

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

12/15/2025 - 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, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, and Mayor Ashley Harris.

Absent: Alderpersons Bill Healy and Randy Hurt.

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

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

Alderperson Hurt arrived at 5:55 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.

Ron Lund, Zakiya Euring, Caleb and Latrisha Williams spoke about homeless shelters.

6. Update Rock Island

As many people know, the City partnered with Project NOW this past weekend to host an emergency shelter at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center as temperatures dipped below zero. I'd like to start off by reading a statement from Jerry Jones, executive director of the King Center.

"This past weekend, 55 individuals found safe shelter at the MLK site, made possible through the strong collaboration of Project NOW, Christian Care and The Third Place. The coordinated effort ran exceptionally smooth, reflecting the dedication, preparation and teamwork of all partners involved. Volunteers ensured that guests were welcomed with dignity, warmth and the resources they needed throughout their stay.

The only significant challenge we encountered was a positive one: finding adequate space to store the overwhelming volume of donations contributed by a deeply compassionate and generous community. The outpouring of food, supplies and essentials was a powerful testament to the community's commitment to supporting our most vulnerable neighbors, underscoring both the success of the operation and the strength of our collective care.

We are proud and humbled by the generosity of our community and the care they have for those in dire need."

Holiday Hours

City Hall and Rock Island public libraries will be closed Christmas Eve, December 24, Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1. The library will also be closed New Year's Eve, December 31.

Mayor Harris announced that item 8h would need to be removed from the agenda and asked for a motion to remove it.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to remove item 8h from the agenda; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

7. Passage of Ordinances

- a. An Ordinance adopting the budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- b. 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. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- c. 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. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

- d. An Ordinance establishing a refuse service rate increase of 12% to take effect on January 1, 2026. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- e. An Ordinance establishing an annual water rate increase of 5.5% to take effect on January 1, 2026, for the next four years. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- f. An Ordinance establishing an annual wastewater rate increase of 5.5% to take effect on January 1, 2026, for the next four years. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Barnes moved to pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

- g. An Ordinance establishing an annual stormwater rate increase to take effect on January 1, 2026, for the next four years. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

8. Ordinances (First Readings)

- a. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a property purchase at 1000/1002 3rd Avenue from Habitat for Humanity - Quad Cities for \$3,000 plus closing costs. (First Reading)
- b. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a property purchase at 1009 & 1011 3rd Avenue from Habitat for Humanity - Quad Cities for \$3,000 plus closing costs. (First Reading)
- c. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a property purchase at 1015 3rd Avenue from Habitat for Humanity - Quad Cities for \$3,000 plus closing costs. (First Reading)
- d. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a property purchase at 1017 3rd Avenue from Habitat for Humanity - Quad Cities for \$3,000 plus closing costs. (First Reading)
- e. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a property purchase at 1015 10th Avenue from Habitat for Humanity - Quad Cities for \$3,000 plus closing costs. (First Reading)
- f. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a property purchase at 1019 10th Avenue from Habitat for Humanity - Quad Cities for \$3,000 plus closing costs. (First Reading)
- g. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a property purchase at 1023 10th Avenue from Habitat for Humanity - Quad Cities for \$3,000 plus closing costs. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to approve the purchases; authorize the City Manager to execute the agreements; and consider, suspend the rules, and pass ordinances a through g.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the purchases; authorize the City Manager to execute the agreements; and consider, suspend the rules, and pass ordinances a through g; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Community Development Director Miles Brainard said some of the properties are surrounded by or close to other City-owned properties and may be affected by future reconfigurations of infrastructure or have future redevelopment potential. He added that Habitat for Humanity is concerned that the new bridge may affect those properties.

VOTE:

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

- h. Report from the Economic Development Department regarding a Development Agreement between the City of Rock Island and Blue Collar Bagels. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement; and consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

This item was removed from the agenda.

- i. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from Jim Sterling, 1600 30th Street, to install a handicapped parking space slightly south of 1600 30th Street in the first available parking space. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

Absent: None.

- j. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from Jack Cullen, Rock Island Downtown Alliance, to install a handicapped parking space on the east side of 18th Street north of the 30-minute parking zone. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

- k. Report from the Legal Department regarding amendments to Chapter 3, "Alcoholic Liquor" of the Rock Island Code of Ordinances, by Amending Sections 3-1, "Definitions," 3-10 "Types of Licenses and Fees," 3-11 "Single Containers," and 3-14 "Minors."

Motion: Motion to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance.
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Parker encouraged reviving discussions regarding limiting the hours gas stations and convenience stores surrounding the Downtown can sell alcohol.

