

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

8/28/2023 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Thoms asked City Clerk Samantha Gange to call the roll.

Present: Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderpersons Moses Robinson, Randy Hurt, Judith Gilbert, Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos and Bill Healy.

Absent: None.

Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, Attorney Dave Morrison, CityClerk Samantha Gange, and other City Staff.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Thoms led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Moment of Silence

Mayor Thoms requested a moment of silence. A moment of silence was observed.

5. Public Comment

S. Edward Yancey Jr. approached Council and said he had been trying to get in touch with his Alderperson in the Second Ward. He handed Alderperson Hurt his business card and asked that he call him.

6. Presentations

a. Presentation of the 2023 Citizen of the Year Awards.

Community Engagement Manager Sarah Hayden said each year, people in the community have an opportunity to submit a nomination for those who have made selfless contributions of service to the City of Rock Island and its residents. Eight categories have been recognized: Individual; Youth; Education; Professional; City Employee; Veteran; Organization; Church or Non-Profit; and Business. The awards were founded in 1987 as a way to recognize those individuals and organizations that make a positive difference in the Rock Island community. This year marks the 36th annual awards. The winners were chosen by the Citizen of the Year Committee, which is composed of last year's winners; the Community Engagement Manager, Mayor Mike Thoms, Alderwoman Jenni Swanson, Alderman Bill Healy, City Clerk Samantha Gange and Labor Day Parade Committee Chairperson Mary Chappell. She announced this year's winners also will be honored in the Labor Day Parade, on Monday, Sept. 4.

The 2023 Citizen of the Year awards:

Individual: Aubrey Barnes, founder of Roaring Rhetoric and the non-profit group Young Lions Roar. Aubrey is a poet, rapper and educator who inspires students to develop self-confidence through poetry, writing and self-expression by performing in front of others.

Youth: Nicolina Pappas, environmentalist and founder of Nicolina's Turtle Co. Just 12-years-old, Nicolina is already a conservation leader in the Quad Cities. She founded Nicolina's Turtle Co. when she was 8 with the goal of reducing single-use plastic.

Education: Mike and Katie Mertel of Rock Island High School. An individual is typically chosen for this award, but Mike and Katie Mertel are truly a dynamic duo who work together to make Rocky a more inclusive, spirited and accepting community through their work in classrooms and extracurricular activities.

Professional: Rev. Donald Johnson, organizer of Destiny Baptist Church. Rev. Johnson also has served as Chaplain for the Rock Island Police Department for more than 20 years. He serves the community through faith and fellowship and volunteers his time working with at-risk youth.

Veteran: Don Mewes, a former Marine who served during Operation Desert Storm. Mewes has volunteered for Big Brothers Big Sisters, served as a disaster relief responder with the American Red Cross, and serves on the City's Liquor Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

City Employee: goes to Dan Gleason, special events and fundraising manager for the Parks and Recreation Department. Dan has worked for the City for more than six years organizing events and bringing the community together.

Business: Handy True Value Hardware, 1435 30th St., and owners Bob and Pam Votroubek. Handy True Value is recognized for its helpful and knowledgeable employees, donations to Habitat for Humanity, and for being a cornerstone small business in the community for more than 30 years. Handy True Value owners Bob and Pam Votroubek have been chosen as the Labor Day Parade Grand Marshals.

Organization, Church or Non-Profit: Second Baptist Church, 919 6th Ave. Founded in 1873, Second Baptist Church celebrates its 150th anniversary this year and continues to grow. Second Baptist serves the community through youth outreach, a food pantry, monthly meal site, van ministry, vacation bible school, a tutoring program, and the SBC Outreach Music and Arts Academy.

b. Presentation of the CY 2023 2nd Quarter Financial Management Report.

Finance Director Linda Barnes presented the Financial Management Report for the period ending June 30, 2023. She noted that the report provides a review of revenues, expenditures, net position for all funds, as well as an analysis of major local and state tax revenues, and a monthly investment report. She pointed to the presentation documents showing a summary and brief analysis of each fund. The general fund showed revenue reported at 41 percent of the budget due to a one to two-month lag in receiving receipts.

