

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

1/22/2024 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 5:15 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, Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, and Bill Healy.

Aldersperson Swanson arrived at 5:23 p.m.

Absent: None.

3. Public Comment

No one from the public was signed up to speak.

4. Presentations

a. City Hall Remodel Design Presentation.

Andrew Dasso, Emily Storm and Melissa Morse from Streamline Architects gave an update on the City Hall remodel project. Mr. Dasso noted the key components emphasized throughout the design process were to provide a first impression for those coming into the building, accessibility, security and safety. Ms. Storm and Ms. Morse reviewed the proposed renovations and design items and shared conceptual renderings of the spaces. Construction is slated to start at the beginning of March and be completed by the end of July. The total cost of the project is \$2.25 million. City Manager Todd Thompson said they will use \$1.775 million in ARPA unrestricted funds, \$225,000.00 in ARPA restricted funds and \$250,000.00 in surplus funds.

Mr. Thompson talked about having permanent computers in the Council Chambers. Aldersperson Robinson said he did not like having multiple people logging into the same computer. Mr. Dasso said they will create a performance spec for AV, but leave it to the companies that have experience in council chambers to be able to propose their best systems. Aldersperson Robinson asked what the plan is to make sure that the technology is up-to-date. Mr. Thompson said they are working through that and the goal is to have a replacement fund for computers and building maintenance similar to what the City has in place for vehicles.

b. American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Update.

ARPA Manager Samantha Gange gave a recap of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The City received \$26.5 million dollars from ARPA. Of that, the City could use \$10 million for revenue replacement, which is revenue that the City can claim with the federal government that was lost during the COVID pandemic. This left \$16.5 million in restricted funds, meaning the money can only be used for certain things. The public, City

Council and stakeholders helped decide how to spend the funds. The top five areas were infrastructure, assistance to businesses, green space/recreational facilities, public safety and mental health resources/services.

Ms. Gange shared an updated budget and highlighted what has changed since 2022. The original budget allocated for public safety was \$300,000 over three years, but they are proposing taking \$150,000 of that \$300,000 and applying it towards City Hall security. They toured several City Halls in the Quad Cities and Rock Island is lacking in security compared to the neighboring communities. City Manager Todd Thompson and Chief Landi are putting together some recommendations on how to spend the remaining \$150,000 and will bring that back for discussion. Ms. Gange said they have added the 1st Avenue Road Diet Reconstruction Project to the list of projects because late last year the US Treasury issued an Interim Final Rule allowing additional categories to be eligible. There are still certain obligations and stipulations that must be adhered to. Ms. Gange noted that City Software came in under budget by approximately \$750,000.

Ms. Gange gave an update on some of the ARPA projects. The downtown Rock Island project is scheduled to start in late spring. The road project on 1st Avenue will be completed in 2025. The Martin Luther King Jr. Center STEAM Lab is anticipated to be completed in June 2024. GRIT and PEP have funded many projects in the City.

Aldersperson Robinson said one concern he has with the software piece is that it is not going to be completed until 2026. IT Director Tim Bain said with respect to timelines, his concern is holding the City to the schedule as much as the consultant or vendors.

5. Adjourn

- a. Motion to Adjourn.

Motion:	Motion whether or not to adjourn.
VV	Voice vote is needed.

Aldersperson Healy moved to adjourn the Study Session; Aldersperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Colleen Skolrood, Executive Assistant.