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

9/25/2023 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Thoms asked City Clerk Samantha Gange to call the roll.

Present: Alderpersons Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, Bill Healy, Moses Robinson, Randy Hurt, Judith Gilbert and Mayor MIke Thoms.

Absent: None.

Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, Attorney Allison Wright, City Clerk Samantha Gange, and other City Staff.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Thoms led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Moment of Silence

Mayor Thoms requested a moment of silence. A moment of silence was observed.

5. Public Comment

Haleigh Laud, a sophomore at Rock Island High School, approached Council regarding the Rock Island Public

Library. She noted that the library is close to her home and is convenient to walk to and spend time in over the summer. The library has never hesitated to deliver books and provide services within a few days. She advocated for public libraries.

Ann McGlynn founder of Tapestry Farms, spoke on the agenda measure regarding the Botanical Center, and asked for a yes vote for the variances to place a hydroponic unit at the Botanical Center. She complimented City staff that were amenable to making the project work. She said they delivered approximately 5,000 produce to a variety of pantries across the Quad Cities including Heart of Hope in Rock Island. The hydroponic unit will allow them to grow year-round to provide fresh produce to the community.

Adele Salinas said she was the applicant along with her father Juan for the Special Use Permit on the agenda, and that she accidentally signed the public comment sheet thinking it might be a check-in.

Alderperson Swanson commented on the perception of the accessibility of the agenda on the website. She expressed concern that residents were only able to view the agenda on the City Hall door as the website link indicates a preview and does not direct residents to the proper agenda. She noted perception and legality regarding the Open Meetings Act (OMA), and encouraged the public to ask questions as necessary.

6. Minutes

a. Minutes of the September 11, 2023 Study Session and regular Council Meeting.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the minutes as printed.
VV	Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Gilbert moved to approve the minutes as printed; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

7. Update Rock Island

Garbage collection pick up dates may be changing in your neighborhood

Starting the week of October 1st, your garbage collection pickup date may change, but recycling and yard waste collection days will remain unchanged. Find your updated refuse collection day at rigov.org/refuse.

Free leaf bag pickup

The City will pick up yard waste bags for free beginning October 16th through December 8th. The City is also giving out free yard waste bags starting Monday, October 9 at the Public Works office, located at 1309 Mill Street; Saukie Golf Course, 3101 38th Street; South Rock Island Township office and Rock Island Township office.

The City of Rock Island does not allow the burning of leaves or yard waste.

Free concerts continue at Schwiebert Riverfront Park

Thursday Night Groove continues this week with the band For Those About to Yacht. The fun begins at 6 p.m. with concessions from Happy Joe's Pizza and Bent River Brewery. The band starts playing at 7 p.m. Each concert is free and fun for all ages.

8. Ordinances

a. A Special Ordinance regarding a request from the First Financial Group to remove the handicapped parking space at 2024 33rd Street. (Second Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to pass the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt, and Gilbert. 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. Claims for the weeks of September 01, through September 07, 2023, in the amount of $702,243.28; for the weeks of September 08, through September 14, 2023, in the amount of $1,687,823.96; and payroll for the weeks of August 21 through September 03, 2023 in the amount of $1,781,081.59.

b. International City/County Management Association (ICMA) claims for the week of August 26 through September 08, 2023, in the amount of $34,083.01.

c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of $50,450.00 to Hydro Klean, LLC, Des Moines, Iowa, for the Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plant lift station wet well clean out.

d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of $44,334.00 to Kraft Power Corporation, Gaylord, Michigan, for the Wet Weather Treatment Pump Engine Maintenance Contract.

e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of $19,103.11 to Edgewater Resources, Madison, Wisconsin, for engineering and design services for the Sunset Marina 400 dock replacement, electrical upgrades, and dredging analysis.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve Consent Agenda items a through e.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve claims a through d; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

10. Claims

a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of $272,776.72 to Centennial Contractors of the Quad Cities, Moline, Illinois, for the Sidewalk and Pavement Patching Program.

b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of $67,972.61 to McClintock Trucking and Excavating, Silvis, Illinois, for the Water Service Repair Program and the Sewer Lateral Repair Program repairs.

c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a payment #4 in the amount of $846,285.95 to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for the 11th Street Water Main Replacement Project.

d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #7 in the amount of $162,516.93 to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for the Downtown Parking Garage and Parking Lot.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve claims a through d.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve claim items a through d; Alderperson Robinson 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: Swanson, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: None.

