

**Rock Island Planning & Zoning Commission Minutes**

Council Chambers, City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

1528 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

November 3, 2025

5:30 PM



<b>Voting Members Present</b>	Mike Creger Sarah Wright Tanja Whitten Maureen Riggs Samuel Odeyemi Reshanda Johnson Bill Sowards
<b>Voting Members Absent</b>	Norm Moline Don Mewes
<b>Staff Present</b>	Eunice Amisah-Mensah, Urban Planner Tanner Osing, Planning & Zoning Manager

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Riggs called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and read the roll call.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public wished to comment so the meeting continued.

**Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes**

Whitten moved to approve the minutes for October 6, 2025. Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 7 to 0.

**Old Business**

None

**Public Hearings**

None

**Other Business**

Community Listening Session for the Urban Agriculture Ordinance

Osing provided an ordinance overview, purpose of the ordinance and key provisions of the updated ordinance.

Members of the public spoke on the updated ordinance.

Pamela Seales expressed support for gardening and healthy food cultivation but raised concerns about poorly maintained gardens in the West End.

Moses Robinson reported long-standing issues with unmanaged gardens around his home, citing safety concerns from plants that block visibility.

Ian Forslund voiced support for urban agriculture and the ordinance draft, but raised concerns on restrictions for season-extending structures.

Isaac Carr of QCAIR, speaking for immigrant and refugee communities, emphasized cultural differences and the need for support in understanding local rules.

Hannah Harris urged the City to explore managed community garden models, warned against overly strict rules that could trigger unnecessary complaints, and emphasized the need for fair enforcement and better public outreach.

Ann McGlynn of Tapestry Farms highlighted the nonprofit's work growing and distributing produce in Rock Island.

Aldersperson Evans noted that the conversation was necessary, emphasizing the need to raise awareness and foster neighborliness.

Andy Parer questioned whether provision of the proposed ordinance were in compliance under the State's Garden Act.

Penny Gillett recommended the city partner with universities and refugee-support organizations to address language barriers and provide gardening guidance.

Ashley Madison stated that the West End is oversaturated with gardens, citing pests and unmaintained lots, and supported using empty fields instead of residential yards.

Osing concluded the listening session by outlining the next steps in the process.

## **Adjournment**

Chair Riggs adjourned the meeting at 7:20PM.

Minutes submitted by Eunice Amisah-Mensah.