

**CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

Rock Island County Building
County Board Room, 3rd Floor
1504 3rd Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201

3/25/2024 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Thoms asked City Clerk Samantha Gange to call the roll.

Present: Alderpersons Jenni Swanson, Dylan Parker, Mark Poulos, Bill Healy, Moses Robinson, Randy Hurt, Kevin Maynard, and Mayor Mike Thoms.

Alderman Parker arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Absent: None.

Staff: City Manager Todd Thompson, Attorney Leslie Day, City Clerk Samantha Gange, and other City Staff.

3. Public Comment

Mayor Thoms asked if anyone in the public wished to speak. No residents were signed up to speak.

4. Presentations

a. ERP Project Update Presentation with Plante Moran

IT Director Tim Bain introduced the software team, which included himself, City Manager Todd Thompson, City Clerk Samantha Gange, Public Works Director Mike Bartels, HR Director Rob Baugous, Interim Finance Director Jessica Sager, CED Director Miles Brainard, and Plante Moran.

Plante Moran Project Manager Nina Rajcevic explained they took on this project as the City's current system is inefficient due to its limitations. The goal is to find a more user-friendly, integrated system. The ideal system would also provide residents and staff access to a self-service portal. The project's scope focuses mainly on key financial areas, human resources process areas, Community & Economic Development, and utility billing.

Based on interviews with City staff, Plante Moran's needs assessment identified issues with the current software, such as software restrictions, redundant data entry, and reliance on outside software and paper. Plante Moran suggested that the City consider a new ERP or a new best of breed solution. Ten vendors sent in

their proposals to be considered for the project. Natalie Schwarz from Plante Moran said they evaluated each vendor who met the minimum criteria based on functionality, service/support, investment/costs, technical requirements, and vendor viability. Mr. Bain announced the City selected Tyler Technologies and introduced Sr. Account Executive Gary Dube.

Mr. Bain compared the costs of the current ERP with Tyler over the next five years and showed the City would only be spending roughly \$300,000 more a year. He suggested the City could use ARPA funds and the general fund to purchase some of the software in the first 5 years. Ms. Rajcevic said they are finalizing the contract with Tyler. To achieve successful implementation, she recommended that the City would need to minimize modifications to the new ERP system and be open-minded to making changes in current processes, policies, and staff duties.

Mr. Bain said the City Council would be voting on the investment summary, the contract, and the statement of work this evening. Mr. Thompson mentioned the City had budgeted \$2.25 million for the project, and they are asking the Council to approve \$1.75 million with the initial implementation costing around \$800,000 and \$219,000 a year for ongoing expenses. Mr. Bain said the City should look into bringing in subject matter experts to assist staff in integrating its processes with Tyler's functions and capabilities. He anticipated all of the different components of the ERP would be running within two years.

The ERP would affect other departments operating outside of City Hall. Mr. Bain said it is possible to convert the data from some of the old systems to the new ERP. Some of the old systems will be integrated into the new ERP. Others will be replaced entirely while a few will still be utilized. He hopes to have a City employee trained in the software instead of heavily relying on Tyler's staff. The City will gradually be shifting data from on-site to the cloud. The software team is leaning towards changing in order to adapt to the out-of-the-box software but understand that modifications to the software may be needed in the future.

b. Rebuild Downtown Rock Island Improvements Project Update Presentation

Public Works Director Mike Bartels introduced his team on the project, which included City Engineer Michael Kane, Executive Director Jack Cullen from the Rock Island Downtown Alliance, Veenstra & Kim, Inc., and Streamline Architects. The goals of the Rebuild Rock Island project are to enhance public space, encourage private investment, and improve the overall quality of life for downtown workers, business owners, residents, and visitors.

The base bid of the project is reconstruction of the 2nd Avenue Plaza, 18th Street from 1st-3rd Avenue, and 3rd Avenue from 18th-19th Street. It also includes streetscaping, such as trees, lighting, a downtown gateway, gateway columns, water, sewer, and storm sewer. A roundabout would be installed at the intersection of 2nd Avenue and 18th Street as part of the base bid portion of the project.

Mr. Bartels said they also recommend revitalizing Arts Alley with lightning, pavement, murals, a vendor stall, new signage, and an outdoor art gallery. Finally, they recommend the 18th Street Green Space which entails converting an existing parking lot to green space, installing new lighting, and having "Rock Island" placemaking signage. He is not recommending the reconstruction of 3rd Avenue from 17th-18th Street, the dog park, alley reconstruction near the proposed dog park, and WHBF tower lighting at this time. Design elements of the project include spacing the street lights, trees, and in-ground planters 50 feet apart on alternating sides, pouring picture frame concrete for the sidewalks, and placing four waste/recycle cans on each block.

Mr. Cullen said the revitalization of Arts Alley would include unique, large-scale murals. They are working with Quad City Arts in selecting muralists. Decorative string lighting would be installed throughout the alley, frames for smaller artworks at the street level, new signage, and decorative concrete, and a modular vendor stall. The vendor stall can be used for other purposes, such as a pop-up stage and can be moved to other areas downtown. They hope to remove the dumpsters in and around Arts Alley and create a dumpster enclosure at the north end of the alleyway.

Outdoor patios would be part of a separate bid package. The patios would be installed at ten select downtown business to help enhance streetscape and promote these local businesses at the street level. The patio structures would be strictly on the sidewalks in front of the businesses. The patios would be created using modular fencing and can be removed during the winter months. Businesses would be responsible for providing their own tables and chairs.

Senior Project Manager Jason McKenzie from Veenstra & Kim said the project would be funded by a \$3 million State of Illinois Rebuild Downtowns Grant, \$3.9 million from ARPA funds, \$1.5 million from Downtown TIF District Funds, and a \$267,000 State of Illinois Tourism Attractions Grant. They were able to cut \$700,000 from the initial costs by eliminating some items. The revised bid is \$7,757,652. The cost for the engineering and contract/grant administration is \$500,000. A 5% contingency was added to offset any unforeseeable events. The grand total cost of the project is \$8,723,524 which equals the projects total secured funding. Mr. McKenzie gave a breakdown of the costs. If approved by the Council, they will hold a pre-construction meeting this week and a Downtown Stakeholder meeting next week. Construction would likely begin April 8, 2024.

Mr. Bartels recommended adding lane markings to the soon-to-be former plaza area. Traffic bollards can be installed during events. The parking lot that will be converted into green space is City-owned. The string lighting for the green space can be changed to pole lighting if the Council wishes. Alderperson Moses Robinson suggested adding uplighting to the murals. CED Director Miles Brainard said he did not have any concerns regarding upsetting the downtown’s place on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Bartels clarified that they added \$1.4 million of the ARPA funds from the Mill Street Digester project to this project. The Mill Street Digester project would significantly exceed the \$1.4 million and would not meet ARPA’s timeline so they are looking at other funding for that project.

5. Adjourn

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

MOTION:

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

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 6-0-0 roll Voice vote. Aye: Swanson, Parker, Poulos, Healy, Robinson, Hurt, and Maynard. Nay: None. Absent: None.

The Study Session adjourned at 6:22 p.m.