11. Contracts / Agreements

a. Report from the Public Works Department requesting an extension to the Water Tower Maintenance Agreement with Utility Service Co., Inc, Perry, GA.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the agreement extension as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Gilbert moved to approve the agreement extension as recommended; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Public Works Department to amend the original Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) with the Rock Island Arsenal.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the amendment to the Intergovernmental Support Agreement as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the amendment to the Intergovernmental Support Agreement as recommended; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

c. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding approval of an economic development agreement with Crawford Company.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the development agreement and allow the City Manager to execute the agreement.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Robinson moved to approve the development agreement and allow the City Manager to execute the agreement; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

d. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding approval of an economic development agreement with Friendship Manor.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the development agreement and allow the City Manager to execute the agreement.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Gilbert moved to approve the development agreement and allow the City Manager to execute the agreement; Alderperson Healy seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Swanson asked for confirmation that there had been $170,000 in funds already allocated to upgrade Friendship Manor's independent living areas. Community and Economic Development Director Miles Brainard replied that the funds were Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-CV) dollars remaining from previous COVID-19 relief funding. He said the funding went predominantly to Friendship Manor's phone and internet systems. She noted that the City is now being asked for over $200,000, and requested clarification that this was for a brick and mortar expansion to their building. Mr. Brainard said this was meant for modernization of independent living facilities, which they feel are necessary to remain competitive. She asked how long the City had been working on this agreement. Mr. Brainard said approximately seven months. Alderperson Swanson asked when the loan application deadline was. Mr. Brainard was unsure.

Alderperson Gilbert said Frienship Manor is closing on a bond with the Quad Cities Regional Economic Development Authority (QCREDA) on October 2, 2023, and a buyer for the the bond has been found as well. Mr. Brainard replied affirmatively. Alderperson Swanson noted that the staff were aware of this for some time, yet she just found out about it on Tuesday, with documentation on Friday. She asked if something of this nature could be delayed to the next meeting for the chance to ask appropriate questions. She added that she is frustrated on the timing of it, and that Council should not do harm to a non-profit. She asked if Council could be prompted several weeks earlier. Mr. Thompson said the City side of the measure only recently came together, and guidelines need to be changed in order to meet it, which is why it came to Coucil at the last minute. Mr. Brainard said competiveness is critical in the line of independent care, which is why staff support the assistance package as they do. Alderperson Parker asked for quarterly project updates based on their status within the Community and Economic Development Department. Mr. Thompson said with a new person on board serving as Economic Development Director, regular updates are more possible. He noted that as projects progress, most use code names and general descriptions to ensure not revealing sensitive information too early. Alderperson Robinson asked if there was a way Council could be provided information prior to the few days allowed once an agenda is posted. Alderperson Gilbert noted that past practice was items such as this would be presented in a Study Session. Mr. Thompson said providing materials to Council earlier was possible, and noted that some cities have a pre-meeting for every agenda. However, sometimes it is difficult for staff to gauge how much advanced notice of information Council needs. Alderperson Poulos echoed concerns from Alderpersons Robinson and Gilbert regarding timeliness of information. Mayor Thoms discussed the timing with regards to economic development, noting the faster pace of such happenings and that the Council also needs to be able to adapt to this.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: None.

