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

10/23/2023 - 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: Mayor Thoms, Alderpersons Robinson, Hurt, Swanson, Parker, Poulos and Healy.

Staff: Assistant City Manager and Parks and Recreation Director John Gripp, Attorney Leslie Day, City Clerk Samantha Gange, and other City Staff.

Mayor Thoms said that Alderperson Gilbert was home ill and would like to participate remotely and Council members would need to take a vote to allow her to participate in the meeting via remote connection. Alderperson Poulos made a motion to allow Alderperson Gilbert to attend the meeting via remote connection; seconded by Alderperson Healy. Motion passed on a 6-0-0 voice vote.

Alderperson Gilbert was present via remote connection.

Absent: None.

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

Ann Boege addressed Council regarding recent problems with squatters in her neighborhood. She provided background information regarding a woman who continues to trespass in her neighborhood. Ms. Boege described an incident when a woman tried to break into her vehicle and she caught her and was assaulted. She claimed the Rock Police Department had trespassed her, but she continued to return. She remarked that the property owners and landlords are not properly taking care of vacant homes in the City and asked if there was a way to put more responsibility onto property owners and hold them accountable.

Teisha McNeil addressed council regarding an apartment she has been renting for almost a year. She identified McDonald's Properties as the leasing agency and described her experience since she moved in last December. She said the apartment she moved into had holes in the floors with rats and mice; drains with flies, gnats and maggots; major plumbing issues that didn't get addressed and the maintenance department comes and leaves without completing the work. She claimed that the City of Rock Island had fined the owner, Jesse Singh, for code violations and claimed they addressed the violations with illegal fixes. Ms. McNeil further discussed her complaint and experience with the Rock Island Human Rights Commission, who told her not to allow the maintenance department into her apartment until they could get mediation. She provided further details of her experience and asked Council members for assistance.

Mayor Thoms asked Community & Economic Development Director Miles Brainard to follow up with Ms. McNeil.

6. Minutes

a. Minutes from the October 9, 2023 Study Session and regular City 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 with noted corrections; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

7. Awards and Honor Presentations, Officer Swearing in Ceremony, and Proclamations

a. Presentation of the 2023 Labor Day Parade Awards.

A presentation of the 2023 Labor Day parade awards was given. Photos were taken with the winners and Mayor Thoms. The winners were Longfellow Liberal Arts Elementary School. quad Cities 50's Club, Los Charros Riders, Rock Island Girl's Softball, The Black Family, The Refuge Church and Denkmann Elementary School.

Clerk Gange read a proclamation declaring October 24, 2023 as World Polio Day. Mayor Thoms read his declaration.

Mayor Thoms acknowledged the retirement of Finance Director Linda Barnes and thanked her for her years of service to the City.

Mayor Thoms announced items 12a and 12d were being removed from the agenda and would not be considered.

8. Closed Session Minutes

a. Minutes from the October 9, 2023 Closed Session.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the Closed Session minutes.

VV: Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Gilbert moved to approve the Closed Session minutes; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

9. Update Rock Island

Fright Night in the Park

Attention ghosts, goblins and witches! Fright Night in the Park is this Thursday, Oct. 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a fun and safe Halloween event with trick-or-treating and a costume contest at Schwiebert Riverfront Park.

The first 500 children will receive a free goodie bag, a live DJ will be spinning fun dance music and secret guest judges will walk around the park handing out costume contest prize certificates to be turned in for a special prize.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours

Trick-or-treating will take place in the City of Rock Island on Tuesday, October 31 from 5 to 8 p.m. Participating households are asked to turn on porch and outdoor lights and make sure walkways are well lit and free of debris or tripping hazards. For safety reasons, please do not hand out homemade food or treats. Pre-packaged candy and treats only.

