

CITY OF ROCK ISLAND
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
County Office Building, County Chambers, 3rd Floor
1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

8/12/2024 - Minutes

1. Call to Order

Mayor Thoms called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

2. Roll Call

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

Present: Alderpersons Randy Hurt, Jenni Swanson, Mark Poulos, Bill Healy and Mayor Mike Thoms.

Absent: Alderpersons Moses Robinson, Kevin Maynard, and Dylan Parker.

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 one was signed up.

4. Presentations

a. ARPA Projects Update Presentation

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Program Manager Samantha Gange discussed the ARPA funds and said the City has allocated funds to 50 projects. She briefly discussed the U.S. Treasury guidelines, including the December 31, 2024 deadline to obligate the funds and the December 31, 2026 deadline to expend the funds. Ms. Gange explained that the presentation included an update of major projects.

Ms. Gange gave an update on the ERP software implementation project. She reported that 94% of the initiate and plan phase has been completed, and the project's progress is on track with its projected schedule. She presented an estimated timeline of the project.

Ms. Gange gave updates on the Public Works-related projects. She said the marina project was delayed due to flooding. Public Works Director Mike Bartels said the core-funded dredging is likely to occur this October. He believed the dredging for the 400 dock could begin soon after the core-dredging is completed and a contract is awarded. Ms. Gange mentioned the Augustana College Slough project was completed in May and provided pictures of the project.

Ms. Gange announced that the construction of the solid waste treatment plant influent pump station was anticipated to begin next spring. She said \$2.65 million in ARPA funds were allocated to the project, and the additional funds needed will be secured with an Illinois EPA State Revolving Fund Loan by July 2025. Mr. Bartels added that the project cost increased to \$4 million - \$4.5 million due to the need for additional

components.

Ms. Gange said the Advanced Metering Infrastructure water meter replacement project was expected to be completed in 2028. Mr. Bartels said, due to limited funding, the meters will gradually be replaced over the next five years. Finance Director Jessica Sager went into the detail regarding the meter software testing. She added that letters will be sent to residents asking them to schedule their meter replacement. Ms. Sager and Mr. Bartels expressed their preference for having the monthly billing begin once all the meters are replaced.

Ms. Gange reported that there were delays to the Rebuild Downtown project due to bedrock and unknown utility lines. She went over the progress of the new water main and services. Mr. Bartels mentioned they were moving forward with relining the existing sewer instead of replacing it. Ms. Gange gave a brief update on the Arts Alley portion of the project and pictures were shown.

Ms. Gange said \$250,000 of ARPA funds were allocated to mental health. Alderperson Hurt met with the school district, and mental health action cards were delivered to the junior high schools and Rock Island High School. First responders were also supplied with action cards to hand out. Awareness bracelets were distributed at the Backpacks for Badges event.

Ms. Gange gave an update on the City Hall improvement project. She said the furniture is in the process of being delivered and installed for the first and second floors, and furniture installation for the Council Chambers is scheduled in mid-September. The first council meeting to be held in the new City Council Chambers is scheduled for October 14th. Council Chamber progress pictures were shown.

Ms. Gange said the RIFAC improvements were completed and presented pictures of the new pool windows and preschool security wall. Parks and Recreation Director John Gripp added that the adult locker rooms were remodeled and exterior masonry work was done. Ms. Gange said six Parks and Recreation projects have been completed, and the Highland Springs ADA compliance pavilion project was in progress while the Longview Park conservatory project's contract would be finalized by the end of the year. Mr. Gripp mentioned they still need to finish the lighting project for the pickleball courts at Mel McKay Park.

Ms. Gange gave updates on the demolition projects. The Bear Manufacturing building's demolition was completed. Pictures of a dangerous residential property before demolition were shown. Community Development Director Miles Brainard gave an update on the Fancy Clock demolition.

Ms. Gange said the water treatment plant backup generators and the new P25 station alerting system projects have not yet started. She also mentioned there are some outstanding funds dedicated to public safety but anticipated that the Police Chief and IT Director would come to Council soon in regards to how to spend those funds.

5. Adjourn

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

MOTION:

Alderperson Poulos moved to adjourn; Alderperson Hurt seconded.

VOTE:

Motion PASSED on a 4-0-3 voice vote. Aye: Hurt, Swanson, Poulos, Healy. Nay: None. Absent: Robinson, Maynard, Parker.

The Study Session concluded at 6:32 p.m.