island Downtown Alliance to use sound amplification and to close Arts Alley, the 1800 block of 2nd Avenue, the east half of the 1700 block of 2nd Avenue and the roundabout; a request to use the Green Lawn; a request to waive the sound amplification permit fee; and a request for the outdoor consumption of alcohol on Sunday, December 7, 2025 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the 2nd Avenue Holiday Market.

e. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding a request from Christian Care to hold their annual Frigid Feet walk on Saturday, December 20, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

f. Minutes from the November 10, 2025 City Council Meeting.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve Consent Agenda items a through f; 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.

12. Claims/Purchases

a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Valley Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for the Rebuild Downtown Rock Island Improvements Project in the amount of $836,840.85.

b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment 4 to Summerset Marine Construction, Whitewater, Wisconsin, for the Sunset Marina Dock Replacement Project in the amount of $651,941.00.

c. 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 $36,000.00.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to allow claims a through c; Alderperson Evans seconded.

Alderperson 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.

13. Contracts/Agreements

a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding an addendum for additional IMEG engineering services for the Bally West Development Project in the amount of $30,000.00.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve the amendment; and authorize the City Manager to execute the document; Alderperson 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.

b. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding a self-insurance package with IPMG in the amount of $1,048,642.00

Motion:	Motion to approve the self-insurance package as recommended; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve the self-insurance package as recommended; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract; 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.

c. Report from the Community Development Department regarding an amendment to the sale agreement with Ascentra Credit Union for Lot 2 of the Solomon Site.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to approve the amendment; and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement; Alderperson Barnes seconded.

VOTE:

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

14. Budget/Finance Items

a. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the TIF 11 Downtown Fund (409) in the amount of $75,000.00.

b. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the MLK Activity Fund (900) in the amount of $10,000.00.

c. Report from the Finance Department regarding interfund transfer from the Water Operations Fund (500) to the Sunset Marina Fund (520) in the amount of $1,540,000.00

Motion:	Motion to approve budget adjustments a through c.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

Alderperson Barnes requested that budget adjustment c be read separately.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve budget adjustments a and b; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve budget adjustment c; Alderperson Healy seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Public Works Director Mike Bartels said the construction project is expected to be completed by the end of December. The FEMA reimbursement should take 60-90 days once all documents are submitted. Rates were increased in 2025 in anticipation of the capital project. It's expected that the 2026 lease rentals will bring in enough revenue for capital projects.

Finance Director Jessica Sager said there is a negative cash balance of $1.7 million in the marina. The plan to eliminate the negative fund balance is similar to previous practice with other fund balances to help build the cash balance down. Final payments for the FEMA project won't be made until next year.

City Manager Thompson explained that water rates are set by a rate model that looks into future operational and capital costs. Some funds are reserved for future capital projects.

Alderperson Barnes said she understood the project was already approved but didn't believe the transfer aligned with the City's financial policy as it relates to enterprise funds.

VOTE:

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

15. Department Reports

a. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding the schedule of regular meeting dates for the Rock Island City Council Calendar Year 2026.

Motion:	Motion to approve the City Council annual meetings calendar as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the City Council annual meetings calendar as recommended; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Barnes requested to add a special meeting for a budget workshop.

City Attorney Day clarified that Alderperson Barnes was proposing a special meeting and the agenda item was a schedule of the regular council meetings. She added that a special meeting could be scheduled later similarly to ward meetings.

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 Public Works Department regarding the surplus of City vehicles and equipment.

Motion:	Motion to approve the declaration of surplus vehicles and equipment and grant permission to dispose of the items in a manner that will be advantageous to the City of Rock Island.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the declaration of surplus vehicles and equipment and grant permission to dispose of the items in a manner that will be advantageous to the City of Rock Island; 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.

16. Other Business/New Business

Alderperson Evans commended and thanked the MLK Center staff and volunteers for serving free Thanksgiving meals last week.

Alderperson Parker proposed adding a motion at the beginning of each council meeting to approve or adopt the agenda.

Alderperson Swanson remarked that it was a great week for the downtown last week. The tree lighting event drew a large crowd downtown on Wednesday. The Botanical Center's Winter Nights Winter Lights also opened to the public on Friday. She added that Quad City Arts kicks off their Festival of Trees this week.

17. Adjourn

a. Motion to adjourn to December 8, 2025.

Motion:	Motion to adjourn.
VV	Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to adjourn; Alderperson Healy 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 7:14 p.m.
[MIN_SIGNATURES]