CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

7/27/2026 - 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, Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, and Mayor Ashley Harris.

Absent: Alderperson Bill Healy.

Staff: Assistant City Manager John Gripp, 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:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the agenda; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

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

a. Proclamation declaring August 4, 2026 as National Night Out.

Mayor Harris read the proclamation and his declaration. A photo was taken.

7. Public Comment

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

Julie Forsythe from the QC Chamber spoke about Tax Increment Financing (TIF) items.

Terry Rockette spoke about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

8. Update Rock Island

Become a Rock Island Firefighter
The City is accepting applications for firefighters / paramedics with the Rock Island Fire Department now through September 11th. Make a difference in your community as you serve, save and protect! Applications and hiring requirements can be found on our website at rigov.org.

Free Waterski Shows
Come watch the Backwater Gamblers perform their amazing waterski show every Sunday and Wednesday night at Ben Williamson Park, 5000 44th Street in Rock Island through Labor Day. Shows are free and begin at 6:30 p.m. See swivel tricks, barefoot skiing, daredevil aerial jumps and impressive pyramids.

Back to School Family Game Night!
Head out for a fun-filled evening at RIFAC -- the Rock Island Fitness & Activity Center on August 6th to support the "Spring Forward" school program. Come ready to have fun and enjoy a night with your family while participating in some fun activities from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. If you'd like to support RIFAC, you can leave donations in the box at the front of the building.

9. Passage of Ordinances & Resolutions

a. An ordinance to install street name signs featuring both the City and Augustana College logos within the Augustana College neighborhood. (Second Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding a resolution for a joint funding agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for pavement and sidewalk improvements through the Safe Routes to School Program.

Motion:	Motion to adopt the resolution and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to adopt the resolution and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications; Alderperson Parker seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Public Works Interim Director Luke VanLandegen discussed the agreement and the Safe Routes to School grant.
VOTE:

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

10. Ordinances (First Readings)

a. Report from the Traffic Engineering Committee regarding a request to install a handicapped parking space at 1910 16th Street. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Barnes moved to approve the request and consider the ordinance; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

b. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a rezoning from B-4 (highway business) district to C-2 (nature conservation) district for property with PIN 1616305004. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve the rezoning and consider the ordinance; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

c. Report from the Community Development Department regarding rezonings for properties with PINs 1620200004 & 1620400002. (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve the rezonings and consider the ordinance; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

VOTE:

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

d. An ordinance amending Chapter 9 of the Rock Island Code of Ordinances by creating a new Article VII entitled "Unauthorized Motorized Vehicles and Reckless Operation." (First Reading)

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

MOTION:

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

DISCUSSION:

City Attorney Leslie Day clarified the purpose of the ordinance and how it supplemented the state statute. Some Council members discussed their reasoning for support and others shared their concerns.

VOTE:

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

e. An ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article III, Division 3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rock Island regarding the terms of members of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. (First Reading)

Motion:	Motion to consider, suspend the rules, and pass the ordinance.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Day discussed the discrepancy between the terms outlined in the Code of Ordinances and past practices.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Evans. Nay: None. Absent: 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. Claims for the week of June 26 through July 2 in the amount of $829,821.07; claims for the week of July 3 through July 9 in the amount of $958,757.15; and Payroll for the week of June 22, 2026 through July 5, 2026 in the amount of $2,016,514.66

b. ACH Report for the month of June 2026 in the amount of $6,055,457.22

c. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding a request from Johnnie Jones to use sound amplification at 2108 9 1/2 Street on Saturday, August 8 and Sunday, August 9, 2026 from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. for a birthday party.

d. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding requests from the Rock Island Downtown Alliance to close Arts Alley and use the Green Lawn on Thursday, August 13 and Friday, August 14 from 5 p.m to 10 p.m., and on Saturday, August 15 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and a request for the use of sound amplification in Arts Alley on Thursday, August 13 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m and the Green Lawn on

Saturday, August 15 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. for Alternating Currents in Downtown Rock Island; and a request to waive the sound amplification permit fees.

e. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding a request from Wake Brewing to use sound amplification on Saturday, August 15, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday, August 16, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. for live music and wrestling.

f. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding a request from Rasheda Jamison to close 6th Avenue between 9th & 10th Streets and 10th Street between 5th & 6th Avenues on Saturday, August 22, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the Second Baptist Church's anniversary event.

g. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding a request from Wake Brewing to use sound amplification on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for live music.

h. Minutes from the July 13, 2026 City Council meeting.

i. Minutes from the July 13, 2026 Closed Session.

Motion:	Motion to approve Consent Agenda items a through i.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Swanson moved to approve consent agenda items a through i; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

12. Claims/Purchases

a. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to J.C. Dillon, Peoria, Illinois for an emergency water main repair at 2214 30th Street in the amount of $35,561.

b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding payment to J.C. Dillon, Peoria, Illinois, for Water Service Repair Program and Sewer Lateral Repair Program repairs in the amount of $76,190.46.

Motion:	Motion to allow claims a and b.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to allow claims a and b; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

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

VOTE:

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

13. Contracts/Agreements

a. Report from the Community Development Department regarding agreements with PGAV Planners, LLC for the creation of the South Port TIF and the extension of the Parkway/I-280 TIF in the amounts of $33,000 and $5,000.