Approximately 50 percent of the revenue that supports the general fund is received from state and local taxes and the majority of City departments are reflected in this fund. She noted expenditures are reported at 42 percent of the targeted benchmark.

Next, Ms. Barnes discussed the special revenue funds, which are used to account for proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes. She discussed the public library fund, which has only received about 33 percent of the budgeted revenue as their largest revenue source is property taxes and only 36 percent has been collected as of June 30, 2023. The expenditures for the public library fund are near target at 48 percent for the period. She discussed the riverboat gaming revenue, which is near target at 48 percent for the period for revenues, while expenditures are at 27 percent of the targeted benchmark. She noted transfers are made to the debt service fund in June and December. Ms. Barnes provided the details of the capital projects and street funds, noting the capital projects are supported by the motor fuel tax and the street fund is supported by the gasoline diesel tax. She discussed the other governmental funds and highlighted the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund that was created to track expenditures related to the disbursement from the federal government, with approximately \$16 million budgeted for 2023. The revenues for the six-month period totaled \$1.2 million.

Ms. Barnes discussed the Housing and Community Development fund, which is used to account for costs related to the operations of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Revenue was reported at 3 percent due to the timing of drawdowns. Expenditures for the period are reported at 29 percent. She reported on the Community Economic Development fund, which is used to account for contributions and grants that support various special economic development activities with actual revenue at 28 percent of the annual budget amount. The majority of the revenue represents a transfer from the general fund due to the absence of gaming funds. Other revenue sources include state and federal grants, with expenditures at 24 percent.

The presentation included a report on the enterprise funds, which are used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business operators with the intent that the cost of providing goods or services to the general public is primarily recovered through user charges. Ms. Barnes provided an overview of the targeted benchmarks for revenues and expenses at the six-month period for the water, wastewater and storm and solid waste funds. She discussed the Parks and Recreation fund, with revenue at 49 percent and \$2 million of the budgeted revenue came from property taxes, while expenditures are reported at 48 percent of the budget for this quarter. Ms. Barnes reported on other City funds, including

the equipment maintenance fund, which includes fleet services and amortization funds. She discussed the hydroelectric plant, which the lease was terminated for in 2021. However, expenditures are budgeted for principal and interest payments on the debt. The debt balance as of June 30, 2023 is \$570,000 and any surplus or deficit in case balances are allocated to water and wastewater through year-end adjustments.

Ms. Barnes provided an overview of the state and local tax revenue analysis. She said the sales tax revenue is reported at 52 percent of the budget, which is expected to be slightly above the annual projection. The local option sales tax is also about 50 percent of the budget, and the annual projection is slightly higher than the budget. She noted the local food and beverage tax revenue is slightly above target at 52 percent, which exceeds the budget by \$24,652. The gaming revenue is slightly above the benchmark at 51 percent of the six-month budget. The City did receive an additional payment in February 2023 the amount of \$681,911.91 from the Illinois Gaming Board, which was based on the gaming expansion bill that was passed in 2019. The payment was ordered for two years and will be received again in February 2024, but the amount is unknown. Next, Ms. Barnes discussed the general fund expenditures, which were at 40 percent of the revised budget as of June 30, 2023. The City's cash and investments total approximately \$61 million during the six-month reporting period.

7. Minutes

- a. Minutes from the August 14, 2023 Study Session and City Council meeting.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the minutes as printed.
VV: Voice Vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to approve the minutes as printed; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

8. Update Rock Island

Get your need for speed this weekend!

The XTream Rock Island Grand Prix is this Saturday, September 2 and Sunday, September 3 in downtown Rock Island. Founded in 1994, it is the largest go-karting street race in North America, bringing drivers from all over the world to compete. For more information, go to racerockisland.info

Come watch the Quad Cities' largest Labor Day parade

The 39th annual Rock Island Labor Day Parade is this Monday, September 4. The parade begins at 9:30 a.m. at Washington Jr. High School on the corner of 33rd Street and 18th Avenue.