12. Ordinances with Reports from Departments

a. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department Ordinance regarding the consolidation of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals into the Planning & Zoning Commission. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the consolidation of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals into the Planning & Zoning Commission and consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Gilbert moved to table this item until the October 23, 2023 meeting; Alderperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 6-1-0 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt, and Gilbert. Nay: Parker. Absent: None.

b. Report from Community & Economic Development Department Regarding the Sale of City-Owned Real Estate at 1830 32nd Street. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Gilbert asked how many qualified applicants there were for this. Mr. Brainard said this was the first applicant, and they quickly cleared hurdles. Alderperson Gilbert asked what part of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) budget the proceeds would go to. Mr. Brainard the funds would go back into the administration pool. Alderperson Gilbert asked why the funds were not going toward rehabilitation, as she would prefer that. Mr. Brainard said it can go to any fund preferred by Council. Alderperson Poulos said the house was very well done. Mr. Brainard said this was attributable to this project being run in-house as opposed to through a general contractor, and taking lessons from the first rehabilitation house that was previously completed on 15th Avenue. Alderperson Robinson asked if there was another house identified as the next one in the program. Mr. Brainard said prior to working on the next house, staff will work on creating an Urban Homestead Program policies and procedures document to bring before Council for approval. He said until that approval takes place, the primary area for acquisition will be the Quad Cities Land Bank, which will allow for a variety of properties that staff can be strategic about. He said the goal is to ultimately inspire neighborhood revitalization. Alderperson Parker asked if there were plans to apply for home money from Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Mr. Brainard said discussions are ongoing with the City of Moline to determine the possibility of applying together as the City of Rock Island does not qualify to apply on its own.

VOTE:

Motion Passed on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: None.

c. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding a Special Use Permit request from Juan Salinas at 2626 7th Avenue. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the Special Use Permit request and consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the Special Use Permit request, consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Gilbert asked if the store was still in operation. Mr. Brainard invited the applicants to speak on the matter. Ms. Salinas said the goal is to open a tire service shop in the section of the location which used to house a business that moved.

VOTE:

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

d. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding a Special Use Permit Request for Eugene Gaylord at 812 44th Street. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to deny the request.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to deny the request; Alderperson Healy seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Poulos said he has received several complaints regarding this property, and respects the staff's expertise and opinion regarding their recommendation. Mr. Brainard directed Council members to the pictures of the property included in the agenda packet.

Alderperson Healy asked when operations would cease after a denial of the special use permit. Mr. Brainard responded that a two-week notice is the standard timeframe, and if that does not remedy the situation, they will follow the standard code enforcement process.

VOTE:

Motion to deny passed on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: None.

13. Resolutions

a. Report from the Mayor's Office and General Administration regarding a Resolution issuing a moratorium on all new class A, B, C, D & E liquor license applications for a period of six (6) months, expiring March 31, 2024.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to adopt the Resolution.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to adopt the Resolution; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Parker asked if he understood correctly that this moratorium was in place to allow staff to improve and update the liquor application process and ordinance. Mayor Thoms responded affirmatively and added this timeframe also corresponds well with the liquor license renewal deadlines.

Alderperson Parker remarked he was concerned this moratorium would be a burden on businesses that want to sell as they would not be able to do so. Mayor Thoms confirmed that was the case unless it is a restaurant. Alderperson Parked acknowledged that the liquor process needed to be improved. However, it's the same process that has been in place for decades and he didn't see the need for the moratorium.

Alderperson Healy asked if the extended 6-months would definitely guarantee an updated ordinance with an improved process. Mayor Thoms and Mr. Thompson responded affirmatively. Mayor Thoms said his goal would be to have it in place even earlier than 6 months, but that would be dependent on the new City Attorney and staff. Mr. Thompson added the extension is needed as a result of the City Attorney being in flux.

Alderperson Robinson asked if a draft was available for Council members to review. Mr. Thompson responded there wasn't anything substantive for review at this time as it consisted primarily of research. Mayor Thoms added that Council would be able to review the draft and provide input.

