

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

12/11/2023 - 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 Robinson, 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

Mr. Richard Fricke addressed Council about the need for more traffic code enforcement. He said he has witnessed several traffic violations in the City and there is a need for more enforcement and more funds

should be invested in public safety. Mr. Frickle asked Council to eliminate the leaf bag pickup program and allow leaf burning in the City as it would be a cost-savings. He said the City should be allocating funds to essential needs such as law enforcement and other must have items before spending funds on amenities such as the marina or a City Hall remodel.

6. Minutes

- a. Minutes from the November 27, 2023 Study Session and Regular Council meeting.

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

7. Closed Session Minutes

- a. Minutes of the November 13, 2023 Closed Session.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the Closed Session minutes.
VV	Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

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

- a. Proclamation declaring Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the City of Rock Island on January 15, 2024.

Clerk Gange read the Proclamation. Mayor Thoms read his declaration. Martin Luther King, Jr Center Director Jerry Jones accepted the proclamation.

9. Update Rock Island

It’s time for the annual Rock Island Holiday Lights Contest!

Do you have a neighbor or know a business that has decorated their home or building in a festive way? The City is accepting nominations for the Holiday Lights Contest until Friday, Dec. 15 at 5 p.m.

Winners for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the two categories of residence and business will be announced later

this month. Just submit a photograph and address of the nominee to cedmail@rigov.org; or to Kathy Douglass at douglass.kathryn@rigov.org; or call 309-732-2900.

Celebrate Martin Luther King Day with the community

The 41st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Service and Awards will be held January 15 at 10:30 a.m. at the MLK Community Center, 630 9th Street, Rock Island. With a theme of “Walk Together, March Forward,” the event will also be streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

Nominations are being accepted for the “I Have a Dream Award.” The deadline is December 22. Go to MLKcenter.org for nomination requirements and the application.

Would you or someone you know make a great firefighter?

The Rock Island Fire Department is accepting applications now through December 31.

If you have a passion for serving others and a willingness to be part of a team, this is your chance. Call 309-732-2800 to be connected with the recruiting team or apply at rigov.org.

Are you interested in historic preservation or the arts?

The City is seeking volunteers to serve on the Preservation Commission and the Arts and Beautification Commission. Each commission has three vacancies. Apply at rigov.org.

10. Special Presentations

- a. Presentation of the CY 2023 3rd Quarter Financial Management Report.

Interim Finance Director Jessica Sager presented the highlights of the 3rd Quarter Financial Management Report. She said the report is for the period ending September 30, 2023, and provides a review of revenues, expenditures and net position for all funds; an analysis of major state and local tax revenues and a monthly investment report. The benchmark for the first quarter is 75 percent. Ms. Sager reported that the General Fund, which accounts for most of the departments, reported revenue at 78 percent and expenditures at 75 percent for the period. Special Revenue Funds such as Riverboat Gaming reported revenue at 71 percent and expenditures at 27 percent. Ms. Sager noted the second round of debt payments started last week, so this amount will stay closer to the budgeted amount of \$3 million.

Ms. Sager provided an overview of other government funds, including the Capital Projects and Street Funds, which are supported by the Motor Fuel Tax and Street Fund, reported revenue at 8 percent and expenditures at 45 percent. The revenue is down due to pending transfers of the Motor Fuel Tax and Gasoline Tax that will occur later in the month. The Motor Fuel Tax Fund and the Motor Fuel Tax Rebuild Fund both reported revenues at 71 percent and expenditures at 0 percent and 19 percent, respectively. The Martin Luther King Community Center Operations Fund revenue is reported at 70 percent and expenditures at 74 percent. The Community & Economic Development Fund reported revenue at 42 percent and expenditures at 53 percent. She reported that the Parks and Recreation Fund revenue was reported at 80 percent and expenditures at 73 percent. The Sunset Marina Fund revenues were below the target at 38 percent and expenditures at 44 percent.

Approximately 50 percent of General Fund revenue is received from state and local taxes and income tax revenue is projected to be 17 percent higher than the \$5 million that was budgeted. Replacement tax is projected to be just over \$2.3 million more than what was budgeted and that was a total of \$6.5 million for 2023. Sales Tax and Local Option Sales Tax were both projected to be higher than the budgeted amount, while the Telecommunication Tax and Municipal Utility Tax are below the budgeted amount.