This year’s theme is *Planting Pride – Growing Together*. Come see marching bands, horses, school groups, rock bands, the Oscar Meyer Wiener Mobile, and more! For a map of the route, go to rigov.org

Enjoy free music at Schwiebert Park every Thursday night through October 12

Thursday Night Groove continues this week with the Funktastic 5. Concessions begin at 6 p.m. from Bent River Brewery, Happy Joe’s Pizza and the Rock Island concession stand. The free concert begins at 7 p.m. right on Rock Island’s riverfront.

And finally, the City Congratulates Rock Island track champion Courtney Lindsey

The City celebrates Rock Island High School grad Courtney Lindsey, who just finished competing with Team USA at the World Track and Field Championships in Budapest, Hungary where he competed in the Men’s 200 Meters race. Courtney is a Big 12 Champion, a first team All-American athlete and an NCAA Champion.

Mayor Thoms announced that the City Attorney, Dave Morrison, was retiring. Mayor Thoms thanked Mr. Morrison for his years of service to the City and presented him with a Challenge Coin. A photo was taken of Mayor Thoms and Mr. Morrison.

9. Ordinances

- a. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding an amendment to a Special Use Permit for Route Six Equity Growth Corporation at 3204 27th Avenue. (Second Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to pass the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Swanson remarked that she did not receive any feedback from residents regarding the special use permit for this property.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding a Special Use Permit request for Barry Reuther at 2963 9th Street. (Second Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to pass the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Gilbert, Healy, Poulos, Hurt, Robinson, Parker, Swanson. 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 weeks of July 28 through August 03, 2023, in the amount of \$951,293.50; for the weeks of August 4 through August 10, 2023, in the amount of \$586,982.47; and payroll for the weeks of July 24 through August 06, 2023 in the amount of \$1,753,062.85.
- b. International City/County Management Association (ICMA) claims for the week of July 29 through August 11, 2023, in the amount of \$34,507.23.
- c. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding payment in the amount of \$12,439.42 to Assetworks LLC, Wayne, PA for the fleet and fuel system software annual support maintenance.
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$110,030.00 to Ostrom Painting and Sandblasting, Rock Island, IL, for the Pavement Marking Program.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve Consent Agenda items a through d.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve Consent Agenda items a through d; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

11. Claims

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$13,058.03 to

Langman Construction Inc., Rock Island, IL, for an emergency water main repair at 38th Street and Blackhawk Road.

- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$322,533.68 to Langman Construction, Inc., Rock Island, IL, for the Asphalt Street Milling and Patching Program.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve claims a and b.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to allow claim items a and b; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

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: Gilbert, Healy, Poulos, Hurt, Robinson, Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

12. Contracts / Agreements

- a. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department requesting to waive the normal bidding policy to allow for staff to proceed with the demolition of properties located at 708 & 710 7th Avenue, and award the bid to the contractor offering the best price.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to waive the normal bidding policy, approve the demolition of the houses at 708 and 710 7th Avenue, and direct the City Manager to execute the contract documents with a not to exceed amount of \$50,000 per demolition.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to waive the normal bidding policy, approve the demolition of the houses at 708 and 710 7th Avenue, and direct the City Manager to execute the contract documents with a not to exceed amount of \$50,000 per demolition; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

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: Gilbert, Healy, Poulos, Hurt, Robinson, Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

- b. Report from the Public Works Department requesting approval to award a three-year contract to FBG Service Corp, Rock Island, Illinois, for janitorial services in the amount of \$630,470.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the contract as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the contract as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the F3 Marina/Sunset Marina and the Public Works Department requesting approval to renew the Sunset Marina apartment rental agreement.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the renewal rental agreement request as recommended, and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents.

