

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

10/21/2025 - Minutes

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Presenter: Alderwoman Linda Barnes

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

Alderperson Linda Barnes welcomed everyone and introduced herself, City Manager Todd Thompson and Finance Director Jessica Sager. Mayor Ashley Harris and Alderperson Glen Evans were also present. She explained that the meeting was being held to help the community better understand the budget process and the importance of the budget.

2. Overview of the Budget in Brief Document

Presenter: Finance Department Staff

Ms. Sager said the City's budget in brief provides a glimpse into what was approved during the 2025 budget process. She provided information regarding the City and the funds that go into preparing the budget, including the number of City departments and active funds. She discussed the major fund types, which include government funds, proprietary funds and fiduciary funds.

Ms. Sager provided the breakdown of the total revenue budgeted for 2025, totaling just under \$154.5 million across all funds. The charges for services revenue was the highest revenue category at 21.56%, followed by state and local taxes at 18.77% and property taxes at 14.43%. She provided a breakdown of how property taxes are divided between the various taxing districts.

Ms. Sager discussed the budgeted expenditures in 2025, totaling approximately \$168.5 million. The largest expense across all funds was personnel, which includes salaries, insurance benefits, pension and personal development. The second highest expense was services, which includes banking fees, engineering fees, telephones and electricity. She provided a breakdown of the fund types. The General Fund and Enterprise Fund made up 33.45% and 29.41% of expenditures respectively. She explained how expenditures were allocated to each department. Public Works Department received the largest portion at 39.26% followed by the Police Department at 17.34%.

Ms. Sager said the General Fund is the primary operating fund and supports core services. She noted that the total revenue budgeted for the General Fund for 2025 was \$48.9 million, with state and local taxes contributing the most at 48.13%. The total amount of expenditures budgeted for 2025 in the General Fund was just below \$56.4 million. The Police Department made up the highest portion of the General Fund at 34.26%, followed by the Fire Department at 28%. Personnel was the biggest category at 66%.

Ms. Sager explained that special revenue funds have a designated revenue source. These funds include, Library, various TIF funds, gaming, and CDBG funds. Grant revenue made up 36.24% of funding sources, followed by property tax at 32.72%. The largest special fund expenditures were services and transfers at 26.87% and 21.71% respectively.

The total revenue of enterprise funds budgeted was \$44.3 million. Charges for services revenue was the

largest source of revenue. Services and personnel were the largest enterprise funds expenditures at 29.5% and personnel at 18.53%. Ms. Sager reported that the total budgeted revenues for internal service funds was \$16.8 million and expenditures totaled \$18.1 million. Capital projects approved for the 2025 budget were discussed. Ms. Sager provided a five-year history of revenues and expenditures.

Goals for the 2026 budget included ensuring a balanced and sustainable budget, supporting goals and priorities established by City Council, minimizing financial impacts on residents and businesses, continuing to provide high-quality, municipal services, maintaining fiscal responsibility and adhering to established financial policies, and preserving the City's current financial position while strengthening its long-term fiscal outlook.

3. Review of the Remaining Budget Schedule

Presenter: Finance Department Staff

Ms. Sager highlighted key dates in the budget schedule. In May departments are asked to verify staff counts and payroll information. In June, the departments provide any CIP budgets along with justifications. In August, the Finance Department begins having budget review meetings with the City Manager, department directors, Mayor and City Council. Budget binders are prepared for City Council in September. A budget presentation and, if necessary, a truth in taxation hearing will be held in November. The first and second hearings of the budget ordinance and property tax levy ordinance occur in December.

4. Public Comments & Questions

Ms. Sager and City Manager Thompson answered questions from the public regarding topics pertaining to property taxes and other revenue sources, budget deficits and surpluses, economic development, the Casino West site, fund transfers, changes in expenditures, grants, stormwater funds, the City's Google contract, and street repairs.

Mayor Harris commented that an economic development taskforce would be established sometime at the beginning of 2026.

5. Closing Remarks

Aldersperson Barnes announced that she will hold more workshops in the future.

Mayor Harris thanked Aldersperson Barnes for organizing the meeting and City staff for their assistance.

Aldersperson Barnes gave her closing remarks and encouraged citizens to get involved with the City to help shape policies and decisions.

6. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 7:16 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]