Ms. Sager explained that the Illinois Municipal League Review recently noted future dispersement reductions of 28.8 percent for Replacement Tax, which was taken into consideration when preparing the proposed 2024 budget.

Aldersperson Healy asked why the Finance Department was 52 percent over on their labor. Ms. Sager said that it is probably attributed to the recent retirement of Finance Director Linda Barnes, but she would research the question and report back to Council.

11. Public Hearings

- a. Mayor Thoms will close the regular meeting and open a Public Hearing regarding the Calendar Year 2024 Budget.

Mayor Thoms will close the Public Hearing and reconvene the regular meeting.

Mayor Thoms closed the regular meeting and opened a Public Hearing regarding the Calendar Year 2024 Budget.

Mayor Thoms asked if there was anyone who wished to speak regarding the CY 2024 Budget. Nobody was signed up and no one came forward.

Mayor Thoms closed the Public Hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

12. Resolutions

- a. Tax Abatement Resolutions.
 - a. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$667,512.50, such funds to be provided from revenues of Gaming to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2014A.
 - b. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$1,191,440.00, such funds to be provided from revenues of Tax Increment Financing and Sales Tax to pay principal and interest on Taxable General Obligation Bonds, series 2014B.
 - c. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$537,412.50, such funds to be provided from revenues of the Debt Service and Gaming funds to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2015A.
 - d. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$241,600.00, such funds to be provided from revenues of the Debt Service, Gaming and Sewer funds to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Refunding Bonds, series 2015B.

- e. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$257,600.00, such funds to be provided from revenues of the Gaming fund to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2016A.
- f. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$82,468.76, such funds to be provided from revenues of the Tax Increment Financing fund and Sales Tax to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2016C.
- g. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$525,231.26, such funds to be provided from revenues of the Hydroplant, Parks and Gaming funds to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2017A.
- h. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$473,600.00, such funds to be provided from revenues of the Water fund and Wastewater fund to pay principal and interest on Taxable General Obligation Bonds, series 2019A.
- i. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$291,697.50, such funds to be provided from revenues of the Tax Increment Financing fund to pay principal and interest on Taxable General Obligation Bonds, series 2019B.
- j. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$143,242.50, such funds to be provided from revenues of Tax Increment Financing and Sales Tax to pay principal and interest on Taxable General Obligation Bonds, series 2019C.
- k. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$61,018.76, such funds to be provided from revenues of the Gaming fund to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2019D.
- l. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$919,200.00, such funds to be provided from revenues of the Water and Wastewater, Parks & Recreation, Gaming, Library and Debt funds to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, series 2020.
- m. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$342,600.00, such funds to be provided from revenues of the Debt Service, Gaming, Sunset Marina and Water funds to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Refunding Bonds, series 2021A.
- n. Resolution authorizing Tax Abatement in the amount of \$946,200.00, such funds to be provided from revenues of the Wastewater fund to pay principal and interest on General Obligation Refunding Bonds, series 2021B.

Motion: Motion whether or not to adopt Tax Abatement Resolutions a through n as recommended and direct the Interim Finance Director to file the resolutions with the County Clerk.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to adopt Tax Abatement Resolutions a through n as recommended and direct the Interim Finance Director to file the resolutions with the Council Clerk; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

13. Consent Agenda

All items under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by a single motion and subsequent roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless an Aldersperson so requests, in which case, the item will be moved from the Consent Agenda and considered as the first item after approval of the Consent Agenda.

- a. Claims for the week of November 10 through November 16, 2023 in the amount of \$1,067,569.36; for the weeks of November 17 through November 30, 2023 in the amount of \$1,204,023.71; and payroll for the weeks of October 30 through November 12, 2023 in the amount of \$1,712,071.80.
- b. International City/County Management Association (ICMA) claims for the week of November 04 through November 17, 2023, in the amount of \$30,012.64.
- c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$14,175.62 to CDM Smith, Chicago, Illinois, for the Mill Street Plant Anaerobic Digester Maintenance Project.
- d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$28,967.46 (using restricted ARPA funds) to Rain for Rent, Joilet, Illinois, for the Southwest Treatment Plant by-pass pump rental.
- e. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$8,667.50 (using unrestricted ARPA funds) to Edgewater Resources, LLC, Madison, Wisconsin, for engineering and design services for Sunset Marina.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve Consent Agenda items a through e; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

14. Purchases

- a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$13,739.52 to McClintock Trucking and Excavating, Silvis, Illinois, for an emergency storm sewer repair at 1400 25th Avenue.
- b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment in the amount of \$93,514.77 to Walter D. Laud, Inc., East Moline, Illinois, for the 28th Street 20th to 21st Avenue Storm Sewer Project.