RC Roll Call vote is needed

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the renewal rental agreement request as recommended, and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

- d. Report from F3 Marina/Sunset Marina and the Public Works Department requesting approval to

renew the Coast Guard Auxiliary lease.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the renewal lease as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to table this agenda item until the first October City Council meeting to allow time for additional discussion regarding the lease; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

- e. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding a one-year contract extension with Pappas and Wright for labor and human resources-related legal services.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the contract extension as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- f. Report from the Finance Department regarding an annual agreement with Fifth Assets, Inc. d/b/a DebtBook for the lease and subscription in the amount of \$14,500.00.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications, and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications, and authorize the City Manager to execute the documents; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

- g. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department Regarding the Reassignment of a Development Agreement from LRC Equity, LLC to Fortress Bank.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the reassignment of the redevelopment agreement to Fortress Bank.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the reassignment of the redevelopment agreement to Fortress Bank; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

13. Ordinances with Reports from Departments

- a. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding a new Mobile Food Units Ordinance. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Parker asked Miles Brainard, Community & Economic Development Director, to provide a summary of the ordinance. Mr. Brainard said staff incorporated the feedback received from Council members at the study session earlier this year into the ordinance. He noted the ordinance provides a mechanism for

mobile food units (MFU) to operate in the City through a license. He said the license would require the food truck vendors to follow the health code compliance process. The approval to operate would come from the City Manager as to the locations and hours of operation. He noted that if the City Manager did have concerns regarding the operation or location of the mobile food unit, the issue would come before the City Council to decide. Mr. Brainard said the ordinance does still contain the MFU's two locations: Arts Alley in the downtown and the pocket park on 30th Street. The City Council can designate additional areas or zones in the future if needed.

Aldersperson Parker asked if the Farmer's Market would be impacted by this ordinance. Mr. Brainard responded that it would not and added that the Parks and Recreation Department have authority over park-owned property regarding food vendors.

Aldersperson Robinson asked about the food truck location near Hill and Valley. Mr. Brainard responded that it was private property and could continue operating as is. Aldersperson Healy clarified that private parties who hire food vendors are exempt.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding approval of the demolition standards. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the demolition standards as recommended and consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the demolition standards as recommended and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Parker asked Mr. Brainard if this ordinance pertains to the standards related to building codes. Mr. Brainard responded that these standards are in regards to the end state requirement, not necessarily about how the City got to the need for a demolition to take place. He said this ordinance pertains to what is expected once the demolition is complete. Although the department has always required the standards spelled out in the ordinance, it was never technically written anywhere in the code. This ordinance provides a written practice of how to tear down a structure. Mr. Brainard said this policy will assist the City with ensuring a minimum standard. Attorney Morrison added this is also a tool and mechanism for the City to fall back on.

Aldersperson Parker asked if this law is part of a larger conversation as to how the City gets to the point of tearing down a structure. Mr. Brainard responded it is part of a larger discussion among staff and is being

worked on right now. The department is reviewing an internal rating system or report card for this process and the enforcement history related to any nuisance-related calls. Alderperson Parker asked if the policies would provide a process for public bidding on City-owned property prior to starting the demolition process. Mr. Brainard responded affirmatively and added the Land Bank also plays an integral role in this and the City's building official is now a non-voting member of that board.

Mr. Brainard provided a brief update on the Bear Manufacturing building on 5th Avenue and noted they are working to have an environmental evaluation done, including an asbestos inspection and a structural engineer expert. This property will be put out to bid to give the public an opportunity to purchase or save the building.

VOTE:

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

14. Department Reports

- a. Report from the Information Technology Department recommending the allocation of \$26,850.97 in ARPA funds for payment to CivicPlus of Manhattan, KS for the SeeClickFix Citizen Request Management (CRM) system.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve \$26,850.97 in ARPA funds for the SeeClickFix Citizen Request Management system.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Gilbert moved to approve \$26,850.97 in ARPA funds for the SeeClickFix Citizen Request Management system; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

15. Traffic Engineering Requests

- a. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from Kathleen Denison to place two residential parking spaces on the south side of 6th Avenue across the street from her home. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

