CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Council Chambers, City Hall, 3rd Floor,
1528 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL

11/13/2023 - 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 Mike Thoms, Alderpersons Moses Robinsion, Randy Hurt, Judith Gilbert, Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos and Bill Healy.

Absent: None.

Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, Attorney Leslie Day, 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

Jodie Kavensky expressed her concern and opposition to the City merging the Arts Commission and Beautification Commission into one. She said the commissions are very different and referenced an email she sent to all Council members and the Mayor outlining the details of why the commissions should not be combined.

6. Minutes

a. Minutes of the October 23, 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 as printed; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

7. Closed Session Minutes

a. Minutes of the October 23, 2023 Closed Session.

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

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

a. Presentation from Dr. LaDrina Wilson regarding the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce and the Rock Island Arsenal Defense Alliance.

Quad Cities Chamber CEO Dr. LaDrina Wilson provided Council members with an update on the services the Chamber provides the City of Rock Island. She discussed their strategic vision priority for regional economic and business growth and gave a brief update on successful projects since 2022. She provided an overview of the Chamber's approach to business attraction services, retention and expansion. She said her focus for this presentation was on promoting the sustainability of the Rock Island Arsenal through the Rock Island Arsenal Defense Alliance (RIADA). She remarked that the Arsenal is a major economic driver and the second largest employer in the region. RIADA is a community-led 501c6 organization dedicated to protecting the threat of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).The City of Rock Island currently invests $17,500 annually in RIADA and the Chamber is looking for an increased investment from various stakeholders including post-secondary institutions, public and private sector funding. She said the Chamber is asking the City to contribute $26,100, or an annual increase of $8,700 to continue to support and promote the sustainability of the Arsenal.

Alderperson Parker asked if the majority of funding for RIADA went towards a lobbying organization in Washington D.C. Dr. Wilson said it did as it is more of a high level approach with federal legislation and grants, among other things. Some of the RIADA funding also goes towards staffing, including an executive director. It was noted that downtown Rock Island is considered a HUB zone by the Federal Government's Small Business Administration and this should be further explored as one of Rock Island's assets when considering economic development expansion. Dr. Wilson said she would take the Hub zone information and discussion back to the Chamber's economic development team.

b. Proclamation declaring November 25, 2023 as Small Business Saturday in the City of Rock Island.

Clerk Gange read the proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration.

9. Update Rock Island

Enjoy a free, delicious Thanksgiving meal
This weekend is the 34th annual Thanksgiving Meals at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. Curbside service is available at the Center, located at 630 9th Street on November 17, 18 and 19th, which is this Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Meals include turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce and dessert. When you arrive in the parking lot, simply state how many meals you'd like. For more information, visit mlkcenter.org/events

Free leaf pickup
The City of Rock Island is providing leaf collection for its residential refuse customers through Friday, December 8. Free yard waste bags can be picked up 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.

Support small businesses this year on Black Friday and Small Business Saturday
To encourage shopping at local small businesses, “That Dam Shopping Trip” has returned. Ten businesses on both sides of the dam will offer sales and prizes as they welcome customers to our downtowns on Black

Friday and Small Business Saturday, November 24th and November 25th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Participating businesses include Skeleton Key Art and Antiques, Coleman Florist, Big T Wear, Brick and Motor Boutique, and a pop-up location of Clean Bee in Rock Island. Davenport businesses include Abernathy's, Figge Art Museum store, Chocolate Manor, Doodads and Theo & Co. For more information, check out That Dam Shopping Trip on Facebook at www.facebook.com/damshopping.

Winter Nights Winter Lights at the Botanical Center
Come to the Quad City Botanical Center, 2525 4th Avenue, to stroll through gardens illuminated with more than 225,000 glowing lights. The lights will be turned on this Friday, November 17. For more information on the 7th annual Winter Nights Winter Lights events, go to www.qcgardens.com

Mayor Thoms announced the removal of agenda item 14a.

10. Ordinances

a. An Ordinance consolidating the Arts Commission and Beautification Commission into the Arts & Beautification Commission. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Alderpersons Poulos and Parker shared similar remarks that merging the two commissions would allow them to have a quorum and hold meetings, as well as be more collaborative.

Alderperson GIlbert commented she disagreed with the two commissions merging and noted the Arts Commission had lost several members as a result of the merger.

Mr. Brainard said the majority of the members on both the Arts Commission and Beautification Commission support the merging into one commission as it gives them an opportunity to be more collaborative.

Alderperson Swanson said she understood the frustration and suggested that there be some sort of compromise such as rotating between the Arts Commission and the Beautification Commission on a monthly basis.