VOTE:

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

9. 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. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding payment in the amount of \$68,955 for the annual contract renewal of Google Workspace System for the term December 27, 2025 through December 27, 2026.
- b. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding payment in the amount of \$13,600.80 for renewal of Nitro Professional from December 19, 2025, through December 18, 2026.
- c. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding payment in the amount of \$22,765 to ESRI Inc. for the annual contract renewal for GIS Mapping Software for the term January 15, 2026, through January 14, 2027.
- d. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding the quarterly software maintenance renewal agreement with Harris Govern from January 1 through March 31, 2026, in the amount of \$10,860 for the current permitting, business licensing, and land management system.
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a payment 2 to Greenspace Associates, Inc., Bettendorf, Iowa, for the 2025 Sod Replacement/Repair Program in the amount of \$81,338.00.
- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a payment to Ostrom Painting and Sandblasting, Rock Island, Illinois, for the 2025 Pavement Marking Program in the amount of \$99,755.28.
- g. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a payment to Holiday Outdoor Decor, Bethlehem, PA, for downtown holiday decorations in the amount of \$21,014.00.
- h. Claims for the week of November 21 through November 27 in the amount of \$68,553.84; and claims for the week of November 28 through December 4 in the amount of \$2,761,628.32
- i. Minutes from the December 8, 2025 City Council Meeting.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve Consent Agenda items a through i; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

10. Claims/Purchases

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to J.C. Dillon, Inc., Peoria, Illinois, for Water Service and Sewer Lateral Repair Contract repairs in the amount of \$32,574.30.

Motion: Motion to allow the claim.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to allow the claim; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

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: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Poulos, Healy, Evans. Nay: None. Absent: None.

- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment 6 and final to Summerset Marine Construction, Whitewater, Wisconsin, for the Sunset Marina Dock Replacement Project in the amount of \$311,199.00.

Motion: Motion to allow the claim.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to allow the claim; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

Aldersperson Parker recused himself from the vote due to the nature of his employment.

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the Public Works Department requesting authorization for IITI Group of Davenport, Iowa, to purchase and install the surge tank insulation replacement for the Black Hawk Lift Station in the amount of \$40,669.00.

Motion: Motion to approve the purchase.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to approve the purchase; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding bids for the 2026 water and wastewater treatment chemical bids.

Motion: Motion to accept the bids as recommended.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to accept the bids as recommended; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

11. Contracts/Agreements

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding authorization for Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, to extend the 2025 Seal Coat and Asphalt Street Patching Program into 2026 in the amount of \$825,000.00.

Motion: Motion to approve the contract extension as recommended; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the contract extension as recommended; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

Aldersperson Parker recused himself from the vote due to the nature of his employment.

DISCUSSION:

Public Works Director Mike Bartels said there is typically a 3% increase per year due to inflation. He explained that the contract was put out for competitive bids for 2025 and, historically, Council has approved one-year contract extensions. Alderperson Hurt said he would prefer that the contract be put out for bid again to see if lower bids come in.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding authorization for Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, to extend the 2025 Sidewalk and Pavement Patching Program into 2026 in the amount of \$645,000.00.

Motion: Motion to approve the contract extension as recommended; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Swanson moved to approve the contract extension as recommended; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; 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: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Poulos, Healy, Evans. Nay: None. Absent: None.

12. Budget/Finance Items

- a. Report from the Finance Department regarding the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for CY 2026 through CY 2029.

Motion: Motion to approve the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan and authorize staff to implement the CY 2026 projects and expenditures.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan; and authorize staff to implement the CY 2026 projects and expenditures; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the General Fund (100) and the Building Amortization Fund (606) in the amount of \$50,000.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to approve the budget adjustment; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Finance Director Jessica Sager clarified that the adjustment is for 2025 and nothing would be funded in 2026 unless the same procedure is followed at the end of 2026 and Council approves. The amount will vary year to year, dependent on how much can be afforded to put into the general budget once the General Fund is balanced. She explained that staff is trying to build the surplus in the amortization fund in case a big item needs to be purchased. City Manager Thompson added that the intent is to create a replacement plan. Aldersperson Parker said he advocated for creating the fund as the City had not budgeted for maintaining its properties and added that building needs exceed \$50,000. He encouraged staff to explore and identify a sustainable revenue for the fund. Mr. Thompson explained that the strategy is similar to how the City funds replacement vehicles.

VOTE:

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

13. Department Reports

- a. Report from the City Manager regarding Freedom of Information Act and Open Meeting Act Officer appointments for CY 2026.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to approve the appointments as recommended; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

DISCUSSION:

City Attorney Leslie Day explained that the former Clerk and herself led training sessions regarding OMA compliance with staff liaison and had not heard of any issues over the past year. Clerk Torres confirmed there have been no recent concerns.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding a General Wage increase (Non-Affiliated Employees).

Motion:	Motion to approve the General Wage increase as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to approve the General Wage increase as recommended; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

14. Other Business/New Business

Aldersperson Hurt thanked everyone for all their hard work this past year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

15. Closed Session

- a. [5 ILCS 120/2 \(c\)\(1\) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body \(or legal counsel for the public body\).](#)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

Council entered Closed Session at 6:28 p.m.

16. Adjourn

- a. Motion: Motion to adjourn to January 12, 2026.
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 Bill Healy.

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to adjourn; Alderperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 6:57 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]