

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

12/8/2025 - 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, Linda Barnes, Jenni Swanson, Mark Poulos, Bill Healy, and Mayor Ashley Harris.

Absent: Alderpersons Randy Hurt and Dylan Parker.

Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, Attorney Leslie Day, Interim City Clerk Amanda Torres, and other City Staff.

Clerk Torres informed the Council that Alderperson Randy Hurt requested to participate remotely under 5 ILCS 120/7.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to allow Alderperson Hurt to participate in the meeting remotely; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Barnes, Swanson, Poulos, Healy, Evans. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

Alderperson Hurt joined the meeting remotely at 5:46 p.m.

**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. Public Comment**

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

Nick Hammond spoke about the proposed utility rate increases.

## 6. Update Rock Island

### Get on board The Polar Express for family fun at the Rock Island Library this Saturday

The Polar Express, Chris Van Allsburg’s captivating 1985 book about a magical train ride to the North Pole, turns 40 this year. To celebrate, the Rock Island Public Library is offering a free family event on Saturday, December 13th.

The free drop-in party for families takes place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rock Island Downtown Library, 401 19th Street.

The fun includes cocoa, kid-friendly crafts and a selfie picture station. All children will receive a free bell ornament. The event is free, open to all, and does not require registration.

The Martin Luther King Community Center is pleased to announce that nominations and applications for the annual awards and scholarships are now open. **The deadline for all submissions is December 19, 2025.**

- **“I Have A Dream” Award**

Nominate a Rock Island citizen who has demonstrated outstanding community service and made a lasting impact on the community.

- **Youth Expression Contest**

Students are invited to submit a poem, spoken word piece, essay, short story, or short skit based on the theme *“A Time for Vigorous and Positive Change.”*

- **M.L. Lockhart Scholarship**

Now open for Rock Island High School seniors pursuing higher education.

- **Commit to Diversity Achievement Scholarship**

In partnership with Black Hawk College, this two-year academic scholarship supports a RIMSD student committed to diversity and continuing their education.

More information can be found on the MLK Center’s website or by calling the Center.

## 7. Public Hearings

- a. Public Hearing for the CY 2026 Budget.

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.

## 8. Passage of Ordinances & Resolutions

- a. An Ordinance amending Chapter 8, Article XXIII, Establishing a Social Services License. (Second

Reading)

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Barnes moved to amend the ordinance by removing the distance requirement; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

Motion FAILED on a 2-4-1 roll call vote. Aye: Barnes, Evans. Nay: Hurt, Swanson, Poulos, Healy. Absent: Parker.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-1-1 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Poulos, Healy. Nay: Evans. Absent: Parker.

- b. An Ordinance amending Chapter 8, Article XXIII, Section 8-577 A, Occupancy Limits. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-1-1 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Poulos, Healy. Nay: Evans. Absent: Parker.

- c. An Ordinance amending Chapter 8, Article XXIII, Section 8-577, by adding a new provision O, Social Work and Therapy Services. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-1-1 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Poulos, Healy. Nay: Evans. Absent: Parker.

- d. a. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$669,462.50, such funds to be provided from revenue of the gaming fund to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2014A.
- b. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$1,195,210, such funds to be provided from revenue of the Tax Increment Financing fund and gaming fund to pay principal and interest on Taxable General Obligation Bonds, series 2014B.
- c. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$234,787.50, such funds to be provided from revenue of the gaming fund to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2015A.
- d. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$239,200, such funds to be provided from revenue of the gaming and sewer funds to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Refunding Bonds, series 2015B.
- e. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$255,000, such funds to be provided from revenue of the gaming fund to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2016A.
- f. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$82,468.76, such funds to be provided from revenue of the Tax Increment Financing fund and gaming fund to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2016C.
- g. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$299,431.26, such funds to be provided from the revenue of the hydroplant, parks and recreation and gaming funds to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2017A.
- h. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$469,400, such funds to be provided from revenue of the water and wastewater funds to pay principal and interest on Taxable General Obligation Bonds, series 2019A.
- i. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$143,242.50, such funds to be provided from revenue of the Tax Increment Financing fund and gaming fund to pay principal and interest on Taxable General Obligation Bonds, series 2019C.
- j. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$187,268.76, such funds to be provided from revenue of the gaming fund to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2019D.

k. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$915,400, such funds to be provided from revenue of the water, wastewater, parks & recreation and gaming funds to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2020.

l. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$539,200, such funds to be provided from revenue of the gaming, Sunset Marina and water funds to pay principal and interest General Obligation Refunding Bonds, series 2021A.

m. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$944,000, such funds to be provided from revenue of the wastewater fund to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Refunding Bonds, series 2021B.