Alderperson Swanson asked if the Arts Commission made recommendations to Quad City Arts for the art program. Mr. Brainard explained that this structure has changed over the past few years to a services agreement between the Arts Commission and the City. The agreement requires an annual work plan to be submitted by Quad City Arts and the Arts Commission reviews the plan and provides feedback on the plan.

VOTE:

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

b. An Ordinance consolidating the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals into the Planning & Zoning Commission. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to pass the ordinance; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

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. Claims for the weeks of October 13, through October 19, 2023, in the amount of $456,960.27; for the weeks of October 20, through October 26, 2023 in the amount of $724,718.20; and payroll for the weeks of October 2nd through October 15th, 2023 in the amount of $1,673,191.73

b. International City/County Management Association (ICMA) claims for the week of October 07 through October 20, 2023, in the amount of $32,680.05

c. ACH Payments for the month of September 2023 in the amount of $2,874,686.88.

d. Purchase Card Claims for the period of August 29 through September 26, 2023 in the amount of $69,942.85.

e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of $28,338.54 to Edgewater Resources LLC, Madison, Wisconsin, for engineering and design services for the Sunset Marina 400 dock replacement, electrical upgrades and dredging analysis.

f. Report from the City Manager regarding payment to Humility Homes & Services, Davenport, IA in the amount of $20,000.00 towards the use of a winter emergency shelter from December 1, 2023 to April 15, 2024.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve Consent Agenda items a through f; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

12. Claims

a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of $37,462.14 to Langman Construction, Rock Island, Illinois, for an emergency water main repair at 24th Street and 5th Avenue.

b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a payment in the amount of $101,480.70 to Valley Construction Company, Rock Island, Illinois, for the 2023 Seal Coat Program.

c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment 2 in the amount of $108,704.08 to Walter D. Laud, East Moline, Illinois, for the 28th Street 20th to 21st Avenue Storm Sewer Project.

d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment 6 and final in the amount of $98,027.38 to General Constructors, Davenport, Iowa, for the Schwiebert Park Marina Dock Renovations.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Robinson moved to allow claims a through d; Alderperson Healy 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: Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson. Nay: None.

Absent: None.

13. 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.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved 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; Alderperson Healy seconded.

Discussion:

Alderperson Parker asked Police Chief Landi if the school board had approved the agreement and Chief Landi responded they would be voting on it at their scheduled meeting tomorrow.

Chief Landi said the role of the SRO is to maintain the safety of the school and provide support as needed and not be involved with school administration's disciplinary measures. He explained that the Rock Island Police Department did not have the capacity to staff a dedicated officer in recent years, but that has changed recently and they are now able to support a SRO at the high school.

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding a Consultant Services Agreement with dphilms.

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

MOTION:

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

Discussion:

Aldeperson Gilbert had questions as to whether this new agreement was replacing the existing agreement and whether there was a not to an exceed amount in the agreement. Mr. Brainard explained that this agreement was a separate agreement and the current agreement is still in place. He noted that these agreements were funded by a state grant and City general fund dollars will not be used. Additional grant funding will be available again next year. Attorney Day remarked that the contract does state a not to exceed amount of $40,000.

VOTE:

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

c. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department Regarding a Letter of Intent to Sell the 31st Avenue Site to Community Home Partners.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the Letter of Intent; and authorize the City Manager to execute the document.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve the Letter of Intent, and authorize the City Manager ot execute the document; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

d. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department regarding the demolition of the Bear Manufacturing Building at 2015 5th Avenue, and the negotiation of the contract with Valley Construction in the amount not to exceed $163,350.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the demolition; and direct staff to negotiate a contract with Valley Construction.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to approve the demolition, and direct staff to negotiate a contract with Valley Construction; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

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

It was noted that the City made attempts to find an interested party to buy the building or preserve it prior to deciding to demolish it.

VOTE:

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

e. Report from the Public Works Department requesting approval to award a bid to McClintock Plumbing, Inc., Silvis, IL, to retain a plumber for the Water Meter Replacement Project in the amount of $1,960,050.00 plus additional pricing as needed and use $614,580.92 of ARPA funds towards the project.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to award the bid as recommended; authorize the use of ARPA funds; and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Swanson moved to award the bid as recommended, authorize the use of ARPA funds, and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract documents; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

14. Ordinances with Reports from Departments

a. Report from the Mayor's Office and City Clerk regarding amendments to the City of Rock Island Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 10: Police Community Relations Commission. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion whether or not to consider the amendments to the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

This item was removed from the agenda.

