

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

1/12/2026 - 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, Randy Hurt, Linda Barnes, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, Bill Healy, and Mayor Ashley Harris.

Absent: Alderperson Jenni Swanson.

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

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. Vote to Approve Agenda

- a. Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the agenda.
- RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve the agenda; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

6. Presentations

a. Presentation of the CY 2025 3rd Quarter Financial Management Report.

Finance Director Jessica Sager presented the City's Financial Management Report for the period ending September 30, 2025, providing an overview of revenues, expenditures, net positions across all funds, state and local tax revenue, and a monthly investment report. Overall, City finances were trending toward the 75% year-end benchmark, with most funds in line with expectations.

Ms. Sager reported revenues at 72% and expenditures at 64% of the budget, slightly below the benchmark. She noted that state and local taxes are the primary revenue sources. She discussed special revenue funds. The Public Library Fund was on track. TIF funds reported revenues at 79% with expenditures at 14%. The Riverboat Gaming Fund revenue fell short of the benchmark at 72% with expenditures slightly below the benchmark as well at 32%. For capital and infrastructure funds, street improvement revenue was at 67% with expenditures at 35%.

Ms. Sager explained that ARPA revenues primarily reflect adjustments Finance made moving deferred revenue to actual revenue while expenditures were at 22%. The Housing and Community Development Fund reported revenues at 36% due to the timing of federal draw-downs, while expenditures were at 69%. The MLK Community Center Operations fund reported revenue at 38% with expenditures at 84%, due to a reimbursable siding repair project. The Foreign Fire Insurance Fund exceeded its expenditure benchmark due to Council-approved equipment purchases. Ms. Sager noted that Council approved a budget adjustment in October and the fund also received the annual payment from the Illinois Municipal League (IML), which was just over \$113,000. The Community and Economic Development Fund reported revenue at 65% and expenditures at 55%.

Enterprise funds were mixed, with water and wastewater revenue funds falling below the targeted budget at 59% and 54%, while stormwater revenue was at 65% and solid waste was at 76%. The expenditures for the water fund were at 52%, wastewater were at 41%, stormwater at 50%, and solid waste at 71%. Parks and Recreation revenues and expenditures were both above 70%. Ms. Sager clarified that there was a small error in the financial management report and said the wastewater treatment had a positive net at the end of September.

Income tax, replacement tax, sales tax, telecommunications tax, and gaming tax revenues are projected to meet or exceed expectations, while use tax revenue is projected to fall short due primarily to state law changes. A year-end shortfall is predicted for the municipal utility tax revenue. Revenue totals for state and local taxes are at 93.7% of revenue and are projected to exceed the 2025 budget for revenue by \$548,000.

Ms. Sager explained that the monthly investment interest report indicates the average interest rates that were paid out during the Third Quarter varied, and the City received a combined total of just over \$423,000 during the quarter.

7. Special Awards and Recognitions, Oath of Office Ceremony, and Proclamations

a. Proclamation declaring January as National Mentoring Month.

Mayor Harris read the proclamation and his declaration. Big Sister Valerie and Little Sister Mia from Big Brothers Big Sisters were present to accept the proclamation. Big Sister Valerie said a few words. A photo was taken.

b. Proclamation declaring January 19, 2026 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Mayor Harris read the proclamation and his declaration. MLK Center Director Jerry Jones accepted the proclamation and invited the public to attend the center's event on January 19. A photo was taken.

c. Swearing in of Fire Lieutenants Scott Ketner and Max McDermott.

Fire Chief Bob Graff introduced Fire Lieutenants Scott Ketner and Max McDermott. Clerk Torres administered the oath of office. Photos were taken.

- d. Presentation of the Fire Department's Commendation Awards.

Fire Chief Graff spoke about the commendable acts of Firefighters Chaon Hanson, Jacob Kelly and Grant Jorgensen. Firefighters Hanson and Kelly were in attendance to accept their awards from Mayor Harris. Photos were taken.

8. Public Comment

Dwight Ford, Ron Lund and Dwayne Womack spoke about homeless shelters.

Ann McLynn spoke about the proposed urban agriculture ordinance and the homeless.

Dan Larson spoke about the proposed parking ban near his home.

Amy Patton spoke about her request for the installation of a pedestrian crosswalk.

9. Update Rock Island

We want to hear from you!