Alderperson Gilbert asked if the Council would have the ability to lift the moratorium earlier than 6 months if necessary. Mayor Thoms responded affirmatively. Alderperson Gilbert asked if the moratorium needed to be voted on tonight or if it could be tabled for further discussion. Clerk Gange responded that the current moratorium in place expires September 30, 2023.

Alderperson Parker remarked he was not in favor of the extension. Alderperson Robinson commented that the City could continue with the current process until a new one could be brought forth. Mayor Thoms indicated there has been very little interest in new liquor licenses recently. Clerk Gange remarked she recalls two inquiries recently related to opening a bar. She said it was the Mayor and staff's understanding that the direction of the Council was to not open up more bars in the City. Aldperson Hurt said one of his concerns is additional liquor stores opening up as there is already an overload of these in the City and not a need for more. He said he understood the moratorium as a way to prevent the City from being a corridor for liquor stores and vape shops.

Alderperson Parker asked about the moratorium that was previously in effect for just the downtown. Mayor Thoms indicated that the moratorium in the downtown is no longer in effect.

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding a Resolution to create a High Impact Project Business Assistance Program.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to adopt the resolution.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to adopt the Resolution; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Parker asked Mr. Brainard to elaborate upon the reasons for this measure and why it would be a good thing. Mr. Brainard replied that if a project will justify the size of impact on the community, the City's contribution to the project could proportionally be justified as well. Alderperson Parker asked if this measure would drown out smaller businesses wishing to participate. He added that applications are coming in slower than anticipated, and many projects staff thought were further along are at more early stages. Although there was interest, there were no projects far enough along with approving or providing funding for.

Alderperson Gilbert asked for clarification that the smaller projects were not ready to complete full applications, but larger projects were. Mr. Brainard replied affirmatively, noting that many applicants have a general sense of what is needed, but not more specific information, such as costs. Alderperson Poulos asked if this measure would eliminate the opportunity for applicants that were not high impact businesses. Mr. Brainard replied that it does not eliminate it, but rather adds another category of programming to the available funding process.

VOTE:

Motion Passed on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: None.

c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a resolution declaring support for the submittal of a Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program Application for US 67 (11th Street) between 5th Avenue and Blackhawk Road and 5th Avenue between 11th and 15th Streets.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the Resolution as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Robinson moved to adopt the Resolution; Alderperson Gilbert seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Robinson asked for more details on the measure. Public Works Director Mike Bartels said this is a planning grant that would go through the beginning phases of public engagement and stakeholders through to the final design phase, ready for bids. Alderperson Gilbert said this is an example of something that could have come to Council sooner with additional background information. Mr. Bartels said staff will work on this for future items, and noted this was a fast-paced grant that needed a great deal of information, with a swift closing date for submittal. He added that feedback on previous grant applications noted the need for a more shovel-ready project.

Alderperson Parker said the downtown revitalization efforts were assisted by the existing 2015 downtown plan. He asked Mr. Brainard if this project fell under the 11th Street Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Mr. Brainard said the TIF plans are essentially economic development plans, which could drive plans for 11th Street, and added that the age of the plan does not necessarily mean it is irrelevant.

Alderperson Parker asked if there were currently any community plans for 11th Street. Mr. Brainard said the TIF plans are redevelopment plans, and therefore serve as a guideline for what to do. Alderperson Parker asked Mr. Brainard if he believed this project mirrored the 2015 downtown revitalization plans. Mr. Brainard replied that the 2015 plan goes further than that, as it addresses programming, development sites, and the need to provide resources to properties. It is not the same, but has similar thinking. Alderperson Parker asked what staff's thoughts would be on having a plan for the 11th Street Corridor similar to the downtown. Mr. Brainard said corridor development plans have been discussed in the department, but there has neither been direction from Council nor resources to develop them.