Motion: Motion to adopt Tax Abatement Resolutions a through m as recommended and direct the Finance Director to file the resolutions with the County Clerk.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

**MOTION:**

Aldersperson Healy moved to adopt Tax Abatement Resolutions a through m as recommended and direct the Finance Director to file the resolutions with the County Clerk; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

**VOTE:**

Motion PASSED on a 5-1-1 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Poulos, Healy. Nay: Evans. Absent: Parker.

**9. Ordinances (First Readings)**

- a. Report from the Finance Department regarding an Ordinance adopting the budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

**MOTION:**

Aldersperson Poulos moved to consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

**DISCUSSION:**

Aldersperson Barnes disagreed with merging Professional Development into Representation. She expressed disapproval regarding the absence of a budget workshop and disagreed with the usage of General Funds to support other funds.

City Manager Thompson clarified that his authority to make budget adjustments is defined by policy.

Finance Director Jessica explained that funds set aside for an emergency shelter were a placeholder and Council would still need to approve an agreement.

Council members discussed individual usage of Professional Development.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 4-2-1 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Swanson, Poulos, Healy. Nay: Barnes, Evans. Absent: Parker.

- b. Report from the Finance Department regarding an Ordinance for the levy, assessment and collection of property taxes for the City of Rock Island for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the Finance Department regarding an Ordinance for the property tax levy of the Downtown Special Services Area (SSA), providing \$310,683 in property taxes for collection in the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a refuse service rate increase of 12% to take effect on January 1, 2026. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to approve the rate increase; and consider the ordinance.  
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the rate increase and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Public Works Director Mike Bartels explained that much of the infrastructure is aging and requires planned replacement. The rate adjustments would allow the City to address EPA mandates and other critical needs before they become costly emergencies. He added that other local communities and private providers have increased their rates due to similar challenges. He discussed some of the details from the rate studies performed by Stanley Consultants in 2020. He noted that many critical projects would be funded by SRF loans through the EPA and part of the loan process requires proof the loans can be paid off.

Aldersperson Evans voiced his concerns regarding water bill issues.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to table the ordinance.

The motion died for lack of a second.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Healy also voiced his concerns about rising water bills.

Aldersperson Poulos suggested passing the ordinance now and amending it next year.

City Manager Thompson noted that costs continue to rise and recommended raising funds for future critical projects.

Aldersperson Swanson added that the City maintains its own water supply and raising rates is inevitable in order to avoid contaminated water due to aging infrastructure.

Aldersperson Barnes suggested exploring the removal of the 5% late fee as some form of relief from the rate increases.

City Manager Thompson said a water forgiveness plan is forthcoming.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to postpone until the December 15, 2025 meeting.

The motion died for lack of a second.

DISCUSSION:

Director Bartels clarified that the City already submitted the SRF applications, and they're under review. He added that the projects have been in the CIP for years.

Director Sager said it would take a couple of weeks to enter the new rates into the system.

Director Bartels said a contract for engineering services for the water domes project was already signed, and the domes are part of the EPA mandate. The proposed rate increases are structured for the upcoming projects. The Mill Street project's loan is close to getting approved. He added that the rate models are based off of what the City would need to pay back the SRF loans. He recommended not delaying the rate increases as the projects would become more costly later.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:

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

- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding an annual water rate increase of 5.5% to take effect on January 1, 2026, for the next four years. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to approve the rate increase; and consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the rate increase and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Barnes seconded.

VOTE:

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

- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding an annual wastewater rate increase of 5.5% to take effect on January 1, 2026, for the next four years. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to approve the rate increase; and consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Barnes moved to approve the rate increase and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

- g. Report from the Public Works Department regarding an annual stormwater rate increase to take effect on January 1, 2026, for the next four years. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to approve the rate increase; and consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the rate increase and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Director Bartels clarified that the rate increase would vary between \$.30 and \$.50 a month, depending on the parcel size.