There are a few days left to take the community survey before the deadline of January 16. What do you value most about Rock Island? What changes or improvements would you like to see in the future? The community opinion survey – tailored for residents, visitors and businesses -- is available on the City's website at rigov.org and the City's Facebook page. Printed copies can also be found at City Hall, Rock Island public libraries, the MLK Center and RIFAC.

Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Join community leaders at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center on Monday, January 19 for the 43rd annual memorial service and awards ceremony to commemorate the lifetime and service of Dr. King. Located at 630 9th Street, the ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m. This year's theme is "A Time for Vigorous and Positive Action."

Free Car Seat Check Event

Do you need help installing a child seat or help checking to see if it's installed correctly? Come to the Rock Island Fire Department at 1313 5th Avenue on Tuesday, January 20 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Bring your car seat and our certified technicians will install it for you.

State of the City Address

The annual State of the City Address will be held Thursday, January 29th at Bally's Casino & Hotel, 777 Bally Blvd. Join me, Mayor Harris, for my first address as I update the public on accomplishments and upcoming goals. This year's theme is "Commitment to Community." Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and the program starts at noon. To register, go to RockIslandStateoftheCity.eventbrite.com.

10. Ordinances (First Readings)

- a. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from Lois McWilliams, 2453 18th Avenue, to install a handicapped parking space south of the driveway on 24 1/2 Street. (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 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Barnes, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Evans, Hurt. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

- b. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from Scott Schultz, 2739 8 1/2 Avenue, to install a handicapped parking space in front of his home. (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 6-0-1 roll call vote. Aye: Barnes, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Evans, Hurt. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson.

- c. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from the Municipal Services Division to ban parking in front of 1718 and 1720 23rd Avenue from 7 AM to 5 PM on trash collection day. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Public Works Director Mike Bartels explained that the alley is very narrow for garbage trucks to get through. There are liability concerns regarding potential property and vehicle damage. He said he would look into accident history but noted that there have been accidents in similar alley-street intersections. He confirmed that changing the route had already been considered. Alderpersons asked for additional information.

MOTION:

Alderperson Barnes moved to postpone until January 26, 2026; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

- d. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from Amy Patton to install a pedestrian crosswalk on the 1900 block of 17th Street. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to deny the request.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Barnes moved to postpone until February 9, 2026; Alderperson Evans seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Barnes said she would like to explore other options.

VOTE:

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

- e. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from DeAnna Kraus, DeAnna's Place, 2730 5th Avenue, to place their parking lot under City ordinance control. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- f. Report from the Community Development Department regarding establishing an urban agriculture ordinance. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Parker said he originally opposed the ordinance but considered the revised ordinance a compromise.

VOTE:

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

- g. Report from the Community Development Department regarding the purchase of 3321 7 1/2th Avenue from the Quad Cities Land Bank Authority for \$0.00. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to approve the agreement; authorize the City Manager to execute the document, subject to minor attorney modifications; and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the agreement; authorize the City Manager to execute the document, subject to minor attorney modifications; and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

- 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 approve the agreement; authorize the City Manager to execute the document, subject to minor attorney modifications; and consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve the agreement; authorize the City Manager to execute the document, subject to minor attorney modifications; and consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

11. 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 December 5 through December 11 in the amount of \$1,261,782.62; claims for the week of December 12 through December 18 in the amount of \$1,161,072.47; and payroll for the weeks of November 24, 2025 through December 7, 2025 in the amount of \$1,913,507.59; and payroll for the weeks of December 8, 2025 through December 21, 2025 in the amount of \$1,847,133.29
- b. ACH Report for the month of November 2025 in the amount of \$6,157,117.48
- c. Purchase Card Claims for the period of October 28, 2025 through November 27, 2025 in the amount of \$90,675.50
- d. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding a payment in the amount of \$13,600.00 to Tyler Technologies of Plano, TX for the Utility Billing System implementation services using ARPA funds (unrestricted).
- e. A resolution authorizing clerical corrections to previously approved development documents.
- f. Minutes from the December 8, 2025 Closed Session Meeting

- g. Minutes from the December 15, 2025 Closed Session Meeting
- h. Minutes from the December 15, 2025 City Council Meeting.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve Consent Agenda items a through h; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