Alderperson Gilbert asked how the West End Revitalization Project figured into discussions about the 11th Street Corridor. Mr. Bartels replied that the representatives for that project have not yet been contacted, but that would be part of the next step in the process. Alderperson Parker said he is interested in developing a plan for 11th Street in a similar fashion to what was done with the downtown revitalization plan.

VOTE:

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

14. Budget/Finance Items

a. Report from the Finance Department regarding an adjustment to the CY 2023 budget, increasing the Downtown TIF Fund (201) expenditure by $1,303,837.51.

b. Report from the Finance Department regarding an adjustment to the CY 2023 budget, increasing the TIF Locks Fund (208) expenditure by $40,000.00.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve budget adjustments a and b as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve budget adjustment items a and b as recommended; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Healy asked about the plan for the Klass Buildings, and what is being done to protect the public. Mr. Brainard said the money spent was for the installation of fencing to put up around both buildings. He is meeting with legal counsel tomorrow to discuss next steps as we have moved into Civil Court, pending litigation. He added that the main concern was the safety of the public.

VOTE:

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

15. Department Reports

a. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding sign variance requests from Hammad Grewal of AOC Center LLC at 3009 18th Avenue.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the recommended variance with stipulations.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to deny the original request and but approve variances recommended by staff; Alderperson Parker seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Poulos said this represented an officer safety issue. Mr. Brainard said the window signs on the property's windows need to be removed to achieve compliance with the amended sign ordinance from 2019, which allows for first responders to see inside the premises and determine the situation. He noted that the City is already providing some grace, as their main signage is slightly larger than code, but the rest is into compliance.

Alderperson Gilbert asked for clarification on what signage was to be removed. Mr. Brainard replied that the ordinance requires a visibility strip of three to five feet which provides an unobstructed view into the building. Alderperson Robinson noted that a business next to this had curtains on the windows, not allowing any sort of inside visibility. Mr. Brainard reviewed reasons why the ordinance language is as established, and noted that courts have reaffirmed that municipalities can regulate window decorations or signs.

Police Chief Landi indicated agreement with Mr. Brainard's response, and discussed the safety issues for first responders, and the special stipulations for liquor license holders. He noted that businesses such as convenient stores, vape stores, and bars are more likely to be targets of crimes rather than restaurants. Alderperson Robinson said there should be language to identify whether or not drapes could be in the window as well. Mr. Brainard replied that the City does have the right to regulate signage per consistent case law, but there is no support for authority to regulate drapery. Attorney Wright concurred with Mr. Brainard's explanation. Alderperson Poulos remarked on his time as an officer, stating that occasionally, obtrusive signage provides for a tactical disadvantage for law enforcement.

In response to a question from Alderperson Gilbert regarding signage enforcement, Mr. Brainard said staff is currently working on signage enforcement throughout all of Rock Island.

Alderperson Gilbert asked Clerk Gange to repeat the motion. She did, and subsequently Mr. Brainard and Alderperson Poulos clarified the motion.

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding zoning variance requests from Ann McGlynn of Tapestry Farms at 2525 4th Avenue.

Motion:	Motion whether or not approve the zoning variance requests.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the zoning variance requests; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Thoms remarked this was a great project, and the Quad Cities Botanical Center is excited to see it move forward.

Alderperson Gilbert said this is a project that could also help with the City's food desert.

VOTE:

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

16. Traffic Engineering Requests

a. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request from the Rock Island Academy, 930 14th Street, to change traffic flow and parking. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Robinson moved to deny the request; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Robinson asked if there are traffic counts for this area. Mr. Bartels said there is data, but would need to provide it later. Alderperson Robinson asked how the planning for this measure came about. Mr. Bartels said the school came up with the plan and submitted it to the Traffic and Engineering Committee, which is a common practice. Alderperson Robinson stated concern that this is permanent, and not just during school hours. Mr. Bartels said they have had so much confusion, and the safest option was to permanently address the issue. Alderperson Robinson noted the lack of personnel to enforce this two-block area, stating this a huge concern, and will not solve the issue. Mayor Thoms noted Washington Middle School as a school that already has this in place. Mr. Bartels noted that the Traffic and Engineering Committee eventually overruled the original submittal to have this measure only enforceable on school days.