VOTE:

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

**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 week of November 7 through November 13 in the amount of \$1,156,316.61; and claims for the week of November 14 through November 20 in the amount of \$517,333.61; and payroll for the weeks of November 10, 2025 through November 23, 2025 in the amount of \$1,863,249.56.
- b. ACH Report for the month of October 2025 in the amount of \$8,664,527.75

- c. Purchase Card Claims for the period of September 27, 2025 through October 27, 2025 in the amount of \$73,372.57
- d. Minutes from the November 24, 2025 City Council Meeting.

Motion: Motion 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 Evans seconded.

**VOTE:**

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

**11. Claims/Purchases**

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to McClintock Trucking and Excavating, Silvis, Illinois, for the SWTP/Casino Manhole Relocation Project in the amount of \$337,870.10.
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to McClintock Trucking and Excavating, Silvis, Illinois, for a water main repair at 2339 38th Street in the amount of \$14,670.20.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a payment to J.C. Dillon, Peoria, Illinois, for Water Service Repair Program and Sewer Lateral Repair Program repairs in the amount of \$44,183.95.
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment 5 to Summerset Marine Construction, Whitewater, Wisconsin, for the Sunset Marina Dock Replacement Project in the amount of \$544,056.95.

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

- e. Report from the Community Development Department and Public Works Department regarding the purchase of an excavator for an amount not to exceed \$150,000 utilizing restricted and unrestricted ARPA funds.

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

Aldersperson Barnes requested voting on item d separately.

MOTION ON ITEMS A THROUGH C AND E:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to allow items a through c and e; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

MOTION ON ITEM D:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the claim; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Barnes said she was not in support of some of the funding for the project.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-1-1 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Swanson, Poulos, Healy, Evans. Nay: Barnes. Absent: Parker.

**12. Contracts/Agreements**

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

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

RC	Roll Call vote is needed.
----	---------------------------

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the amended agreement; and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding bids for the Landscaping Contract recommending that the bid be awarded to Lohman Earthworks, Davenport, Iowa, in the amount of \$216,986.22.

Motion: Motion to award the bid as recommended; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract.  
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

**MOTION:**

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

**VOTE:**

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

- c. Report from the Public Works Department to extend the Water Service and Sewer Lateral Repair Program maintenance contract with J.C. Dillon, Peoria, Illinois, in the amount of \$1,050,000.

Motion: Motion to extend the contract as recommended; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents.  
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

**MOTION:**

Aldersperson Evans moved to extend the contract as recommended; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Aldersperson Barnes seconded.

**VOTE:**

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

**13. Department Reports**

- a. Report from the Community Development Department regarding approval of an amendment to the Community Development Block Grant Program Manual regarding Build America, Buy America Act.

Motion: Motion to approve the amendments as recommended.  
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

**MOTION:**

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the amendments as recommended; Aldersperson Barnes seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Community Development Department regarding amendments to the Housing Rehabilitation Program Policies and Procedures.

Motion: Motion to approve the amendments as recommended.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to approve the amendments as recommended; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the Community Development Department regarding approval of the Rehabilitation Handbook.

Motion: Motion to approve the Rehabilitation Handbook.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Barnes moved to approve the Rehabilitation Handbook; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

#### **14. Rock Island Port Authority**

- 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 6-0-1 voice vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Poulos, Healy, Evans. Nay: None. Absent: Parker.

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

VOTE:

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

**15. Other Business/New Business**

Aldersperson Swanson thanked the Public Works Department staff for their work plowing the roads during the heavy snowfall.

**16. Closed Session**

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

Council entered Closed Session at 6:49 p.m.

- 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 to enter Closed Session for the exception cited.  
VV Voice vote is needed.

**17. Adjourn**

a. Motion: Motion to adjourn to December 15, 2025.  
VV Voice vote is needed.

After reconvening the regular meeting, Interim Clerk Torres called the roll. All Council members and Mayor Harris were present, except Alderperson Randy Hurt.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to adjourn; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 7:17 p.m.

[MIN\_SIGNATURES]