

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

6/8/2026 - 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 City Clerk Amanda Torres to call the roll.

Present: Alderpersons Glen Evans, Randy Hurt, Linda Barnes, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos and Mayor Ashley Harris.

Absent: Alderpersons Jenni Swanson and Bill Healy

Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, Attorney Leslie Day, 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:

Alderman Hurt moved to approve the agenda; Alderman Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

6. Presentations

- a. Presentation on the Augustana Hilltop Area Market Analysis by DiSalvo Development Advisors, LLC

Pete DiSalvo, President of DiSalvo Development Advisors, presented highlights of a market study conducted for the Augustana-Hilltop area. The study evaluated multifamily rental housing, retail and restaurant market conditions, and the highest and best use of four redevelopment sites within the study area.

Mr. DiSalvo reported that much of the rental housing stock in the Augustana-Hilltop area was built before 1940 and that market-rate multifamily housing is limited. He noted that market-rate rental housing in Rock Island is currently outperforming income-restricted housing in occupancy and stated that the study identified a near-term opportunity for 175 to 250 new market-rate rental units. He said expanding market-rate housing would help attract moderate- to high-income residents, increase income diversity, and support local businesses.

Mr. DiSalvo reviewed retail and restaurant market conditions in the area, noting a relatively low commercial vacancy rate and limited lease opportunities for new businesses. He reported that residents are spending an estimated \$12.7 million outside the area on food and beverage purchases and stated that the market could support approximately 60,000 square feet of additional retail and restaurant space. He also discussed challenges to new development, including a lack of available high-traffic development sites and lease rates that are below what is generally required to support new construction.

Mr. DiSalvo outlined several incentives that could encourage redevelopment, including property tax abatements, the creation of a Business Development District, pre-lease agreements for multifamily developments, and tiered lease programs for commercial tenants.

Mr. DiSalvo concluded by discussing the highest and best use recommendations for four sites within the study area. Recommendations included a mixed-use development with apartments and retail space at 1403 30th Street, multifamily housing at Webber Park, maintaining Reservoir Park as parkland in the near term with future mixed-use potential, and retaining Horace Mann Park as parkland while exploring long-term redevelopment opportunities in conjunction with adjacent properties.

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

- a. Proclamation declaring June 2026 as Pride Month.

Mayor Harris read the proclamation and his declaration. The President of Quad City Pride Alliance, Dan Gleason, was present to accept the proclamation. Mr. Gleason said a few words. A photo was taken.

- b. Proclamation declaring June 13, 2026 as Rock Island County NAACP Day.

Mayor Harris read the proclamation and his declaration. Local NAACP Secretary Corinthia Dothard was present to accept the proclamation. Ms. Dothard said a few words. A photo was taken.

8. Public Comment

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

William CB Harrison spoke about his alderperson, precinct captains, and water management on his property.

Andre Deacon and Erma Davis spoke about brush and trees growing near their home.

Mr. Mohammed spoke about investment in the West End.

Dr. Melvin Grimes spoke about economic development in the West End and the 11th Street redesign.

David Hodge spoke about the 11th Street redesign and bridge relocation.

Corinthia Dothard spoke about the grade reclassification for the City Clerk position and hiring of a Police Customer Service representative.

9. Update Rock Island

King’s Café

Enjoy coffee, conversation and community every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 9 a.m. to noon at the Martin Luther King Community Center, 630 9th Street, from now through August.

King’s Café is a place where conversations happen, relationships grow, and community is built—one cup at a time. Stop in for coffee, conversation and a welcoming space to connect with others in your community. Whether you stay for five minutes or an hour, there’s a seat for you.

Plant a Seed and Read

The Rock Island Public Library has kicked off its summer reading program, called Plant a Seed, Read. Summer is in full bloom at the Rock Island Public Library, so swing by to register for the reading challenge and check out all the great events. Go to RockIslandpubliclibrary.org for more information.

Rock Island Artists’ Market

The annual Rock Island Artists’ Market is beginning another season at Skeleton Key Art and Antiques, 520 18th Street. The first of five markets is this Sunday, June 14th from noon to 5 p.m. in the Skeleton Key parking lot. Find cool, unique items from local artists, makers, and growers. The market is held on the second Sunday of each month, June through October.

10. Ordinances (First Readings)

- a. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request to remove the handicapped parking space in front of 4529 14th Avenue. (First Reading)

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

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

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee to install a handicapped parking space at 1916 9th Street. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding the installation of a handicapped parking space at 2725 Karlburg Court. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- d. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request to install stop signs at the intersection of 19th Street and 12th Avenue. (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 5-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Evans, Hurt, Barnes, Parker, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson and Healy.