12. Claims/Purchases

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment 14 to Valley Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for the Rebuild Downtown Rock Island Improvements Project in the amount of \$209,863.27.
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to J.C. Dillon, Peoria, Illinois, for the Water Service and Sewer Lateral Repair Program repairs in the amount of \$56,378.36.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment 3 to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for the 2025 Sidewalk and Pavement Patching Program in the amount of \$523,110.85.
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment 3 to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for the 2025 Seal Coat and Asphalt Street Patching Program in the amount of \$80,101.24.
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment 6 to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for the 28th Street Court and 32nd Avenue Court Reconstruction Project in the amount of \$122,847.78.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to allow claims a through e; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

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

VOTE:

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

- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Brandt Construction, Milan, Illinois, for an emergency storm sewer repair at Alleman High School in the amount of \$94,723.01.

Motion: Motion to allow the claim.
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to allow the claim; Aldersperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

- g. Report from the Public Works Department requesting authorization to purchase a Mill Street Treatment Plant primary clarifier isolation valve from Municipal Pipe Services, Des Moines, Iowa, in the amount of \$35,800.

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

13. Contracts/Agreements

- a. Report from the Police Department regarding an amendment to the existing Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) with the United States Government and Rock Island Arsenal.

Motion: Motion to approve the amendment; and authorize the Mayor to execute the document, subject to minor attorney modifications.
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the amendment; and authorize the Mayor to execute the document, subject to minor attorney modifications; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Police Department regarding a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the Fraternal Order of Police.

Motion: Motion to approve the Letter of Agreement; and authorize the City Manager to execute the document, subject to minor attorney modifications.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the Letter of Agreement; and authorize the City Manager to execute the document, subject to minor attorney modifications; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the Police Department regarding a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the Fraternal Order of Police - Command.

Motion: Motion to approve the Letter of Agreement; and authorize the City Manager to execute the document, subject to minor attorney modifications.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the Letter of Agreement; and authorize the City Manager to execute the document, subject to minor attorney modifications; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

14. Budget/Finance Items

- a. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the CIRLF Fund (527) in the amount of \$410,000.

Motion: Motion to approve the budget adjustment.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Barnes moved to postpone until January 26, 2026; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

Aldersperson Healy recused himself from the vote due to being a former committee member and holding a CIRLF loan.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Barnes said she would like to meet with the CIRLF Committee as she noted possible inconsistencies and wished for clarity.

VOTE:

Motion FAILED on a 2-3-1 roll call vote. Aye: Barnes, Evans. Nay: Parker, Poulos, Hurt. Absent: Swanson.

MOTION:

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

Aldersperson Healy recused himself from the vote due to being a former committee member and holding a CIRLF loan.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Barnes explained she wanted to talk to the committee regarding membership and the ordinance. She also had questions about the most recent loan and a possible conflict of interest. She requested that Council consider transferring CIRLF loan approvals to Council before any additional loans are approved. She would also like to look into redirecting remaining funds to other eligible areas.

Aldersperson Parker supported holding a conversation regarding the economic development portion of the CDBG program but separately from the budget adjustment.

Community Development Director Miles Brainard clarified that the ordinance has allowed the committee the ability to approve the loans since 1984, and the last time it was updated was in 2022.

Council discussed their reasoning for favoring or not favoring postponement.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to call the question; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

Aldersperson Healy recused himself from the vote due to being a former committee member and holding a CIRLF loan.

VOTE :

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

VOTE:

Motion FAILED on a 3-2-1 roll call vote. Aye: Parker, Poulos, Hurt. Nay: Barnes, Evans. Absent: Swanson.

15. Appointments to Boards/Commissions/Committees

- a. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding an appointment and reappointments to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center Board.

Motion: Motion to approve the appointment and reappointments.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to approve the appointment and reappointments; Aldersperson Barnes seconded.

VOTE:

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

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

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

VOTE:

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

17. Other Business/New Business

Aldersperson Evans thanked everyone involved with the urban agriculture ordinance.

Mayor Harries thanked Fire Department personnel for their service and thanked Fire Chief Graff for his leadership. He also thanked Police Chief McCloud for his leadership.

Aldersperson Parker thanked Aldersperson Barnes and Mayor Harris for holding the listening session regarding social services last week.

Mayor Harris encouraged organizations to submit social service applications.

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 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 Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

Council entered Closed Session at 7:13 p.m.

19. Adjourn

- a. Motion: Motion to adjourn to January 26, 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 Swanson.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to adjourn; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 7:40 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]