Fire Chief Bob Graff said he is part of the Traffic and Engineering Committee, expressing that flipping the signs would be less safe than having a permanent status in that area. It was his recommendation to make it a permanent solution, as it represents the least of all evils. He further reviewed the reasons behind his recommendation. Alderperson Robinson said he understood it was a difficult decision, but reiterated that changes may make this more dangerous. He said his constituents do not want the one-way.

Alderpersons Poulos and Robinson withdrew their motions to deny the request.

Alderperson Robinson moved to table the request until the November 13, 2023 City Council meeting; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request to ban parking on the west side of 16th Street from 6th Avenue north to the alley. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not 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 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt and Parker. Nay: None. Absent: None.

c. Report from the Traffic and Engineering Committee regarding a Speed Hump Policy and Application. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Robinson moved to consider the ordinance; Alderperson Gilbert seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Robinson asked how long residents who apply and remit payment can expect to wait to receive a response on the status of their application. Mr. Bartels responded that he was unsure at this time as this is a new program modeled after the City of Davenport. He said he would reach out to them to determine what a typical timeframe would be for approvals or denials. Alderperson Parker asked if the intent was to acquire serious inquiries from residents. Mr. Bartels replied affirmatively.

Alderperson Gilbert asked Mr. Bartels how the determination would be made on the number of necessary signatures on an application from those affected. Mr. Bartels said it would need to be a two-thirds majority of all home or property owners in the affected area of the proposed speed hump. Alderperson Gilbert asked if residents would be able to know immediately upon contacting Public Works whether or not they qualified for a speed hump review based on traffic counts. Mr. Bartels said the initial request would bring the residents that information.

VOTE:

Motion Passed on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: None.

17. Appointments to Boards/Commissions/Committees

a. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding an appointment to the Inspections Commission and an appointment to the Human Rights Commission.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the appointments as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the appointments as recommended; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: None.

18. Other Business/New Business

Alderperson Hurt asked Police Chief Landi to provide an overview of the Flock License Plate Readers (LPR) system that was used to solve a recent theft at City Hall. Police Chief Landi said on September 12, 2023 he received an email from Public Works Superintendent Luke VanLandegen regarding a report of stolen grates behind City Hall in the courtyard. The grates were discovered missing by Council members on the evening of September 11, 2023. The cameras that are installed in the courtyard were able to capture a pickup on the evening of September 10, 2023 loading the grates. Chief Landi presented a brief video of how the license plate reader was able to identify the truck's license plate going over the bridge into Iowa. On September 13, 2023, the truck again entered the City of Rock Island and the Flock LPR system notified the police department, which resulted in a traffic stop and both suspects being arrested. The grates have been recovered.

Alderperson Robinson discussed the IML Conference that was held this past week in Chicago. He remarked on the Council roundtable discussion that was held and members throughout the state discussed various strategies that were working and not working throughout their communities. He said one of the conversations he had was with a member from the City of Bloomington regarding their Youth Council. Alderperson Robinson expressed interest in creating a Youth Council in Rock Island to get kids involved and educate them on local government. Mayor Thoms said he supported this type of program.

Mayor Thoms said himself as well as Alderperson Poulos and Mr. Brainard also attended the IML Conference. He remarked that the session tracks and speakers were very informative, as well as the social networking opportunities.

19. Adjourn

a. Motion to Adjourn.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to adjourn.
RC	Voice Vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to adjourn; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion passed on a 7-0-0 voice vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt, and Gilbert. Nay: None. Absent: None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

____
Samantha Gange, City Clerk