- e. Report from the Community Development Department regarding an ordinance amending Chapter 11, Article X: Municipal Property for Redevelopment and accompanying policy for the purchase and sale of municipal real estate. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion to consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- f. Report from the Economic Development Department regarding an ordinance and amendment to the Rivertracks LLC Redevelopment Agreement. (First Reading)

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

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the amended agreement, authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, and consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to amend the amended agreement to include a clause that would make construction work funded through the agreement subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Parker thanked the representatives from Rivertracks for their presentation and stated that his amendment would ensure that the City maintains local labor standards. Aldersperson Poulos suggested that the developers should speak regarding the amendment. Ian Frank from Rivertracks was invited to speak. Mr. Frank said that their intention at this time is to get the site ready for development, which would require demolition. Aldersperson Parker clarified that TIF funds don't automatically trigger the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act, but that his motion would subject the project to the legislation. Mr. Frank stated that such an amendment would not affect his willingness to complete the project. Aldersperson Parker clarified that his

motion would only apply to whatever is funded through the agreement. Alderperson Hurt asked whether it would be redundant to make an amendment when Rivertracks already plans to act according to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act.

VOTE:

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

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Barnes asked whether this agreement is different than how TIF funds are typically disbursed. Miles Brainard clarified that the agreement contains reimbursement for TIF-eligible expenses. Alderperson Barnes asked how many jobs would be created as a result of the project. Mr Frank said that 40 jobs would be directly related to this redevelopment, and that it would position his company to expand even further in the future. Alderperson Barnes asked whether these jobs would be full-time. Mr. Frank answered yes. Alderperson Barnes asked who the owners of Rivertracks were. Mr. Frank answered that it is owned by himself, Tim Mainard, and Troy Green. Alderperson Barnes asked whether they would seek to hire residents of Rock Island. Mr. Frank answered that they would, and that over 60 Rock Island residents are already working for Rivertracks. Alderperson Evans stated that employment and development is needed for Rock Island residents specifically. Mr. Frank stated that his company has various jobs that are open to local residents. Alderperson Poulos thanked Mr. Frank for his efforts to redevelop the unused land.

VOTE:

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

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 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 Clerk's Office regarding a request from Wake Brewing requesting sound amplification on Saturday, July 4, 2026 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. for a live music event.
- b. Minutes from the May 18, 2026 City Council Meeting.

Motion:	Motion to approve Consent Agenda items a and b.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve Consent Agenda items a and b; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

12. Claims/Purchases

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to J.C. Dillon, Peoria, Illinois, for an emergency sewer lateral repair at 2343 and 2330 38th Street in the amount of \$68,301.48.
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to J.C. Dillon, Peoria, Illinois, for Water Service and Sewer Later Repair Program repairs in the amount of \$96,029.15.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #4 to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for the Sidewalk and Pavement Patching Program in the amount of \$87,976.80.
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to McClintock Trucking and Excavating, Silvis, Illinois, for an emergency sewer main repair at 4505 28th Avenue in the amount of \$35,683.85.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to allow claims a through d; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 4-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Evans, Hurt, Barnes, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson and Healy.

- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to Brandt Construction, Milan, Illinois, for an emergency storm sewer repair at 3336 26th Street in the amount of \$28,253.83.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to allow claim e; Aldersperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

and Healy.

- f. Report from the Public Works Department regarding authorization for an emergency purchase from Martin Equipment, Rock Island, Illinois, for a 2026 John Deere 320G backhoe in the amount of \$165,370.00.
- g. Report from the Public Works Department requesting authorization to outfit four 2026 Ford F-350 Super Duty Cab and Chassis pickups with dump boxes from Monroe Truck Equipment, Monroe, Wisconsin, in the amount of \$72,064.00.
- h. Report from the Public Works Department regarding the purchase of water distribution supplies from various vendors in the amount of \$110,310.00.
- i. Report from the Fire Department regarding the purchase of 70 Propper 3-in-1 hard shell winter coats from Panther Uniforms, Rock Island, IL, in the amount of \$12,390.00.
- j. Report from the Fire Department regarding the purchase of 21 structural firefighter gear lockers from Schoollockers.com in the amount of \$17,209.90.