First Ward/West End Trunk and Trick-or-Treating

Also on Halloween, families are invited to take part in Trunk and Trick-or-Treating, hosted by First Ward Alderman Moses Robinson on Tuesday, Oct. 31 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. along 9th Street between 6th and 7th avenues. This free and fun event offers a safe alternative for kids going door to door. Candy, hot dogs, chips and music will be provided.

The event is sponsored by residents of First Ward, Community Caring Conference and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

10. 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 29 through October 05, 2023 in the amount of $1,094,984.27; for the weeks of October 06, through October 12, 2023 in the amount of $884,162.28; and payroll for the weeks of September 18 through October 1, 2023 in the amount of $1,677,923.21.

b. International City/County Management Association (ICMA) claims for the week of September 23 through October 06, 2023, in the amount of $32,689.75.

c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of $23,144.00 to CDM Smith, Chicago, Illinois, for the Phosphorus Removal Feasibility Study/Optimization Plan Project.

d. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding the annual renewal of the Milestone maintenance agreement in the amount of $12,983.00 to Tri-City Electric, Davenport, Iowa for video recording software used for video surveillance of city buildings.

e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of $28,133.60 to the Illinois Department of Transportation, Springfield, Illinois, for the US-67 (15th Street) handicap ramps.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve Consent Agenda items a through e.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Robinson moved to approve Consent Agenda items a through e; Alderperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

11. Claims

a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of $616,138.34 to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for payment #5 for the 11th Street Water Main

Replacement Project.

b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of $89,423.73 to Walter D. Laud, East Moline, Illinois, for the 28th Street 20th to 21st Avenue Storm Sewer Project.

c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment #5 and final in the amount of $25,528.05 to 5 Cities Construction, Coal Valley, Illinois, for the 37th Avenue and 46th Street Reconstruction Project.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve Claims items a through c.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve Claim items a through c; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Parker rescued himself from the vote due to the nature of his employment.

VOTE:

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

12. Contracts / Agreements

a. Report from the Police Department regarding an agreement with the Rock Island/Milan School District 41 for a School Resource Officer.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the SRO and reciprocal reporting agreements as recommended, subject to any minor attorney modifications; authorize the City Manager to execute the SRO agreement; and authorize the Chief of Police to execute the reciprocal reporting agreement.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

This item was removed from the agenda.

b. Report from the Police Department regarding bids for towing services, recommending the bid be awarded to Quad City Towing.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to table the item until the November 27, 2023 meeting; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

c. Report from the Police Department regarding bids for dry cleaning services, recommending the bid be awarded to Burke Cleaners in the amount of $11,766.15.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to award the bid as recommended; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

d. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a Growing Rock Island Together (GRIT) Agreement with Wake Brewing.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the assistance agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications; and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

This item was removed from the agenda.

e. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a Growing Rock Island Together (GRIT) Agreement with QC Coffee and Pancake House.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the assistance agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications; and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the assistance agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

f. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a Growing Rock Island Together (GRIT) Agreement with Media Link, Inc.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the assistance agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications; and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Gilbert moved to approve the assistance agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

g. Report from the Information Technology Department regarding a three-year agreement with Google Workspace for software subscription service in the amount of $69,159.00.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the three-year agreement with Google Workspace and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Robinson moved to approve the three-year agreement with Google Workspace and authorize the

City Manager to execute the agreement; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

13. Ordinances with Reports from Departments

a. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department regarding the consolidation of the Arts Commission and Beautification Commission into the Arts & Beautification Commission. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the consolidation of the Arts Commission and Beautification Commission into the Arts & Beautification Commission and consider the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the consolidation of the Arts Commission and Beautification Commission into the Arts & Beautification Commission and consider the ordinance; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Swanson said she struggled with whether or not to approve this consolidation. However, after reviewing the data that was sent regarding the large number of meetings canceled because of a lack of a quorum, she feels that it is in the best interest for these commissions to be consolidated. She remarked that the two groups could work together to develop a plan.