15. Budget/Finance Items

a. Report from the Finance Department regarding an interfund loan in the amount of $350,000, and an adjustment to the CY 2023 budget, increasing the Parks & Recreation Fund (555) revenue and expenses by $350,000, and decreasing the General Fund (101) by $350,000.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the interfund loan and budget adjustment as recommended.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to approve the interfund loan and budget adjustment as recommended; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Finance Department regarding an adjustment to the CY 2023 budget, increasing the General Fund Excess (102) and decreasing the General Fund (101) by $7,816,860.87.

Motion: Motion whether or not to approve the budget adjustment as recommended.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

c. Report from the Finance Department regarding an adjustment to the CY 2023 budget, increasing the Parks & Recreation Fund (555) revenue and expenses by $11,912.48.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Alderperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

d. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment increasing expenses in the TIF #5 Columbia Park Fund (205) by $17,000.00.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Robinson moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

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

e. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment increasing the General Fund (248) budget by $614,580.92.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Healy moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

f. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget transfer and adjustment from the North 11th Street TIF (203) to the Capital Improvements - Streets Fund (302) in the amount of $48,000.00

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the budget transfer and adjustment as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Robinson moved to approve the budget transfer as recommended; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

16. Department Reports

a. Report from the Community and Economic Development Department Regarding the Use of Remaining APRA Funds for Housing Rehabilitation.

Motion:	Motion whether or not approve $140,287.00 in ARPA restricted funds for Housing Rehabilitation.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Swanson moved to approve the $140,287.00 in ARPA restricted funds for Housing Rehabilitation; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Brainard explained that these funds are from the allocated restricted ARPA funds for housing rehabilitation and need to be spent next year. He said these funds will be rolled into the current housing rehabilitation program as there is a great need as demonstrated by the long waiting list.

Alderperson Gilbert asked if the unspent CDBG funds would also be used towards housing rehabilitation and Mr. Brainard responded affirmatively and said there are over 100 households currently on the waiting list.

Alderperson Poulos asked how the projects are given priority. Mr. Brainard indicated the standard that HUD recommends is first come first serve with a waiting list. Alternative ways to priorize these projects have been attempted, but ultimately, the HUD preferred standard has been the most successful. He said the housing rehabilitation program is split into two, with an emergency program in addition to the general rehabilitation program. Mr. Brainard explained the emergency program has a narrowly defined list of what constitutes an emergency (e.g. no furnace in the winter).

Mr. Brainard discussed the department's recent efforts to increase the number of projects they can do in any given year. In the past, there were around 30-35 projects completed annually, but that number has been gradually rising and is now getting closer to more than 40 projects. He noted the department would like to continue gradually increasing the number of projects, but that is dependent on funding.

Alderperson Robinson asked how the contractors are selected for these programs. Mr. Brainard explained the City acts as a sponsor for the homeowner(s) and manages the entire process including the federal procurement process as required by HUD. The bidding process for these projects is the same as the City's process. If a conflict does arise with a contractor, the City acts as a mediator between the homeowner(s) and the contractor.

Mr. Brainard said the department would look into the possibility of compiling an economic impact statement on how these projects impact the community.

VOTE:

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

17. Appointments to Boards/Commissions/Committees

a. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding the temporary appointment of Jessica Sager as City Treasurer.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to approve the appointment as recommended; Alderperson Healy seconded.

VOTE:

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

18. Other Business/New Business

Alderperson Gilbert asked if the Community & Economic Development Department could place the announcement and application for CDBG funds in the News and Announcements section on the website.

It was noted that free leaf bags can be picked up at both townships as well as the public works offices.

Alderperson Robinson thanked everyone that donated or helped make the trunk or treat in the First Ward successful.

Mayor Thoms said the Unplugged event that was recently held at the Stern Center was successful and thanked everyone involved.

Mayor Thoms said he would like Council members' feedback regarding the proposed ordinance changes for the Police Community Relations Commission. Council members discussed whether the Commission needed to reduce its membership requirements from twelve (12). There were some concerns noted regarding the required professional positions and the need for a balance of experienced members. Additionally, the ordinance currently states that the chair does not vote unless there is a tie breaker, which is a barrier if the number of members is reduced. Several Council members indicated the need to have a seven-member Commission with the chair having the ability to vote. It was noted that a member of the youth category would be a benefit to the Commission, but should not be a requirement.

Mayor Thoms said he would discuss the changes with the current Commission members and this item would be brought back to Council with the suggested changes by the Commission at the December 11, 2023 meeting.

Alderperson Gilbert suggested the City implement a standard of attendance for all the City's boards and commissions.

19. 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.**

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 Poulos moved to enter Closed Session for the exceptions cited; Alderperson Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

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

20. Adjourn

a. Motion to Adjourn.

Motion: Motion whether or not to adjourn to November 27, 2023.

VV: Voice Vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to adjourn the meeting; Alderperson Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.