Motion: Motion to approve purchases f through j.
RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to approve purchases f through j; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Barnes asked about the circumstances surrounding the emergency purchase of item f. Mike Bartels stated that their current backhoe is too old and that the possibility of leasing a new one isn't economical. Mr. Bartels also said that not having a backhoe would reduce response times to water main breaks. Aldersperson Evans asked whether this would allow the City to do more emergency water main jobs and reduce the need to contract them out. Mr. Bartels stated that it would allow them to continue the current pace of repairs, but that there are some which are above their capabilities and would still need to be contracted out. Aldersperson Evans stated that he would like to spend less on contracting out repairs. Mr. Bartels agreed and stated that Public Works does repairs in-house as much as possible.

13. Contracts/Agreements

- a. Report from the Public Works Department requesting authorization to award a bid to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for the 20th Street 7th to 18th Avenue Utilities project in the amount of \$3,418,087.16.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Evans moved to award the construction bid; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

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

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Barnes relayed various questions she received from a resident of her ward, as well as the response from Public Works. The resident asked to see the design plans for the project, and Aldersperson Barnes stated that she forwarded it to the resident. She also stated that the resident was worried about the street improvement funds being used towards some aspects of the project. Aldersperson Barnes clarified that any water and sewer updates would come out of the Water and Sewer fund.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 4-0-2 roll call vote. Aye: Poulos, Healy, Evans, Hurt, Barnes, Swanson. Nay: None. Absent: None.

14. Budget/Finance Items

- a. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the Fleet Amortization Fund (605) in the amount of \$40,370.00.

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

15. Department Reports

- a. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding a grade reclassification for the City Clerk position.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve the grade reclassification; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Hurt asked for Human Resources Director Bagous to come to the podium. Aldersperson Hurt asked for the findings of the compensation comparisons done with neighboring municipalities and how the proposed increase aligns with the market. Mr. Bagous stated that the adjustment is based on the various roles the City Clerk fulfills and the seriousness of their duties for the City. These include FOIA requests, OMA compliance, and business licensing, all of which are complex and have increased in number in recent years. Mr. Bagous also stated that Moline's grades are misaligned with those in Rock Island for the position. Aldersperson Parker asked Finance Director Sager whether City budgets are balanced. Ms. Sager stated that all City budgets are legally required to be balanced in the general fund. Aldersperson Parker also stated that the City Clerk is a professional office that handles various responsibilities, and should be compensated accordingly.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Human Resources Department regarding hiring for an unbudgeted Police Customer Services Assistant position.

Motion: Motion to approve hiring for the position.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to approve hiring for the position; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Hurt asked Police Chief McCloud to explain the current staffing situation at RICOM and how the department would be affected if these responsibilities were placed onto dispatchers. Chief McCloud stated that the department is understaffed with dispatchers, and that the training process takes over 4 months. Chief McCloud clarified that the department has historically required 3 customer service assistants to maintain operations during office hours, but that there are only 2 customer service assistants currently. He stated that this has forced the department to reduce office hours and route non-emergency calls that arrive outside office hours to dispatchers, resulting in a 40% increase in dispatchers' workload during these times. Chief McCloud also stated that other municipalities are actively seeking to recruit dispatchers from Rock Island, who are compensated less than dispatchers in surrounding municipalities. If dispatchers were enticed to leave, the Police Department would struggle to maintain its operations, according to Chief McCloud. Aldersperson Parker asked whether this would be budget-neutral. Chief McCloud stated that current savings for salaries within the department would allow for the position to be funded without asking for more money than was initially budgeted.

VOTE:

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

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 Poulos 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 5-0-2 voice vote. Aye: Poulos, Evans, Hurt, Barnes, Parker. Nay: None. Absent: Swanson and Healy.

b. Other Business/New Business

Economic Development Director Tom Flaherty said that the Port Master Plan has been completed and would be forwarded to the City Council on June 9th.

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

VOTE:

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

17. Other Business/New Business

Aldersperson Barnes noted that the Rock Island School District will present the School Resource Officer Agreement with the City of Rock Island on June 9th. She stated her desire for this agreement to be approved, so that an officer can be present at the school, which is in Ward 3.

Mayor Harris asked City Manager Thompson whether it is the responsibility of the City to provide crossing guards. Chief McCloud stated that these positions are contracted out, but managed by the Police

Department.

Steve Scranton was invited to speak about the NAACP event and the Metrolink bus that would be operating on June 19th at 7:00 am on 9th Street and 7th Avenue.

Aldersperson Parker advocated that residents attend the 2nd Saturdays on 2nd Avenue and the Farmers' Market this summer as well as the soft opening of Blue Collar Bagels on June 13.

18. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn to June 22, 2026.

Motion:	Motion to adjourn.
VV	Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to adjourn; Aldersperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 7:45 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]