16. Events/Misc Requests

- a. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding an Activity permit application from the Cornbelt Running Club for their 35th annual Nancy Kapheim Memorial Classic 5K and 10K Run on Sunday, October 1st, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the event as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to approve the event as recommended; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from St. George Greek Church, 2930 31st Avenue, to use sound amplification on Friday, September 15th and Saturday, September 16th, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. both days for a church festival.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the sound amplification permit as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the sound amplification permit as recommended; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Project Now to amend the date and time for their mobile food pantry distribution from Monday, September 11, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to Thursday, August 31, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the amended date and time for the street closing application.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to approve the amended date and time for the street closing application; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

17. Other Business/New Business

Aldersperson Poulos asked Mr. Brainard to provide a brief overview with regards to the process of how buildings and properties that are in disrepair are handled, as the slow process can have the appearance that the City isn't taking action or that building owners of these neglected properties aren't getting any recourse. Mr. Brainard said typically these types of issues are addressed in MUNICES and not in regular court. The difference is the MUNICES process is a more relaxed and less strict process and doesn't have as much recourse as civic courts and that is an important distinction. Ultimately, they defer to the Hearing Officer to make the ruling as to the course of action that should be taken and this process can be lengthy and not get the results as quickly as needed. However, in certain individual cases when there is an immediate threat to public health and welfare, the department will recommend the civil court process. A good example of this is the current court case regarding the Klaus Buildings as they pose a current health threat and are seeking recourse through civil court. Mr. Brainard said it is important to remember that the attorney and staff have to decide which cases should be referred to MUNICES and which cases should be referred directly to civil court, as the City does not have unlimited funds and court costs are always a factor.

Attorney Morrison added that the MUNICES process overall is less costly and is typically effective. However, there are always cases that don't get the results they hoped for and can end up in a lengthy drawnout process. He provided an example of an estate transaction and the difficulty enforcing compliance as property laws are complex in nature. Mr. Morrison commented that in the 9 years he has represented the City, he can attest to the hard work City staff do. He expressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication City staff give every day to ensuring everything from garbage getting picked up to a pothole getting filled.

Aldersperson Gilbert remarked that for over the past 3 years since she was elected, she has requested from all the City Managers for a report, update or presentation on the City's vacant building and rental programs. She said she requested it again this past May after the building in Davenport collapsed. She said last week she discovered the company the City has been using for the vacant property program has gone bankrupt and City staff are now taking this program in-house. She asked why the Council wasn't notified of this. City Manager Todd Thompson responded that this happened fairly recently and staff are still working through the ramifications and performing their due diligence in order to give an accurate and full report to the Council. He said Mr. Brainard is working on a study session presentation for the Council in September that elaborates on all of these different processes and programs. Mr. Brainard elaborated that he will be presenting a four-part series on the operations of the inspections division covering these subjects as well as demolitions and others over the next few months.

Aldersperson Swanson referenced the study session presentation by Project NOW and said she previously met with their staff to discuss how they can best use ARPA funds allocated for homelessness. She noted Project NOW's recent efforts to eradicate homelessness in our region, including the poverty series and the Dubuque Poverty Plan. She asked Council members to consider allocating the \$250,000 of ARPA funds in the homelessness category to Project NOW to assist them with one-time funding for their down payment on their office expansion. Aldersperson Poulos asked about the timeline for discussion of these funds and how quickly Project NOW needed a decision from the Council. Aldersperson Swanson said they are hoping for a decision fairly quickly as it gets closer to the winter months and if they can be in the new building prior to winter.

In response to a question from Aldersperson Gilbert as to the purchase price for the property that Project NOW wanted to purchase, Aldersperson Healy responded \$750,000.

Mayor Thoms thanked Council members and staff for the outpouring of support on the passing of his father, Stuart Thoms. He noted Stuart Thom's dedication to the City of Rock Island and his philanthropic efforts through the years, including funding for the new YMCA and library.

18. Closed Session

- a. **5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding must be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.**

Motion:	Motion whether or not to enter Closed Session for the exception cited.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to enter Closed Session for the exception cited; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

19. Adjourn

- a. Motion to Adjourn.

Motion: Motion whether or not to adjourn.

VV: Voice Vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to adjourn the meeting; Aldersperson Poulos seconded

VOTE:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Samantha Gange, City Clerk