Alderperson Gilbert referenced an email sent to Council members from a current Arts Commission member that distinguishes the different purposes of each commission. She noted that some members of the Arts Commission have either resigned or indicated they would resign as a result of the consolidation. She offered that the quorum and attendance issues could have been resolved by reducing the number of members on each commission.

VOTE:

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

b. 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 Parker moved to approve the consolidation of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals and consider the ordinance; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Alderperson Poulos asked what other options are available for appeal. Mr. Brainard responded with an example of a request from a resident for a Special Use Permit. The request is then brought to the Planning Commission and then to the City Council for final approval. Mr. Brainard provided another example regarding a request for special permission from a resident to operate a major home occupation. This type of request is brought to the Board of Zoning Appeals for no particular reason other than it has always been that way. The request could have gone to the Planning Commission as well. He remarked that the divisions of labor are randomly assigned to the two groups with no particular reason or division. He noted that none of the processes in the Code would change. Alderperson Healy asked how the appeal process would work with the consolidation. Mr. Brainard said there isn't an appeal process as it currently stands with either committee or the consolidation. Attorney Day remarked that under the City's code, the appeal process is covered under the Administrative Review Act.

Mayor Thoms remarked that other communities in Illinois, including Moline, do not have two separate committees for these. Attorney Day added that under state law, there is nothing that would prevent us from consolidating these committees.

Alderperson Gilbert commented that she had requested several data items during the presentation on these consolidations at the last meeting. She said she never received the information and was unable to evaluate it and therefore would vote no.

VOTE:

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

14. Resolutions with Reports from Departments

a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a Motor Fuel Tax Resolution for the 35th Avenue 22nd to 24th Street Reconstruction Project.

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.

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a resolution as part of the Illinois Housing Development Association (IHDA) Strong Communities Program Round 2.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to adopt the resolution; and direct the mayor to execute the Officer Certificate and Certificate of Incumbency.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to adopt the resolution, and direct the mayor to execute the Officer Certificate and Certificate of Incumbency; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

c. Report from the Mayor's Office and General Administration regarding an amendment to the moratorium on all new class A, B, C, D, & E liquor licenses.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve the amendment to the resolution; Alderperson Healy seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Thoms clarified to Alderperson Parker that this amendment would allow a business holding a liquor license that is included in the moratorium to sell the business and the new owner obtain the same liquor license at the business as previously held.

Alderperson Robinson asked how much longer it would take for the new ordinance to come to Council. Mayor Thoms and Attorney Day indicated they have had meetings in the past week regarding the possible changes and have also been researching fifteen other cities.

Alderperson Robinson commented that the signature requirement process needed to be revised. Mayor Thoms noted this requirement will be removed with the new ordinance.

VOTE:

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

15. Department Reports

a. Report from the Public Works Department requesting certain equipment be declared as surplus.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to declare the listed items as surplus and grant Public Works permission to auction the surplus in a manner most advantageous to the City.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to declare the listed items as surplus and grant Public Works permission to auction the surplus in a manner most advantageous to the City; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

16. Events/Misc Requests

a. Report from the City Clerk's office regarding a request from Christian Care, 2209 3rd Avenue to hold their 2nd annual Frigid Feet walk on Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the request as recommended.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

17. Other Business/New Business

Mayor Thoms welcomed Tom Flaherty, the new Assistant to the City Manager and Economic Development Director to the City. Mr. Flaherty thanked the Council and the Mayor.

18. Closed Session

a. **5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives.**

Motion: Motion whether or not to enter Closed Session for the exceptions cited.

RC: Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to enter Closed Session for the exception cited; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

19. Adjourn

a. Motion to Adjourn to November 13, 2023.

Motion: Motion whether or not to adjourn.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

Upon entering back into the regular Council meeting, roll call was taken. All City Council members and the

Mayor were present.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to adjourn the meeting; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting concluded at 8:21 p.m.

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Samantha Gange, City Clerk