Motion:	Motion to approve the agreements and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreements, subject to minor attorney modifications.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve the agreements and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreements, subject to minor attorney modifications; Alderperson Poulos seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Community Development Director Miles Brainard provided background information regarding the Casino TIF and explained the purpose of the agreements. Alderperson Parker expressed his concerns regarding reducing the Casino TIF District.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 5-1 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Poulos, Evans. Nay: Parker. Absent: Healy.

b. Report from the Public Works Department regarding bids for the 40th Street West, Sanitary and Water Main Project, Phase 1 recommending the bid be awarded to McClintock Trucking and Excavating, Silvis, Illinois in the amount of $776,105.

Motion:	Motion to award the bid as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to award the bid as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

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

VOTE:

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

c. Report from the Public Works Department regarding bids for the 40th Street West, Road Construction Project, Phase 2 recommending the bid be awarded to McCarthy Improvement Company, Davenport, Iowa, in the amount of $2,382,895.

Motion:	Motion to award the bid as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to award the bid as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications; Alderperson Evans seconded.

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

VOTE:

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

d. Report from the Public Works Department regarding amendments to the Intergovernmental Service Agreement (IGSA) with the Rock Island Arsenal.

Motion:	Motion to approve the amendments and authorize the Mayor to execute the documents, subject to minor attorney modifications.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to award the bid as recommended and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications; Alderperson Evans seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. VanLandegen summarized the IGSA amendments.

VOTE:

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

e. Report from the Police Department regarding approval to enter into an Intergovernmental Emergency Resource Sharing Agreement with other Quad City area law enforcement agencies to establish and participate in a bi-state Major Crash Assistance Team (MCAT)

Motion:	Move 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 Poulos moved to approve the agreement and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement, subject to minor attorney modifications; Alderperson Swanson seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Deputy Police Chief Tim Muehler discussed the purpose of the MCAT.

VOTE:

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

14. Budget/Finance Items

a. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the TIF 4 Parkway-I280 Ballys Casino Fund (402) in the amount of $98,550.08.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve the budget adjustment; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Evans. Nay: None. Absent:

Healy.

b. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the TIF 4 Parkway-I280 Ballys Casino Fund (402) in the amount of $3,159,000.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve the budget adjustment; Alderperson Evans seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Finance Director Jessica Sager and Interim Public Works Director Luke VanLandegen explained how the project was initially budgeted and a budget adjustment was planned.

VOTE:

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

c. Report from the Finance Department regarding budget adjustments to the TIF 3 North 11th Street Fund (401) and the TIF 11 Downtown Fund (409) in the amount of $229,100; along with the North Port District Fund (410) in the amount of $458,200.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Hurt moved to approve the budget adjustment; Alderperson Parker seconded.

DISCUSSION:

Community Development Department Director Miles Brainard clarified that the budget adjustment is reflective of the Rivertracks agreement and the North Port District was too new to have generated any increment.

Council members discussed concerns regarding budget transfers between the TIF districts.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Evans. Nay: None. Absent:

Healy.

d. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the Rock Island Arsenal Fund (545) in the amount of $249,748.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to approve the budget adjustment; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

e. Report from the Finance Department regarding a budget adjustment to the Library Fund (480) in the amount of $94,566.

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Swanson moved to approve the budget adjustment; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

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

15. Department Reports

a. Report from the Community Development Department regarding a change to Community Development Block Grant Program Manual, revising the Public Service application period.

Motion:	Motion to approve the revisions as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the revisions as recommended; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

16. Events/Misc Requests

a. Report from the Clerk's Office regarding a request from Bridges Catering to use sound amplification and to close 3rd Avenue between 17th & 18th Streets and close 17th Street between 2nd & 3rd Avenues for the annual CCKMA Car & Bike Show on Sunday, August 23, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and a request for the outdoor consumption of alcohol in the fenced-in area in the adjacent parking lot.

Motion:	Motion to approve the requests as recommended; subject to complying with all liquor license regulations and subject to being shut down early if complaints are received.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Parker moved to approve the requests as recommended; subject to complying with all liquor license regulations and subject to being shut down early if complaints are recieved; Alderperson Evans seconded.

VOTE:

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

17. Appointments to Boards/Commissions/Committees

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

Motion:	Motion to approve the appointment as recommended.
RC	Roll Call vote is needed.

MOTION:

Alderperson Evans moved to approve the appointment as recommended; Alderperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0 roll call vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Evans. Nay: None. Absent:

Healy.

18. Other Business/New Business

Alderperson Barnes read a letter she received from the Illinois Attorney General's Office and her response.

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 shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.**

b. **5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body (or legal counsel for the public body).**

Motion:	Motion to enter Closed Session for the exceptions cited.
VV	Voice vote is needed.

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0 voice vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Evans. Nay: None. Absent: Healy.

The City Council entered closed session at 6:55 p.m.

20. Adjourn

a. Motion to adjourn to August 10, 2026.

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

After reconvening the regular meeting, Clerk Torres called the roll. All Council members and Mayor Harris were present, except for Alderperson Healy.

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to adjourn; Alderperson Parker seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0 voice vote. Aye: Hurt, Barnes, Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Evans. Nay: None. Absent:

Healy.

The meeting concluded at 7:06 p.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]