Motion: Motion whether or not to authorize payment for agenda items a and b as recommended.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Robinson moved to approve the minutes as printed; Aldersperson Swanson seconded.

Aldersperson 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: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Poulos. Nay: None. Absent: None.

- c. Report from the Parks & Recreation Department regarding bids for select cardio and strength equipment for Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center (RIFAC), recommending the bid be awarded to Maxtrix Fitness (Bid #3) be awarded.

Motion: Motion whether or not to award the bid as recommended.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Swanson moved to award the bid as recommended; Aldersperson Poulos seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Aye: Healy, Robinson, Hurt, Gilbert, Swanson, Parker, Poulos. Nay:

None. Absent: None.

15. Ordinances with Reports from Departments

- a. Report from the Finance Department regarding an Ordinance for the levy, assessment, and collection of property taxes for the City of Rock Island for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion whether or not to consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

Alderperson Gilbert asked Ms. Sager to explain the difference between the tax levy and the tax rate. Ms. Sager explained that the City of Rock Island Property Tax Rate did not increase. The increase is due to Rock Island County's EAV increase of 7.66 percent and residents may see an increase in their tax bill, which is done by the County Tax Assessor's Office.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Finance Department regarding an Ordinance adopting the budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024. (First Reading)

Motion: Motion whether or not to consider the ordinance.

RC Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- c. Report from the Finance Department regarding an Ordinance for the property tax levy of the downtown Special Services Area (SSA), providing \$310,633.00 in property taxes for collection in the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Parker moved to consider the ordinance; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

- d. Report from the Legal Department regarding adopting an Ordinance for the Paid Leave for All Workers Act. (First Reading).

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

- e. Report from the Community & Economic Development Department Regarding the sale of City-owned property located at 1830 32nd Street to Faith and Evan Martinez for \$126,500 with 3% of the sale price used for closing.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Poulos moved to suspend the rules, consider and pass the ordinance and authorize staff to execute the sales documents; Aldersperson Gilbert seconded.

VOTE:

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

16. Budget/Finance Items

- a. Report from the Finance Department regarding the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for CY 2024 through CY 2028.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to approve the Five-Year CIP as recommended and authorize staff to implement the CY 2024 projects and expenditures pending approval of the CY 2024 budget.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Aldersperson Hurt moved to approve the five-year CIP as recommended and authorize staff to implement the CY 2024 projects and expenditures pending approval of the CY 2024 budget; Aldersperson Gilbert seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Aldersperson Poulos asked for clarification of whether projects have been added to the CIP since it was first presented to Council. City Manager Todd Thompson said that during individual meetings with Council members, several members expressed interest in funding a library project as well as a parks project. The additions are not included in the attached document, but are reflected in the overall CY 2024 budget.

VOTE:

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

- b. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the CY 2023 budget for the Health Insurance Fund.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Gilbert moved to approve the budget adjustment as recommended; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

17. Appointments to Boards/Commissions/Committees

- a. Report from the Mayor's Office regarding appointments to the Fire Pension Board, Police Pension Board of Trustees, MLK Board and the Planning & Zoning Commission.

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

MOTION:

Aldersperson Healy moved to approve the appointments as recommended; Aldersperson Robinson seconded.

VOTE:

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

18. Other Business/New Business

Aldersperson Healy commented that the new windows in downtown Rock Island look great, but in the future, to be mindful of the type of paint used, as he received a call from a window washing business that certain paint would come off if washed.

19. 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 exception cited.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

Clerk Gange read additional language to the exception cited to include "or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees."

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

20. Adjourn

- a. Motion: Motion whether or not to adjourn to December 18, 2023.
VV Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

The meeting concluded at 7:44 p.m.

VOTE:

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